



# ASIA PACIFIC REPORT

Newsletter of the Institute of Asian Research

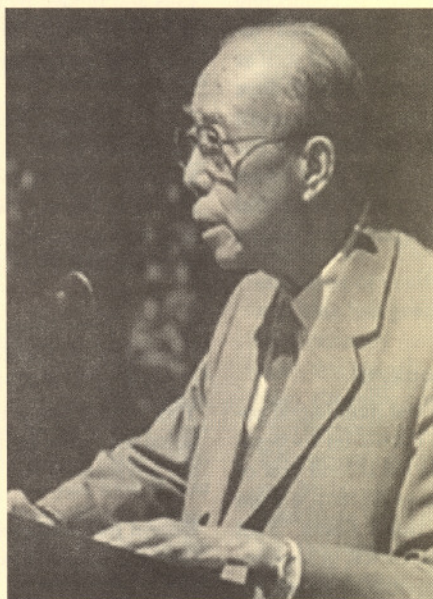
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## In Memoriam: Asian Research Benefactor Dr. Cheung Kok Choi, 1913-2000

The University of British Columbia and the Institute of Asian Research lost a friend, mentor and benefactor when Dr. Cheung Kok Choi passed away on September 30, 2000.

Born in 1913 in a village in the county of Chaozhou in southern China, Dr. Choi was raised as an only child by his mother, who worked as a seamstress. After receiving a rudimentary education, at the age of 14 Choi was sent to Hong Kong to earn his livelihood by helping an uncle who operated a small store. Because his uncle could not forego his help, the young Choi educated himself by reading newspapers when he could afford to buy them. Although Choi began his work as a young apprentice, he learned the business quickly and was soon importing aluminum kitchenware and sundry items from Shanghai to sell in Hong Kong as well as for export to other parts of Asia.

As his enterprises became more successful, Dr. Choi devoted more and more time to philanthropic and community activities. Although volunteering his time for a number of charities such as the Po Leung Kuk and the Rotary Club, and promoting trade and industry as a council member of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Dr. Choi's major focus was on the development of education. Among the many scholastic beneficiaries of his generosity were a school in



his native village in China and a school bearing his name in Hong Kong - the CMA Choi Cheung Kok Prevocational School.

Since 1990, Dr. Choi has made many contributions to UBC in recognition of its excellence and in gratitude for the education it has given to five of his seven children. He established a number of scholarships in various academic fields including Business Administration, Engineering,

Buddhist Studies, and Education. For his many distinguished achievements, in 1997 UBC conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Dr. Choi's legacy for the Institute of Asian Research is the C.K. Choi Building, which provides a location for the research and teaching activities of the IAR and has become an important centre of interaction for faculty, students, visitors from Asia and members of the Vancouver community concerned with Asia. In any one week of the teaching term, there occur seminars, teaching programmes and research activities that increase knowledge and understanding of Asia. The C.K. Choi Building is a testament to Dr. Choi's great commitment to the value of lifelong learning, especially the pursuit of understanding, respect and harmony in a culturally diverse world.

In memory of their father, the Choi family has made a generous gift of \$1.7 million to the IAR and the University which will lead to the construction of a bell tower, internal renovations to the building and the establishment of an "Emerging Opportunities Endowment."

Members and friends of the IAR will greatly miss the wise guidance of Dr. Choi. Our condolences and sympathy are extended to the family.



## The World Trading System Comes to the IAR

Scholars, diplomats and businesspeople alike gathered recently in the Choi Building to discuss the fate of Asian nations as part of the world trading regime. On October 20-22, the IAR sponsored the highly successful conference, "Asia in the World Trading System," bringing nearly 60 participants to UBC for the occasion.

The format of the conference included both guest speakers and panel presentations. Active question and answer periods illustrated the high levels of knowledge and interest of not only the panellists, but also the attendees as a group. This interest was evident not only during the formal sessions but also in informal discussions during breaks and meals, when participants were heard carrying the panellists' ideas and their own questions beyond their original boundaries.

The formal sessions included country-specific panels on China, Korea, Japan, Indonesia and India, as well as introductory and concluding sessions entitled "Looking Ahead" and "Lessons Learned." Panellists were drawn from a variety of communities, including legal, diplomatic, bureaucratic, and scholarly – including good representation from the IAR itself. Special addresses were presented by Charles Kang, Deputy Minister of Investment and Employment, Government of British Columbia, and by the Honourable Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia Pacific).

The conference concluded on a high note, having sparked a great deal of debate and having challenged all participants to think on a global level. The symposium will contribute to better informed policy decisions with regard to British Columbia's, and indeed Canada's, international trading relations.

## Introducing PCAPS

by Paul Evans

The objective of the Program on Canada-Asia Policy Studies (PCAPS) is to advance policy research and intellectual exchange connecting institutions in Canada and Asia. The program defines "policy" and "institutions" broadly, covering both governmental organizations as well as track-two policy networks of experts and civil-society based track-three activities. We recognize and support the expanding role of the non-profit sector and new mechanisms for governance in Asia and across the Pacific. Peter Geithner's address at UBC in March, excerpts from which are included as a special insert in this newsletter, is a very thoughtful overview of some of the issues and forces we are addressing. For details about PCAPS, see [www.pcaps.ubc.ca](http://www.pcaps.ubc.ca).

PCAPS activities are centred on four projects:

1. The Northeast Asia Cooperation Program (NEACP)

This project aims to promote new forms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation among research institutes from the North Pacific on cooperative security issues in continental Northeast Asia. In the second year of funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, a main focus has been expanding Canadian contacts with North Korea. Paul Evans was a member of the research delegation to the DPRK in September headed by Senator Lois Wilson. The ongoing activities of the project include bilateral cooperation programs with the Institute of Strategic Studies in Ulaan Baator, the Asia Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing and support for multilateral North Pacific dialogue processes and workshops.

