

INSTITUTE OF ASIAN RESEARCH

2019 REPORT



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
School of Public Policy
and Global Affairs

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Director's Message

Since the 1970s the Institute of Asian Research has served as a focus for coordinating research, exchange, graduate training, policy engagement and community engagement on Asia across the UBC campus. In conjunction with the Department of Asian Studies, the IAR has provided a beautiful location and resources to focus academic and trans-academic work on Asia in general and particularly in the regions represented by our five core area Centres—India and South Asia, Southeast Asia, China, Japan, and Korea, as well as programs ranging from Religion and Public Policy in Asia, to Canada-China relations, to Alternative Dispute Resolutions, to Himalaya studies. Since 1991 the IAR has been the home of one of the great Asia journals, *Pacific Affairs* and from 2000 to 2016 ran a successful Master program in Asia Pacific Policy Studies (MAAPPS).

Beginning in 2015, the IAR joined with the Liu Institute for Global Issues and the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability to co-deliver the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs program. The IAR and Liu then became core partners in the founding of the UBC School for Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA) in 2017. The integration of these units, while occasioning some difficulties and review of goals and purposes, offers the IAR a new opportunity to fulfill the goals and aspirations that shaped the founding and first three decades of the Institute.

The MAAPPS program has morphed into a strong new professional program, the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA), which brings considerably more resources to bear on the training of future policy professionals. Beginning in 2019, the MPPGA program will pilot a new course as a possible stepping stone toward the development of a new Asia Policy Specialization within the program. The IAR remains the focus, but not the sole source, of resources and training in the situated knowledge necessary for successful policy work in Asia and with Asian partners.

The new institutional context for the Institute offers both opportunities and challenges for our historical mission and for our core members—*Pacific Affairs*, the area Centres, and our policy-oriented programs and initiatives. Members of the Institute now join forces with faculty in the Asian Studies Department, with colleagues in the School for Public Policy and Global Affairs, and with other units across campus to reimagine what Asian Research means and can offer in the challenging global contexts of the 2020s.

This report gives a brief sense of the past and present of the Institute of Asian Research as a resource to help our new partners understand the opportunities and challenges of working together to make best use of the resources on Asia at UBC to serve our ultimate employers, the people of British Columbia and Canada, and to contribute to the mission of UBC.

July 2019

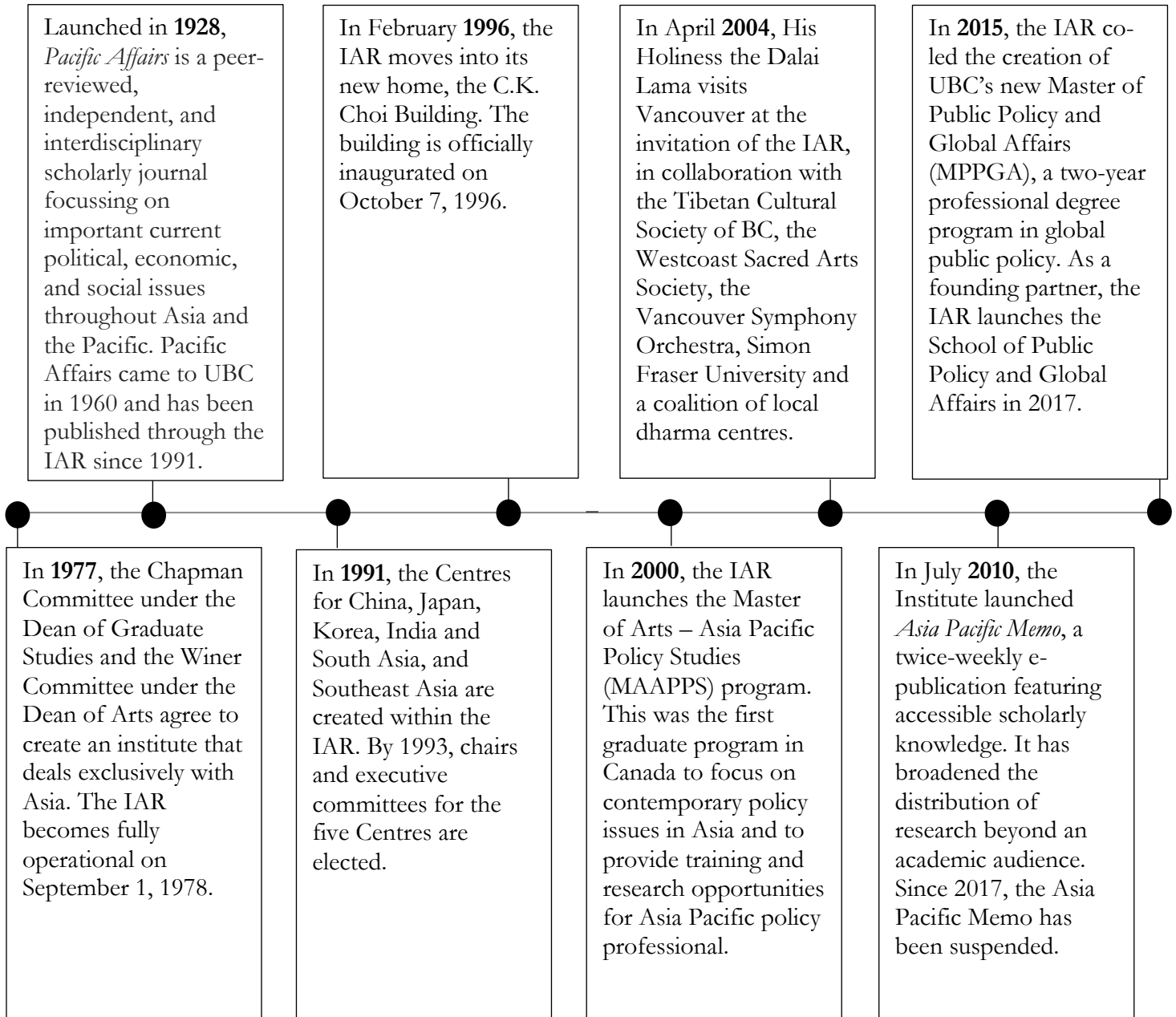


Timothy Cheek

Director, Institute of Asian Research
Professor and Louis Cha Chair in Chinese Research
UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs/Department of History

Highlights

The IAR seeks to contribute to a core area of the current [UBC Strategic Plan](#) around Local and Global Engagement. Our engagement with Asia has a regional and national reflection in our growing engagement with Asian-Canadian communities. This began with the support of Vancouver's Asian community in the 1980s and continues through our programs, collaborations and events today.



