

CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONGKONG

Progress Report for Research Centres (2015 - 2016)

1. Name of the Research Centre

Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC)

2. Membership and Management Structure

2.1 Centre Director and Core-members (Name & Department)

Name	Department
Centre Director:	
Prof THOMPSON Mark R	AIS
Core Members:	
Dr FERRARA Federico	AIS
Dr THOMAS Nicholas David	AIS
Dr STARRS Sean Kenji	AIS
Dr WILLIAMS Bradley Rowland	AIS
Dr PATTON Thomas (Associate Director)	AIS
Dr CHAN Yuk Wah	AIS
Other Members:	
Dr CARROLL Toby	AIS
Prof CASE William	AIS
Prof CHAN Johnny CL	SEE
Dr CHANDRA Yanto	MGT
Dr CHIA Stella	COM
Dr CHOI Nankyung	AIS
Prof CUCKER Felipe	MA
Dr HAYLLAR Mark	POL
Dr LA GRANGE Adrienne	POL
Prof LIM CW	ACE
Dr LOCKWOOD Jane	EN
Dr LONDON Jonathan	AIS
Dr MONDEJAR Reuben	MGT
Dr NUTANONG Sarana	CS

Dr ONG Rebecca	SLW
Dr PASCOE Daniel	SLW
Dr ROBERTSON Justin	AIS
Prof SERVAES Jan	COM
Dr SOOKSRIPAISARNKIT Poomintr	SLW
Dr TAYLOR Bill	POL
Dr TROEUNG Y-Dang	EN
Prof YIP Ngai Ming	POL
Dr YUE Wei Thoo	IS

2.2 Advisors/Consultants

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 include:

1. Prof Mark BEESON (Professor, The University of Western Australia, Australia)
2. Prof Donald K EMMERSON (Director, Southeast Asia Forum, Stanford University, USA)
3. Prof Hans-Dieter EVERS (Eminent Visiting Professor, Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam; Professor emeritus and Senior Fellow, Center for Development Research, University of Bonn)
4. Prof Vedi HADIZ (Professor of Asian Studies, The University of Melbourne)
5. Prof Kevin HEWISON (Director, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University)
6. Prof Paul D HUTCHCROFT (seconded to the Australian Government until October 2016)
7. Prof Michael JAKOBSEN (Director of Strategy and Planning at Asia Research Centre, Copenhagen Business School)
8. Prof Kanishka JAYASURIYA (Professor of Politics and International Studies and Head of Department, Murdoch University)
9. Prof Pasuk PHONGPAICHIT (Professor of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)
10. Prof Garry RODAN (Director, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University, Australia)
11. Prof Robert H. TAYLOR (Associate Senior Fellow, ISEAS, Singapore; former Visiting Professor, Department of Asian and International Studies, CityU)

2.3 Steering/Management/Advisory Committee, if established

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee evaluates SEARC’s longer-term aims, directions, and planning, likely budgetary resources, and projected outcomes. Its current members are listed below.

Chair	Prof Xiaowei ZANG (Dean, CLASS)
Convener:	Prof Mark R. THOMPSON (Director, SEARC and Head/Professor of Politics, AIS)
Member:	Prof William CASE (Professor, AIS)

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:

Chair:	Prof Mark R. THOMPSON (Director, SEARC; Head/Professor of Politics, AIS)
Members:	Dr Thomas PATTON (Associate Director, SEARC; Assistant Professor, AIS)
	Prof William CASE (Professor, AIS)
	Dr Bill TAYLOR (Associate Professor, POL)
	Dr Toby CARROLL (Associate Professor, AIS)

3. **Mission statement and objectives**

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

The Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC) was inaugurated on 27 February 2001 as a faculty-based research centre within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (now the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, CLASS). Since its establishment, SEARC has continued to hold a strong international reputation as an important setting for the study of political, economic, social, and cultural issues in historical and contemporary Southeast Asia. **SEARC has brought together CityU’s unique breadth of expertise on Southeast Asia to forge an innovative and engaged approach to our region’s future.** SEARC’s events have been further enhancing CityU’s standing as a major and excellent research institution, while bringing theoretical and practical benefits to the Hong Kong community at the same time. Its primary commitment is to its scholarly mission, conducting research and publishing new findings and analyses in leading journals and prestigious volumes about Southeast Asia.

SEARC’s mandate is to foster and support research at CityU related to Southeast Asia in

Hong Kong and around the world. The centre aims to provide: 1) Intellectual Exchange: facilitating interaction between Southeast Asia-focused scholars at CityU, and between CityU researchers and a global community of Southeast Asia scholars; 2) Research support: assisting in the development of research grants, organization of conferences, seminars and workshops, and administering such projects; 3) Knowledge Mobilization: providing a clear public access point to CityU's collective research expertise and specialization on Southeast Asia, creating an multi-disciplinary intellectual hub and ensuring the wider dissemination of CityU research on Southeast Asia to academic and the general public in Hong Kong and around the world. SEARC has continuing to play a key role in uniting academia and researchers work in Southeast Asia itself, across all disciplines, to reach out and connect with as well as to devote their time to capacity building and their outreach projects. SEARC also supports and showcase Southeast Asia-related research across the University.