2. The Southeast Asia Cooperation Program (SEACP)

Building on earlier work with the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies, we are delighted to announce a new three-year program funded by a \$2.3 million award from CIDA. The objective is to promote track-two and track-three dialogues in Southeast Asia with a focus on cooperative and human security. Some of its targets are to broaden participation in the formulation of security policies at a national and regional level, mainstream gender perspectives on security issues, and provide special assistance to institutes and groups in the new members of ASEAN. One aspect of this capacity building is training programs on the use of the Internet for policy research, dissemination, and electronic archiving. The first event in the SEACP is the ASEAN People's

Assembly in Batam, Indonesia, November 24-26. Organized by the ASEAN ISIS and funded by a consortium of donors, the APA will bring together about 350 people from the region, principally NGO leaders, representatives of grassroots organizations, academics and a few senior officials.

3. Dialogue and Research Monitor (DRM)

Summaries of recent multilateral meetings on Asia Pacific security issues available through the website of the Japan Centre for International Exchange in Tokyo ([www.jcie.or.jp](http://www.jcie.or.jp)) a listserv system, and hard copy to more than 800 subscribers around the Asia Pacific region and in Europe. We welcome Mitchell Gray to the production team.

4. "New Allies? Connecting Social Science Research Sites" (NA)

Funded by the Human Capital Committee of the Social Science Research Council in New York, we are hosting workshops in Vancouver and New York to look at how to create new connections among researchers in traditional university settings with research professionals in the non-profit sector, government and the private sector.

### Recent publications:

Gilbert Rozman, *Restarting Regionalism in Northeast Asia*, North Pacific Policy Papers No. 1

Vladimir Ivanov, *The Energy Sector in Northeast Asia - New Projects, Delivery Systems, and Prospects for Co-operation*, North Pacific Policy Papers No. 2

Scott Snyder, *The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization: Implications for Northeast Asian Regional Security Co-operation?*, North Pacific Policy Papers No. 3

Ian Davies, *Regional Co-operation in Northeast Asia - The Tumen River Area Development Program, 1990-2000: In Search of a Model for Regional Economic Co-operation in Northeast Asia*, North Pacific Policy Papers No. 4

Kyung-Ae Park, *North Korea's Foreign Contacts, 1995-1999*, North Pacific Policy Papers No. 5



## Cambodia 2000: Shadowed by the Past

by D. Gordon Longmuir, *Diplomat-in-Residence*, with thanks to Paul Cowsill for his excellent and well-informed notes on the lecture

Dr. David Chandler, Visiting Professor at Georgetown University and Emeritus Professor of History at Monash University in Melbourne, visited the University of Victoria from October 12-15 as the guest of the Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives. At the invitation of the Centre for Southeast Asia Research, he made a stopover in Vancouver in order to make a presentation at the IAR October 16 on the historical influences which have shaped today's Cambodia.

Setting the scene, Professor Chandler identified the formative periods in Cambodia's history, among them:

- The expansionist Angkor Empire (ninth to fifteenth centuries)
- The period of decline and subjugation to powerful neighbours (1400 – mid 19<sup>th</sup> century), and the rise of Theravada Buddhism
- The French Protectorate (1863-1953) — including the brief Japanese occupation of 1945 — a rather benign colonialism, largely welcomed by Cambodia as a deterrent to the expansion of Vietnam and Thailand
- Norodom Sihanouk's "false paradise" (1953-1970), now seen by older Cambodians as a period of peace and plenty
- The period of conflict (including the Lon Nol republic 1970-75 and the civil war; Pol Pot's Democratic Kampuchea — Khmer Rouge — 1975-79; Vietnamese protectorate 1979-91; UN Transitional Authority 1991-93)
- Current "developing democracy" beginning with the elections of 1993.

Chandler described a conservative, rural-based Cambodian society, subject to clear master/servant patronage relationships which survived even during the primitive communist regime of Pol Pot and beyond. The French had tried to invoke a sense of "ethnostalgia" in this, its "favourite" possession, rediscovering the glories of Angkor. The colonial master then spoiled the illusion, however, by saying, in effect, "but just look at you now". Pol Pot, on the other hand concluded that, if the Khmer people could build Angkor, "they could do anything" — a conceit that led to the assumption that Cambodia could take on Vietnam ("if each Cambodian kills seven Vietnamese"), and to the DK's military defeat in 1978/79.

There followed a brief outline of the conditions leading to the overthrow of Prince Sihanouk in 1970, the encroachment of both North and South Vietnamese armed forces, the US bombing of 1969 (with worse to follow in 1972), and the "autogenocide" brought on by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge (the end of history, if not "Year Zero"). Chandler estimated that at least 2 million, mainly ethnic Cambodians died untimely deaths as a result — some 20,000 of them senior communist cadres tortured and killed at S-21 prison in Phnom Penh. In 1979, Vietnam installed the People's Republic of Kampuchea, composed of Khmer communists who had either broken with Pol Pot or were offered amnesty. The withdrawal of Vietnamese forces

led to the peace talks which culminated in an agreement including a period of UN protection (UNTAC).

Chandler underlined the Cambodian "dependency syndrome" which continued during the UN period and, to a degree, through the country's subsequent relations on developed donors. The 1993 elections, however, drew a 90 per cent turnout, in spite of intimidation by both Khmer Rouge and government (Hun Sen's Cambodian Peoples Party) forces. Sihanouk's "royalists" won, but were forced into a coalition by Hun Sen: quite predictable, according to Chandler, in a country where the leader with the predominant force retains power.

One highly positive legacy of the UN period, in Chandler's view, has been the growth of indigenous non-governmental organizations, mainly focused on human rights, and protected by the continued presence of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. They played a strong role in monitoring the 1998 elections, which Chandler characterized as reasonably free and fair, even though Hun Sen won the largest number of seats, and remains Prime Minister.

