

**CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

**Progress Report for Research Institutes/Centres**

**Reporting Period: 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013**

**1. Name of the Research Institute/Centre**

Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC)

**2. Membership and Management Structure**

**2.1 Institute/Centre Director (Name & Department)**

Director:

Prof Mark R. Thompson, Department of Asian and International Studies

Associate Director:

Dr Chiara Formichi

(Note: Dr Formichi is an Indonesia specialist and expert on Islam and she was appointed associate director of SEARC in April 2013. We are very pleased to welcome Dr Formichi to this new role which will be of great benefit to the Centre.)

**2.2 Core Team Members (4-6, with name, affiliation, expertise/role)**

1. Prof William Case, Department of Asian and International Studies (comparative democratization, elite studies, comparative politics, political economy of East and Southeast Asia)

2. Dr Chiara Formichi, Department of Asian and International Studies  
(Islamic nationalism and trans-nationalism, political Islam, trans-national flows between the middle East and Muslim Southeast Asia)

3. Dr Nanying Choi, Department of Asian and International Studies  
(political parties, local politics, local elections, and local elites in Indonesia and Southeast Asia)

4. Dr Jonathan London, Department of Asian and International Studies  
(welfare regimes and social protection in Asia and Viet Nam, political sociology,

institutions and historical change in Asia and Viet Nam)

5. Dr Brad Williams, Department of Asian and International Studies  
(international relations of the Asia-Pacific, comparative Asian politics, Japanese politics)

### 2.3 Associate or other Members/Advisors/Consultants

SEARC is pleased to have added several distinguished academics, journalists and professionals to its associate membership. Former CLASS Dean and Chair Prof of English, Kingsley Bolton, now Adjunct Prof and Prof at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore; former CityU Associate Prof Catherine Chiu, now Head, Department of General Education, Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong, Dr Delang Claus, Research Assistant Prof, Department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University; Dr Judith Clarke, Assistant Prof, Department of Journalism, Hong Kong Baptist University; Ms Vaudine England, Freelance Journalist and Author noted for her writings about Southeast Asia; Ms Nelly Fung, noted writer about the Philippines and Hong Kong; Dr Vedi Hadiz, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University; Dr Kanishka Jayasuriz, Director of the Indo-Pacific Research Centre, University of Adelaide; Dr Michael Jacobsen, Director of Asia Studies Programme, Copenhagen Business School; Dr Yu Xiajiang, Associate Prof, Department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University; Ms Sonia Zerrudo, Managing Director Smart Asia International Enterprises and a leader of the Filipino community in HK.

### 2.4 Steering/Management/Advisory Committee, if established

SEARC has both a Steering and Management Committee as well as a distinguished International Advisory Committee. Its members are:

#### Steering Committee

Chairman: Prof Martin Painter (Acting Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)

Convener: Prof Mark Thompson (Director, SEARC)

Dr Chiara Formichi (Associate Director, SEARC)

Prof Joseph Cheng (Chair Prof, Department of Public and Social Administration)

### Management Committee

Selected from its core membership, SEARC's Management Committee is responsible for everyday operations, including the management and allocation of resources for Centre members and projects. Its current members are:

Prof Mark R. Thompson (Prof AIS and Director, SEARC)

Dr Chiara Formichi (Assistant Prof, AIS and Associate Director, SEARC)

Dr Bill Taylor (Associate Prof, Department of Public and Social Administration)

Prof William Case (Prof AIS and former SEARC Director)

### International Advisory Committee

SEARC's International Advisory Committee seeks to recruit outstanding scholars on Southeast Asia. The Committee provides SEARC with general advice about research developments in the region. Its current members are:

Prof Mark Beeson (Winthrop Prof, The University of Western Australia, Australia);

Prof Donald K Emmerson (Director, Southeast Asia Forum, Stanford University, USA);

Prof Kevin Hewison (Director, Carolina Asia Centre, University of North Carolina of Chapel Hill, USA);

Prof Paul D Hutchcroft (Director, School of International, Political & Strategic Studies, The Australian National University, Australia);

Prof Pasuk Phongpaichit (Prof of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand);

Prof Garry Rodan (Director, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University, Australia);

Prof Robert H. Taylor (former Visiting Prof, Department of Asian and International Studies, now Visiting Profial Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, ISEAS, Singapore);

Prof Narayanan Ganesan (Hiroshima Peace Institute, Japan).

### Centre Support Staff

Ms Irene Chan, Research Assistant

Ms Chan joined SEARC in September 2012 as a part-time Research Assistant mainly to assist in the 's daily operation and in preparation for the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA) Congress held in December 1, 2012 at City University of Hong Kong. In January 2013, she was employed as full time Research Assistant for one year. Ms Chan is responsible for keeping the running on a daily basis by carrying out all administrative duties. She is also in charge of conference organization (three in planning at the moment) and seminar preparation

(seven during her period of working at SEARC). She publicizes conferences, seminars and festivals to SEARC members, relevant consulate officials, CityU community and others who may be interested in particular topics. She also maintains the SEARC website and updates the website with latest news and events. In addition, she maintains the SEARC Facebook and the link to Academia.edu which helps SEARC to reach out to the public and to the higher education networks. She has also prepared 13 working papers which are downloadable from the SEARC website.

Mr Herbert Lam, Research Assistant

Mr Lam was hired in mid-January for three months as a temporary staff to help organize the Southeast Asia Cultural Festival to be held on April 18 at Asia Society and April 19-21 at City University of Hong Kong. He helped to build connections with the ten ASEAN consulates and to coordinate with student helpers in preparation for the Festival as well as providing logistical support.

Ms Josephine Yim, Executive Office II, left SEARC in November 2012. We are grateful for her dedicated service to the Centre over the past six years.

### **3. Mission statement and objectives**

*(Please highlight changes, if any, since establishment of the Institute/Centre)*

The mission of the Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC), one of the leading centres internationally for the cross-disciplinary study of contemporary Southeast Asia (and the only such research centre in Hong Kong), is to further the study and understanding of this important region while enhancing CityU's international profile and reputation. SEARC has attracted competitive external grant funding in the past and has several ongoing grant applications at this writing. It also endeavors to collaborate closely in its research and other activities with some of the world's other leading centres of Southeast Asian studies.

A new part of SEARC's mission is to serve as the Hong Kong representative in a consortium of research centres for the study of Southeast Asian Studies to be launched this autumn at Kyoto University, Japan (at which a SEARC representative will be present).

SEARC's core members have distinguished publication records in the fields of comparative politics, sociology, history, religious studies, and anthropology related

to Southeast Asia. Their research addresses real-world challenges in national political systems, economic policies, the environment, workplace inequalities, gender relations, and disaster management in the region. SEARC also has visiting scholars, research affiliates in other Hong Kong universities, and an international advisory team that add further to its impact.

SEARC members have been invited to prestigious international meetings - SEARC's associate director Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing was invited in both 2012 and 2013 to attend the influential World Economic Forum Annual Meeting at Davos, Switzerland to discuss recent developments in Burma/Myanmar where he met with statesmen such as Tony Blair and Kevin Rudd as well as philanthropists like George Soros. SEARC regularly holds major conferences of its own (such as the most important conference on the unexpected political liberalisation in Burma/Myanmar held last year) as well as hosting major international Congresses (such as the Association of International and Political Studies, APISA, Asia's largest international studies association, Congress co-hosted by SEARC last November). It also holds frequent seminars open to the public given by leading experts on Southeast Asia. SEARC further strives to reach out to the larger CityU community and Hong Kongers in general to awake interest in and provide greater understanding of Southeast Asia. This April 18-21, it will host, in cooperation with the Southeast Asian Consulates in Hong Kong, the largest cultural festival about Southeast Asia ever held in a Hong Kong university.

SEARC's objectives may be summarized as follows:

- to advance the Centre's international reputation and City University's profile by enhancing its standing as a world class forum for cutting edge research on political, economic, and social developments in contemporary Southeast Asia;
- to become a leading player in a new consortium bringing together the world's top Southeast Asian centres, in the region itself, but also in Australia, China, Europe, and the US;
- to produce high quality research publications on contemporary Southeast Asia;
- to obtain competitive external grant funding;
- to encourage cross-disciplinary research across the fields of comparative politics, political economy, sociology, history and anthropology by scholars of Southeast Asia

both in the Centre and those working closely with it from other leading institutions;

- to host major international conferences and workshops, particularly those aimed at scholars of international studies in Asia;
- to engage Hong Kong citizens, especially civil society organizations, through discussion forums, regular media engagement by core members and, for the first time, through a Southeast Asia Cultural Festival, the largest such event ever held at a Hong Kong University to be held 18-21 April 2013 which will provide a platform for the rich and diverse societies of the region and which is designed to raise awareness and understanding of Southeast Asia at CityU and in the city as a whole through writers' forums, a cinema series, culinary events, and cultural performances.
- to enhance the interest in and understanding of Southeast Asia within the CityU and Hong Kong communities.