The Centre has also attracted many respected scholars as visitors who, in carrying out research projects and conducting seminars, have further energized the Centre. The Centre's seminars have been a great success, with numerous international and regional researchers presenting seminars. In regularly sponsoring international conferences such as a recent conference held in June co-hosted with AIS: "2016 International Studies Association (ISA) Asia-Pacific Conference" held at CityU which conveyed the message that an understanding of Asia's place in world affairs is of critical important at the present. At the same time, in order to extend links to scholars and institutions whose concerns resonate with those of our Centre, SEARC sponsored early career scholars from Southeast Asia working on the region at the ISA Conference to promote research on the region. Indeed, SEARC has contributed widely and extensively to public debate and intellectual life at CityU.

SEARC has the highest concentration of regional expertise on Southeast Asia in Hong Kong. SEARC brings together 30 core members at CityU and more than a dozen affiliates at other Hong Kong universities specializing in various disciplines. All of them are working on all ten member countries of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN). SEARC core members are engaged in high impact fundamental disciplinary and interdisciplinary research projects, often funded by external grants, which address critical real world issues such as recent political changes in the region, socio-economic developments, migration, environmental issues, cultural studies and cross-national issues among others within this important and fast moving region. SEARC core members research all ten Southeast Asia countries and are drawn from across 14 disciplinary research areas (Anthropology; Computer Sciences; Economics; Business and Management; Energy and Environment; Information Technology; International Relations; Languages; Law; Mathematics; Politics; Public Policy; Sociology; and Urban Studies) from 11 departments and schools (Applied Social Sciences; Asian and International Studies; Computer Science; Energy and Environment; English; Information Systems; Law; Management; Mathematics, Media and Communication as well as Public Policy). SEARC has

particular strengths in politics, sociology, anthropology, international relations, and history but we also bring together those interested in the economies and the cultures of this region. SEARC members are often interviewed by both local and international media and contribute opinion pieces on pressing contemporary issues regarding Southeast Asia. We also actively involved in establishing research networks with universities in the region as well as with other centres focused on Southeast Asia outside the region.

Southeast Asia is one of the most dynamic regions in the world being one of the fastest growing economic blocs as well as a place of profound political and social changes, and inter-ethnic relations and conflicts. It is also a place of great geo-strategic importance with territorial disputes over the South China Sea being a prime example. In addition, it is also a region of fascinating and rich cultural diversity underpinned by its extraordinary social pluralism, a long pre-colonial and diverse colonial history, as well as an area of study for extreme climatic events (particularly typhoons), environmental issues, migration, tourism, and a number of other topics that offer golden opportunities for our CityU distinguished researchers using comparative methodologies to actively working either wholly or partly on Southeast Asia. It is of strategic importance globally, not just to Hong Kong alone.

Located between China and India, Southeast Asia is home to 620 million people. Southeast Asia is near to Hong Kong, but far from the minds of too many Hong Kongers. Hong Kong has particularly close trading ties to Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia and Myanmar. Not to mention, Hong Kong businesses have major investments in a number of Southeast Asia countries (it is the fifth largest destination for outward investment from Hong Kong). There is a long tradition of Hong Kong's engagement with the region and it is now emerging as a gateway to Southeast Asia's free trade area under fervent negotiation reaching an agreement soon. Financial Secretary John Tsang told SCMP earlier in January that Hong Kong is likely to reach a free trade agreement with ASEAN by the end of this year. This will hold for foreign investment (much of it channeled through Hong Kong) now outpacing investment into China, production activities, and various forms of trade in the Pearl River Delta. Consequently, Southeast Asia becomes an increasingly important polity and economy in the region and an increasingly influential competitor and trading partner with China. In particular, Southeast Asia is a favourite tourist destination for Hong Kongers, and its culinary culture is widely appreciated and popular here. Hong Kong's geographical proximity also means it shares extreme climatic events with the region, particularly typhoons. There is much migration between Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. Many prominent Southeast Asian families and businesses have close ties to Hong Kong, often as Hong Kong residents. Hundreds of thousands of Southeast Asians work in Hong Kong, primarily as domestic helpers but there are also tens of thousands of professionals from the region in the Special Administrative Region. **Knowledge of contemporary Southeast Asia is thus essential and of significant importance to economic, societal and community matters in Hong Kong. People in Hong Kong and Hong Kong-based organizations increasingly need to be knowledgeable about**

developments in Southeast Asia. This is the practical reason for promoting more research on Southeast Asia. The way in which Southeast Asia and China engage economically will impact significantly the fortunes of Hong Kong, making it essential that changing dynamics be fully understood. SEARC’s objective is to enhance the learning experience of the CityU community and the wider public about Southeast Asia to the benefit of Hong Kong.

