

## Indonesia Council Digest September 2006

This is the digest of the Indonesia Council, a regional grouping within the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA). As the Indonesia Council does not have a separate fee structure, we urge those of you who find this bulletin useful or who attend the Indonesia Council's free biennial conference to become financial members of the ASAA (the membership form is available at <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/SpecialProj/ASAA/asaa-mship.html>).

This list is moderated, but open (i.e. digests posted on the list may be passed on to someone else). If you know of anyone who may like to be added to the list please ask them to contact the list moderator directly at [michele.ford@arts.usyd.edu.au](mailto:michele.ford@arts.usyd.edu.au).

### CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS/INFORMATION

The Indonesia Council is interested in collecting data on Indonesia-related PhDs (a) currently being undertaken at your institution (b) completed since 2000. This data will help us lobby on Indonesianists' behalf in a number of forums. We would appreciate it if you could make us a brief list of:

- i) students' names
- ii) thesis titles/working titles
- iii) department in which the work was/is being undertaken
- iv) whether the student has a scholarship and
- v) year of completion/expected completion

Please send this information to the Council Secretary, Kate McGregor at [k.mcgregor@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:k.mcgregor@unimelb.edu.au).

### NEWS

Virginia Hooker writes that 'Voices of Islam in Southeast Asia: A Contemporary Sourcebook' was launched by Mr Downer on 15 August and is widely available in SEAsia but not yet in all campus Co-op bookshops. Robert Hefner has written: 'This remarkable volume brings together sample writings of the most important intellectuals and activists in Muslim Southeast Asia. The essays address key debates in the Muslim community: on the status of women, the proper form of the state, the role of Islamic law in modern life, and other vital matters. The volume provides handy overview summaries of Islam in each of the major Southeast Asian countries; thematic essays introduce each of the book's topical extracts. The result is an extraordinary book that will be of interest to everyone interested in Islam, Muslims and the changing face of both in Southeast Asia'. Details are: 'Voices of Islam in Southeast Asia: A Contemporary Sourcebook', Compiled and edited by Greg Fealy and Virginia Hooker, ISEAS, 2006, 540 pages, softcover S\$39-90/US29-90; hardcover \$S69-90/US\$49-90. Email orders to [pubsunit@iseas.edu.sg](mailto:pubsunit@iseas.edu.sg)

## BOOKS

Chou, Cynthia, *The Orang Suku Laut of Riau, Indonesia*, London, Routledge, 2007.

When translated, the 'Orang Suku Laut' means a 'tribe of sea people'. The Orang Suku Laut in Riau traverse an archipelago encompassing over 3,200 islands, alongside many other races from Malays to the Javanese. They have been deemed a backward people by the Indonesian government and local Indonesians, and are seen as alien and dangerous. The Orang Laut however see themselves as indigenous people. Recent plans mooted for developing the archipelago - the Growth Triangle - have raised questions about the implications of displacing local inhabitants. This book focuses upon the predicaments of the Orang Suku Laut in view of the challenges imposed upon them by the emergence of new borders created by the newly created Growth Triangle zone on their maritime world.

Anthony Reid (ed) *Verandah of Violence: The Background to the Aceh Problem*, University of Washington Press, 2007.

In Indonesia's westernmost province of Aceh, the democratization process that began in Indonesia in 1998 encouraged the overt expression of regionalist sentiment and resentment of the military. The surprising extent of both feelings made Aceh, home to a long-standing independence movement, the next potential candidate after East Timor to break away from Indonesia, and led to harsh repressive measures by the military. The tsunami of December 2004 brought incalculable destruction and loss to Aceh. At the same time, it brought international sympathy and aid on an unprecedented scale, along with new pressures for peace. In August 2005, Indonesia and Aceh signed a peace agreement designed to put an end to the conflict. This book offers a guide to the complexities of modern Aceh, a land dubbed "The Verandah of Mecca," as it moves toward peace and reconstruction. With balanced coverage by leading authorities, historians, political scientists, and journalists, *Verandah of Violence* probes the underlying causes of the conflict that has pitted Aceh against Jakarta, explaining why the Acehnese entered the Indonesian republic in 1945 with an unparalleled determination to resist outside domination, and how these attitudes have shaped Aceh's relations with the Indonesian state.

