The Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC) was a part of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the City University of Hong Kong. It was inaugurated in February 2001, and since then, Professor Kevin Hewison (Department of Applied Social Studies) has been Director of the Centre. Dr Vivienne Wee (Department of Applied Social Studies) is Associate Director.

The Centre has established a fine international reputation, produced a range of important publications, and enhanced academic debate at CityU through seminars and international symposia.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

SEARC’s **mission** is to develop and maintain a world-class research centre in Hong Kong for the study of contemporary Southeast Asia. The Centre’s **aim** is to make new and valuable contributions to Southeast Asian studies, establishing CityU as an internationally recognised centre of excellence in this field.

The **objectives** of SEARC are:

- To develop an internationally significant research program on Southeast Asia
- To produce high quality academic publications on Southeast Asia
- To establish mutually beneficial links with international researchers and institutions studying Southeast Asia
- To promote and enhance the study of Southeast Asia in Hong Kong and to increase understanding of Southeast Asia within the CityU and among the general public in Hong Kong

RESEARCH GRANTS

SEARC researchers have been successful in gaining external funds.

Kevin Hewison’s application, with Catherine Chiu and Bill Taylor, for a Competitive Earmarked Research Grant (CERG), was approved in 2003. The project, ‘Hong Kong Investment and Labour Strategies in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam’ received funding of HK$711,000. In 2003, a further two CERG applications were submitted by SEARC core members. Both applications developed from SEARC’s research programmes.

The collaborative project on labour and migration with CAPSTRANS (the Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies), Wollongong University (Australia) was completed in 2003. It resulted in two conferences and substantial publications, including a special issue of the SSCI-listed *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, accepted for publication in 2004. Collaboration was funded by CAPSTRANS, SEARC and an Australian Research Council Linkage – International Award.

Vivienne Wee’s successful application for HK$120,070 to the Japan Foundation will support the project ‘China and Southeast Asia: New Regional Configurations of Capital, Labour, Ethnicity, and Space’.

Work continued on five CityU-funded research projects related to the Centre’s work. These included projects on labour, Southeast Asian political economy, Thailand and China-Southeast Asia relations.

RESEARCH OUTPUT

The Centre’s core academics and research staff continued their productivity in 2003, with a range of high quality publications and participation in important academic conferences. These outputs are detailed in this report’s inserts.
The RoutledgeCurzon/City University of Hong Kong Southeast Asia Series, edited by Kevin Hewison and Vivienne Wee, has progressed well. The series has accepted five proposals, with two books now published. These are:

- Kanishka Jayasuriya (ed.), *Asian Regional Governance: Crisis & Change*

Two works are in production, and another will be delivered shortly:

- Richard Robison and Vedi Hadiz, *Reorganising Oligarchy in Indonesia*
- Garry Rodan, *Transparency, Media & Authoritarianism: Singapore and Malaysia*
- Vivienne Wee (ed.), *Political Fragmentation in Southeast Asia*

WORKING PAPERS

The Centre’s Working Papers Series has been very successful. By December, 57 papers were available for free download, with more than 7,000 page hits in 2003.

SEMINARS

In 2003 the Centre held 20 seminars (for details see http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc). A number of these were in co-operation with CityU’s Departments of Applied Social Studies and Public and Social Administration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Authored or co-authored book</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edited or co-edited book</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book chapter</td>
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<td>Paper to conference, workshop, symposia, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other academic publications</td>
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<td>Seminars held</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symposia, conferences organised/co-organised</td>
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</tr>
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CONFERENCES

Four international symposia, conferences or workshops were arranged in 2003:

- 12-13 February 2003: International Workshop on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia Pacific, jointly organised by SEARC and CAPSTRANS (University of Wollongong at CityU)
- 11-12 August 2003: International Conference on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia Pacific, jointly organised by SEARC and CAPSTRANS at the University of Wollongong
- 15-16 August 2003: Conference on Globalisation, Conflict and Political Regimes in East and Southeast Asia, jointly organised by SEARC and the Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University
- 27-29 November 2003: Conference on Ethnicity in Multicultural Asia - Theory and Findings, jointly organised by SEARC, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Department of Applied Social Studies

OUTREACH

The Centre has generated much local, regional and international publicity. Core members and research staff have been interviewed and quoted in the press on Southeast Asian affairs and issues. The range of outlets includes: *Asian Wall Street Journal, Far Eastern Economic Review, International Herald Tribune, The Financial Times, South China Morning Post*, Associated Press, Reuters, CNNi, BBC, Star TV, and Chinese-language and Southeast Asian-language newspapers and magazines.