The heaviest shadow facing this beleaguered country remains the Pol Pot period. But controversy surrounds the question of how the society, united and pacified for the first time in 30 years, should now deal with the surviving Khmer Rouge leaders, some of whom live unmolested near the Thai border. The US and other donors have made a tribunal a partial condition of continued economic support; China, Vietnam and the current Hun Sen government are, however, to varying degrees, opposed to a trial, certainly one carried out under international auspices. In Hun Sen's case, this has as much to do with sovereignty as with any fear of prosecution. Chandler considered the UN recommendation to hold a trial abroad "not helpful", in that it excluded Cambodian participation. The Truth and Reconciliation approach of South Africa was unique and unlikely to work in Cambodia: there is no Cambodian Bishop Tutu. Indeed, Theravada Buddhism holds that each person is responsible for his own redemption, so the concept of holding others accountable is unfamiliar. "Denazification" has never been attempted in Cambodia. The globalization of justice will no doubt eventually force a faster response to the demand for a trial, but the defendants will no doubt be reassured in advance that they may live out their lives in peace.

Chandler concluded by stating that Cambodians are coming to grips with the shadows of their past, in spite of the climate of impunity and corruption which still prevails. Over half the population is under the age of 15, so memories of the KR regime are fading. As one of the poorest countries in Asia, Cambodians are preoccupied with their economic survival, and that will be their principal objective for the foreseeable future.





*Over the summer, Dr. Diana Lary of the Centre for Chinese Research travelled along the Silk Road. In Shakrezah, Uzbekistan, she encountered a gentleman exactly twice her age, who "puts his longevity down to long years working in the Kolkhoz – or it may be the Uzbek diet – or whatever strange thing he has underneath his robe." Shakrezah, Uzbekistan, between Buhara and Samarkand, June 8, 2000.*

## CISAR

CISAR has been very busy indeed. This year the Centre has hosted 17 seminars, involving speakers from India and other parts of the world. Dr. Mandakranta Bose, CISAR director, is particularly proud of the success of CISAR's collaboration with PICSA in June in hosting a five-day conference on the Ramayana (see next page).

## McGee Returns from Leave

Terry McGee, former Director of the IAR, recently returned to the IAR after a year's leave. During that time he completed a jointly authored report on the social impact of the financial crisis in five Southeast Asian countries, the editing of a book on regional planning in Asia, and developed a new project to write a new version of his book "The Southeast Asian City," published in 1967. He continued to work with other colleagues from the USA, Asia, Latin America, Europe and Canada on an American Academy of Science sponsored project on "The Population Dynamics of Urbanization in Developing Countries."

## IAR Congratulates the President

Since the last issue of the Asia-Pacific Report, Korean Foundation Chair in Korean Research Kyung-Ae Park has maintained her full schedule. In August she was re-elected as President of the Association of Korean Political Studies in North America, for a second term. Her goals as President? To recruit younger scholars to the Association, to organize this year's conference, and to continue a joint book project begun last year on the topic of security in the Korean peninsula and sponsored by a Sejong Institute grant.

Dr. Park also managed to fit in several speaking engagements in the U.S. In May she was an invited speaker at the University of California, Berkeley, on the topic of North Korea's recent diplomacy. In August she spoke on "Korea After the Summit" at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., before an audience of approximately 60 members of the Washington policy circle, including embassy representatives, former ambassadors to Korea, and journalists.

## Rice and Food Policy in Indonesia

Rick Barichello, of the Centre for Southeast Asia Research, has been involved over the past year with a USAID food policy project team in Indonesia, working with Indonesian counterparts in Bappenas (the Planning Ministry), Departemen Pertanian (the Agriculture Ministry) and Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB - Indonesia's premier agriculture university) to provide alternative options for rice and food policy through economic research, primary field data collection and the training of IPB researchers.

In June, Barichello, along with co-author David Dawe, presented an invited paper at the annual meeting of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society, in Vancouver BC, entitled "The Rice Economy in Indonesia: Technology and Competitiveness after the Asian Crisis."

## Welcome to the Youngest IAR Member

We would like to welcome the newest member of the CSEAR family, Mai Khanh Nguyen, born to Julie-Trang and Duy Nguyen on September 13. By all reports, mother and daughter are doing well and Julie is still able to cope with being a grad student despite the new demands on her time. The baby, who weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. at birth, came into the world with equanimity. According to Julie, "she made just one sound like 'Hey,' wide opened her eyes to look around curiously and didn't cry." Julie reports that motherhood is a perfect opportunity to stay home and work on her dissertation, entitled "Social Policy for Poverty Reduction, Gender Equity and Human Development in Vietnam."

Congratulations, Julie and Duy!

## Social Safety Nets in Southeast Asia 1997-2000

Terry McGee, Steffanie Scott, Geoff Hainsworth and Leonora Angeles, members of the Centre for Southeast Asia Research, have recently completed a report to CIDA on the social impact of the monetary crisis in the period 1997-2000. This was jointly carried out with a team of researchers from five Southeast Asian countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines). The final report, entitled "The Poor at Risk: Surviving the Economic Crisis in Southeast Asia, 1997-2000," provides a detailed analysis of the impact of the crisis on the poor, and social safety net programmes that were introduced. The Report includes a number of policy recommendations for institutional innovations that can more effectively cope with this situation on future occasions. Copies of the Report will be available before the end of this year.

## Localized Poverty Reduction in Vietnam

The Localized Poverty Reduction in Vietnam (LPRV) program held its annual Steering Committee meetings in May this year in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai. LPRV is a CIDA-funded consortium of Vietnamese and Canadian academics and is based at UBC's Centre for Human Settlements, with active participation by members of the Centre for Southeast Asia Research, including Nora Angeles, Geoff Hainsworth, Terry McGee, and CSEAR Director Michael Leaf. More than two dozen Vietnamese colleagues attended this meeting, which provided them with the opportunity to interact first-hand with Thai NGOs, community groups and researchers who are involved with ethnic minority issues in the region. Many of the concerns of the Thais are similar to those of the Vietnamese in terms of local development issues in upland areas, and the exchange of ideas which came from these meetings was seen to be a valuable experience by those who attended.