#### 4. Research grants and other awards obtained during the reporting period

4.1 External research grants and other awards (*please mark \* to indicate projects that involve collaboration among members*)

PI (Dept) and Co-Is (Dept)	Approval Date	Grant Type (GRF, CRF, etc)	Project Title	Funding amount (\$)

4.2 Internal research grants and other awards

PI (Dept) and Co-Is (Dept)	Approval Date	Grant Type (SRG, Start-up Grant for New Staff, ARG, etc)	Project Title	Funding amount (\$)
<u>Dr CHAN Yuk Wah (AIS)</u>	17-Sep-12	SRG	Tourism Politics in Asian Tourism – A Study of Chinese Outbound Tourism and the Globalization of China	69,256 HKD

<u>Prof Mark R. THOMPSON</u> (AIS) and Prof William CASE (AIS)	24-April-12	SRG	Different Democratic Trajectories in Four Southeast Asian Countries	174,492 HKD
<u>Dr Bradley WILLIAMS</u> (AIS)	17-May-12	APR	The Difficulties of US Military Force Realignment in Okinawa: The Complicating Role of Subnational Governments	34,136 HKD

## 5. Research output

(Please list output items of core members which are **relevant to and supported by the Institute/Centre**, and state the impact of these output. Other output items generated by Institute/Centre members in their capacity as Departmental staff could be provided in a separate list)

### **[Outputs relevant to SEARC]**

#### **Books and monographs**

Formichi, Chiara, *Islam and the Making of the Nation: Kartosuwiryo and political Islam in 20<sup>th</sup> century Indonesia*. Netherlands: KITLV Press, 2012.

Kyaw Yin Hlaing, ed. *Prisms on the Golden Pagoda: Perspectives on National Reconciliation in Myanmar*. Singapore: Singapore University Press, 2012.

#### **Edited books**

Formichi, Chiara, ed. *Religious Pluralism, State and Society in Asia*. London: Routledge, 2013.

#### **Book chapters**

Cammack, Paul, "Why are some people better off than others?" (revised and updated, first published 2009), *Global Politics: A New Introduction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Eds. Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss. London; New York: Routledge, 2012.

Case, William, "Corruption Unplugged under Abdullah", *Transformations: The Abdullah Badawi Years in Malaysia*. Eds. Bridget Welsh and James Chin. Singapore: ISEAS/Penang Institute, 2013

\_\_\_\_\_, "Democracy and Democratic Change", *Issues in Twenty-first Century World Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Eds. Mark Beeson and Nick Beesley. London:

Palgrave-Macmillan, 2013.

Cheng, Joseph Y.S., and Paladini, Stefania, Chapter 9, "Battle Ready? Developing a Blue-water Navy. China's Strategic Dilemma", in *China – A New Stage of Development for an Emerging Superpower*, Hong Kong: City University of HK Press (2012): 255-284.

Cheng, Joseph Y.S., "Convincing the World of China's Tradition to Pursue Universal Harmony", *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 17.2 (Jun 2012): 165-185

Ferrara, Federico, "Unfinished Business: The Contagion of Conflict over a Century of Thai Political Development." *'Good Coup' Gone Bad: Thailand's Political Developments since Thaksin's Downfall*. Ed. Pavin Chachavalpongpun. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Resistible Rise of Thaksin Shinawatra: Crisis, Change and the Collapse of Thailand's Democracy." *Critical Conjunctures in Southeast Asian Politics*. Ed. N. Ganesan. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Grand Bargain: Making 'Reconciliation' Mean Something." *Bangkok, May 2010: Perspectives on a Divided Thailand*. Eds. Aekapol Chongvilaivan, Pavin Chachavalpongpun, and Michael Montesano. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. 2012.

Formichi, Chiara, "Mustafa Kemal's abrogation of the Ottoman Caliphate and its impact on the Indonesian Nationalist Movement", *Demystifying the caliphate: historical memory and contemporary contexts*. Eds. Madawi al-Rasheed, Carool Kersten, Marat Shterin. London; New York: Hurst Publishers; Columbia University Press, 2013.

Kyaw, Yin Hlaing, "State Violence in Myanmar," *State Violence in East Asia*. Ed. N. Ganesan. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Introduction," *Prisms on the Golden Pagoda: Perspectives on National Reconciliation in Myanmar*. Ed. Kyaw Yin Hlaing. Singapore: Singapore University Press, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Politics of National Reconciliation in Myanmar," *Prisms on the Golden Pagoda: Perspectives on National Reconciliation in Myanmar*. Ed. Kyaw Yin Hlaing. Singapore: Singapore University Press, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Western Economic Sanctions on Myanmar Reconsidered," *Prisms on the Golden Pagoda: Perspectives on National Reconciliation in Myanmar* Ed. Kyaw Yin Hlaing. Singapore: Singapore University Press, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Arrival of a New Political Era in Myanmar," *Prisms on the Golden Pagoda: Perspectives on National Reconciliation in Myanmar* Ed. Kyaw



- Yin Hlaing. Singapore: Singapore University Press, 2012.
- London, Jonathan, "Social Policies in Transition: The Welfare Regimes in Viet Nam and China Compared." *Chinese Social Policy in a Time of Transition*. Eds. Douglas Besharov and Karen Baehler. USA: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Mok, K.H. and Chan, David Kin Keung, "The Liberalization of the Privatness in Higher Education: Transnational Higher Education and Challenges for Governance in China", *The Reorientation of Higher Education: Beyond Compliance and Defiance*. Eds. Bob Adamson and Feng Su. Hong Kong & Dordrecht: The University of Hong Kong Comparative Education Research Centre /Springer, 2012.
- Ong, Kok Chung and Chan, David King Keung, "The Re-orientation of Higher Education in China: Transnational Higher Education and Changing University Governance". *Managing Human Capital in East Asia: Internationalization, Student Mobility and Educational Governance*. Eds. Ka Ho Mok & Kar Ming Yu. London: Routledge, 2013.
- Ortmann, Stephan, "Hong Kong: Problems of Identity and Independence." *Student Activism in Asia: Between Protest and Powerlessness*. Eds. Meredith Weiss and Edward Aspinall. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012.
- Thompson, Mark, "Introduction," *Student Activism in Asia: Between Protest and Powerlessness*. Eds. Meredith Weiss and Edward Aspinall. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012.
- \_\_\_\_\_, "Class and Charisma in Populist Parties in Thailand and the Philippines: Cleaving Clientelism." *Party Politics in Southeast Asia: Clientelism and Electoral Competition in Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines*. Eds. Andre Ufen and Dirk Tomsa. London: Routledge, 2012.
- Williams, Bradley, "The Ageing Problem in Japan and its Security Implications". *East and Southeast Asia: International Relations and Security Perspectives*. Ed. Andrew T. H. Tan. London: Routledge, 2012.

### **Journal articles**

- Cammack, Paul, 'Risk, Social Protection, and the World Market', *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 42.3 (2012). (**SSCI; impact factor 0.509**)
- \_\_\_\_\_, 'The G20, the Crisis, and the Rise of Global Developmental Liberalism', *Third World Quarterly* 33.1 (2012). (**SSCI; impact factor 0.705**)
- Case, William, "Malaysia in 2012: A Non-election Year", *Asian Survey* (University of California) 53.1 (January/February) (2013). (**SSCI; impact**

**factor 0.364)**

- \_\_\_\_\_, “Defending Borders: States and Nation-States in the ASEAN 5”, *International Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* (Cambridge University Press/Sogang Institute of Southeast Asian Studies) 1.1 (January) (2013).
- \_\_\_\_\_, “Brunei in 2011: Early Electoralism and Social Progress”, *Asian Survey* (University of California) 52.1 (January/February) (2012): 233-237. (**SSCI; impact factor 0.364**)
- Chan, David Kin Keung, “A Comparison of Singapore and Hong Kong on Their Strategies for Developing Regional Education Hubs”, *Sociology Study* 2.1 (2012): 1-25.
- Ferrara, Federico, “The Legend of King Prajadhipok: Tall Tales and Stubborn Facts on the Seventh Reign in Siam.” *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 43 (2012): 4-31. (**SSCI; impact factor 0.444**)
- Kyaw, Yin Hlaing, “Understanding Political Changes in Myanmar,” *Journal of Contemporary Southeast Asia*. 34. 2 (Aug 2012): 197-216.
- London, Jonathan D, “Welfare Regimes in China and Vietnam.” *Journal of Contemporary Asia*. (2013). (**SSCI; impact factor 0.509**)
- Malesky, Edmund and Jonathan London, “Reviewing the Political Economy of Development in China and Vietnam.” *Annual Review of Political Science*, 16 (2013). (**SSCI; impact factor 1.706**)
- Ong, Kok Chung and Chan, David Kin Keung, “Transnational Higher Education and Challenges for University Governance in China.”, *Higher Education Policy* 25.2 (2012): 151-170.
- Ong, Rebecca, “Data Protection in Malaysia and Hong Kong: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?” *Computer Law and Security Review* 28.4 (2012): 428-436.
- Ortmann, Stephan, “Political Change and Civil Society Coalitions in Singapore.” accepted for publication in: *Government and Opposition* (2013). (**SSCI; impact factor 0.500**)
- \_\_\_\_\_, “The ‘Beijing consensus’ and the ‘Singapore model’: Unmasking the myth of an alternative authoritarian state-capitalist model,” in: *Journal of Chinese Business and Economic Studies*, 10(4) (2012): 337-359.
- \_\_\_\_\_, “Policy Advocacy in a Competitive Authoritarian Regime: The Growth of Civil Society and Agenda Setting in Singapore,” in: *Administration & Society* 44.6 (2012): 13-25. (**SSCI; impact factor 0.730**)
- Robertson, Justin, “Financial Returnees as New Agents in East Asia: The Case of Korean Private Equity Funds,” *New Political Economy* 18.1 (2013) [Q2 journal in Political Science] (**SSCI; impact factor 1.038**)

\_\_\_\_\_, “New Capitalist Processes, Interdependence and the Asia-US Private Equity Relationship,” *The Pacific Review* 25.5 (2012): 637-659. [Q1 journal in Area Studies]

Thompson, Mark, “Asia’s Hybrid Dynasties,” *Asian Affairs*, XLIII, no. II, July (2012): 204-220.