4. Research activities and achievements

4.1 Research Grants *(To be extracted from IRIS by RO)*

4.2 Research Outputs *(To be extracted from SciVal by RO)*

4.3 Research Impact

(Please complete Appendix I, a sample is attached for reference)

4.4 Conferences/ seminars organized during the period from July 2015 to June 2016

SEARC held ten research seminars, one documentary filming, one talk by a BBC reporter and one AIS-SEARC Eminent Scholar Seminar, one workshop and sponsored two international conferences during the reporting period.

Ten research seminars:

Date:	31 August 2015 (Mon)
Title:	<u>Democracy and Development in Southeast Asia: China’s Long Shadow</u>
Speaker:	Prof Benjamin REILLY (Dean, Sir Walter Murdoch School, Murdoch University)
Details:	Prof REILLY is a specialist on democratization and political development, he spoke on the long shadow that China is casting over Southeast Asia in regards to the development of democracy throughout the region. This development, according to Prof Reilly, has more to do with international influence and geography as well as a country’s proximity and historical relationship to China rather than that locale’s educational levels, literacy, maternal health and other public goods. This seminar was remarkably well-attended by mainland students.

Date:	7 Sep 2015 (Mon)
Title:	<u>Forgery and Formalism in Early Capitalist Bangkok</u>
Speaker:	Dr Samson LIM (Assistant Professor, The Singapore University of Technology and Design)
Details:	Dr LIM discussed the role of photography in shaping the nature and function of the bureaucracy in Siam/Thailand during the early twentieth century. It does so through a study of the counterfeit crisis that plagued the Siamese government after the introduction of paper money in 1902. He shows how the Thai state adopted a strategy to protect its nascent capitalist economy that relied heavily on new technologies of representation, particularly photography, to make the design of money increasingly complex and thus theoretically more difficult to forge. As a result, economic value became tied to appearances, so verifying authenticity of which became a key task of successive governments. The result has been the emergence of a technologically enabled formalism in administration, a feature common in different degrees to most modern bureaucratic and capitalist societies.

Date:	14 Sep 2015 (Mon)
Title:	<u>The sociocultural effects of returnee overseas Filipino workers in the Philippines</u>
Speaker:	Dr Xiaojiang YU (Academic Associate, Department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University)
Details:	Dr YU spoke on the sociocultural effects of returnee overseas Filipino works in the Philippines on the returnees' original communities, and the various reintegration challenges posed by those communities using the concepts of transnationalism and habitus. Using field research and a village community approach, the study revealed that there were significant changes in the personal identities and impacts on the social behavior of returnees.

Date:	19 Oct 2015 (Mon)
Title:	<u>Thailand's 2015 draft charter: Abusive constitution-making by an authoritarian regime</u>
Speaker:	Dr Michael H. NELSON (Senior research fellow, German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University)
Details:	Dr Nelson reported that the Thai draft constitution was rejected by the National

Reform Council as well as by the public. Controversial items included the possibility of having a non-MP as prime minister, the switch from a mixed-member majoritarian to a mixed-member proportional election system, the almost entirely appointed Senate, and the great hurdles for amendments. Most controversially, the draft established an appointed strategic reform committee with comprehensive policy-making tasks, including the power to impose its decisions on the elected government. In times of crisis, this committee could have unilaterally decided to replace government and Parliament.

Date:	2 Nov 2015 (Mon)
Title:	<u>Managing religious diversity in South East Asia: How insult laws backfire</u>
Speaker:	Dr Cherian GEORGE (Associate Professor, Department of Journalism, Hong Kong Baptist University)
Details:	Dr GEORGE spoke on the “unintended consequences” of insult laws, which intended to keep peaceful relations among different communities by sacrificing free speech. However, Dr George challenged the view that the law should step in when religious feelings have been “offended.” Making specific reference to the experiences of Indonesia and Singapore, he argued that the criminalization of religious offence, through anti-blasphemy and other laws, has been used by political actors against their opponents, often at the expense of religious minorities or other marginalized groups.

Date:	18 Jan 2016 (Mon)
Title:	<u>MYANMAR AFTER THE 2015 ELECTIONS: FROM “PROTRACTED TRANSITION” TO “DEMOCRATIZATION BY ELECTIONS”?</u>
Speaker:	Dr Marco BUENTE (Associate Professor, Politics and International Relations; School of Arts and Social Sciences; Monash University, Malaysia Campus)
Details:	The seminar discussed the democratizing impact of the November 2015 elections, the reasons for the NLD's victory and the challenges that lie ahead. Additionally, the seminar discussed the role of the military, its main interests in the current transition and the prospects for a successful democratic transition in the future.

Date:	1 Feb 2016 (Mon)
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Title:	<u>The dark side of electoralism: The May 9, 2016 elections in the Philippines</u>
Speaker:	Mr Ronald D. HOLMES (Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, De La Salle University, Manila)
Detail:	Mr HOLMES, who is also president of the highly respected opinion survey organization “Pulse Asia”, explored the negative and often hidden aspect of the 15th presidential elections in the Philippines. Even though the Philippines has had the longest experience in elections in Asia, this forthcoming exercise is not expected to depart from prior elections with the vertical accountability mechanism remaining a blunt instrument. The transition out of hard-authoritarian rule is initiated and managed by the incumbent regime. However, due to the dominant position of the incumbent regime throughout the transition process, the transition fails to attain the institutional qualities of liberal democracy.