Under the same program, CSEAR Director Michael Leaf organized a workshop on urban poverty in May through the Centre for Poverty Reduction (CPR) of the Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities. This workshop was planned as the first of a series of related workshops and training courses to be held by the CPR, and involved prominent researchers and social workers from Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi and Dalat. The next step is the production of a training manual which will bring together Vietnamese and foreign experiences with urban anti-poverty strategies, to be eventually published in Vietnamese.

## Publication of Conference Report

The Centre for Korean Research is happy to announce that the 4th Pacific and Asian Conference on Korean Studies (held in 1998) project is being finalized with completion of editing a conference volume. The editorial committee consists of Donald L. Baker, Yunshik Chang, Nam-lin Hur and Ross King. The manuscript will go to a printer shortly.



Yunshik Chang acted as President of the 5<sup>th</sup> Pacific and Asian Conference on Korean Studies, held in Beijing this past September.

### Lo Shyh-charng Exhibition

On October 19<sup>th</sup> an exhibition of the paintings of Lo Shyh-charng was presented in the IAR Atrium. Lo, who was born in Taiwan, is a long-time resident of Vancouver. Many of his paintings are of the North Shore, as seen from Jericho. The lyrical beauty of his work will be familiar to all who have seen IAR publications, which feature his works on their covers.

*Lo Shyh-charng with IAR Director Pitman Potter*



### MAPPS Program: The First Year

The Master of Arts, Asia Pacific Policy Studies (MAPPS) Program is being offered by the Institute of Asian Research as Canada's first graduate program with a focus on contemporary policy issues relevant to Asia. This program received provincial government approval in July 2000. For its initial year of offering, the MAPPS Program attracted a sizeable number of applicants, out of which a total of ten students have been accepted. The first cohort of MAPPS students is made up of students from a variety of academic backgrounds and research interests. Their diversified academic backgrounds range from Asian Area Studies to Biology. Moreover, a number of students have had several years of professional and work experience in the fields of international development, human resources development, communications, and education. This year, one MAPPS student has been awarded a University Graduate Fellowship.

The MAPPS Program is being team-taught by a group of IAR Faculty assigned to each of the thematic streams, namely: Mandakranta Bose, Women and Development; Paul Evans, Security; Masao Nakamura, Technology and Environment; and Pitman B. Potter, Governance and Human Rights, and Yunshik Chang, Sam Ho and Terry McGee, Economic and Social Change. Each admitted student has chosen from among these five thematic streams and thus has designed his/her own individual curriculum. Women and Development is the most popular choice among this year's MAPPS students, five students having selected this as their thematic stream. Two of the students chose Governance and Human Rights, and one selected Security.

The core course of the program will provide contrasting perspectives on the five thematic streams, drawing on a variety of viewpoints from Europe and North America, and from Asia and the Pacific. Research methodologies (i.e. documentary analysis, archival and interview research) for use in Asia and the Pacific will also be addressed. Students must also take an additional 18 credits of courses planned around the chosen thematic stream. To complete the program, students can then choose to write a thesis, perform a field research exercise or participate in a co-op placement.

## Mediating Cultures: The Foundational Role of the Ramayana in South and Southeast Asian Societies

The conference "Mediating Cultures: The Foundational Role of the Ramayana in South and Southeast Asian Societies" was held June 19-24 at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, at UBC. Presented by PICSA (Program for Inter-Cultural Studies in Asia) and the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, the conference was part of an exploratory project of which Dr. Mandakranta Bose is the principal investigator. It brought together scholars from around the world with the objective of identifying different ways of launching a many-sided study of the Ramayana. The conference was linked to a thematic grant application which, if successful, will fund a number of activities including the establishment of an archival site at UBC for Ramayana texts, art, and performance-related artefacts.

The keynote address, given by Kapila Vatsyayan of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi and entitled "Ramayana and the Visual Arts of South and Southeast Asia," explored the various versions of the Ramayana and corresponding forms of their artistic expression, in the context of cultural negotiation. The paper examined regional and historical differences in theme, treatment of characters, and style and technique, and sought to situate the Ramayana within a complex web of artistic genres and their regional variations.

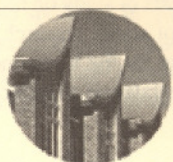
The other papers presented at the conference examined the adaptability of the Ramayana from a number of viewpoints, including regional and historical forms, iconography, gendered interpretations, and the contributions of the living Ramayana to 21<sup>st</sup> century culture and politics.

"Mediating Cultures" culminated in a celebration of the Ramayana over the course of three nights, featuring Indian music of the Agra gharana, Ramayana episodes performed in the classical Bharatanatyam style of dance, and Indonesian dance and wayang kulit based on Ramayana stories.

Negotiations for the publication of the conference proceedings are underway with a major academic press.



*Dr. Mandakranta Bose (centre) with conference participants*



**Free time?**

Find out about seminars, conferences and other events at the Institute of Asian Research at  
***[www.iar.ubc.ca/bulletin/index.htm](http://www.iar.ubc.ca/bulletin/index.htm)***



# Designing Complementary and Supporting Policies for Implementation of China's Natural Forest Protection Plan

by **Ilan Vertinsky**

A project involving UBC scholars and scholars from the Institute of Environmental Economics of the Chinese Academy for Social Sciences has been established with CIDA funding under the Public Policy Option Project in China (PPOP) program. The project, led by Dr. Ilan Vertinsky and Dr. Changjin Sun, is examining the impacts of three selected programs:

1. ban on logging;
2. conversion of farmland to grasslands or forests; and
3. anti-desertification activities.

The project is exploring what complementary policies should be in place to ensure the success of the three programs.