\_\_\_\_\_, “Das Ueberleben des Totalitarismus und Developmentalism in Ostasien” (The Survival of Totalitarianism and Developmentalism in East Asia), *WeltTrends: Zeitschrift fuer Internationale Politik*, Nr 81 (1/2012).

### **Papers and presentations at conferences/workshops/symposia/seminars**

Cammack, Paul, ‘The Asian Development Bank and the Asian Financial Crisis: Openness and Inclusion, 1997-2000’, SEARC, Working Papers Series, The Multilateral Banks and the Global Financial Crisis, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, ‘The Asian Development Bank between the Crises: the Pursuit of Competitiveness, 2001-2007’, SEARC, Working Papers Series, The Multilateral Banks and the Global Financial Crisis, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, ‘The Asian Development Bank and the Global Financial Crisis: Asian Global Leadership, 2008-2012’, SEARC, The Multilateral Banks and the Global Financial Crisis, 2012.

Case, William, “Democratic Durability and Quality: Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia”, Association for Asian Studies 2012 Annual Conference, San Diego, California, 21-24 March 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, “When do Elites Split (and to What End)? Observations from Southeast Asia” (posted on APSA website), *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, 30 August-2 September 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, “Democratization in Malaysia: When do Authoritarian Controls Backfire?”, *8<sup>th</sup> International Malaysian Studies Conference (MSC8)*, National University of Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, 9-11 July 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, “Social Divisions and Elite Defections: Democracy’s Mixed Fortunes in Three Southeast Asian Countries”, *Philippines Political Science Association 2012 Conference: Building on the Past, Reflecting on the Present, and Charting Future Directions in Studies on Philippine Politics*, Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro, 12-14 April 2012 (**plenum session**)

Choi, Nankyung, “Political Reforms and Women’s Political Empowerment: The Cases of Thailand and Indonesia,” Presented at LIPI-CSEAS-JSPS International Seminar, Socio-Political and Economic Reform in Southeast Asia: Assessments and the Way Forward,” Jakarta, 9-12 March 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_, “Today’s Youth in Politics: Factors and Directions,” Lecture delivered for

the College Research Student Seminars, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, City University of Hong Kong, 1 February 2013, Hong Kong  
\_\_\_\_\_, “Political Decentralization and Emerging New Local Elites in Indonesia,” Presented at the APISA congress, Hong Kong, 30 November-1 December 2012.

Kyaw, Yin Hlaing, “The Political Economy of Rice in Myanmar,” presented at the Workshop on Myanmar Agricultural Economy, Myanmar Egress, Yangon, Myanmar, April 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, “The Politics of Peace Making in Myanmar,” presented at the Conference on Myanmar Politics after the 2010 Elections, Southeast Asian Research Center, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, January 2012.

Robertson, Justin, “Localizing Global Finance: Princelings Versus Returnees in Chinese Political Economy”, ISA, 2013.

Ortmann, Stephan, “Hegemonic Party States and the Struggle for Legitimacy: Elections in China, Vietnam, and Singapore,” presented at the conference of the German Political Science Association section on Comparative Politics, Marburg, Germany, 20 March 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, “The First Inklings of Civil Society Coalitions in Singapore: The Human Rights Movement,” presented at the conference “The Dynamics of Civil Society Coalitions in Asia,” Hong Kong, 10 February 2012.

### ***Conference proceedings***

Case, William, “Democratization in Malaysia: When do Authoritarian Controls Backfire?” *8<sup>th</sup> International Malaysian Studies Conference (MSC8) Proceedings: Selected Full Papers*. (Eds) Mohd Hazim Shah and Saliha Hassan 9-11 July 2012, 365-396.

### **On-line publications**

Case, William, “Malaysia”, in “Countries at the Crossroads” (Freedom House), (September 2012, at <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/countries-crossroads/2012/malaysia>.

\_\_\_\_\_, “Brunei Darussalam: En Electoral Feint”, *East Asia Forum: Economics, Politics and Public Policy in East Asia and the Pacific* (East Asian Bureau of Economic Research, Australian National University) 26 May 2012. at <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2012/05/26/brunei-darussalam-an-electoral-feint/>.

### **Invited conferences/lecturers/seminars**

Case, William, "Expert Conference: Populism within Europe and Beyond its Borders", Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Brussels, panel discussant (invited), 15-17 December 2012.

### **Media commentary/publicity/interview**

London, Jonathan D, *South China Morning Post*. "Drama over Vietnam's PM a hopeful sign of change." 20 November 2012 P. A15

\_\_\_\_\_, *South China Morning Post*. "Viet Nam must tame self-serving elites." 29 August 2012. P. A15.

\_\_\_\_\_, RadioNational, "Amending the Constitution." 16 March 2013

Ortmann, Stephan. "Singapore's livelier politics a sign of the times," in: *South China Morning Post*, February 25, 2013, p. A13.

Thompson, Mark. *Voice of America*. "Interview with Victor Beattie" broadcast on 8 October 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Channel News Asia's*. "Can corruption be beat in Asia?" 2 October 2012.

Monfejar, Reuben, "The plight of Asian, in particular Philippine overseas workers", Tribong Pinoy program, DBC (Digital Broadcasting Corporation, Cyberport Hong Kong), 8 May 2012.

Mondejar, Reuben, "Impact of first ever impeachment of a Supreme Court Chief Justice: the Philippine case", DBC (Digital Broadcasting Corporation, Cyberport Hong Kong), 29 May 2012.

Mondejar, Reuben, "Philippine-China relations as impacted by the maritime showdown in South China Sea; Philippine investment status upgrade by international credit rating agencies, and other issues", DBC (Digital Broadcasting Corporation, Cyberport Hong Kong), 25 July 2012.

Williams, Bradley, 'Time for Japanese Opposition to Stand Tall', *Asia Times Online*, 31 January 2012.

### 5.1 SCI/SSCI/AHCI-listed papers

Cammack, Paul, 'Risk, Social Protection, and the World Market', *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 42.3 (2012). (**SSCI; impact factor 0.509**)

\_\_\_\_\_, 'The G20, the Crisis, and the Rise of Global Developmental Liberalism', *Third World Quarterly* 33.1 (2012). (**SSCI; impact factor 0.705**)

Case, William, "Malaysia in 2012: A Non-election Year", *Asian Survey* (University of California) 53.1 (January/February) (2013). (**SSCI; impact factor 0.364**)

\_\_\_\_\_, "Brunei in 2011: Early Electoralism and Social Progress", *Asian Survey* (University of California) 52.1 (January/February) (2012): 233-237. (**SSCI;**

**impact factor 0.364)**

Ferrara, Federico, “The Legend of King Prajadhipok: Tall Tales and Stubborn Facts on the Seventh Reign in Siam.” *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 43 (2012): 4-31. **(SSCI; impact factor 0.444)**

London, Jonathan D, “Welfare Regimes in China and Vietnam.” *Journal of Contemporary Asia*. (2013). **(SSCI; impact factor 0.509)**

Malesky, Edmund and Jonathan London, “Reviewing the Political Economy of Development in China and Vietnam.” *Annual Review of Political Science*, 16 (2013). **(SSCI; impact factor 1.706)**

Ortmann, Stephan, “Political Change and Civil Society Coalitions in Singapore.” accepted for publication in: *Government and Opposition* (2013). **(SSCI; impact factor 0.500)**

\_\_\_\_\_, “Policy Advocacy in a Competitive Authoritarian Regime: The Growth of Civil Society and Agenda Setting in Singapore,” in: *Administration & Society* 44.6 (2012): 13-25. **(SSCI; impact factor 0.730)**

Robertson, Justin, “Financial Returnees as New Agents in East Asia: The Case of Korean Private Equity Funds,” *New Political Economy* 18.1 (2013) [Q2 journal in Political Science] **(SSCI; impact factor 1.038)**

5.2 Other outputs

Books published based on previous SEARC conferences

Ganesan N. and Sung Chull Kim, eds, *State Violence in East Asia*, University Press of Kentucky, 2013

Kyaw Yin Hlaing, ed. *Prism on the Golden Pagoda: Perspectives on National Reconciliation in Myanmar*. Singapore: Singapore University Press, 2012

SEARC Working Papers Series April 2012 – March 2013

No. 130, April 2012, Francisco A MAGNO, ‘Decentralization and Environmental Governance in the Philippines.’

No. 131, May 2012, Sarinda SINGH, ‘Developing Bureaucracies for Environmental Governance: At the Interface of State Authority and World Bank Conditionality in Laos.’

No. 132, December 2012, PENG Hui, ‘The “Moro Problem” in the Philippines: Three Perspectives.’

No. 133, December 2012, Arun R. SWAMY, 'Sources of 'Sandwich Coalitions': Distributive Strategies and Democratic Politics in India, Thailand and Philippines.'

No. 134, December 2012, Francisco NEMENZO, 'The Philippines under Aquino.'

No. 135, December 2012, Dr Ramesh KUMAR Myanmar's Transition to Democracy: Challenges Ahead.'

No. 136, December 2012, Roger Lee HUANG, 'Re-thinking Myanmar's Political Regime: Military rule in Myanmar and implications for current reforms.'