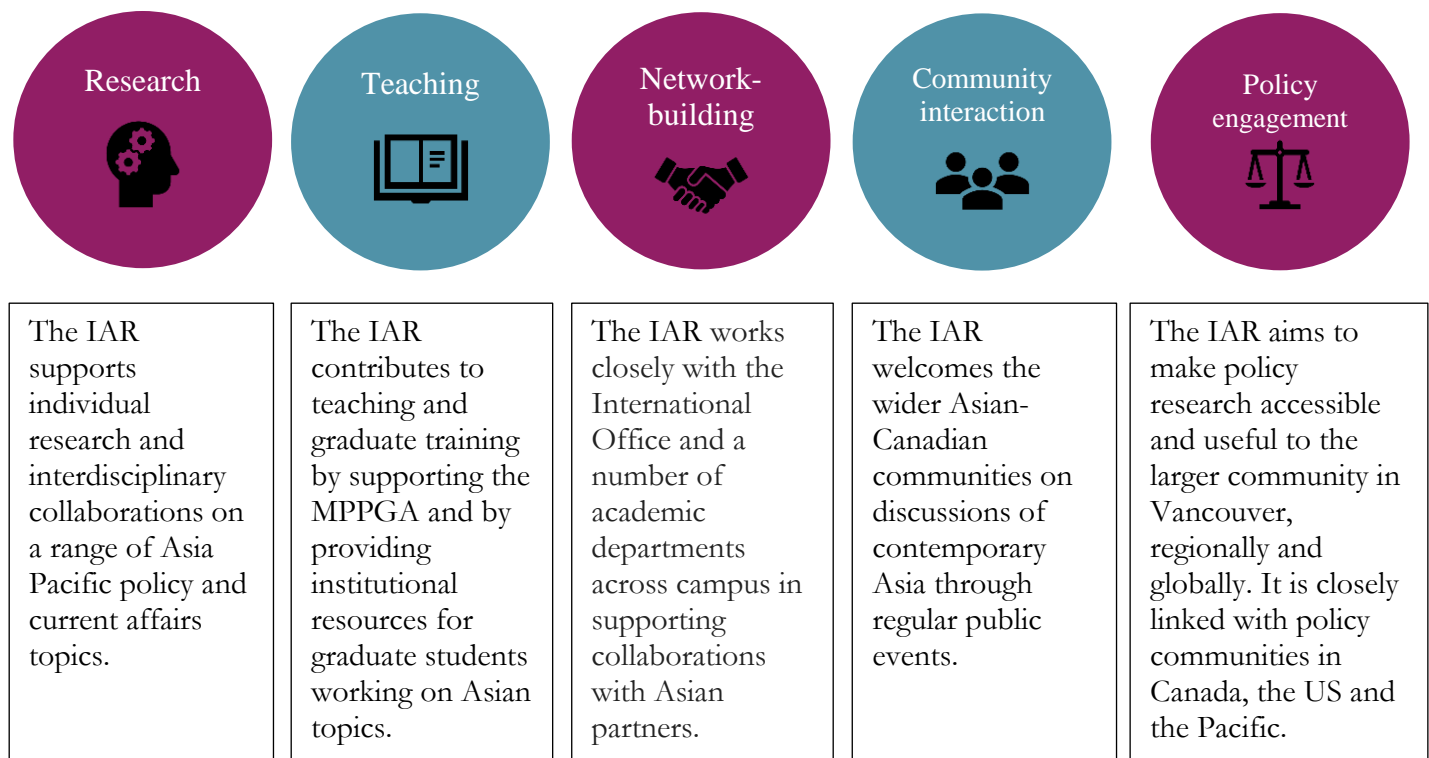
The Institute of Asian Research (IAR)

Founded in 1978, the Institute of Asian Research (IAR) is a major Asia-focused research institute in Canada. The IAR is committed to promoting Asian research and training at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and building professional linkages with colleagues in Asia and the world and communities interested in Asia in Vancouver, Canada, and internationally.

i. Vision and Mission of Unit

The IAR is the focal point on Asia policy and current affairs at the University of British Columbia (UBC) as well as for interdisciplinary scholarship on modern and pre-modern Asia. We are committed to the importance of history and culture to the understanding of contemporary Asia.

The IAR seeks to build knowledge and networks that support deep understanding and effective action on a wide range of domestic, regional, and global issues centered on Asia by serving as an active hub for research, teaching, policy support and, community engagement. The IAR advances this mission through five major activities:



Reflecting the complexities and significance of contemporary Asia, the Institute will continue to build and expand collaborations across a range of disciplines, starting with the social sciences and humanities, and extending into the natural sciences, commerce, law, and health. The Institute is also actively developing partnerships with key research and teaching organizations in Asia and other parts of the world.

ii. The Centres

The Institute is the home to five regional centres:

- Centre for Chinese Research <https://ccr.ubc.ca/>
- Centre for Japanese Research <https://cjr.iar.ubc.ca/>
- Centre for Korean Research <https://ckr.iar.ubc.ca/>
- Centre for Southeast Asia Research <https://csear.iar.ubc.ca/>
- Centre for India and South Asian Research <https://cisar.iar.ubc.ca/>

Each Centre runs its own programs, events, and scholarly collaborations under a faculty director or co-directors and a faculty management committee.