Date:	22 Feb 2016 (Mon)
Title:	<u>Can the Middle East Learn from Southeast Asia? A Comparative Analysis of Political Transitions in Volatile Regions</u>
Speaker:	Dr Teresita Cruz-del ROSARIO (Senior Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore)
Details:	Dr ROSARIO gave a comparative analysis of political transitions in the Middle East and discussed three salient factors: 1) a civil society infrastructure (or lack thereof); 2) military-civil society-business sector coalitions; and 3) management of inter-ethnic relations. She then suggested areas for the Middle East to learn from Southeast Asia.

Date:	22 Mar 2016 (Tue)
Title:	<u>Spreading the Buddha’s Teachings Today: Thailand’s International Meditation Centers as Sites of Missionization</u>
Speaker:	Dr Brooke SCHEDNECK (Lecturer, Buddhist Studies, Institute of Southeast Asian Affairs, Chiang Mai University)
Details:	Dr SCHEDNECK looked at the convergences of Buddhism abroad and Buddhism in Thailand. She told us that missionization continues to be a dynamic force shaping modern Thai Buddhism. She noted that modern Buddhist missionaries have now become teachers of meditation.

Date:	8 Apr 2016 (Fri)
Title:	Challenging The Singapore Consensus
Speaker:	Mr Donald LOW 刘浩典 Associate Dean (Research and Executive Education), & Associate Professor (Practice), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of
Details:	Mr LOW concluded that a far-reaching and radical rethinking of the country's policies and institutions is necessary, even if it weakens the very consensus that enabled Singapore to succeed in its first fifty years.

One talk by a BBC reporter:

Date:	5 Oct 2015 (Fri)
Title:	Filming BBC's Wild Burma: Enter One of Asia's Least Explored Wilderness
Speaker:	Mr Mark ROBERTS BBC reporter
Details:	In this multimedia seminar, sound recordist/natural history documentary-maker, Mr ROBERTS reported on his experiences while on an expedition of wildlife film-maker and scientist into Myanmar's forest regions to capture the country's varied species. A documentary was made and was also used as a report to the national government.

One documentary film:

Date:	17 Nov 2015 (Tue)
Title:	DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: EMAK DARI JAMBI (MOTHER FROM JAMBI)
Details:	A Project Change documentary funded by the Ford Foundation, "Emak dari Jambi" (literally "Mother from Jambi") is a documentary about Anggun Pradesha's personal experience of being a waria (a male-to-female transgendered person) in Indonesia. This documentary also offers us Kurtini's (Anggun's mother) views on her child's sexual orientation and transgenderism in general. This story about family acceptance and unconditional love challenges Indonesian society to offer a greater social acceptance of LGBT people. Co-directors Rikky M. Fajar and Anggun Pradesha both attended the screening from Indonesia to our centre and shared with the audience their fascinating insights into human relationship. The director and actors discussed the film with those attending, with Dr Nan CHOI chairing a fruitful, lively and interactive discussion after the screening.

One AIS-SEARC Eminent Scholar Seminar supported by VP(RT):

Date:	7 Mar 2016 (Mon)
Title:	<u>What makes Democracy Work? (and why Hong Kong is not Working)</u>
Speaker:	Prof Jack A. GOLDSTONE (Director, Institute of Public Policy, Elman Family Professor of Public Policy, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)
Details:	Prof GOLDSTONE suggested ways for Hong Kong to move toward stability after looking at the polarizing factors in Hong Kong. He suggested that the Hong Kong government should work on reducing polarization, cooperating on important issues for growth and equality as well as reducing pollution, improving public transport and promoting social inclusion.

One workshop:

Date:	8 Apr 2016 (Fri)
Title:	<u>Workshop on 'The 'Singapore Model' and Its Influence on China</u>
Details:	This workshop brought together Chinese, Singaporean and other international scholars who work on the Chinese interest in the "Singapore model." During the workshop, they systematically studied how the "Singapore model" has been codified and taught, and exactly what lessons China has sought to learn.

One co-sponsored conference held in Thailand:

Date:	17-21 December 2015 (Thur-Mon)
Title:	<u>Communication/Culture and The Sustainable Development Goals (CCSDG): Challenges for a New Generation</u>
Details:	The conference was hosted by the Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD) at Chiang Mai University in partnership with the Asian Congress of Mass Communication (ACMC), BGreen Project, Connect4Climate/World Bank, RMIT Melbourne, Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC) at City University of Hong Kong, and Wageningen University. This conference assessed the role and importance of Communication and Culture in the new Sustainable Development Goals, especially for the ASEAN region. Prof Jan Servaes, SEARC board member, developed a research/academic agenda for the international conference on "Communication/Culture and The Sustainable Development Goals (CCSDG): Challenges for a New Generation."