No. 140, February 2013, Dr Michael H. NELSON, 'The Democrat and Phuea Thai Parties in Thailand's 2011 Elections: Thaksin Shinawatra Returns to Power'

No. 141, March 2013, Dr Michael H. NELSON, 'Elite Political Culture in Contemporary Thailand: Voters, Members of Parliament, and Political Parties in the Debates of the 2007 Constitution Drafting Committee'

No. 142, March 2013, Prof Mark R. THOMPSON, 'The Post-Marcos Presidency in "Political Time"'

Special Working Paper Series by Prof Paul Cammack  
The Multilateral Development Banks and the Global Financial Crisis

Working Paper 1: The Asian Development Bank and the Asian Financial Crisis: Openness and Inclusion, 1997-2000

Working Paper 2: The Asian Development Bank between the Crises: Pursuit of Competitiveness, 2001-2007

Working Paper 3: The Asian Development Bank and the Global Financial Crisis: Asian Global Leadership, 2008-2012

All working papers can be downloaded at:

<http://www6.cityu.edu.hk/searc/doc.aspx?year=2012>

<http://www6.cityu.edu.hk/searc/doc.aspx?year=2013>

## **6. Research activities carried out during the reporting period**

6.1 Collaboration among CityU members in terms of joint projects and publications

6.2 Conferences/seminars organized

*- please list conferences organized, the impact of these conferences and how these contributed to networking at local, regional or international levels*

*- please also include, as appropriate, professional courses or training organized for the industry/business/community which help strengthen the links with these sectors*

#### Conference

##### **6<sup>th</sup> Asian Political and International Studies Association Congress 2012**

SEARC and AIS at CityU and HKIED co-organized the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA) Congress 2012. It was a 2-day conference. The first day was held on Nov 30 at HKIED. The second day was held on Dec 1, 2012 at CityU. The theme was ‘Policy and Politics in Changing Asia’ which involved topics such as political science, policy and educational aspects. As APISA is the chief association of political science and policy oriented researchers in Asia, its congresses are high profile events that will further contribute to SEARC’s visibility as a leading Centre for the study of Southeast Asia and international politics generally.

#### Seminars

Over the years, SEARC has been providing outstanding seminars which are open to all members of the university and the community. Seminars are very good opportunities for academics, professionals, social activists, students and other interested parties of the general public to engage one another in gatherings on the CityU campus, helping to raise the university’s local profile and its contributions to public life.

Over the past 12-month (April 2012 – March 2013), SEARC hosted 12 seminars on contemporary issues of politics, society, education, ideology and history of Southeast Asia. Below is the list of seminars held:

1. **‘Political Parties in Southeast Asia: Clientelist or Programmatic Linkages?’**, Dr Andreas Ufen (Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Asian Studies, German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg, Germany), 3 April 2012



2. **‘Decentralization and Environmental Governance in the Philippines’**, Dr Francisco A. Magno (Associate Prof of Political Science and Director of La Salle Institute of Governance, De La Salle University), 10 April 2012
3. **‘Researching Public Political Criticism in Vietnam: A Progress Report’**, Prof Benedict Kerkvliet (Emeritus Prof, Department of Political and Social Change, School of International, Political and Strategic Studies, Australian National University), 17 April 2012
4. **‘Is the Social Compact in Malaysia beyond Redemption?’**, Dr Ooi Kee Beng (Deputy Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore), 18 April 2012
5. **‘Developing Bureaucracies for Environmental Governance: at the Interface of State Authority and World Bank Conditionality in Laos’**, Dr Sarinda Singh (Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Social Science, University of Queensland, Australia), 30 April 2012
6. **‘Loyalty Punished, Revolt Rewarded: Electoral Responses in Malaysia’s One-Party State’**, Dr Wong Chin-Huat (Fellow, Penang Institute, Malaysia), 24 September 2012
7. **‘The Philippines: Three Years under Aquino’**, Prof Francisco Nemenzo, University of the Philippines), 24 October 2012
8. **‘The Tale of Two Cities: Challenges and Opportunities of Democratic Development for Singapore and Hong Kong’**, Mr Goh Meng Seng, 12 November 2012
9. **‘The Cycle of Philippine Presidential Regimes: Competing Narratives within Political Time’**, Dr Julio C. Teehankee (Associate Prof, Comparative Politics and International Development, De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines), 26 November 2012
10. **‘Liberal Authoritarianism, Thailand Style’**, Dr Michael Connors (Associate Prof, School of Politics, History International Relations, University of Nottingham, Malaysia), 22 January 2013
11. **‘The Myth of the ASEAN Community 2015: How Far Has Regional Integration Really Progressed?’**, Prof Joern Dosch (Prof of International Relations and Head of the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Monash University, Sunway Campus, Malaysia), 24 January 2013
12. **‘Choosing Universities in Hanoi: A Comparative Approach’**, Ms Luna Iacopini, School of Educational Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland), 18 March 2013

6.3 Collaboration (local, regional and international) and publicity (e.g.

Institute/Centre prospectus, newsletter and updated web page )

As a result of efforts undertaken by SEARC associate director, Dr Formichi, the Centre will play a major role in the launching of a Southeast Asia consortium of research-oriented centres this coming academic year. As building precisely such a network has been a major new part of SEARC's mission, the Centre is very pleased to be playing a significant role in this consortium. While there has been little effort in the past to enhance cooperation between these centres, this consortium promises to create synergy effects on research and teaching about Southeast Asia as well as increasing awareness of the importance of the study of this region. It will help put Southeast Asian research 'on the map' by highlighting centres where a significant number of researchers pursue work on Southeast Asia, where major journals are published, and where key policy makers meet. City University not only has the only Centre for Southeast Asian research in Hong Kong, it is also one of the more significant institutions for the study of this region in the world. Given its location in Hong Kong, near but not in Southeast Asia and enjoying complete academic freedom, it is ideally suited to be a 'neutral' place for Southeast Asian studies. This consortium will help put SEARC and CityU at the forefront of Southeast Asian studies, with the potential of making it one of the most high profile research areas at the university. It will also help SEARC create further networks and increase collaboration with other well-known Southeast Asian studies institutions and publishers around the world.

In addition, by organizing a major cultural festival about Southeast Asia (the first ever held at a Hong Kong university) on 18-21 April 2013, SEARC has established contacts with all ten Southeast Asian consulates based in Hong Kong as well as with a number of organizations and associations representing Southeast Asians living in Hong Kong as well as those interested in the region in terms of culture, business, and politics.

In this reporting period, the SEARC director Prof Thompson undertook a number of duty visits. He visited Xiamen University, the leading centre for Southeast Asian Studies in mainland China in September 2012. Besides giving a seminar for Xiamen faculty working on Southeast Asia and about fifty interested students (on anti-corruption efforts in the Philippines, a topic which proved of great interest to the audience), the SEARC director also renewed contacts between SEARC and the Research School of Southeast Asian studies which go back to the founding of SEARC in 2001 in which members of the Xiamen programme played a role. A

former PhD student from Xiamen, Dr. Penghui was a visiting fellow at SEARC for one year, 2011-2012. Her efforts contributed greatly to closer ties between these two centres for Southeast Asian studies. Further mutual visits are planned and discussions are afoot for a joint conference. It is fair to say that the two major centres for the study of Southeast Asia in the mainland and Hong Kong, respectively, have re-established close ties.

In addition, in October 2012 the SEARC director visited the prestigious Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore where he gave a seminar and appeared in a Channel News Asia television debate about combatting corruption in Asia. The ISEAS visit was very illuminating as it showed what a large scale, government-funded centre for Southeast Asian Studies can accomplish. The SEARC director met with the ISEAS Director Tan Chin Tiong, a former permanent secretary in the Singapore government and distinguished diplomat, and Deputy Director Oo Kee Beng, who has close ties with SEARC and CityU. An exchange of scholars and joint research efforts were discussed. Invitations were extended to begin this exchange with publications while ISEAS members have published SEARC working papers in the past with several more planned in the near future.

The SEARC director also gave a seminar on 14 April 2013 at the University of the Philippines (UP), Third World Centre where he has close contacts (having been a student there many years ago). The talk will be hosted by the former president of the University of the Philippines, Prof Francisco Nemenzo, who also gave a SEARC talk last semester. UP is the most prestigious university in the Philippines and has an active Southeast Asian studies programme. The SEARC director also has close ties to another leading Philippine university with a strong international studies programme, De La Salle University. The Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Chair of the International Studies Department of De La Salle, Prof Julio C Teehankee, gave a SEARC talk last November. A collaborative research project between the SEARC Director and Prof Teehankee of De La Salle is in an advance stage of preparation.

Additionally, two faculty members at the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Kiky Rizky, M. Sc.. Lecturer and Arisman, M. Sc., Senior Lecturer, paid a courtesy visit to SEARC in March 2013, meeting with several SEARC core members including Dr Nan Choi and Prof Mark Thompson. A return visit by the SEARC director is planned next semester with discussions of joint research projects

and possible faculty exchanges to be discussed in more detail then.

Finally, the SEARC director met with the Prof Patrick Koellner, Director of the Asian Studies Programme at the Global Institute of International Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg and Prof of Political Science at Hamburg University during a visit to SEARC in November 2012. The SEARC director, who has a number of other contacts Germany and Prof Koellner discussed strengthening collaboration which has already involved short faculty exchanges in the past. A joint conference grant was also discussed.