CCR Director: J. Chiu-Duke (Asian Studies)	CISAR Co-Directors: A. Murphy (Asian St.) and Sara Shneiderman (ANTH/SPPGA)	CJR Co-Directors Y. Tiberghien (Political Science) and J. Mostow (Asian Studies)	CKR Director: R. King (Asian Studies)	CSEAR Director: K. Ostwald (Political Science/SPPGA)
Faculty Management Committee per Centre				
1. Wei Cui (Law) 2. Julia Orell (Art History, Visual Art & Theory) 3. Bruce Rusk (Asian Studies) 4. Tim Cheek (History/ SPPGA)	1. Nemkumar Banthia, (Civil Engineering) 2. Sebastian Prange (History) 3. M.V. Ramana (SPPGA) 4. Adheesh Sathaye (Asian Studies) 5. Sunera Thobani (Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice) 6. Anne Murphy 7. Sara Shneiderman	1. Joshua Mostow 2. Yves Tiberghien 3. Christina Laffin (Asian Studies) 4. Tristan Grunow (History)	1. Ryuko Kubota (Language & Literacy Educ.) 2. Yves Tiberghien 3. Ross King	1. Kai Ostwald 2. John Roosa (History) 3. Elvin Ong (Post Doc)

The Institute has brought together and continues to facilitate cross-campus teams of researchers around thematic clusters, including:

- Urbanization Across Asia
- Religion and Society
- Culture and Society
- Environment and Society
- Mining and Energy
- China and Global Governance

With these thematic clusters, the IAR intends to quickly respond to the changing forces at play in Asia and to incubate innovative cross-disciplinary research on core global issues.

iii. Publications and collaborations

To support its mission, the Institute continues its long-standing commitment to [*Pacific Affairs*](#), a highly respected journal, and e-publications focused on reaching wider public and policy audiences, such as the *Asia Pacific Memo*. The IAR also supports research and graduate exchange programs with partners in several Asian countries, including Tsinghua University (Beijing), East China Normal University (Shanghai), Waseda University (Tokyo), Yangon University (Myanmar), amongst others. It also publishes occasional research reports on topics including Canadian public opinion on China and summaries of Institute-sponsored events.

iv. Research projects

The Institute's research priorities reflect the interests of its resident and affiliated scholars and tend toward policy-relevant issues informed by local knowledge. Current research activities include the impact of globalization in Asia; trade and human rights performance; natural resources and sustainability; socio-economic and political transformation; emerging issues in Canada-China relations; migration and mobility in the Asia Pacific region, urbanization in the Pacific Rim; political and legal reform; poverty management; and environment policy.

Over the last 15 years, the Institute has received a total research grant funding of **\$18 million**.

v. Major Grants

Year	Grant
2000 - 2007	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Grant \$2.3 million for the Southeast Asia Cooperation Program (SEACP)
2001 - 2003	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Grant \$1.86 million for the Northeast Asia Cooperation Program (NEACP)
2002 - 2008	Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) Grant \$2.5 million for "Asia Pacific Program of Cross-Cultural and Comparative Research in Dispute Resolution." PI, Pitman Potter
2009 - 2018	Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) Grant \$2.5 million for "Asia Pacific Dispute Resolution Program: Understanding Integrated Compliance with International Trade and Human Rights Standards in Comparative Perspective." PI, Pitman Potter
2010 - 2020	Power Corporation of Quebec \$500,000 for "Emerging Issues in Canada-China Relations." PI, Paul Evans
2014 - 2019	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Grant \$254,000 for "Reading and Writing the Chinese Dream," with York University and University of Montreal. PI, Timothy Cheek
2016 - 2019	Private donor, Jerry Weng \$250,000 for "Asia and Global Governance (includes V20 funds)." PI Yves Tiberghien

About our donors and projects:

- **CIDA:** The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is Canada's lead agency for development assistance. It supports sustainable development activities in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world.
- **SSHRC/MCRI:** The Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) program supports leading-edge research with true potential for intellectual breakthrough that addresses broad and critical issues of intellectual, social, economic and cultural significance.
- **Power Corporation of Quebec:** Over a decade, the Power Corporation of Quebec has organized seven track-two dialogues on topics ranging from cooperative security and peacekeeping to Arctic cooperation and bilateral economic relations and trade issues. It has also produced three major national surveys of attitudes on China and Canada-China relations.
- **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada:** The Chinese Dream is a SSHRC Insight Grant in collaboration with York University and University of Montreal focusing on contemporary Chinese debates on China's past, present, and future. Research and training activities focus on collaboration between Canadian/Western and Chinese scholars in identifying, analysing, and translating major texts. This has expanded into a network involving colleagues from Australia and Europe.
- **Asia and Global Governance and the VISION20:** A \$250,000 donation from Jerry Went. V20 is an inclusive coalition that brings together top think-tank leaders, scholars, and policymakers to reimagine the future of global governance and world order.

vi. Teaching and Graduate Training

The IAR contributes to teaching and graduate training in two main ways. First, by supporting the MPPGA program with its original faculty in program development and regular program courses. Second, by providing institutional resources and especially desk space for graduate students working on Asian topics from a variety of different departments in each of the five area Centres. The rooms of each Centre thus have become hubs of interdisciplinary activity among young scholars working on specific Asian topics on a daily basis.



The MAAPPS Program

In 2000, the IAR launched the Master of Arts – Asia Pacific Policy Studies (MAAPPS) program. It was the first graduate program in Canada to focus on contemporary policy issues in Asia and to provide training and research opportunities for Asia Pacific policy professional. Today the program alumni hold roles in academia, public institutions, private enterprises and non-governmental organizations around the world. The last MAAPPS cohort was accepted in 2014 and, since, it subsequently evolved into the MPPGA program.