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

**24th annual Indonesia Update conference, 22-23 September 2006.** The Indonesia Project and the Department of Political and Social Change at ANU present the next Indonesia Update on the topic **DEMOCRACY AND THE PROMISE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE**. Conference convenors are Professor Andrew MacIntyre (Crawford School of Economics and Government, ANU) and Associate Professor Ross McLeod (Indonesia Project, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, ANU). The conference is about various aspects of democratic governance in Indonesia, to some extent drawing on comparisons with other countries in the region and elsewhere. It will focus on how democracies work; what makes them work better or less well; what governments should do, and not do; and how we should go about reform of key institutions such as the bureaucracy. More specifically, the conference will discuss the architecture of government at both the national and regional levels, bearing in mind the dramatic changes

in the overall system of government that have occurred since the fall of Soeharto-including decentralisation from the beginning of 2001. It will discuss various aspects of the actual and desirable roles of government: the extent of intervention in the workings of markets; the role of the state in managing natural resources and the environment; and its interactions with private business and with organised religion. Finally, it turns to the functioning of one of the most important institutions of democracy-the bureaucracy-focusing on the clearly evident need for far-reaching reform. Venue: Coombs Lecture Theatre, Fellows Road, The Australian National University. For further details see <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/economics/ip/IU06/>.

**Call for expressions of interest to give papers at "Crossing Borders", a conference to be held on 4th and 5th February 2007, Curtin University of Technology Sarawak campus, Miri.** The Research Unit for Study of Societies in Change (RUSSIC), Curtin University, with the support of Curtin University, Sarawak campus, invites you to participate in a two-day conference entitled Crossing Borders to be held at Curtin's Sarawak campus in Miri. The main conference aims are to: provide a forum to share ideas on "Borders" research scholarship, with a special emphasis on Borneo and the neighboring region; encourage collaborative comparative research on "Borders" issues, relating to Borneo and the neighboring region in particular; develop scholarly networks in "Borders" research; assist early career researchers in enhancing their academic knowledge and expertise, relating to "Borders" research in particular. The conference will bring together participants from different disciplines working on "Borders"-related topics. The main themes include: (Re-)Defining Borders; Borders: Sites of Inclusion and Exclusion; (Re-)Mapping Borders: The Geo-Politics of Space; Imagined Border Communities; The (Re-) Formation of Border Identities; Cultural Capital Production in Border Contexts; Borders as Emerging Economies; Borders: Zones of (In)Security; Borders: Sites of Human-Environmental Interaction; Borders and the Politics of Globalisation; Borders within borders; Changing borders and border crossings; Borders of distinction: Cultural, language and social capital in Borneo and its region; Managing and mapping border lands; Borders as sites of human-environmental interaction; Borders as imagined futures; Dissolving and shifting borders; Borderless worlds. If you are interested in attending or presenting, please contact: Anne-Marie Hilsdon [a.hilsdon@curtin.edu.au](mailto:a.hilsdon@curtin.edu.au)

## **SCHOLARSHIPS/FUNDING/FELLOWSHIPS/RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**

**Applications for the 2007 APA/UPA at the University of Sydney are now open.** If you're interested in doing a PhD on an Indonesia-related topic, please contact Michele Ford by return email. Areas of research expertise at Sydney include social movements, politics, history, literature and contemporary culture. Please keep in mind that scholarships are extremely competitive. Information and an application can be downloaded from <http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/reschols/welcome.html>. The application closing date is **31 October 2006**. Prospective applicants are also advised to lodge their application for admission with the relevant Faculty Postgraduate Office by the same date.