In the coming academic year, the SEARC director is planning visits to major Southeast Asia centres in mainland China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the US (Berkeley and Stanford, which both have major Southeast Asia centres and with which SEARC has close ties with). Possibilities of joint research and other projects explored with centres focusing on Southeast Asia are spread around the region and in such countries as Australia, Britain, Canada, mainland China, Europe, and the US. Furthermore, the newly appointed SEARC associate director, Dr Chiara Formichi has been instrumental in helping form the new consortium of Southeast Asian studies centres to be launched soon at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University with which SEARC is developing close contacts. In addition, Dr Formichi will be visiting the Southeast Asia Program at Cornell University, one of the leading centres for the study of the region in the world. Contacts which SEARC has long had with Cornell will be strengthened further. This autumn Dr Formichi visit several Australian Universities with Southeast Asia centres to increase contacts with these institutions as well like the Sydney University, Monash University in Melbourne, and ANU in Canberra.

Other SEARC core members have been continuously promoting contacts with Southeast Asia centres in their countries of interests as well as where they did graduate work earlier. It is fair to say that through active members, SEARC is one of the best networked centres for the study of the region in the world.

This is a partial list of Southeast Asia research centres with which SEARC has close contacts:

#### US

•Cornell University, Southeast Asia Program. Contact: Prof Tamarn Loos, Director and Prof emeritus Benedict R. Anderson

- Stanford University, Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Centre, Southeast Asia Forum. Contact: Donald K. Emmerson, Director and Program Coordinator
- University of California, Berkeley, Center for Southeast Asia Studies. Contact: Jeffrey Hadler, Chair.
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, U.S., the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies and the Asian Studies Program in the School of Pacific and Asian Studies. Contact: Prof Patricio Abinales.
- Arizona State University, Program for Southeast Asian Studies. Contact: Prof James Rush, Acting Director.

#### UK

- University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, Centre of South East Asian Studies. Contact: Carol G.S. Chan, Centre Chair.

#### Germany

- Global Institute of Global and Areas Studies (GIGA). Contacts: Dr. Patrick Koellner, Director, GIGA Institute for Asian Studies and Prof. Andreas Ufen, Research Fellow, GIGA Institute for Asian Studies.
- Southeast Asian Studies, Freiburg University. Contact: Prof Juergen Rueland.

#### Australia

- Australian National University, College of Asia and the Pacific Australia, research centres for Island and Mainland Southeast Asia. Contact: Prof Paul Hutchcroft, Director, School of International, Political, and Strategic Studies and Member of SEARC's International Advisory Committee
- Murdoch University, Asia Research Centre, Contact: Prof Kevin Hewison (former SEARC director)
- Sydney University, Sydney University Southeast Asia Centre (SSEAC). Contact: Associate Prof Michele Ford, Director.
- Monash University, Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Contact: Prof. Greg Barton, Director CSEAS, and Herb Feith Research Prof for the Study of Indonesia in the Faculty of Arts at Monash.

#### China

- Xiamen University, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies. Contact: Prof Guotu Zhuang, Centre Director.

#### Japan

Southeast Asian Studies Center, Kyoto University. Contact: Prof Caroline Hau.

#### South Korea

- Korea Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Seoul. Contact: Dr. Hong-gu Kim, Director.

### Singapore

- Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore. Contact: Ooi Kee Beng, Deputy Director.
- Asia Research Institute (ARI), the National University of Singapore. Prof. Prasenjit Duara, Director.
- Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Indonesia Programme. Contact: Associate Prof Leonard Sebastian, Programme Coordinator.

### Brunei

- University of Brunei Darussalam, Southeast Asian Studies Programme. Contact: Dr. Rommel A. Curaming, Coordinator.

### Indonesia

- Universitas Indonesia, Department of Social and Political Sciences  
Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences,
- Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University. Contacts: Kiky Rizky, M. Sc., Lecturer and Arisman, M. Sc., Senior Lecturer
- Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Center for Southeast Asia Social Studies (Pusat Studi Sosial Asia Tenggara). Contact: Muhadi Sugiono, Director.

### The Philippines

- University of the Philippines, Third World Center. Contact: Prof Francisco Nemenzo (former president of the university)
- De La Salle University, the Philippines, La Salle Institute of Governance and International Studies Department. Contacts: Prof Francisco Magno, Institute Director, and Prof Julio C. Teehankee, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Chair, International Studies Department.

### Malaysia

- Monash University in Malaysia, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Project Southeast Asia. Contact: Prof Joern Dosch, Deputy Head of School (Research)

### Thailand

- Payap University, Chiang Mai, Southeast Asian Institute of Global Studies. Contact: Dr. Adam Dedman, Director.
- Thammasat University, Thailand, Department of Political Science, International Relations (Southeast Asia). Contact: Dr Chanintira Na Thalang and Dr Michelle Tan.

### Vietnam

- Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Vietnam Programme. Contact: Jonathan Pincus, Resident Academic Advisor.
- Institute of Sociology, Viet Nam Academy of Social Science. Contact: Bui Quang Dung, Director.
- Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Viet Nam Academy of Social Sciences.

Contact: Dr Nguyễn Duy Dũng, Director and Dr Nguyễn Huy Hoàng, Vice Director

#### 6.4 Applied work undertaken

(patents, consultancy work and professional collaboration, etc.)

Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing, until recently associate director of SEARC, has taken on a number of important honorary positions in Myanmar in which he is playing a central role in the country's current political transition:

- Director, Peace Dialogue Program, Myanmar Peace Center,
- Member and Director of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council,
- Director of Academic Affairs, Myanmar Egress, Yangon, Myanmar,
- Secretary, Commission of Inquiry for Sectarian Violence in Rakhine State.

Dr Kyaw's efforts as director of the Myanmar Peace Centre have been central to current peace negotiations in the country in which this organization plays a leading role as has his role as Secretary to the Commission of Inquiry for Sectarian Violence. In addition, Dr Kyaw is advising the current government as Director of the National and Social Advisory Council. The NGO of which he is one of the founders and key members, Myanmar Egress, has been heavily involved in peace negotiations as well as initiatives to improve higher education in Myanmar, an issue which Dr Kyaw will step up his involvement in the near future. Myanmar Egress also runs a summer studies programme (discussed in more detail below) of which SEARC is a co-host. Dr Kyaw also attended the prestigious World Economic Forum Annual Meeting at Davos, Switzerland, 23-27 January 2013 for the second year running. He was part of the Myanmar delegation that is preparing to host the World Economic Forum on East Asia in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 5-7 June. Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing, who in Davos discussed the current situation in Myanmar with philanthropist George Soros and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, among others, is also the Director of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council in Myanmar which advises the president of Myanmar, Thein Sein. SEARC wishes to thank its former associate director for his important contributions to Myanmar and SEARC at this crucial juncture in its history. As perhaps the foremost authority of current Myanmar politics with an extensive publication list, he has also organized through SEARC two recent major conferences on the political transition in his country. His high profile (such as attending the Davos summit two years in a row) have added to SEARC's reputation for attracting some of the most talented and influential scholars who do

not just study but also are practically involved in the problems confronting the region. Beginning in mid-2013 he will devote more time to pursuing his work as a government advisor, peace negotiator, NGO activist as well as to follow up on plans to establish a new social science college in Yangon. We are happy that he will remain in close contact with SEARC as a visiting fellow, hosting a joint summer school with SEARC in 2013, coming to CityU regularly in 2013-14, giving seminars, advising our members on their research, holding joint conferences about recent developments in Burma/Myanmar with SEARC, and assisting us with external funding.

- Prof Case completed his NED consultancy work for the Freedom House/State Department which was undertaken starting in December last year with a publication based on this research published.

## **7. Critical self-evaluation of the work of the Institute/Centre during the reporting period**

### 7.1 Summary of achievements

*(Please give an account of the achievements of the Centre during the reporting period, including evidence of the added value of the Centre and highlight the three top achievements with emphasis on their impact)*

- SEARC co-hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress for Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA) 'Policy and Politics in Changing Asia', 30 November – 1 December 2012. APISA is the largest association for international studies based in Asia. Hosting its 6<sup>th</sup> Congress attended by nearly 200 scholars raised its profile considerably in the international studies community.
- SEARC Co-organized a conference "National Identity and Citizenship in 21st Century Myanmar," in Yangon, Myanmar on 16 and 17 September, 2012 which brought together leading scholars, activists, and government officials. This is the third SEARC conference Dr. Kyaw has organized on Myanmar, the first two (in 2011 and 2012) were held at CityU.
- SEARC, in follow up to its new initiative to work towards a network of Southeast Asian research centres, will be a founding member of a consortium of institutes and centres studying this region which is to be launched this



autumn in Kyoto, Japan. SEARC has increased contacts with major centres for the study of Southeast Asia throughout the world against which it will benchmark its own performance.