In 2015, the IAR worked with the Liu Institute for Global Issues and the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability to launch the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA).

The MPPGA Program

The MPPGA is a 20-month, professional degree program in global public policy that provides policy makers and future leaders with multidisciplinary policy analysis and design skills alongside subject-specific expertise in development, sustainability, and global governance. Students graduate ready to drive policy change in industry, government or non-profits anywhere in the world.

“As we moved away from the idea of having a separate stream with a regional focus on Asia, it was deemed to be critically important that the design of a policy degree and school remain Asia-facing.”

Gage Averill, Dean, Faculty of Arts, UBC

MPPGA Asia Policy Specialization

Beginning in 2019, the MPPGA program will pilot a new course as a possible stepping stone toward the development of a new Asia Policy Specialization within the program. This course will offer a focus and recognition for policy students wanting to carry on and extend the Asia focus of MAAPPS training and to join the scores of MAAPPS graduates working on Asia policy in government, business and civil society organizations in Canada and across the globe.

vii. Policy Engagement

The IAR collaborates with SPPGA colleagues, as well as other UBC and international colleagues to offer policy assessments, briefings and advice. Both country and area-specific work and cross-Asian and international topics are covered in the work of faculty associated with the IAR. In recent years, the IAR has offered an informal and emerging role as a think tank on policy issues to do with China and Canada-China relations, reforms issues in Myanmar, and migration issues for Nepal and South Asia. Work includes both contract and short-term policy consultations and advice for the government of Canada and international institutions.

viii. Collaboration across UBC

The IAR collaborates closely with the Department of Asian Studies – the university’s focal point on Asian humanities, language, and culture – and the Liu Institute for Global Issues in joint programs and events. It continues to develop partnerships with the social science disciplines (economics, political science, sociology, anthropology, geography, gender studies) as well as with other academic units across campus – Business (Sauder), Law, the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP), Science, Applied Sciences, Education, Medicine, Forestry, among others – equally important in addressing contemporary policy issues.

ix. Faculty

While the mission and vision of IAR remains unchanged, the Institute is no longer the administrative home for faculty appointments. Since July 2017, the IAR no longer carries faculty lines. Previous IAR faculty have continued in SPPGA or related departments in the Faculty of Arts and maintained their work in the institute largely through the five area centres.

x. IAR Directors

Year	Director
1978-1992, 1995-1998	Terry McGee
1999-2008	Pitman Potter
2008-2009	Rotational
2009-2012	Paul Evans
2012-2017	Yves Tiberghien
2017-2018	Paul Evans
2018-Present	Timothy Cheek

xi. Endowed Chairs

Chair	Established	Current holder	Other information
Korea Foundation Chair	1993	Kyung Ae Park	
Konwakai Chair in Japanese Research	1994–2016	Masao Nakamura	Currently Vacant
HSBC Chair in Asian Research	1999–2008, 2010–16	Pitman Potter	Currently Vacant
AECL/KEPCO Chair in Korean Research	2002	Hyung Gu Lynn	
Louis Cha Chair in Chinese Research	2002	Tim Cheek	
Keidanren Chair in Japanese Research	2002	Julian Dierkes	
Republic of China Chair in Chinese Research	2004	Tim Brook	
Johal A & K Chair in Indian Research	2005–2008	Anand Pandian	Currently Vacant
The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Chair in Buddhism and Contemporary Society	2009	Jessica Main	
Johal A & K Chair in Indian Research	2013–2016	Amartya Lahiri	Currently Vacant
Chevalier Chair in China Development and Transportation (Visiting Chair)	2003	Jiang Wenran	

xii. C.K. Choi Building

As a dynamic Asia expands its reach across the world, the IAR's Vancouver location at the University of British Columbia puts the institute in the heart of a North America-Asia gateway and at the forefront of research and teaching opportunities.

The IAR is housed at the C.K. Choi Building, which was built at a cost of \$6.25 million. IAR moved into the Choi Building in 1996. Along with other major donors, the Choi family donated \$2.75 million towards the construction of the building, with matching funds from the Government of B.C.

Facts about the C.K. Choi Building: Environmental innovations

- The building was constructed using materials that are recycled, including bricks from demolished buildings and wooden beams from UBC's old Armoury building.
- Water is preheated using waste heat from an existing steam line.
- Cooling and air exchange are provided by 100 per cent natural ventilation. Atriums ventilate different parts of the building through a stack effect. High ceilings and windows that open also take advantage of natural ventilation.
- Offices are places to optimize natural light, so the building requires less than one-third the artificial lighting typically used in an office building. Daylight sensors automatically dim indoor lighting.
- Its energy-efficient design reduces UBC's electricity use by 192,000 kilowatt-hours a year, the equivalent of the amount of energy used annually by 19 single family homes. This provides a savings to the university of \$9,600 a year.
- Waterless, odourless composting toilets require no sewer connections and produce fertilizer for the garden.
- Recycled grey water from sinks and captured rain water is used for landscape watering, cutting water consumption in half.
- Landscape design by Cornelia Hahn Oberlander includes ginkgo trees, known for their ability to clean the air from pollutants.



“The C.K. Choi Building is not a Chinese building. It was designed with an Asian feel to it but without identifying it without a particular Asian country. It is a symbol of a sharing of responsibility between humans and nature and of spanning the ocean that separates the East from the West. It also reflects a new approach to research on Asia and a kinder, gentler way to impact our environment.”