One conference co-hosted with AIS:

Date:	25-27 June 2016 (Sat-Mon)
Title:	<u>2016 International Studies Association (ISA) Asia-Pacific Conference</u>
Details:	Organised by AIS in cooperation with the Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC), over 400 scholars from around the world took part in the three days of intensive and vibrant discussions, which made it the biggest regional ISA conference ever held and one of the largest recently hosted one by CityU. The opening plenary addressed was delivered by Prof T V Paul, the ISA President, who noted that the conference topic of rising powers was as directly relevant to Asia as it was to the rest of the world. An understanding of Asia's place in world affairs has never been more critical at the present. In order to extend links to scholars and institutions whose concerns resonate with those of our Centre, SEARC sponsored ten early career scholars from Southeast Asia working on the region at the ISA Conference to promote research on the region and in return, these scholars contributed working papers to us.

4.5 Publicity (e.g. Centre prospectus, newsletter and updated web page)

Website, Video, Facebook, Seminar Videos, SEARC news, Event calendar, Working Papers

The Centre maintains an active and comprehensive website <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/> which is updated regularly. It is a user-friendly portal to access the Centre's research and expertise on Southeast Asia. Recently, we have made an effort to film a video clip to introducing our centre vividly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIYz0XxAcq0> as online video is rising in popularity, especially videos on YouTube. With SEARC Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Searc.CityU>, we provide up-to-date educational news about Southeast Asia. Since its launch, SEARC Facebook has reached more than 1,500 "Likes." SEARC seminars are recorded and posted on SEARC website which also helped to document SEARC activities and make them available to the wider public and academic community. An example of such a research seminar video is <https://youtu.be/AkokzXuFJqk>. In order to keep the public informed of SEARC events and news, there is a section on the Centre's website for upcoming events and for news related to SEARC in which we post media appearances of SEARC board members, calls for papers, as well as news that is of interest to academia as well as to those who are interested in knowing more about Southeast Asia http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/Events_News.aspx. A SEARC Event Calendar is also available online to show a list of Centre's planned events. We distribute SEARC pamphlets to our seminar participants so as to offer a brief introduction about our Centre and we make SEARC working papers available in hardcopy so audience can read in more detail. The SEARC Working Paper Series, with a total of nearly 200 working papers submitted by scholars from across the region, are free and downloadable http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/Publications_SEARCWorkingPapers.aspx as PDFs which has proved remarkably successful and remains a major source of cutting edge information about Southeast Asia and raises the Centre's profile worldwide.

Some overseas universities contacted us for approval of including in their collections. They also contributed to the revitalization of both in mutually reinforcing ways.

SEARC Weekly Announcements

SEARC works to enhance the learning experience of research students by our weekly e-announcements. These include upcoming events and news of our Centre and educational news in the Southeast Asia. Job openings in tertiary institutions with Southeast Asia centres in the region and funding opportunities relating to each of the countries in Southeast Asia are also covered. Information in the Announcements are also posted on Facebook.

SEARC Mailing List

SEARC maintains a mailing list which includes all board members, research affiliates, visiting researchers, AIS post-graduate students and friends who signed up for the list. We keep them posted of our news.

5. Future plans and long-term strategic development strategy

(Please include plans to generate income for sustaining 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)

SEARC will continue to focus on three main areas:

- increased grant acquisition (with a special emphasis on policy-oriented external funding) and top quality research output (with particular emphasis on publication in high ranking journals according to SSCI/SCImago and top ranked university presses);
- hosting topflight internationally recognized academics to give seminars, attend workshops and major international conferences;
- collaborate with other leading Southeast Asia centres and related centres such as the Global China Centre in CLASS as well a major international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Asian Borderland and Research Network (ABRN)

In addition to seeking funding for short-term and start-up research projects, we propose to undertake a full range of activities that are associated with high-quality research centre.

Over the past year SEARC has worked closely with the Development Office (DO) of CityU to draw up a proposal for approaching potential funders to contribute to SEARC based on its contacts, networks and robust connections in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. DO commented that “in view of the limited resources allocated to research and the increasing importance in the understanding of Southeast Asia countries to Hong Kong and China, it is important to carry out further out-reach programmes to facilitate knowledge transfer within the community”. Follow-up meetings are scheduled with DO to formulate a more concrete plan for action. But fundraising remains a challenging enterprise as SEARC has been a largely academically-oriented research centre with this only having been emphasized over the past three years. Efforts are made in the process of drawing up a PPR grant concerning the ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Negotiations between the ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Hong Kong to approach major players in this process in Hong Kong, both in the government itself and in the private section. Should this grant proposal be successful it would be an opportunity to work closely with these stakeholders, demonstrating SEARC’s competence in this area and providing an opportunity for future cooperation and possible donations.