- SEARC Core members published three books, 19 articles in journals (including 10 in SSCI journals), and 21 chapters in edited volumes making it one of the most research-active centres on Southeast Asian studies anywhere in the world.
- SEARC hosted 12 research seminars over the past 12 months by prominent speakers from major universities, think tanks, and policy organizations in the U.S., Canada, Britain, Germany, Singapore the Philippines, and Hong Kong as well as publishing 13 working papers making SEARC one of the most productive Southeast Asia centres for the discussion and dissemination of cutting edge research in the field of Southeast Asian studies.
- SEARC, in the person of its former associate director, Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing, SEARC is actively involved in Myanmar's current political transition. Dr Kyaw is Director of the Myanmar Peace Centre, Secretary to the Commission of Inquiry for Sectarian Violence, and advises the country's president Thein Sein as Director of the National and Social Advisory Council while at the same time helping run NGO, Myanmar Egress, of which he is co-founder in its peace and higher education initiatives. For the second year running Dr Kyaw also attended the prestigious World Economic Forum Annual Meeting at Davos, Switzerland in January 2013 for the second year running where he informed delegates about recent changes in his country.
- SEARC will host the Southeast Asia Cultural Festival (18-21 April 2013), the largest such event ever held at a Hong Kong University that highlights the richness and diversity of the region's cultures with writers' forums, a cinema series, culinary events, and cultural performances.
- SEARC has also held a number of other events, including public forums, debates, and discussions with business leaders, NGO activists, policy makers and journalists. Through these events, SEARC has been able to advance some of the aims specified by CityU in its Strategic Plan: stimulating academic exchanges; developing links between research and the classroom

setting; fostering ties to the business community; and reaching out to the Hong Kong's social activists and interested community members. Among the research centres at CityU, SEARC is uniquely positioned to perform this role. It is the only unit in the university which, in focusing on political, economic, and social issues in contemporary Southeast Asia, as well the region's ties to China, is able to engage international academics and the Hong Kong community through its regular schedule of conferences and public events.

- SEARC core members also continued to provide regular commentary to the Hong Kong and foreign media. During dramatic events in Myanmar in 2012-12, SEARC was contacted every few days by Radio Television Hong Kong, the *South China Morning Post*, Voice of America, Agence France, *The Washington Post*, and other media organizations. Its former associate director, Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing is, as mentioned above, now one of the major players in the country's political transition (both as peace negotiator and as presidential advisory). He now hosts his own popular TV programme on the country's political transition in Myanmar and is regularly quoted in the international press. Dr. Jonathan London, a SEARC core member, recently wrote an opinion piece on Impatience in Viet Nam published in well known blog on Southeast Asia, 'New Mandala' on March 18, 2013. He also recently commented on whether public pressure will have an effect on the political system in Vietnam in an interview with RadioNational on March 16, 2013 and wrote two opinion pieces on recent economic and political problems in Vietnam in the *South China Morning Post* in early 2013. Prof. Mark R. Thompson, SEARC Director, commented on an initial peace deal in Muslim Mindanao to in an interview with Victor Beattie of the Voice of America broadcast on October 8, 2012. He also took part in Channel News Asia's "Bridging Asia" debate about the question "Can corruption be beat in Asia?" broadcast live on October 2, 2012. Indeed, SEARC is the only research centre in Hong Kong that is able to comment authoritatively upon developments in Southeast Asia for the benefit of the Hong Kong community.

## 7.2 Self-evaluation

*(Please provide an evaluation of the Institute/Centre's work with respect to e.g. meeting Institute/Centre objectives, effort in identifying/targeting Government or other sizable external funding initiatives, and in mapping/teaming faculties to areas of the identified*

*initiatives to prepare for bidding these funds, collaboration among members/research teams, added value of Institute/Centre support, impact of Institute/Centre's work, uniqueness, competitive edge, visibility and reputation, ability to attract people and resource etc)*

Evaluation of the Centre / SKL's work in meeting its objectives and international excellence

Given its geography, economic interests, social composition, political autonomy and academic freedom, Hong Kong is perhaps the ideal place to study Southeast Asia. The Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC) of the City University of Hong Kong is the only research centre focused on Southeast Asia in Hong Kong. In a little more than a decade, SEARC has established a strong international reputation as an important setting for the study of political, economic, and social issues in contemporary Southeast Asia.

The last two and a half years have seen SEARC revitalized and, assuming it continues to receive essential funding from the university, is well positioned to become a leader in the study of Southeast Asia worldwide. City University has large number of scholars with a research focus on Southeast Asia, almost all of whom have now have joined SEARC. The Centre has also developed excellent contacts with other scholars and authors in Hong Kong and beyond working in this field as affiliated member and has a very distinguished international membership. With strong research output of its members discussed above, regular seminars given by some of the world's top Southeast Asianists, and regular international conferences, its mission is to provide a forum where cutting edge research on this important region can be conducted.

Having actively networked with other major centres of Southeast Asia studies around the world (just to mention a few of the more important in Cornell University, Stanford University, University of California Berkeley, University of London, Kyoto University, Xiamen University the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore as well as many others in the region itself), SEARC will now be a founding member of a consortium of Southeast Asian centres scheduled to be launched this autumn.

It needs to be stressed that *none* of the major international centres for the study of Southeast Asia, with which SEARC is in close contact, is self-financed. All receive considerable financing from their respective university and/or governments. To

remain viable and competitive in this exclusive “club” of Southeast Asian institutes SEARC *must continue to receive regular university funding*. This is of particular importance at this juncture when the Centre is expanding and reaching out – here regularly visiting fellows will be a key component of further raising the profile of the Centre, as discussed more below. SEARC’s strong international reputation is an important contribution to CityU’s commitment to internationalization.

That said, SEARC is also engaged in concerted efforts to secure matching funding for all its major conferences, meetings, workshops and other such research activities. On the one hand, external donors such as the Adenauer Foundation have co-financed several of SEARC’s recent conferences on Myanmar’s political transition. SEARC co-hosted the most important international studies conference in Asia, the Asian Political and International Studies Association Congress (APISA) along with the Department of Asian and International Studies at CityU and the Hong Kong Institute of Education in November 2012. In an upcoming conference this fall the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is a co-organizer. SEARC is also at an advanced stage of negotiations for hosting a joint conference with the Asian Borderlands Research Network (ABRN) based at the International Institute of Asian Studies in Leiden, the Netherlands at CityU sometime in 2014. On the other hand, SEARC has sought partners in Hong Kong, such as the Asia Society, in doing events (the upcoming Southeast Asian Cultural Festival will have a Hong Kong launch as an Asia Society event). As mentioned, we are also involved in founding a consortium of Southeast Studies centres which will be co-financed by all centres involved. Through such joint funding or “joint ventures” SEARC is able to both strengthen its contacts abroad (as well as in Hong Kong itself) while at the same able to do more as it uses matching funding for most of its major events. This innovative funding model is well suited to SEARC’s efforts to make it one of the most high profile centres for the study of Southeast Asia.

All such events serve SEARC’s core objective, that is, to advance its international standing and CityU’s reputation by researching political, economic, and social developments in contemporary Southeast Asia. Further, in compliance with CityU’s Strategic Plan, these undertakings were deeply cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary in their character.

SEARC also maintained its heavy schedule of academic seminars and public events. The costs associated with hosting these events is low, as SEARC is able to use university facilities. But these events make strong contributions toward CityU’s

goals of knowledge creation and transfer to the university's students and the broader Hong Kong community. SEARC members also published an impressive amount during this period, with three books, 19 articles in journals, including 10 in SSCI journals, and 21 chapters in edited volumes. A number of these publications were the direct result of previous SEARC conferences and seminars. A stream of further publications can be expected based in large part on the papers that came out of SEARC conferences/workshops and seminars. Other core members of SEARC won grants during the year while several new grant applications have been made which promise more research output. SEARC has undoubtedly become one of the most research active centres for the study of contemporary Southeast Asian politics and society in the world. Given very limited resources, SEARC performance in this time period must be evaluated as excellent.

Evaluation on the participation / support of members in Centre / SKL's activities / group projects.

- Conferences and workshops: as discussed in more detail above, SEARC has co-hosted a major international conference on international studies in Asia which nearly 200 participants (APISA Congress, November 2012) and a major conference on political change in Myanmar in September 2012
- Regular SEARC seminars: well attended by a broad range of SEARC core members, SEARC affiliates, CityU faculty and students as well as several from other university, and interested people from Hong Kong, these seminars address a wide range of issues – political, economic, social, cultural – focused on different Southeast Asian countries with the papers presented quickly available online as Working Papers. These seminars have become a well known outlet for cutting edge on research, energizing members of SEARC and other faculty at CityU.
- SEARC's Working Group on Indonesia: formed in late 2011, this group, focused on the most populous country in Southeast Asia which also has the largest Muslim population in the world, brings together scholars working primarily on Indonesia (Drs Chiara Formichi and Nankyung Choi) with those with a strong interest in the country from a comparative perspective (Profs Paul Cammack, William Case and Mark Thompson, among others). In meetings held at regular intervals, the group discusses key articles or issues relating to Indonesia. Several SEARC research seminars have been the result of this group's initiative.

- Publications: as the number of books, articles (including a number in SSCI journals), book chapters and other outlets indicates, SEARC members have been very productive in terms of research. One major publication was the result of a recent conference at SEARC (N. Ganesan and Sung Chull Kim, eds, *State Violence in East Asia*, University Press of Kentucky, 2013). More generally though, SEARC has promoted a conducive environment on Southeast Asian studies with its conferences, seminars, working groups, and Working Papers series as well as informal discussions and collaboration among members. Many scholars who work on Southeast Asia are relatively 'isolated'. Thanks to SEARC, there is a strong collaborative research environment for this field at CityU.

- A new consortium of centres for Southeast Asia Studies: SEARC has been asked to be the Hong Kong representative of this international initiative scheduled to be launched this autumn. It is the culmination of SEARC members having reached out to their colleagues in Southeast Asia, Australia, Britain, Canada, China, Germany, South Korea, the U.S. and elsewhere. It speaks to the international orientation of SEARC that by merely pooling the already existing contacts and working relationships individual members have with other major Southeast Asia study centres around the world the nucleus of such a spot in the consortium could be secured in the short period of time since this networking initiative has been systematically pursued.