Eleanor R. Laquian



xiii. Core activities, 2018-2021

- The IAR seeks to continue and to strengthen its core contributions to the **MPPGA** with the activities of the core faculty from the original IAR and by sustaining and maintaining the ten Endowed Chairs in Asian research currently administered by SPPGA. There are, in addition, a small number of smaller endowments given to the IAR to support Asian topics that need to be managed more actively to serve the mandate of the IAR and SPPGA.
- The IAR seeks to sustain and develop the constituent **Centres and Programs** while encouraging greater collaboration and integration of their activities. That means applying resources to get scholars to do worth they would not already do in their home departments—to build trans-disciplinary, trans-regional, and trans-academic (engaging communities outside the academy).
- The IAR seeks to strengthen and extend its role as **Research Institute** and **Policy Engagement** on Asia policy questions. Over the past two decades IAR Directors and core faculty have been active in policy consultations in Ottawa and conclaves, including Track-Two dialogues in Asia, in UN institutions, and with colleagues in the US and EU. With the advent of the SPPGA we have exciting opportunities and resources (new hires) to take this work to the next level.
 - o **Emerging Issues in Canada-China Relations:** A Power Corporation of Quebec project, hosting workshops and collaborative projects with Chinese institutions focused on regional security, bilateral economic relations, peacekeeping, and Arctic cooperation. It is taking on a new agenda and purpose as government to government relations have deteriorated in the past year and channels for ongoing discussion on matters related to technology and confidence building are increasingly needed. It has particularly come to focus on the increasing bilateral tensions between Canada and the PRC in light of the Huawei case.
 - o **VISION20:** An inclusive coalition that brings together top think-tank leaders, scholars, and policymakers to reimagine the future of global governance and world order. It was founded in 2016 by Yves Tiberghien and it is co-chaired by Alan Alexandroff at the University of Toronto and Colin Bradford at The Brookings Institution. The V20 seeks to build momentum in the G20 towards creative solutions. Beyond convening events, the V20 produces research output including an annual Blue Report, ad-hoc memos, op-eds, journal articles, and policy briefs written by co-chairs and partners for the T20 Summit.
 - o **Emerging Myanmar Initiative:** A summer program between the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the Yangon University of Economics (YUE), supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) that aims is to support the policy research skills of YUE's teaching staff and senior graduate students. It is designed to disseminate various policy frameworks and research tools common in the North American context, including UBC's School of Public Policy and Global Affairs. Given the active role that many YUE graduates play in Myanmar's policy arena, this creates the potential to positively impact the development process.

xiv. Taking Stock: Strengths, Opportunities, Challenges, and Aspirations

The myriad activities of the IAR offer strengths, opportunities, challenges and aspirations for our efforts to fulfill the mandate the university has given the Institute to serve as a hub for Asian research and engagement at UBC.

- **Asian Research:** The IAR brings together diverse faculty expertise about Asia and Asian Diasporas in a wide range of Schools, Faculties and Departments at UBC including Anthropology; Art History, Visual Art & Theory; Asian Studies; Civil Engineering; Educational and Counselling Psychology; Family Medicine; Forest & Conservation Sciences; History; School of Community and Regional Planning, School of Population & Public Health; School of Public Policy & Global Affairs; Sociology; and the Vancouver School of Economics.
- **Network building and policy engagement:** The IAR has offered and continues to offer a home for networks of scholars from various UBC faculties and partner institutions to work on projects of research, training, public engagement and policy advice.
- **Public Events:** The IAR and its constituent Centres and Programs host a robust event series of events (lectures, seminars, cultural presentations, etc.) that are well attended by faculty, students and the larger UBC and Vancouver community. Many of these events are co-sponsored by other institutions and groups, including local community groups.
- **Student Engagement and training:** The IAR and its constituent Centres and Programs engages with a large and diverse student population through its events and programs targeting students (such as annual travel grant for graduate students and the various named awards). We regularly partner with professors teaching classes to engage the UBC undergraduate population with our guest speakers and events (for example, by bringing a guest into classrooms). Many (but not all) students we engage with are of Asian heritage. This is an important constituency for us that we will continue to increase our engagement with.
- **Public Engagement:** By bridging both Asia-oriented and local concerns, the IAR's programs actively forward the agenda of advancing both local and global community engagement that the UBC Strategic Plan and SPPGA Ambitions and Approaches document emphasize.
- **Sustaining Leadership:** These five areas of work at the IAR within the SPPGA and UBC more broadly require resources and faculty support. In the past the leadership of UBC's senior administration, the generosity of donors, and the activism of faculty created and sustained the IAR for its first two decades. The challenge going forward is to sustain that leadership, support and intellectual commitment.



Sustaining Leadership: C.K. Choi opens the Choi Building, 1996

Voices: Faculty, Students, and Staff

“I feel tremendously privileged and fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve as IAR Director during a period of significant teaching innovation and research achievement. I treasured the change to work with a collection of such talented and accomplished scholars, I hope the atmosphere of scholarly intensity that I experienced continues.”

Pitman Potter
Director, Chinese Legal Studies
Peter A. Allard School of Law
Director Emeritus, IAR

“IAR means community.

IAR’s community outreach events went beyond the social activities - these were the forum and public discussions IAR hosted and offered to the on and off campus community with the aim of informing, educating, knowledge sharing, and bring about understanding of issues or problems in Asia. IAR was not only a workplace but also very much a second home where we fostered many continuing relationships with co-workers, MAAPPS alumni, student assistants, researchers, faculty members, and faculty associates.”

Karen Jew
Assistant to the Director, SPPGA | IAR

“The Institute of Asian Research is the largest and best-known university-based institution in Canada focused on contemporary Asia and Canada-Asia relations. Its biggest challenge is how to incubate and sustain the activities that connect the academic resources at UBC to understanding and working with an Asia of growing complexity and global impact.”

Paul Evans
Professor, SPPGA
Director Emeritus, IAR

“At a time of great tensions and misperceptions between Asia and the West, fostering dialogue and personal cross-Pacific links may be one of the most important tasks for a university like UBC. Over the years, the IAR has established itself as the premier research center, policy incubator, and think tank on Asia and Asia-Canada relations in Canada. The Canadian government at all levels, Asian governments and universities, businesses and NGOs, the Asian diaspora in Canada, and many other stakeholders have all come to see IAR as the indispensable hub at a critical juncture. It has been an enormous privilege for me to lead the growth of IAR and the creation of the MPPGA and SPPGA over 5 years. I see tremendous opportunities and responsibilities for IAR going forward.”