Another promising field for potential donations is the diverse cultures of the region. Promoting cultural events and discussions of culture have the potential to attract interested donors to support further projects. The cooperation between SEARC and the Asia Society is very relevant. SEARC and the Asia Society have organized several joint events over the past several years and discussions about future events are currently ongoing. Though such collaboration SEARC has a promising opportunity to make contacts with potential donors in the cultural field. A final example in the area of cultural collaboration is the contact made between SEARC director Prof THOMPSON and associate director Dr PATTON with Nelly and Kenneth Fung who are prominent supporters of cultural affairs in Hong Kong and with Nelly Fung being a well-known writer of books relating to the Philippines and Hong Kong. Nelly Fung is the daughter of the late Philippine ambassador Marcial Lichauco who has been very supportive of SEARC. Through this connection, which has involved inviting Nelly Fung to past SEARC events to present some of her writings, the SEARC leadership will have the opportunity to meet other promoters of culture in Hong Kong with the aim to establish projects they may wish to support financially. One possible plan to generate income to sustain centre activities include fund-raising banquets which we will invite celebrities in Hong Kong with Southeast Asian ties to join and we will be introducing SEARC to them and to explore the possibility of quest for support to SEARC financially or any other means. We are also thinking of organizing cultural exchanges events with Southeast Asians in Hong Kong in 2016-17. On 18 to 23 April 2013, SEARC hosted a major Southeast Cultural Festival which was attended by all ten Consul Generals of ASEAN and which brought together major organizations of culture-oriented organization of Southeast Asians in Hong Kong whose members did several very well received events concerning food culture, dance, theatre, film and writer’s forum. Although this was only possible due to a special funding being made available to SEARC at the time to promote internationalization, the centre hopes to hold a second such festival in the near future should

funding be made available again. In the meantime, SEARC continues to work closely with Southeast Asian organizations in Hong Kong, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which SEARC has organized joint events in late 2013 that involved a financing model with SEARC made a venue available and provided administrative support while IOM brought in leading speakers from around the world. This co-sponsoring event along with others, like that with other universities (such as a workshop on religious minorities with Cornell University and Northern Illinois in 2015) and with Asian Borderland and Research Network (ABRN) in late 2014 have proved an auspicious future financial model.

It is part of SEARC's mission to promote the understanding of Southeast Asia through close collaboration with shareholders concerned with the region in Hong Kong. It is also a possibility to discover potential areas of collaboration that can involve joint funding in the future. With financial support, we will be able to launch various high-quality programmes which will continue to enhance the interaction between the local community and Southeast Asian countries and revitalize Hong Kong as a gateway to China with unlimited business potentials, being right on its doorstep.

At the time of writing, we are thinking of organizing programmes in Southeast Asian Studies and Southeast Asian languages courses which charge a fee can generate a substantial incomes for sustaining the centre. SEARC has scholars who are native speakers or fluent speakers of Southeast Asian languages like SEARC director Prof THOMPSON who is well-versed in Tagalog, Dr Federico FERRARA who speaks Thai, and Prof William Case who speaks Bahasa Malayu. Dr Thomas PATTON, SEARC associate director, who is an expert in Myanmar and Buddhism can also organize courses related to cultural contexts, issues of gender and politics with his expertise.

SEARC's emphasis in terms of research output will remain oriented towards publication in top-ranked journals and books in top-ranked presses. SEARC will continue to strive to foster a steady output of top quality research from an interdisciplinary perspective on Southeast Asia. SEARC members have been very active and successful in terms of external grant acquisition and core members have several successful GRF and ECS grant applications at this moment in time. Prof THOMPSON and Prof CASE is working on a joint GRF on "Democracy and its discontents in Southeast Asia"; Dr PATTON is working on an ECS grant about "Muslim Voices in Buddhist Myanmar: A comparative study of Indo and Sino-Burmese Islam". At the same time, Dr Sean STARRS is working on "Does Corporate Nationality still matter in the era of globalization? Investigating ownership and power in the twenty-first century" while Dr Bradley WILLIAMS is working on "Anatomy of a 'Friendly Spy': Japan and intra-alliance intelligence with the United States" in which both are ECS.

Working through the Academic Units of its respective members and research coordination at

the College level, SEARC lays an important role in encouraging research related to Southeast Asia to be published in top journals and books for an international audience. For example, several recent SEARC seminars were given by core members who, thanks in part to the feedback they received, later published their presentations in leading journals (such as an article in *Pacific Review* 2014 published by Dr Stephan ORTMANN and SEARC director) and books (such as the recent single-authored book *The Political Development of Modern Thailand* by Dr Federico FERRARA published in 2015 by Cambridge University Press).

By bringing top flight international academics to CityU, SEARC also helps expose its members to innovative and cutting-edge significance in Southeast Asian Studies and related disciplines. Workshops further encourage substantial international research collaboration and have led to high quality outputs (for example the papers presented at a recent SEARC workshop on the Asian developmental state, has just been accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press in a volume co-edited by SEARC member Dr Toby CARROLL).