- Reaching out to the Hong Kong Community: SEARC will be hosting the largest cultural festival ever held at a Hong Kong university focused on the rich and diverse cultures of Southeast Asia in mid-April 2013 (the Southeast Asia Culture Festival). It is aimed at CityU students and faculty, Southeast Asians resident in Hong Kong, and a larger Hong Kong community. Moreover SEARC has sought to engage Hong Kong citizens, especially civil society organizations, through open forums and media engagement, enhancing the study of Southeast Asia in Hong Kong and to increase understanding of the region within the CityU and Hong Kong communities. In previous workshops such as one Food Politics in late 2011 organized by Dr Chan Yuk Wah, representatives from leading NGOs in Hong Kong engaged in activism in this field is one example of such engagement. SEARC seminars drawing a large number of participants outside of the university on issues relevant to current debates in Hong Kong, such as migration, is another. Indeed, SEARC is the only source of serious academic information on Southeast Asia in Hong Kong and its members' and invited speakers/conference participants'/research fellows' ability to comment authoritatively upon developments in Southeast Asia for the benefit of the Hong

Kong community.

#### Evaluation of the Centre / SKL's visibility and reputation

- SEARC was last reviewed externally in March 2011 conducted by CLASS Audit Review 2011 Exercise and very positively assessed, confirming its standing as a world-class research centre able to advance the international standing of CityU. SEARC's research and other activities are comparable to other leading centres of Southeast Asian studies with which it has close cooperation. Through a consortium of Southeast Asian research centres to be launched this fall of which SEARC is a founding member, an exchange of information between centres will increase, easing this process of comparison. A few tentative observations can be made at this point however (with the relevant institutions being Southeast Asia centres at Cornell University, Stanford University, University of California Berkeley, University of London, the Australian National University, the University of Sydney, Kyoto University, Xiamen University ,the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore as well as many others in the region itself.
- SEARC is a medium-sized research Centre. With a core membership approaching 30 it is larger than Stanford, about the same size as Kyoto and those working on Southeast Asian studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London but smaller than Cornell, Kyoto, and Berkeley and much smaller than some of the largest centres which are Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) and Asia Research Institute (ARI) in Singapore, Sydney, and the ANU (with up to 100 scholars and visiting fellows each).
- SEARC is not as broad a Centre in terms of research orientation as some of these others that have strong cultural studies and language programmes. SEARC does have several anthropologists and historians as core members with strong research interests in the region's culture but offers no Southeast Asian languages and does not have a history or anthropology department to back up its efforts. That said, SEARC profits from its emphasis on current Southeast Asian affairs which makes it a "go to" place for those interested in current developments in the media, not just in the academic world, but also the media, business, and political consultancy. This makes SEARC well-placed in Hong Kong to help guide understanding of political changes in country's such as Myanmar where current changes are bringing about

considerable interest in the business community and the media.

- SEARC's research out 'per capita' is strong compared to most of these major Southeast Asia research centres. All SEARC core members are research active and many of them are leaders in their field.
- SEARC is probably the *least well-funded* of any of these major international centres mentioned. Strongly supported by the university when founded in 2001, funding dried up by the mid-2000s. SEARC was again funded by the university last year for the first time in several years. In order to remain competitive and continue to raise its profile in this exclusive league of Southeast Asian centres, SEARC must continue to receive regular university funding.
- One of SEARC's major weaknesses is the lack of high profile visiting fellows on a regular basis. The last high profile visitor was Prof Robert H. Taylor, a famous historian of Myanmar, who was at CityU until 2011. Since then, due to its limited budget, SEARC has not been able to attract young promising scholars or more established ones. (Several offers were made but declined due to high living costs in Hong Kong indicating the research fellowships need to be remunerated better in future offers.) With additional funding, SEARC will advertise two full time visiting fellows at all times (preferably one junior and one senior scholar). It is thus a major goal of SEARC to regularly attract visiting scholars.
- The research productivity of SEARC members has been discussed in detail above. This strong reputation for scholarly output has also been enhanced by its regular production of special issues and articles in international journals, as well its publication through the RoutledgeCurzon/City University of Hong Kong Southeast Asia Studies book series. These books have sold well, been favourably reviewed, and have attracted expressions of continuing support from the publisher.
- SEARC researchers have continued to receive invitations to present their research internationally at workshops and on conference panels, observe elections overseas, and provide media commentary to local and international outlets as detailed in part 5 above.



- SEARC Researchers have also been active in applying for external funds. As of this writing, SEARC members have applied for several GRF grants and other sources of external funding.

SEARC is regularly approached by new and established scholars who, attracted by the center's reputation, seek an institutional base during sabbatical and other periods of research leave. During 2011-12, SEARC hosted two international scholars as visiting fellows:

- Dr Peng Hui (February - August 2012) from Central China Normal University. Her academic interests include ethnic groups and their relationships between government and society in Southeast Asian, especially in the Philippines. She has been helpful in helping SEARC establish closer contacts with mainland scholars of Southeast Asia, particularly at Xiamen University, perhaps the leading Mainland University for Southeast Asian studies, where she completed her PhD. Her research on the Philippine Muslims, the "Moros" has been posted as a working paper on SEARC's website.

- Ms Luna Iacopini (March – May 2013), a PhD student from University of Geneva. She is visiting SEARC to continue the research she had begun with her PhD dissertation 'The choice of university and its implications on the attainment of employment in Hanoi'. She presented a SEARC seminar in March 2013 on this topic.

At present, SEARC does not sufficient funds to advertise a competitive position for a research fellowship (which could be advertised this autumn for 2014-15) as is common at many other Southeast Asian centres at institutes/centres of Southeast Asian studies. In the past, with greater funding, SEARC was able to host a much larger number of scholars who stayed for longer periods. SEARC made several offers to several promising post-docs focused on Southeast Asia (from, among other places, Cambridge University) but was turned down because of the only modest funding SEARC had to offer. As of this writing, negotiations are underway to hire a junior postdoc visiting fellow in 2014-15 with existing SEARC funds. As mentioned above, Dr Kyaw, after leaving CityU, has agreed to remain a visiting fellow at SEARC for a year (at a nominal salary) to help SEARC maintain its high profile in the study of the country's transitions (plans during this fellowship include among other things seminars, working papers and briefings from Dr Kyaw at CityU, a joint SEARC-Myanmar Peace Centre conference on political changes in 2013-14, and

efforts to secure financial support from external donors). SEARC hopes to hire one to two more visiting fellows within the next year. With greater funding however, SEARC would also be able to attract senior scholars who would add to SEARC's research profile and bring more international attention to Southeast Asian research at CityU.

Finally, SEARC researchers are regularly sought out by the local and international media to comment on political and social events in Southeast Asia. Their interviews and op-ed pieces have generated an impressive amount of local, regional, and international publicity. The range of print media outlets includes: Asian Wall Street Journal, Bangkok Post, International Herald Tribune, Financial Times, South China Morning Post, Apple Daily, Associated Press, and Reuters. SEARC's core members are also interviewed regularly by radio and television outlets, including CNN, BBC, Aljazeera, Star TV, Voice of America, RTHK, and Channel NewsAsia.

Evaluation of the Centre / SKL's achievements, uniqueness, and competitive edge in the local/regional/international context

SEARC is unique within the Hong Kong community today as the sole academic research unit that addresses the politics, economies, societies and international relations of contemporary Southeast Asia. With strong indications that world attention is shifting to Southeast Asia, SEARC is ideally positioned to meet this growing interest in a region that is of vital importance to Hong Kong. SEARC achieves this through its academic scholarship, its applied research, and its community events and media commentary. Its researchers are regularly invited to international conferences and workshops; they regularly publish their research in high-quality outlets; and they are growing increasingly adept at securing competitive external funding. Thus, especially in view of its small organizational size and modest levels of funding, SEARC retains a competitive edge, enabling it to enhance CityU's growing reputation as a major center for social science inquiry.

Evaluation of the Centre / SKL's ability to attract people and resources

SEARC has recruited a strong cohort of core members, including Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing, perhaps the leading expert on Myanmar's current transition, Prof William Case, probably the best known foreign expert on Malaysian politics and an accomplished comparativist of the region, Prof Paul Cammack, a distinguished expert on political economy whose research interests have recently shifted toward

Asia, Prof Mark Thompson, a well-known scholar on Philippine and comparative Southeast Asian politics, Prof Joseph Cheng, among whose many research interests is security issues in Southeast Asia, Dr Chiara Formichi, a scholar with a strong reputation in the field of Islam in Indonesia, Dr Federico Ferrera, a young scholar with a growing reputation in the field of Thai studies, Dr Jonathan London and Dr Chan Yuk Wah, both recognized experts on Vietnam with Dr London an expert on welfare issues and Dr Chan a specialist on migration, Dr Nan Choi, a leading expert on local politics in Indonesia, Dr Stephan Ortmann, a widely published young scholar specializing in Singapore and Vietnam, Dr Nicholas Thomas, a high profile international relations scholar with interests in territorial disputes involving Southeast Asia, Dr Adrienne La Grange, a leading expert on Philippine English and Call Centres in the country, Dr Reuben Mondejar, an economics expert on Southeast Asia with interests in the South China Sea issue. Recently, Prof Robert Taylor, a renowned scholar of Myanmar politics, was a visiting Prof from 2010-2011 and active SEARC affiliated member. For the first time, SEARC had a visiting fellow from a mainland university, Dr. Peng Hui from Central China Normal University who did her Ph.D. on Southeast Asian politics at the most important center for Southeast Asian studies at Xiamen University. SEARC has recently restructured its Advisory Committee, recruiting noted Southeast Asianists like Prof Donald K. Emmerson, Prof Paul Hutchcroft, and Prof Andrew MacIntyre. SEARC is regularly approached too by overseas scholars seeking a base for sabbaticals and other forms of research leave, evincing SEARC's standing as a respected center for research on contemporary Southeast Asia.