**Applications for the National Library's Norman McCann Summer Scholarships for 2007 close on 30th September.** Applications are sought from students who will have completed a first degree, preferably to Honours, by the end of the current academic year or who have recently commenced or are intending to proceed to postgraduate study. The scholarships

are intended to support the early stages of a research project, rather than the completion and writing up of a thesis. Applicants should outline their research proposal and the relationship of their proposal to the Library's collection. Applications must be supported by two written referee reports from academic staff supervisors; a certified transcript of academic record and an example of recent written work such as an essay or a thesis chapter. Successful applicants for the scholarship will be selected by the National Library's Fellowships Advisory Committee. The web site for information and application form is at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/grants/mccann/index.html>

**STA Travel Australia Travel Trust:** The STA Travel Trust was developed to assist individuals and community groups explore the world and in doing so explore the issues of peace, tolerance, justice and equality. You supply your time and skills and we'll help you with the cash or airfare. **ELIGIBILITY:** Groups and individuals are welcome to apply. Sponsorships are primarily awarded for projects that have demonstrable benefit to the community through pursuing the objectives of the STA Travel Trust. **INTERNET LINK:** [http://www.statravel.com.au/cps/rde/xchg/au\\_division\\_web\\_live/hs.xsl/travel\\_trust.htm](http://www.statravel.com.au/cps/rde/xchg/au_division_web_live/hs.xsl/travel_trust.htm)[9] **CLOSING DATE: 14th September 2006**

## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**PROJECT OFFICER – ACEH AND EAST TIMOR, responsibility for Indonesia (Aceh Province) and East Timor, 3-5 days per week negotiable, base salary of \$43,000 per year pro rata.** Commencing 1 October 2006 for 12 months. Applications, including a statement addressing selection criteria and CV, close for this position strictly at 5pm on Friday **16 September, 2006**. For further info, please see the Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA website at [www.apheda.org.au](http://www.apheda.org.au) or email [office@apheda.org.au](mailto:office@apheda.org.au). Applications can be sent to Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA, Level 3, 377 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

**Assistant Professor or Associate Professor (tenure track), Contemporary Indonesia:** The Southeast Asian Studies Programme of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, seeks applicants for a scholar specializing in contemporary Indonesia. Disciplinary specialization is open but preference will be shown to those who engage in research on contemporary political and social issues. Applicants must be committed to working and teaching in an interdisciplinary environment with an area studies perspective. Candidates should have relevant teaching experience, should be actively engaged in research, be fluent in at least one Southeast Asian language, and show evidence of a strong publication record, or the potential to develop one. The successful applicant will be expected to teach at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Scholars willing to make a long-term commitment to the Southeast Asian region, including citizens of its countries, are especially encouraged to apply. A Ph.D. is required at the time of appointment. The appointment will begin on July 1, 2007. To apply, please submit a full CV and a statement describing your research and teaching interests. Please also arrange for three reference letters to be sent directly to the Chair of the Search Committee under confidential cover. Send inquiries and completed applications to: Chair of the Search Committee, Southeast Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore, 3 Arts Link, Singapore 117570, Fax: (65) 6777-6608, Email: [seasec@nus.edu.sg](mailto:seasec@nus.edu.sg). Applications close on **15 November 2006**.

Michigan State University - Associate Director, Asian Studies Center. The Associate Director will supervise the operation of existing undergraduate and graduate curricular programs for the Asian Studies Center, an all-Asia National Resource Center (Title VI NRC/FLAS graduate fellowships). Duties will require working with faculty in course development, and overseeing existing programs. This will include engaging in the new Global and Area Studies (GLAS) undergraduate degree, working closely with the faculty and staff in a new college dedicated to global studies, and joining in plans for creating innovative graduate degree programs. The Associate Director will work closely with the ASN Director in administering externally funded programs and seeking new resources to provide support for student and faculty research projects, and serve as liaison with MSU alumni and community groups to cultivate funding opportunities. Teaching opportunities may also be available. A doctorate degree and experience in university administration, grant oversight, fund raising, and teaching and advising. In addition to the broad skills essential to contributing to planning the strategic directions of an active area studies center, specific familiarity with the Title VI and FLAS programs is highly desired. Strong writing and verbal communication skills essential. Send letter of application addressing qualifications, curriculum vita, cover letter, and references to the address below. Screening will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Contact Info: Dr. Michael Lewis, Director, Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University, 301 International Center, East Lansing, MI 48824-1035, Phone: 517-353-1680, Fax: 517-432-2659, E-mail: lewism@msu.edu

\*\*\*\*\*

The Indonesia Council Digest is circulated monthly. If you have information about conferences, Indonesia-related news, resources, job opportunities, new books etc, you can send it in at any time by replying to this email.