The Canadian team travelled recently to China to conduct a field trip and hold a workshop with the Chinese team. The Canadian team included Drs. Haley, Cohen, Vertinsky, Ms. Li Mou, and Graduate Assistant Lily Lee. The team was joined by Dr. Bill Hyde. The Chinese team was led by Dr. Changjin Sun, and included Sun Xiu Fang, Zhao Xiaoming, and Li Xiaping of the Institute of Environmental Economics.

On the evening of the team's arrival in Beijing (the 18<sup>th</sup> of September), the Chinese and Canadian teams, as well as other scholars interested in forest policy, met. Two background papers were presented by Lily Lee and Li Mou, one on the design of complementary and supporting policies for the

implementation of China's Natural Forest Protection Plan (NFPP), and the other on the impact of the logging ban on fiber flows in China and the trade in fiber. Other relevant projects were also reviewed.

In the next three days the group reviewed briefings from officials in the State Forestry Administration (including the NFPP Centre and the Anti-Sand and Afforestation Centre). The group also had productive discussions with researchers from the forestry economic research centre. Members of the team visited forest product companies, ENGOs, as well as groups focussing on poverty alleviation. Members of the trade group visited the Circulation Association and the Chinese Association for Forest Industry. The trade group departed to Shanghai on the 20<sup>th</sup> for an intensive schedule of meetings including interviews with traders, logistic experts, and consultants. The trip included visits to the port to discuss imports of timber, the largest timber market and some manufacturing plants.

The community group left on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September to Xining, the capital of Qinghai province. During the four-day field trip the group interviewed officials at the province, county, and village levels. The group gained invaluable insights into the need for complementary policies to ensure the sustainability of the various policies associated with afforestation and logging bans.

## Localized Poverty Reduction in Vietnam

by **Steffanie Scott**

With a long-standing interest in rural and development studies, I came to UBC five years ago to pursue a PhD in Geography. Deciding to turn my attention to one of the poorest countries in the world, I made my first trip to Vietnam in 1997. Led by Geoff Hainsworth, then Director of CSEAR, I participated with a group of UBC grad students in a study tour on rural resource management and sustainable livelihoods. Intrigued by the diversity and swift pace of change in the country, I returned the following year for 12 months. I set out to make sense of the multi-faceted process of decollectivization—the shifting of property rights from collective production to individual production—and what it implied for new patterns of vulnerability and social differentiation, particularly in terms of ethnicity and gender.

My research was greatly facilitated by having basic language skills, which continued to improve as I shared conversations, green tea, and motorcycle rides with Vietnamese friends on a daily basis, and occasional northern Vietnamese delicacies such as eel soup and spicy snails. I was also fortunate to have Geoff "Mr. Networks" Hainsworth and my advisor, Terry McGee, introduce me to their colleagues at the National Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities (NCSSH) in Vietnam, which served as my host institution during my stay. Through the study tour, I made contacts at the Agro-Forestry College in Thai Nguyen province, 80 km north of Hanoi, where I lived on my return visit in 1998. From there I made frequent trips to rural villages and government offices to interview male and female farmers and local officials about their perceptions of the reforms which have drastically changed the organization of rural life.

In 1998 UBC got final approval for a five-year university linkage program with Vietnam focusing on capacity building for participatory project planning and policy assessment, funded by CIDA. Collaborating institutions in the "Localized Poverty Reduction in Vietnam" (LPRV) program

include UBC, Université Laval, NCSSH, and five regional universities in Vietnam, including in the province of Thai Nguyen, where I worked.

In August of 1998, I was invited to attend the inaugural LPRV meeting in Hanoi. Given my language skills and experience working in Vietnam, the UBC team asked me to join Trang Nguyen (a fellow graduate student at CSEAR), Leonora Angeles (a UBC faculty member in Planning and Women's Studies), and Patrick Stewart (a First Nations PhD student in Planning at UBC) to co-facilitate a series of workshops for a week at each Vietnamese university in November-December 1998. We organized the workshops to integrate components on participatory poverty assessment, community planning, gender analysis, and working with ethnic minorities. One of my lasting impressions is Patrick's contribution in sharing his experiences as an aboriginal person in Canada, and of facilitating community consultations with aboriginal peoples. This theme helped Vietnamese participants to reflect on their own ethnically plural society. It helped me in turn to further appreciate how aboriginal communities feel being the subjects of development plans orchestrated by outsiders, and the relevance of such lessons for "indigenizing" development planning approaches to Vietnamese contexts.

Since 1998 I have been back to Vietnam twice for further workshops, collaborating with colleagues at each university's newly founded "Centre for Poverty Reduction" in assembling community profiles and designing pilot poverty reduction projects in selected villages. Being involved in LPRV has given me the opportunity to rethink my years of study on issues of poverty and global development, and methods of social research, to determine what concepts and skills are most relevant for the Vietnamese universities seeking to understand poverty and find strategies to reduce it — a concrete and exciting challenge.



*The unexpected arrival, in the summer of 1999, of several hundred Fujian boat people off the B.C. coast stimulated enormous media attention, and a major bilateral issue between Canada and China. At the same time China has become the largest source of legal immigrants to Canada. The IAR and the CCR have recognized the importance of current migration from China in two ways.*

### Workshop on Chinese Migration

The CCR held a workshop on Chinese migration at the Peter Wall Institute at UBC on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2000. It was coordinated by Diana Lary, with two aims: one, to look at the background to the 1999 arrivals of boat people from China, and two, to discuss with the help of government and academic experts the kind of research that needs to be done in the future on migration from China. Mainland Chinese now make up the largest group of legal immigrants to Canada, and their numbers far outweigh those of the boat people.

There were about thirty participants, from universities and from government. The main speakers were Elizabeth Sinn (University of Hong Kong), Michael Szonyi (University of Toronto), a representative from Citizenship and Immigration (CIC), Yuen-Pao Woo (Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada), Edgar Wickberg (Department of History, UBC), James Hathaway (University of Michigan), Maurice Copithorne (Faculty of Law, UBC), David Ley (Department of Geography, UBC), and Brian Job (Department of Political Science, UBC). Melania Cannon and Janet Lai (Department of History, UBC) both presented literature surveys.