Yves Tiberghien
Professor, Department of Political Science
Director Emeritus, IAR and Co-Director, CJR

“Without the IAR, I would not have chosen UBC’s MPPGA program. Without Southeast Asia research as a justification, my scholarship agency in Singapore would likely not have granted approval for this program. My independent projects at the Centre for Southeast Asia Research (CSEAR) keep me engaged in the research community despite being in a professional program without a thesis. Working with regional partners such as the Canada ASEAN Business Council (CABC) has also helped build my professional network in Asia. The opportunity to be engaged as a scholar-practitioner within IAR offers depth to UBC’s MPPGA which would otherwise be a weak value proposition to applicants with a choice of other top institutions. IAR opportunities help correct for the MPPGA’s deficiencies as a relatively new program with no track record of success and relatively low academic rigour.”

Tommy Koh
MPPGA alumnus
VISION20 Lead Fellow

“I have been interested in Asia since my first year of college. After graduation, the IAR presented me with the opportunity to continue to work and be involved with Asia. The IAR is the closest thing I have to the wonderful region of Asia.”

Kerry Ross
MPPGA Career & Co-op Coordinator
School of Public Policy and Global Affairs

“I ‘lived’ in IAR while completing my PhD. I had both, my comprehensive and final defences here, made friends here, hosted important dialogues and events here — the relationships I built here over time have proven to be life-long. IAR for me is a space full of memories, hard work, and relationships.”

Kilim Park
CSEAR Graduate Student Associate

“I have met many brilliant colleagues who joined our program believing that UBC has a unique strength in Asia – and they were right to believe so. However, many believe that our program has not sufficiently utilized our resources to reinforce such strength. As the program moves forward, I think it will be imperative for us to remember that our school is Asia-facing. I can only expect the Institute (and its constituent five centres) to increase exponentially as the “Asian Century” unfolds itself.”

Chengkun Lv
MPPGA student

“The Institute of Asian Research is one of the premier research centres in Canada and North America. The Institute is home for a group of distinguished scholars and students who focus solely in Asia, which is vital in the contemporary changing world and will continue to be in the coming years and centuries. There has been a shift in global capital and manufacturing basis to Asia. Thus, it is vital for Canada to have its own knowledge capital on Asia and the world.”

Tsering Shakya
Associate Professor SPPGA/Asian Studies
Co-lead Himalaya Program

“As an MPPGA student with a strong academic interest in Asia, the IAR has been an excellent resource. The expertise and mentorship available at the Centres have allowed me to broaden my knowledge base and get involved with interesting initiatives. As a policy student and researcher with an Asian focus, this foundation (IAR) upon which the SPPGA was built has been a perfect fit professionally and academically.”

Ali Abdullah Bajwa
MPPGA alumnus

“UBC widely recognizes and leverages its ‘Asia strength’, whether in the form of research expertise, partnerships, or simply the student body. The Centres (and the IAR, which houses them) play a vital role in coordinating all of those dimensions, which allows the Asia strength to be one of UBC’s distinguishing features.”

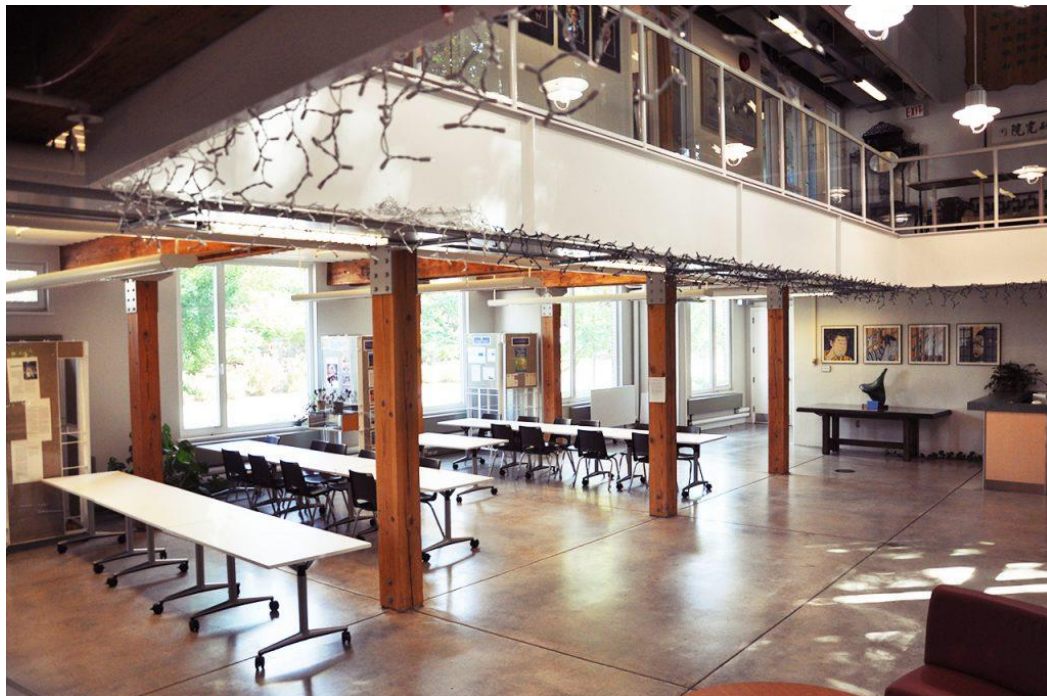
Kai Ostwald
Assistant Professor, SPPGA/Political Sci.
Director, CSEAR

The Centres

The Institute of Asian Research (IAR) is the administrative home for five regional research centres, with which the Institute frequently collaborates on Asia Pacific policy events and initiatives. The IAR was set up to be different from line departments. Interdisciplinary in nature, the Institute's constituent Centres are hubs that stimulate and deepen the knowledge of China, India and South Asia, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia.