## **8. Planned activities for 2013-14**

### Conferences and Workshops

#### •27 April 2013

The Role of Southeast and South Asian Migrants' Religions in Hong Kong

A one-day workshop on the state of current research and future directions

Organizer: Dr Chiara Formichi

This round-table workshop will bring together a small group of academics interested in researching areas of overlap between migration and religion in Hong Kong. Generating a discussion on the state of current research in the fields of history, anthropology, sociology, studies of religion, education, social work etc. The workshop will address the question of whether and how the religious culture of migrants influences patterns of religion in Hong Kong, and vice-versa.

- 6-7 September 2013

Asian Migration and the Global Asian Diasporas

A major international conference, co-hosted with the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Organizer: Dr Yuk Wah Chan

Asia, as both a migrant generating and migrant receiving region, offers rich experiences for migration and diaspora studies. Since the late 19th century there has been continuous movement of people across countries within the region as well as from Asia to other parts of the world due to colonial rule, warfare, political turmoil, the Cold War, and poverty in various places in Asia. Asian migration is not only large in scale, but also extremely diverse in experience. Large migrant groups to the West, such as the Chinese, Indians and Vietnamese have received much attention as settlers in other countries. Yet much recent research suggests they must also be understood as diasporic communities in continuous transnational movement. There are also many other smaller migrant populations, often minorities in their own countries, whose migration trajectories represent the interaction of very specific historical conditions as well as general global changes.

- November 2013

Southeast Asia Politics Handbook conference

Organizer: Prof William Case

A major conference that will bring together major authorities on Southeast Asian politics from around the world to discuss their chapter contributions of a forthcoming *Routledge Handbook of the Politics of Southeast Asia*. It will be co-hosted by the Center for Asian Democracy at the University of Louisville.

- 2014 spring

Myanmar Conference, to be co-organized with the Myanmar Peace Center in 2014 with joint funding from SEARC, the Myanmar Peace Center and the Adenauer Foundation on Myanmar's ongoing economic, political and social transition.

Organizer: Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing

Description Will the present liberalization result in major market reforms and political democracy or will military hardliners try to scale back if not reverse reforms? As in the last two Myanmar conferences at SEARC, leading academics, NGOs, government officials, journalists, and other experts will be invited to attend.

- 2014 early spring

Joint Conference on Asian borderlands to be organized together with the Asia Borderland Research Network (ABRN) at CityU.

Organizers: Dr Yuk-Wah Chan and Prof Mark R Thompson

Extensive land and maritime networks have crisscrossed Asia for centuries, providing the basis for encounters between diverse ethnic, linguistic, economic, religious, and political groups. Today, developments such as new infrastructural projects, an increase in media access, and renewed interest in shaping cross-border cultural identities serve to both underscore these long-standing linkages and create new forms of connections across Asia. During the planned 4th Asian Borderlands Research Conference in Hong Kong, to be held at CityU and co-organized by SEARC and ABRN presentations will address the theme, Connections, Corridors, and Communities.

#### Summer school

25 June -15 July 2013

Organized together with Myanmar Egress, directed by Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing with three to four SEARC core members among the teachers, this Yangon based summer school offers students from Yangon universities, members of NGOs, and government officials an overview of the social sciences as relevant to Myanmar. SEARC is proud to be a co-sponsor of this innovative summer school which is helping train future leaders of the country during the country's current transition.

#### Research seminars 2013-2014

Fifteen research seminars are planned in the upcoming academic year with leading Southeast Asianists from the US, the UK, Japan, Germany as well as several Southeast Asian countries including the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam scheduled to speak. Aside from leading scholars, important journalists and activists involved in observing or influencing the region's affairs will be invited.

#### Research fellows 2013-15

- SEARC is currently in advanced stages of negotiation with a promising post-doc working on Southeast Asia to be jointly funded by SEARC and the Department off Asian and International Studies.
- SEARC strives to have two full time research fellows at all times, one senior and one junior. In order to plan ahead, SEARC needs to apply for

funding for these positions now in order to advertise them internationally in autumn 2013 for 2014-15

- Several high profile scholars in Southeast Asia have contacted SEARC about coming to the Centre as short term visiting fellows in 2014, with details of these visits still to be arranged.
- Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing will be a visiting fellow 2013-2014, as discussed above.

#### Southeast Asia Consortium “Southeast Asia Studies in Asia” (SEASIA), autumn 2013

As mentioned above SEARC will help launch a new consortium this autumn at Kyoto university. SEARC will be a major player in the consortium. In addition, the SEARC director, associate director and other core members will continue to make regular duty visits to centres of Southeast Asian studies linked to SEARC to strengthen collaboration as well as to potential new partners. Furthermore, SEARC will invite directors/chairs of other centers to visit SEARC, give seminars, and be involved in discussion for further participation. As of this writing invitations have already been extended to centers in Berkeley, Kyoto and the University of Hawaii for the coming academic year, with other invitations to follow soon.

#### Cultural Festival

18-21 April 2013

The Southeast Asia Cultural Festival

Organizer: SEARC director, SEARC office and Southeast Asian Consulates in Hong Kong

Description: this cultural festival, the first of its kind at a Hong Kong university, has been made possible through funding from the internationalization fund of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLASS) of CityU, sponsorship from Cebu Pacific, and with support from the Southeast Asian consulates in Hong Kong. The festival highlights the diverse and fascinating cultures of Southeast Asia with a writers’ forum, a cinema series, culinary delicacies, information booths about individual countries in the region, and cultural performances such as traditional dance, music, and theatrical presentations from the region. Five of the ten Consul Generals from Southeast Asia in Hong Kong attended the opening ceremony, along with CityU President Way Kuo and CLASS Dean Martin Painter. The festival contributes to the internationalization at CityU and has strengthened ties between the Centre and Southeast Asian Consulates in Hong Kong as well as with

community groups represents Southeast Asians living in the HKSAR.

## **9. Future plans and long-term strategic development strategy**

*(Please include plans to generate income for sustaining Institute/Centre activities and plans to become financially independent for Centres which are more than three years of their establishment; bringing in new members; and where appropriate succession strategies with impending retirement/departure of the Director or its member)*

- To operate effectively, and competitively, SEARC requires funding from the university for its basic operations, key research, seminars, duty visits and some of its conference activities. In addition, as discussed above SEARC wishes to reach international standards by having at least two full time research fellows per year. No major international Southeast Asia centre, with which SEARC compared itself to, is self-financed. In order to remain internationally competitive SEARC requires substantial and regular university funding.
- However, as mentioned above SEARC is developing a co-financing model of all its major conferences (other institutions or external donors). It already has a strong record of acquiring project-related grants and fruitful collaborations with major funding organizations, particularly for conferences/workshops. As mentioned above, SEARC will continue to work closely with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung which has co-financed its past Myanmar conferences and has indicated its willingness to collaborate in a further one early next year. SEARC core members have also applied for several external grants and more core members will be encouraged to apply next fall. In addition, efforts are being made to seek funding through new sources, such as the small grants APISA makes. Given that SEARC recently co-hosted the prestigious APISA conference, it is now closer to funding agencies linked to that organization. In addition, planned conferences co-organized with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Asian Borderlands Research Network linked to the Institute of Asian Studies in Leiden, and the University of Louisville.
- In addition, SEARC will continue to expand its membership, particularly its affiliated members in Hong Kong (with great potential among interested business people, policy makers, NGOs, and journalist) as well as enhancing its international links primarily through a planned network of Southeast Asia

research centres around the world, discussed in detail above. By co-hosting a major APSIA conference, it will become one of handful of institutes and centres closely affiliated with this leading (and rapidly growing) organization of political scientists and policy experts in Asia.

Other future plans include:

- To continue to organize conferences and workshops that attract top local and international scholars and that lead to high-quality publications.
- To contribute to an intellectual climate in the department that encourages SEARC core members to apply for competitive external grants and to present their research at conferences, workshops, and seminars. The new Senior Research Fellow/Research Fellow will play a key role in this area.
- To increase collaboration between core members of SEARC and between them and scholars in other CLASS-based research centres and overseas institutions in the modes of faculty exchange, joint research funding applications, and organizing conferences together.
- To maintain SEARC's working paper series as an outlet for established, but especially new researchers to enter their findings quickly into the public domain.
- To continue engaging CityU students in seminars, thereby strengthening linkages between scholarly research and classroom teaching.
- To continue to invite eminent researchers and professionals to deliver seminars and talks that enhance the cross-disciplinary study of Southeast Asia and that strengthen ties to the Hong Kong community.
- To maintain its standing as a world-class centre for the study of Southeast Asia, SEARC needs to attract top scholars as well as post-doctoral fellows in order to keep up with cutting edge research and make SEARC a well-known place in which to research and debate key issues related to Southeast Asia.