SEARC has been hosting on average 12 research seminars each academic year since 2011 and will be continued in the foreseeable future. This allows SEARC to bring in some of the most influential scholars on Southeast Asia to discuss their work with SEARC board members and the CityU community. Though the status of SEARC affiliates, SEARC has reached out to a number of prominent academics at other Hong Kong university, prominent journalists, influential business people and politicians, and leading civil society activists. It will invite, through its extensive network worldwide, influential speakers from around the world who are doing state-of-the-art research on Southeast Asia in the fields of Politics, Political Economy, Public Policy, Sociology, International Relations, Urban Studies, Anthropology, Economics, Business, Management, Energy and Environment, Information Technology, Languages and Law.

Networking and collaboration

SEARC will continue to enhance its network with its aim to cement its status as a hub of Southeast Asian studies (not in but near to Southeast Asia). SEARC is also currently negotiating MoUs with other leading institutions with major Southeast Asian studies programmes such as the University of California, Berkeley and Michigan University. SEARC also will continue to strengthen its ties with major Southeast Asian centres in Mainland China, particularly at Xiamen University, Sun Yat Sen University and the University of Beijing.

A major part of SEARC networking and collaboration involves continued engagement with the community. Through AIS which has applied for a funding for a major East Asian Cultural Festival, SEARC hopes to work within this large East Asian framework to replicate some of the successes of its Southeast Asian Cultural Festival in 2013 which involved a major film festival which director and actors flew from the Philippines to attend. A writer's forum, a food festival, dance and drama events were attended by several thousand Hong Kong students and interested

members of the community. Such networking prove useful and practical to SEARC in financial terms for the foreseeable future.

SEARC will also continue to engage in knowledge transfer with SEARC members continuing to participate in a range of academic conferences and write for or appear in major media outlets such as *Reuters*, the *Financial Times*, the *Guardian*, *New York Times*, *South China*

Morning Post, *Asia Sentinel*, and www.jrj.com (a leading provider of financial data and information in China, and a major Chinese finance portal). This enables broadening and deepening the knowledge staff, students and the community have of the region.

The implementation of CityU's Strategic Plan (2015-2020) offers vast opportunities for SEARC. With interdisciplinary and team-based research to address global issues as one of the key strategies and the dynamism of the Asian region foreground, SEARC is well placed to contribute to CityU.

Staff and students of CityU have an unparalleled range and breadth of opportunities to learn about Southeast Asia through SEARC. These opportunities, many of which are interdisciplinary in nature are the channel to stronger research relationships and more meaningful engagement with other institutions.

To end this, SEARC is a vibrant research centre that adds value to our teaching and research and allows CityU to justly claim this as a unique achievement.

Appendix I - Research Impact (from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2016)

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
General	- Prestigious research awards and prizes	✓	<p>Prof THOMPSON has received a GRF together with Prof William CASE for “Democracy and its Discontents in Southeast Asia.” He is also currently working with Dr Stephan ORTMANN on a project about China and the “Singapore Model.” Together they explore the issue of whether Singapore’s state-heavy growth model can be sustained in the long term and exactly what lessons China has sought to learn.</p> <p>Dr Thomas PATTON's ECS on “Muslim Voices in Buddhist Myanmar: A Comparative Study of Indo and Sino-Burmese” aims to investigate the construction of Muslim identity in Myanmar where the country is witnessing a marked rise in instances of religious intolerance.</p> <p>Dr Federico FERRARA's GRF on "The Rise and Decline of Thailand's Royalist Order: A Study in the (De-)Legitimation of Power" focuses on explaining the rise, the longevity, and the decline of Thailand’s royalist political order..</p> <p>Dr. Sean Starrs' ECS on "Does Corporate Nationality Still Matter in the Era of Globalization? Investigating Ownership and Power in the Twenty- First Century" maps the global distribution of corporate ownership and power in the twenty-first century.</p> <p>Dr. Yuk Wah Chan received a grant for Foundation for International Scholarly (CCKF) for a “Workshop on ‘Asian Migration and Diasporas: Mobility, Diversity and Development’ – Expert Meeting and Book Series Launch” has had impact in terms of public understanding, policy practice in relation to the Asian diaspora. Specifically it has enabled the transformation of public understanding of emigration history in Asia.</p>

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
Public policy and professional services	- Documented evidence of policy debate (e.g. media, materials produced by NGOs).	✓	<p>Prof THOMPSON is well-known for his expertise on Southeast Asian politics, with particular interest in the Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia. He has regularly appeared in international media, like the <i>New York Times</i>, <i>Washington Post</i>, <i>South China Morning Post</i>, <i>the Diplomat</i>, <i>East Asia Forum</i>, and also the leading Philippines news blog “<i>Rappler</i>”, etc., as a commentator on Southeast Asian politics. He has also been interviewed about the region’s politics on major television stations such as CNBC.</p> <p>Former SEARC director, Prof CASE has published extensively on democratic change and authoritarian durability in Southeast Asia. He is the chief editor of the “Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Democratization.” He also comments regularly on Malaysian and Southeast Asian politics on television, radio and in newspaper interviews.</p> <p>Dr Sean STARRS has often been interviewed about his research on political economy by both local and international media.</p> <p>Dr Johnathan LONDON, who is one of the world’s leading commentator on Vietnamese current affairs, appears regularly on different international media expressing his views on various important Vietnam issues.</p> <p>Dr Bradley WILLIAMS was invited by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to participate in a series of discussions on Japanese foreign and security policy with government officials, mass media representatives and academics from 9-16 December 2014 in Tokyo.</p> <p>Dr Yuk Wah CHAN gave a talk on "Handling human trafficking – experiences from Hong Kong and beyond" at the workshop "Counter Trafficking Training Course-Protection of Victims of Trafficking", organized by Macau SAR government and International Organization for Migration on 28-29 October 2014. Dr CHAN and Ms Gloria KO, Former Head of the HK Office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), edited a Post-Symposium Report, an outcome of the 2014 'Symposium on Labour Migration and Migratory Experiences in Asia'. Apparently, Dr CHAN’s expertise is well-recognized in civic engagement.</p>