APPLIED WORK

Stephen Frost was involved in projects evaluating NGO labour activities and training in China, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Vivienne Wee continued her work in gender training for the Hong Kong Government.

COLLABORATION

The Centre has a number of productive collaborative activities with other institutions. These include: Murdoch University, Griffith University and the University of Wollongong (Australia), The Institute of Social Studies (Netherlands), Universiti Sains Malaysia and University of Malaya, the National University of Singapore, Xiamen University (China), Chulalongkorn University (Thailand) and Universitas Sam Ratulangi (Indonesia).

Highlights of this collaboration included:

- Joint workshops/conferences with Murdoch University’s Asia Research Centre and the Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies at Wollongong
University, both of which will result in significant journal publications in 2004-05.

- The second volume in the Translation Series on Southeast Asian Studies, with Xiamen University’s Centre for Southeast Asian Studies. This was "當代東南亞政治研究指南 (Dictionary of the Modern Politics of Southeast Asia)", by the late Michael Leifer.

- A visit to CityU by the Dean of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at Universitas Sam Ratulangi, with ten other academics.

**EVALUATION**

The performance of the Centre has been internationally competitive. A benchmarking exercise indicated that SEARC’s eight core researchers produced 26 peer-reviewed publications (books, book chapters and papers in refereed journals) in 2002. This was a superior performance when compared with the two international research institutions (one in Asian and the other in Europe) chosen for comparison with SEARC, despite the fact that both included only full-time researchers, whereas SEARC includes five researchers with full teaching duties.

2003 research outputs are not as numerous as in 2002, but have been high quality. The reduction in quantity is due to the combined impacts of reduced funding, the SARS outbreak and the beginning of a new cycle of research that will yield outputs from 2004. By any measure, SEARC continues to make an impressive contribution to CityU’s international and research profiles.

In 2004, the Centre will continue its research in the following broad areas:

- Labour, Migration, Regionalisation and Globalisation
- Faultlines in Southeast Asia: Religion, Ethnicity and Conflict
- Post-Asian Crisis Political Economy: Wealth and Conflict

**ORGANISATION**

**Core members**

Professor Kevin Hewison (Director)
Professor Joseph Cheng (Department of Public and Social Administration)
Dr Graeme Lang (Department of Applied Social Studies)
Dr Vivienne Wee (Associate Director)
Dr Xiaowei Zang (Department of Applied Social Studies)

**Steering Committee**

Professor Matthew Chen, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Chair)
Professor Kevin Hewison (Convenor)
Professor Ian Holliday, Head, Department of Public and Social Administration
Professor Ng Sik Hung, Head, Department of Applied Social Studies
Professor Martin Painter, Department of Public and Social Administration
Dr Vivienne Wee

**International Advisory Committee**

Professor Wang Gungwu, Director, East Asia Institute, Singapore
Professor Richard Higgott, Director, Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, The University of Warwick
Professor Pasuk Phongpaichit, Professor of Economics, Chulalongkorn University,
Professor Zhuang Guotu, Director, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Xiamen University
Professor Richard Robison, Professor of Political Economy, The Institute of Social Studies, The Hague
Professor H.H. Michael Hsiao, Director, Asia-Pacific Research Program, Academia Sinica, Taipei
Professor Garry Rodan, Director, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University
Professor V.T. King, Professor of Southeast Asian Studies University of Hull
Research Associates
Dr Raymond K.H. Chan, Department of Applied Social Studies
Dr Catherine C.H. Chiu, Department of Applied Social Studies
Dr Bill Taylor, Department of Public and Social Administration

Research Affiliates
Dr Andrew Brown, Department of Political and Social Change, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University
Dr Vedi Hadiz, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore
Dr Kanishka Jayasuriya, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University, Australia

Dr Michael Jacobsen, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Denmark

Research Fellows
Dr Michael Jacobsen, a Research Fellow from September 2001 to November 2003.
Dr Stephen Frost, Research Fellow, since September 2002.