The workshop was funded by the Peter Wall Institute. The CCR has since obtained funding from the Hampton Fund to carry its research further.



### The Faces of Irregular Migrants

In May the IAR launched a two-month exhibition of photographs of the boats and their passengers who arrived from Fujian in British Columbian waters in the summer of 1999. These were exhibited in the Atrium alongside a series of photographs taken in Hong Kong in the 1960s and 1970s by Chan Kiu, the retired head of the Photographer Unit at the South China Morning Post, who now lives in Vancouver. The exhibition was curated by Eleanor Yuen, head of the Asian Library. Eleanor has recently collected diaries and log books found on the boats when they were moored at Port Alberni.

A collection of photos on irregular Chinese migrants started to take shape in the Asian Library in 1999 with a generous donation of rare photographs of illegal migrants from China and Vietnam who were intercepted in Hong Kong and Macao over the past forty years. It has been developed to support research on Chinese migration as well as to document this ongoing phenomenon which is integral to the local history of British Columbia and indeed, that of Canada.

*The Asian Library and the Centre for Chinese Research plan to work together to develop a collection of photographs from Chinese Canadian communities. For information, please contact Eleanor Yuen, Head of the Asian Library, at 822-5905 or by E-mail at [elyuen@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:elyuen@interchange.ubc.ca).*

## JSAC Conference

by Beverly Lee, Research Associate, CJR

On October 5-7, 2000 the Centre for Japanese Research hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC). Each year, this conference is held at a different university in Canada. This is the second JSAC conference to be held at UBC, the last time being in 1990. The theme of this conference was "Japan and Asia Pacific in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: History, Culture and Policy Issues." All sessions were held in the main conference room in the Institute of Asian Research, C.K.Choi building at UBC.

An informal reception and registration on Thursday evening, October 5<sup>th</sup> preceded an intense two-day conference where participants heard a variety of papers covering many facets of Japan. The breadth of the research papers presented ranged from examining Japanese culture, art, language, geography, religion and economy, both past and present, to probing the role modern Japan plays in the world today. A somewhat unusual aspect of the JSAC Annual Conferences is that all papers are presented sequentially rather than concurrently emphasizing specific area studies. This means that it is possible to listen to a geographer, anthropologist, historian and specialist in religion in the same thematic session. Participants are encouraged to attend all of the sessions irrespective of personal interest in a given subject matter. For many scholars this policy has resulted in greater insights and a broader appreciation of other disciplines.

The JSAC 2000 Organizing Committee reflected this diversity of interests and was chaired by Masao Nakamura, Director of CJR. Other members of the Organizing Committee were: Millie Creighton (Anthropology and Sociology), David Edgington (Geography), Nam-lin Hur (Asian Studies), Beverly Lee (CJR), Moritaka Matsumoto (Fine Arts), Paddy Tsurumi (CJR and University of Victoria) and William Wray (History). The JSAC 2000 Organizing Committee gratefully acknowledges the financial support received from: Consulate General of Japan, Vancouver; The Japan Foundation; Mitsui & Co. (Canada) Ltd.; the Centre for Japanese Research; and UBC Press.

Each of the two days of the conference started at 8:00 AM with continental breakfast. On the first day Frieda Granot, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Pitman Potter, the Director of the Institute of Asian Research, welcomed the participants. The regular sessions started shortly thereafter and covered the themes of "Culture and Religion: Now and Past" followed by "Contemporary Policy Issues." The Distinguished Invited Lecture was given by Professor Shinya Sugiyama of Keio University, Tokyo. The title of his talk was "Commercial Networks in Asia, 1850-1950." The afternoon sessions also dealt with "E. Herbert Norman: UBC Press 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of Japan's Emergence as a Modern State: Political Problems of the Meiji Period" and ended with a session on "Japan and the

*Continued on page 8*



## **The Scars of War The Impact of War on Chinese Society**

**Edited by Diana Lary and Stephen MacKinnon**

**W**ars leave scars on society which mark it long after the fighting has stopped. This book looks at the long-term impact of warfare on modern China, at the scars of war which mark Chinese society. Our concern is with the civilian victims of warfare, not its perpetrators. We use a number of case studies to investigate different types of scarring. Throughout its modern history China has suffered from immense destruction and loss of life from warfare. In the worst period of warfare, the eight years of the Anti-Japanese War (1937-45), millions of civilians lost their lives. They died in massacres carried out by Japanese forces, in bombing raids by Japanese planes, and in defensive measures by the Chinese army. Countless others died in disruptions caused by war: starvation, sickness, and despair. How to understand suffering so vast, to see the scars of war? One way is to disaggregate populations down to the local level, and to look at local accounts. Another path is to look at specific categories of victims, refugees, veterans, and widows. Essays in this book use both approaches.

The scars of war take many forms. Bereavement creates the deepest scars, which can only heal partially. Other forms of loss are less grievous, but still leave deep scars. The loss of property, or of opportunity, or of a society destroyed all leave deep scars on the survivors of war. The long-term effects of insecurity, fear, and terror are still with us. Though there are proud memories of the courage of those who defended China, there is also the sobering knowledge that the Resistance War was followed by the Civil War and then by movements such as the Cultural Revolution.

The book consists of an introduction and seven chapters:

1. Burn, Rape, Kill and Rob: Military Atrocities, Warlordism and Anti-Warlordism in Republican China, Edward McCord
2. The Pacification of Jiading, Timothy Brook
3. Atrocities in Nanjing: Searching for Explanations, Yang Daqing
4. Ravaged Place: The Devastation of the Xuzhou Region, 1938, Diana Lary
5. Refugee Flight at the Outset of the Sino-Japanese War, Stephen MacKinnon
6. The Politics of Commemoration, Chang Jui-te
7. Between Martyrdom and Mischief, Neil Diamant

The book is illustrated with contemporary photographs and woodblock prints. Each chapter is introduced by a traditional Chinese saying (*cheng-yu*) on warfare.