Appendix I - Research Impact (from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2016)

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
Health and welfare	- Documented changes to guidelines.		Dr Nicholas THOMAS has been working on a GRF project “Asian Diseases in International Affairs” with Dr Catherine LO that investigates policy responses in the national, regional, and international levels in times of disease outbreak, including HIV/AIDS, SARS, H5N1, and H1N1, in five Asian countries.
	- Measures of improved well-being, patient outcomes, public health or health services.		Dr Johnathan LONDON received a major GRF on Hospital Autonomy in Vietnam” which investigates the impacts of hospital autonomization in Vietnam employing a “decision-space” framework that examines how hospitals have used their increased discretion and to what effect. The analysis generates key insights into early stages of hospital autonomization in Vietnam and contributes to literature on autonomization in Vietnam.

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
Society, culture and creativity	- Critical reviews in media, and/or other professional publications.	✓	<p>SEARC has been engaging in knowledge transfer with SEARC members continuing to participate in a range of international academic conferences and write for or appear in major printed and online media outlets such as <i>Reuters</i>, the <i>Financial Times</i>, <i>Japan Time</i>, the <i>Guardian</i>, <i>New York Times</i>, <i>Washington Post</i>, <i>SouthChina Morning Post</i>, <i>Asia Sentinel</i>, <i>East Asia Forum</i>, news blog <i>Rappler Diplomat Online</i>, <i>Los Angeles Time</i> and www.jtj.com (a leading provider of financial data and information in China, and a major Chinese finance portal). A diversity of coverage including the handover of power in Myanmar, the Philippines, democracy, gender, religions, etc. This enable broadening, expanding and deepening the knowledge staff, students and the community have of the region and its current and historical developments.</p> <p><u>Professional publications</u></p> <p>SEARC members' publications are in high ranking journals according to SSCI/SCImago, top ranked university and major commercial presses. An example is a recent article written by Prof THOMPSON and Dr ORTMANN in the <i>Journal of Democracy</i>. They also published another article on a similar topic in a top SSCI journal <i>Pacific Review</i> in 2014. In 2015 Prof THOMPSON published an article in the <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i>, widely considered as the leading journal in the field of Asian Studies. Dr. Federico Ferrara's book entitled <u>The Political Development of Modern Thailand</u> is published by Cambridge University Press, the very finest in scholarly publisher. This book traces the roots of the crisis to unresolved struggles regarding the content of Thailand's national identity, dating back to the abolition of absolute monarchy in 1932.</p>

Appendix I - Research Impact (from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2016)

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
Other	<p>- Please specify</p> <p>Internationalization</p> <p>Cultural exchanges</p> <p>Academic exchanges</p> <p>Cross-Institutional Collaboration</p>	✓	<p>The Southeast Asia Cultural Festival, held on 18-21 April 2013, spotlighted cultural activities from the diverse and fascinating societies in this region. It featured a writer's forum, a cinema series, culinary delicacies, information booths and cultural performances such as drama, street theatre, traditional dances and various musical forms. This festival was done in cooperation and collaboration with ALL Southeast Asian Consulates in Hong Kong which was the largest celebration of Southeast Asian cultures ever held at a Hong Kong university. The consuls-general of Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam in Hong Kong officiated at the opening ceremony together with Prof Way KUO, University President, Prof Martin PAINTER, Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and SEARC director, Prof THOMPSON.</p> <p>SEARC has been expanding its networking by means of signing MoUs with institutions globally. Framework agreements were signed with the Southeast Asia Program (SEAP), Cornell University and Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Northern Illinois University (NIU). They will establish long-term collaboration for joint research projects and academic exchange activities with SEARC. Without mentioning, they are the most important centres for Southeast Asian Studies in the US. MoUs with other famous regional centres specializing in Southeast Asian Studies are also established over the past few years to promote academic exchanges within and about Southeast Asia.</p> <p>All SEARC members achieve academic excellence through participating actively in international conferences, giving invited lectures and producing research output of top quality as well as building networks with scholars all around the world. SEARC director has frequently invited to give lectures and keynote addresses. He has given invited seminars in China, Korea, Japan, Australia, Europe and in the US. These all showcase the research excellence of the CityU Southeast Asian research community.</p>