Research assistants
Ms Jill Chung, until September 2003
Ms Joanna Tam, since August 2003
Mr Brian Ho, since September 2003
Ms Suraiya Kamaruzzaman, part time, June-July 2003

Clerical Officer
Ms Angel Ho, since February 2002

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<tr>
<th>SEARC Visitors in 2003</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>5-6 March 2003</td>
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<td>1 January-19 November 2003</td>
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<td>30 April-1 May 2003</td>
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<td>29 September-3 October 2003</td>
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<td>8 October-31 November 2003</td>
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<td>10-18 November 2003</td>
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<td>24-27 November 2003</td>
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RESEARCH OUTPUTS
(RELATED TO SEARC ACTIVITIES)

EDITED BOOKS


CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS


REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES


ARTICLES IN PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS

PAPERS FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & SYMPOSIA

Stephen Frost, ‘Working in Hong Kong: Nepalese Labourers in the Construction Sector’, a paper presented to the SEARC-CAPSTRANS Workshop on International Workshop on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia Pacific, City University of Hong Kong, 12-13 February 2003.


Kevin Hewison, ‘A Preliminary Analysis of Thai Workers in Hong Kong: Survey Results’, a paper presented to the SEARC-CAPSTRANS Workshop on International Workshop on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia Pacific, City University of Hong Kong, 12-13 February 2003.

Kevin Hewison, ‘Thai Workers in Hong Kong’, a paper presented to the SEARC-CAPSTRANS Conference on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia-Pacific, Wollongong University, 11-12 August 2003.


Vivienne Wee, Transnational Labour Networks in Female Labour Migration: Mediating between Southeast Asian Women Workers and International Labour Markets’, a paper presented to the SEARC-CAPSTRANS Workshop on International Workshop on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia Pacific, City University of Hong Kong, 12-13 February 2003.


Vivienne Wee, ‘Whose problem is it anyway and why does it matter? Structured vulnerabilities and innovative alliances among migrant women workers in East and Southeast Asia’, a paper pre-
presented at the Third International Convention of Asia Scholars, organised by the National University of Singapore, in association with the Association for Asian Studies, the International Institute for Asia Studies and the Asian Studies Association of Australia, Singapore, 19-22 August 2003.


INVITED LECTURES


Michael Jacobsen and Vivienne Wee, ‘De-linking the Chinese Diaspora. On Chinese Entrepreneurship in Manado, North Sulawesi’, a research seminar series at the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Xiamen, China, Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong and the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Xiamen, China, 17 November 2003.

PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Stephen Frost, Member, Advisory Board, Asia Monitor Resource Centre, Hong Kong.

Stephen Frost, Member, Steering Committee, Emergence Project, The Institute for Employment Studies, University of Sussex, UK.

Kevin Hewison, Research Associate, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University.

Kevin Hewison, Member, International Advisory Panel, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University.

Kevin Hewison, Associate Editor, Asian Journal of Social Science.

Kevin Hewison, Member, Editorial Board, The Pacific Review.

Kevin Hewison, Member, Editorial Board, The Journal of Comparative Asian Development.

Kevin Hewison, Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Contemporary Asia.

Kevin Hewison, Member, International Advisory Board, Politics, Administration and Change.

Kevin Hewison, Member, International Advisory Board, Labour and Management in Development.

Kevin Hewison, Member, Editorial Advisory Board, Policy, Organisation and Society.

Kevin Hewison, Member, International Advisory Committee, Taiwan Journal of Southeast Asian Studies.

**Kevin Hewison**, Member, Editorial Committee, Asian Studies Association of Australia Southeast Asia Publications Series.

**Kevin Hewison**, Editor, Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong, *Working Paper Series*.

**Kevin Hewison**, Member, Editorial Committee, Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong and Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Xiamen University, Translation Series of Southeast Asian Studies.

**Kevin Hewison**, Co-Editor, RoutledgeCurzon/City University of Hong Kong Southeast Asia Series, London, Routledge.


**Vivienne Wee**, Member, Editorial Committee, Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong and Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Xiamen University, Translation Series of Southeast Asian Studies.