*The Scars of War* will soon be available from the UBC Press.

World (1)" before adjourning for the day about 5:00 PM. Two coffee breaks and a catered lunch served in the building gave the participants a chance to move around and discuss the papers with one another.

The Japan Foundation Fellows Reception for JSAC members followed this full day of academic exercise and honored all past and present Japan Foundation Fellowship Recipients. (Several from all parts of Canada were present). The reception was sponsored by the Japan Foundation (Toronto) and the Consul General of Japan, Vancouver. Short welcome speeches were given by Stephen Vanderstoep, Program Officer and Sasae Tada, Deputy Director of Japan Foundation Toronto and by Yuichi Kusumoto, Consul General of Japan in Vancouver.

The second day of the conference started again at 8:00 AM with a continental breakfast. The first session "Language and Culture in Transition" began at 8:40 followed by the Distinguished Invited Lecture given by Professor Sheldon Garon of Princeton University. The title of his talk was "Fashioning a Culture of Thrift: Promoting saving in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Japan." After lunch some members took a short tour of Nitobe Gardens guided by Brian Pendleton before returning for the afternoon sessions "Japan and the World (2), "The Contemporary Geography of Japan: Industrial, social and Cultural Aspects" and finally "Modern Policies: Historians' Views." A short business meeting for JSAC Members followed the end of the conference. A special mention goes to David Moreton, a CJR graduate student assistant from the Department of Asian Studies, who printed the programs and name tags, helped set up the lunch and coffee breaks and in general kept things running smoothly.

JSAC is an organization promoting the study and research of all aspects of Japan. It welcomes serious scholars from all disciplines and holds an annual conference at various universities throughout Canada to allow the exchange of academic research and ideas. Participants at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference came to Vancouver from all parts of Canada, the United States and Japan.

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**Director, Institute of Asian Research  
C.K. Choi Building, Room 251  
1855 West Mall, UBC  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2**



**Guest Editor: Jennifer MacGregor-Greer  
E-mail: iar@interchange.ubc.ca  
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## **New from the IAR**

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Institute of Asian Research, 1999, 126 pp.  
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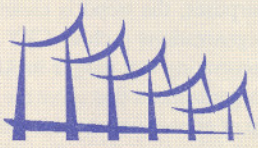
*A Varied Optic: Contemporary Studies in the Ramayana*  
Edited by Mandakranta Bose  
Institute of Asian Research, 2000, 157 pp.  
Cdn\$20 + 7% GST.

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# ASIA PACIFIC REPORT

*Special Insert*

## Patterns in Asian Philanthropy

*Peter Geithner*

*A central focus of the Program on Canada-Asia Policy Studies (PCAPS) is the evolution of civil society in Asia and the emergence of new institutions - regional, national and sub-national - for managing political, security and social concerns. Peter Geithner has been a major figure in promoting the non-profit sector in Asia, both through his earlier work at the Ford Foundation and more recently as senior advisor to the Asia Center at Harvard University. He visited the Institute of Asian Research last spring and led a discussion on March 17th at St. John's College on "Patterns in Asian Philanthropy." These are excerpts from his presentation. The full text is available on the PCAPS website, [www.pcaps.ubc.ca](http://www.pcaps.ubc.ca).*

Let me start with, and then amplify, four basic assertions.

First, nonprofit sectors in Asia, of which philanthropy is an essential part, are growing rapidly in size, scope and significance.

Second, to sustain that growth will require an increase in the quantity and quality of indigenous support - a "fourth wave" of development assistance.

Third, creating that fourth wave will require meeting other essential pre-requisites for a vibrant nonprofit sector.

And, fourth, philanthropic giving from in and outside Asia, by Asians and others, has a critical role to play.

### **Nonprofit Sectors in Asia**

The countries of Asia are characterized by vast differences in size, levels of development, political institutions and legal systems - not to mention histories, religions, cultures and concepts of giving. These differences are reflected in the origins, size, scope and roles of nonprofit sectors in the different countries across the region. Yet, despite these marked differences, citizen activities are rapidly growing in number, diversity and significance virtually everywhere in Asia.

What accounts for this phenomenon? Three factors have played an important role.

First, the proximate. In Japan, the Great Hanshin Earthquake of January 1995 devastated much of Kobe and the surrounding area. In response, some 1.2 million volunteers and numerous nonprofit organizations spontaneously mobilized to help the victims. That unprecedented outpouring of private effort stimulated in Japan a national debate on the role and function of citizen activities and contributed directly to the passage in 1998 of the Nonprofit Law.

Similarly, natural disasters and major political convulsions have played a significant role. Famine in India in the mid-1960s. The student revolution in Thailand in 1973 and the counter coup in 1976. The People Power revolution in the Philippines and the introduction of democratic government in Taiwan in 1986. The draughts caused by El Niño in Eastern Indonesia and the Philippines in 1997 and 1998. And, of course, the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98. Each of these events/crises prompted private individuals and organizations to act. The fact that these private responses were in many cases more rapid and effective than government's helped to legitimate and open greater space for private initiative and organization.

A second factor is the concern in recent decades with "development." As international aid agencies began to focus on poverty alleviation, they came to realize the critical importance of private initiative and popular participation. This led the major multilateral institutions as well as bilateral aid agencies, and then national governments, to channel more of their funding through international and national NGOs. These NGOs, in turn, have been active in supporting community-based and other local organizations in aid-receiving countries.

A third contributing factor has been profound changes in the roles and responsibilities of government, business and what is often referred to as "the third sector." Almost everywhere in Asia (as elsewhere), pressures to reduce taxes, reduce budget deficits and keep inflation low are imposing tighter fiscal constraints on governments, even as societal needs become ever more pressing.