Principles

- The five regional Centres within IAR (China, Japan, Korea, India and South Asia, South-East Asia) should operate as cross-campus hubs that integrate all aspects of scholarship and are open to all scholars with significant interests in that region (without requirement of language fluency or exclusivity).
- In particular, they bring together scholars from across the university, including the social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, professional programs and public policy (in all its aspects from health, environment, law, business etc.
- The Centres should also serve as platforms to engage the broader community and communities in BC and Canada, including civil society, business, and diplomats.
- The Centres shall apply principles of good governance, transparency, and efficiency under the supervision of the Institute of Asian Research.
- The Centres will follow a rough formula for events and activities of 40% social science and public policy, 40% humanities, and 20% other areas beyond the faculty of Arts.



Centre for Chinese Research (CCR)

Website: ccr.ubc.ca



CCR supports and disseminates research on China and the Chinese-speaking world. Located within the Institute of Asian Research, the CCR serves multiple constituencies, including UBC scholars and students, the field of Chinese studies, and the general public. In addition to facilitating coordination between researchers in different UBC departments and units, the CCR hosts visitors, sponsors academic conferences and seminars, and maintains an active program of public events.

CCR Objectives include:

- to strengthen Chinese studies at UBC;
- to coordinate research on China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, overseas Chinese communities, and Canada's relationship with these areas and populations;
- to promote interaction among faculty, graduate students, and visiting scholars doing research on Chinese topics;
- to facilitate linkages between scholars at UBC and other institutions doing research on China and the Chinese-speaking world; and
- to promote a deeper understanding in Canada of China and Chinese culture through public outreach.

The CCR's mandate is multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary. It thus serves as a hub for UBC scholars at working in all aspects of Chinese studies. CCR also maintains close ties to academic, international, policy-making, business, and local communities, within Canada and beyond.

Funding: Over the years, the IAR has been fortunate to receive research support from private donors and a number of organizations, including:

- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
- United Nations

Centre for India and South Asia Research (CISAR)

Website: cisar.iar.ubc.ca



CISAR promotes interdisciplinary research related to South Asia through seminars, lectures, and conferences, and to create and support institutional and scholar-to-scholar linkages between UBC and institutions in South Asia and beyond, and between UBC and South Asian communities in British Columbia. The Centre aims to act as a hub to bring together faculty, research associates, graduate and undergraduate students, and the public with an interest in South Asia.

CISAR has developed networks across UBC's diverse faculties. In this, CISAR builds upon the significant existing commitments to research in and about South Asia and the South Asian Diaspora at the university, which includes a rich array of South Asian language offerings and faculty teaching and research from diverse disciplinary perspectives. CISAR maintains close relations with central university administration units focused on international activities (VPRI, Go Global), as well as with the Vancouver Consulates of India and Pakistan, and a range of South Asian community organizations in the Lower Mainland.

- CISAR brings together diverse faculty expertise about South Asia and South Asian Diasporas in a wide range of Schools, Faculties and Departments at UBC.
- CISAR hosts a robust event series that is well attended by faculty, students and the larger community, and many of our events are co-sponsored by other institutions and groups, including a range of South Asian Canadian community organizations.
- CISAR engages with a large and diverse student population through its events and programs targeting students.
- By bridging both South Asia-oriented and local concerns, CISAR's programs actively forward the agenda of advancing both local and global community engagement that the UBC Strategic Plan and SPPGA Ambitions and Approaches document emphasize. CISAR is currently finalizing two new student mobility partnerships with Universities in India: Punjabi University Patiala and Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD).

Future Objectives include:

- Develop an interdisciplinary course of study in South Asian and Himalayan Studies, either as an Interdisciplinary Program (with a minor/major) or through a certificate program, in keeping with broader Faculty of Arts initiatives along such lines.
- Continue to build robust local linkages in support of South Asian Studies, partnering with other institutions in BC such as the University of the Fraser Valley and the University of Victoria.
- Efficient and reliable student mobility programs for UBC students to study and conduct research in India, as well as other South Asian countries. This includes working with MPPGA to develop MITACS-funded and other opportunities, as well as working with Go Global to improve ease of access to existing opportunities and for the founding of new ones.

Centre for Japanese Research (CJR)

Website: cjr.iar.ubc.ca



CJR actively engages in promotion of research on a wide variety of topics dealing with Japan and its relationship with the global community. The CJR is engaged in various activities that encourage personal and organizational interactions between Canada and Japan. As part of its research activities, the CJR presents a series of seminars and lectures featuring speakers from around the world. It accepts academic and other visiting researchers from universities, governments and international organizations who are interested in research on Japan. It also co-sponsors programs like the Kakehashi Project, which aims at facilitating greater understanding between people of Japan and Canada.

- CJR began its series of seminars on Japan-related topics of general interest in 1992 when Mark Fruin became the director of the Institute of Asian Research.
- CJR subsidizes Japan-related research projects of the CJR-affiliated faculty and Ph.D. students. Over time these research projects have resulted in many publications and Ph.D. theses.
- CJR promotes research seminars, workshops and conferences on Japan-related topics by subsidizing the projects sponsored by the Social Science and Humanity Research Council of Canada, the Japan Foundation and UBC's own funding from outside the Institute. These research projects cover not only what is known as the traditional research topics on Japan but also newer topics in Japanese studies such as environment, management, psychology and technology.
- CJR is actively involved in promoting interest in Japan among members of Canadian society, another mandate for CJR. For this purpose, CJR has held a number of workshops and discussion forums on contemporary management and environment issues for the local business community.

To help CJR and UBC to promote interest in Japanese culture among members of Canadian society some members of the Japanese community have donated valuable artistic objects from Japan to CJR. They include many original Noh-play masks produced by Noh-mask artists in Hiroshima (1996), the original Yamazaki Kyoto Kicho silk screens (1998) and hanging art pieces from Kyoto. Some of these are exhibited in the CJR meeting room.

Future Objectives include:

- The Centre wishes to continue collaborating with different entities to broaden its scope of activity and connections. An area for further improvement would be increasing undergraduate student involvement and participation in the Centre's events. The Centre for Japanese Research will continue its role across campus as a place to find out about Japan, to support a range of Japanese studies and activities, and to bring together scholars from diverse department and faculties into productive conversation.

Centre for Korean Research (CKR)

Website: ckr.iar.ubc.ca



CKR has been the leader of Korean studies in Canada with its vibrant programs of research and teaching, community involvement, and international exchange. It was established to facilitate research on Korea through multidisciplinary approaches and now has faculty members focusing on Korean language, literature, history, political science, music, and anthropology. Specifically, the CKR aims to:

- Intensify UBC's focus on Korea and Canada-Korea issues;
- Develop funded research projects;
- Organize interdisciplinary research seminars, workshops, projects, lectures, and conferences;
- Facilitate the exchange of scholars; and
- Expand scholarly opportunities for graduate students; and serve as a forum for interaction between UBC and the Korean Canadian community.

Since its inception, the CKR has gained increasing recognition as a major hub of Korean studies in North America and beyond. As the first Korean studies centre in Canada and the only one in BC, the CKR will maintain its pivotal role in linking academic institutions in BC, across Canada and indeed the world. Its collaborative projects include educational and research partnerships or consortiums with academic institutions in Korea, North America and Japan, including Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies at Seoul National University, Korea Cultural Research Institute at Ewha Womans University, Tongbuk-A munhwa kyoryu yŏn'guso at Korea University, Han'guk minjok munhwa yon'guso at Pusan National University, Tamla Cultural Research Institute at Cheju National University, Research Center of Korean Studies at Kyushu University, and American Korean studies centres (U-Washington, U-Hawaii, UC Berkeley, UC Los Angeles, Chicago, Michigan, Columbia, Harvard and Stanford).

Each year the CKR serves as home to the largest number of visiting Korean studies scholars in Canada from many parts of the world, including academics, NGO activists, mass media experts, government officials and graduate students.

They come to enjoy the most extensive resources for Korean studies in Canada and participate in an active research and teaching program that has vigorously pursued the University's mission to engage the broader community. The CKR has hosted series of public seminars, conferences and workshops to facilitate the exchange of ideas between academia and the public in both Canada and Korea. All these programs and activities have raised UBC's standing in Korean studies and the CKR will continue to promote world-class research and education in Korean studies in the years ahead.

Centre for Southeast Asia Research (CSEAR)

Website: csear.iar.ubc.ca



CSEAR is the only academic institution in Canada devoted exclusively to the study of Southeast Asia, and it carries on the rich legacy of the study of Southeast Asia at UBC. It is the oldest, largest, and most active centre of its kind in Canada and one of the very few in North America. It acts as a hub for all things Southeast Asia related at UBC by supporting academic research and exchange, promoting a fuller understanding of Southeast Asia in Canada, and enhancing aspects of Canada-Southeast Asia relations.

- CSEAR strives to promote academic research and exchange, to support community activities that contribute to a fuller understanding of Southeast Asia in Canada, and to facilitate and enhance all aspects of Canada-Southeast Asia relations.
- CSEAR regularly organizes seminars, workshops, conferences, and publications, and serves as a vehicle for the development of collaborative research projects among faculty, graduate students, and colleagues in Southeast Asia and elsewhere in Canada.
- CSEAR is an active member of the Southeast Asian community in Metro Vancouver and works closely with the Southeast Asian consular corps in Vancouver and Canada as well. The Centre continues to welcome diplomatic and government visitors from the region as well as academics working on Southeast Asia and a newly formed graduate student network that includes students from different disciplines.
- CSEAR holds academic events to promote intellectual discourse on the region and supports various student communities at UBC, encouraging the community to stay connected to their roots and promote the region in Canada

The Centre's Strategic Initiatives include:

- **ASEAN civil servants:** Attract early- and mid-career civil servants from Southeast Asia into the MPPGA. This would bring additional regional expertise to UBC in the short term, and plant seed from strong ties between UBC and regional governments in the long-term as MPPGA alumni return to their home governments.
- **ASEAN chair:** Secure additional funding to invite academics, public intellectuals, and former government officials from Southeast Asia to UBC for a period of between one and three months. This would strengthen UBC's expertise in the region and build on strategic relationships.
- **Annual ASEAN conference:** Host a major conference together with key partners on ASEAN that brings together academic expertise, Canadian government officials, and representatives from the private sector. These connections will allow UBC's faculty expertise to provide support for the government and private sector initiatives in the region, while simultaneously giving UBC faculty access to new research opportunities and sources for funding.
- **Myanmar Initiative:** UBC is leading a capacity development program at the Yangon University of Economics and the University of Yangon, running projects and institutional capacity building in Myanmar.

In summary, as part of the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA), the Institute of Asian Research (IAR) continues to serve as UBC's hub for Asian research, teaching, networking, community interaction and policy engagement.

A poem by Dr. Cheung-Kok Choi

The Eastern soil embodies the ancient traditions,
while the Western way embraces the latest technology.
As the five continents gather more closely,
the whole world beats to the rhythm of one heart.
Hundreds of schools of thought vie in healthy competition,
as thousands of diverse bells toll in harmony.
Now our diverse cultures merge closer in heart and spirit,
let there be peace in our world forever more!

Dr. Cheung-Kok Choi

(English translation of a poem by Dr. Cheung-Kok Choi that has been inscribed onto one of the bell's panels.)



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