Now that private capital flows are five times greater than ODA, and the market rather than government is seen as the main engine of economic growth, business is under pressure from government as well as the public to take responsibility for social functions previously seen as the exclusive responsibility of governments or families. At the same time, new generations of business leaders see the success of their firms as dependent on the health and vitality of the communities in which they operate.

Also significant is the growing realization that no one sector has all the resources - human, technical or financial - to meet the needs of society. Partnership has become the name of the game.

These various factors help to account for the growing number of nonprofit organizations in Asia. They also help to explain the widening scope of the sector - from traditional charities to modern welfare agencies, development NGOs, advocacy groups, research and training institutes and private and corporate foundations. And these factors help to explain why nonprofit agencies are becoming more significant actors in their societies. NPOs are increasingly making their presence felt - providing essential social and economic services; doing legal, technical and policy analysis; advocating and protesting; mobilizing public support; encouraging international exchange; and shaping, monitoring and enforcing norms of official and private behavior.

### **The Need for a Fourth Wave**

External support has played an important role in the development of the nonprofit sector in many parts of the region. Development assistance in the post-WWII era has come in three successive waves. In the First Wave, from the 1950s to the 1970s, developed country governments mainly pro-



vided Official Development Assistance, ODA, to developing country governments. In the Second Wave, during the 1970s and '80s, developed country governments funded their own NPOs - groups like CARE, Oxfam, Save the Children - to work in developing countries. In the Third Wave, during the 1990s, developed country governments sought to fund developing country NGOs directly.

What is now most needed is a Fourth Wave of support, namely, indigenous support for indigenous NPOs. The decline in foreign aid makes increased local support essential, if indigenous NPOs are to help meet the growing diversity, complexity and magnitude of problems facing their societies. Without more indigenous support, they will not be able to provide the needed social safety net for the millions of people in Asia who are today and who for the foreseeable future will remain unreached by government-sponsored welfare programs.

### **Other Major Needs**

Increased funding for nonprofit sectors in Asia is a major need. But funding alone, critical as it is, will not be enough. There are other important requirements for a strong and vibrant nonprofit sector. Indeed, increased funding, whether from public or private, or domestic or foreign sources, is not likely to come about unless these other needs are also met. Let me briefly mention five.

One is to increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance of volunteer and other citizen initiatives. In most Asian countries, the publics and governments have little awareness of the size and significance of the nonprofit sector and often approach it with skepticism and suspicion. Better documentation and dissemination of information is required if the public is to support nonprofit activities.

A second major need is to improve the legal, regulatory and fiscal framework in which the nonprofit sector operates.

A third need is to improve the planning, management and fundraising capacities of NPOs, and to do so in ways that do not undermine their commitment to serve the disadvantaged. Professionalization of the nonprofit sector becomes more imperative as the problems the sector seeks to address increase in number, scale and complexity.

A fourth need is to create stronger intermediary or support organizations. Foundations and similar entities help raise funds and provide them to organizations that need them. Other intermediaries help to professionalize NPOs by providing technical assistance and training.

A fifth need is to build strategic alliances and networks - local, national, regional and global. The IT revolution - with its faxes, phones, and Internet - makes it easier for individuals and organizations to obtain information and to be in touch with their counterparts elsewhere. Alliances and networks give the nonprofit sector a stronger voice in public policy. Associations and affinity groups facilitate the exchange of experience and cooperation in addressing common problems. Regional and international linkages are increasingly important to deal with issues, such as migration, environment and human rights, which transcend national boundaries.

### **The Role of Philanthropy**

In terms of private giving for public purposes, the trend is clearly and encouragingly upward. UNICEF and organizations such as CRY (Children Relief and YOU) in India are demonstrating that people in Asia are willing to give to impersonal causes - to organizations that serve the needy populations beyond the direct knowledge of or association with the giver. They are also willing to give to other causes, such as protecting the environment, that givers see as important.

In terms of institutionalized philanthropy, changes are also evident. New foundations have been created that are modeled in part on the major Western foundations - that is, they are privately endowed and professionally staffed. Toyota, Nippon and Sasakawa Peace Foundations in Japan, National Foundation of India, and Indian Foundation for the Arts. Even in China, national social organizations such as the China Youth Development Foundation, China Association of Science Foundations, and Environmental Foundation of China are striving to establish endowments that would give them the autonomy they need to be effective. These groups are forming national associations of grant makers, and the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, Synergos, CIVICUS and a Japan-initiated group of foundations and other organizations are seeking to help.

Companies in Asia are accepting greater responsibility for meeting the needs of society. Corporate social responsibility as a concept and practice is being adopted more widely. Japanese companies have long been concerned about community welfare. Philippine Business for Social Progress has been around for more than 25 years. Thai Business for Society was formed just prior to the Asia financial crisis.

Finally, Diaspora philanthropy is on the rise. This spring, the New YorkTimes has had articles on the Indian lawyer turned taxi driver who contributes \$300 a month for a school in his home village, and on the commitment of successful computer entrepreneurs to raise \$1 billion over the next ten years for support of the Institutes of Technology in India. It is difficult to visit a university in China without seeing tangible evidence of the generosity of overseas alumnae. And, of course, St. John's itself illustrates that such generosity can contribute in other important ways to our understanding of Asia. Universities as well as research institutes, as well as service providers, are reaching out to émigré communities for support. And these communities, like yours here in Vancouver, have shown a willingness to respond. Such support now extends well beyond traditional charity and religious focus of giving by Asians living abroad.

Beyond their role in supporting individual NGOs, foundations are particularly well situated to help meet the infrastructure needs of emerging nonprofit sectors in Asia. Foundations can promote improvements in the enabling environment; fund the development of indigenous foundations and other intermediaries; and encourage alliances and networks around common interests. These needs are important in their own right as prerequisites for a healthy and vibrant nonprofit sector. But meeting these needs is also essential if the third sector is to be given the funding it needs to help make Asian societies more productive, just and humane.

*Adapted for the Asia Pacific Report by  
Dr. Paul Evans, PCAPS Director*