

# CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

## Progress Report for Research Centres (2016 - 2017)

### 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)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
<b>Centre Director:</b>	
Prof THOMPSON Mark Richard	AIS
<b>Core Members:</b>	
Dr PATTON Thomas	AIS
Dr CARROLL Toby James	AIS
Dr CHAN Yuk Wah	AIS
Dr TROEUNG Y-Dang	EN
Dr FERRARA Federico	AIS
Dr STARRS Sean Kenji	AIS
<b>Other Members:</b>	
Prof CHAN Johnny C.L.	SEE
Dr CHANDRA Yanto	POL
Dr CHIA Stella	COM
Prof CUCKER Felipe	MA
Dr LA GRANGE Adrienne	EN
Prof LIM C.W.	ACE
Dr LOCKWOOD Jane	POL
Dr MONDEJAR Reuben	MGT
Dr NUTANONG Sarana	CS
Dr ONG Rebecca	SLW
Dr ORTMANN Stephan	AIS
Dr PASCOE Daniel	SLW
Dr ROBERTSON Justin	AIS
Dr TAYLOR Bill	POL
Dr THOMAS Nicholas	AIS
Dr WILLIAMS Bradley	AIS
Prof YIP Ngai Ming	POL
Dr YUE Wei Thoo	CB

### 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 include:

1. Prof Mark BEESON (Professor, The University of Western Australia, Australia)
2. Prof Donald K EMMERSON (Director, Southeast Asia Program, Stanford University, USA)
3. Prof Hans-Dieter EVERS (Professor emeritus of Development Planning, University of Bielefeld; Visiting Professor, Institute of Malaysian and International Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (2016-17))
4. Prof Vedi HADIZ (Professor of Asian Studies, The University of Melbourne)
5. Prof Kevin HEWISON (Visiting Research Scholar, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University)
6. Prof Paul HUTCHCROFT (Professor, Department of Political & Social Change, Australian National University)
7. Dr 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, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)
10. Prof Garry RODAN (Professor of Politics and International Studies and Director, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University, Australia)
11. Prof Robert H. TAYLOR (former Visiting Professor, Department of Asian and International Studies, CityU; now visiting senior fellow at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore)
12. Prof Zhao LEI (Professor, International Strategy Research, Central Communist Party School)

Most recently we had the honour of inviting Prof Zhao LEI (Professor, Institute of International Strategic Studies of Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC)) to be on our International Advisory Committee. He is an initiator and a chief expert of the “One Belt One Road 100 Forum”. He was our speaker for a full house lecture on [“One-Belt-One-Road: Opportunities for HK and for the development of Southeast Asia”](#) held on 28 November 2016 that was co-organized with CityU’s Research Centre on One-Belt-One-Road, Sustainable Hong Kong Research Hub, and Global China Studies. For more details about this event, please see section 4.4 below.

## 2.3 Steering Committee and Management Committee

### 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; Chair Professor of Social Sciences)

Convener:

Prof Mark R. THOMPSON (Director, SEARC; Professor of Politics and Head, AIS)

Dr Thomas PATTON (Associate Director, SEARC; Assistant 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; Professor of Politics and Head, AIS)

Members:

Dr Thomas PATTON (Associate Director, SEARC; Assistant Professor, AIS)

Dr Bill TAYLOR (Associate Professor, POL)

Dr Y-Dang TROEUNG (Assistant Professor, EN)

With an aim to promote interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research, as well as knowledge transfer projects, in the studies of Southeast Asia we have been actively inviting research affiliates and associate members to join SEARC. Research Affiliates are academics working on Southeast Asia related research topics at other Hong Kong universities or those previous board members/affiliates members of SEARC who have now moved to universities outside of Hong Kong. This reporting year we invited seven more new research affiliates to join us. [Dr Maria FRANCESCH-HUIDOBRO](#) works as a consultant for a Regional Project on Energy Security and Climate Change Asia-Pacific at Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. [Dr Lucy Jordan PORTER](#), Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, HKU, works on the intersection of social policy and population studies with a focus on addressing social protection needs and vulnerabilities of families and youth in Southeast Asia joined us in March this year. In addition, three scholars from the Chinese University of Hong Kong joined us: [Prof Bit Chee KWOK](#) from the Department of Chinese Language and Literature; [Dr Michael H. LEE](#) from the Department of History and [Prof Chi Cheung CHOI](#) from the Department of History. A former CUHK scholar, [Dr Amy BARROW](#), now Associate Lecturer/Teaching Fellow, School of Law, University of Manchester who works on women's human rights,

gender-based violence, laws and policies joined us late last year. An independent scholar, Dr Roger HUANG, joined us after he completed his studies at Department of Asian and International Studies (AIS). We also have the pleasure of inviting [Dr Oi Yan LIU](#), Assistant Professor from the Department of History at HKBU, to join us. She has a research focus on overseas Chinese communities in Southeast Asia.

In order to widen SEARC's membership even further, we have been continuing to invite associate members to us. They are prominent members of the community (journalists, NGO activists, leaders in civil society, business people and politicians) who are interested in Southeast Asia and are supportive of SEARC. We are pleased to have [Mr Jason WORDIE](#) join us as our associate member. Mr WORDIE is an established local historian and writer with a research focus on Southeast Asia. Besides conducting historical walks in Hong Kong for Hong Kong residents, he also lectures regularly for clubs, associations and leading corporate bodies on many aspects of Hong Kong and its wider regional context. He has written extensively on Hong Kong, Macao and the surrounding region and he has a regular column in the South China Morning Post (SCMP).

All our newly joined members of SEARC help to energize the Centre and create a foundation of support for SEARC among the local community.

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

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

The Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC) **is the *only* research Centre focused on Southeast Asia in Hong Kong.**

The mission of the Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC) is to maintain its international reputation as a Centre of excellence in academic and applied studies of contemporary Southeast Asia. SEARC aspires to become a leading global Centre for the studies of Southeast Asia with excellence in research and knowledge transfer. We aim to promote the interest and learning in the studies of Southeast Asia with the dedication, innovation and contribution of our core members.

A new part of SEARC's mission is **to serve as the Hong Kong representative in the Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA)** scheduled to be launched this autumn. **Joining SEASIA, is an international initiative and an important initiative, for the networking of Southeast Asian Centres in Asia, helps to encourage greater research collaboration as well as to strengthen the standing of Southeast Asian studies in the Asian region.**

**We endeavor this collaboration will raise the profile of both our Centre as well as our University.** It is the culmination of SEARC members having reached out to their colleagues in

Southeast Asia, Australia, Britain, Canada, China, German, 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 with the nucleus of such a spot in the consortium could be secured in a short period of time since this networking initiative has been systematically pursued.

By joining SEASIA, SEARC will collaborate with other Centres in the development of synergistic, inter- and multi-disciplinary research in regards to the goals and endeavors that are pursued by us all who are keen to promote Southeast Asia studies. In joint juncture, we **will assist scholars living and researching within or close to the region to join together for regular meetings.** With our strong track record, together with SEASIA's common endeavor of enriching knowledge of Southeast Asia and of sharing this knowledge with the world. In joint effort, **we will foster both regional and global efforts to networking with Centres of similar missions, goals and objectives.** SEARC has already served as an excellent platform for academics in Hong Kong for the studies of Southeast Asia. **SEARC can assist in developing inter-university platforms for promoting international and regional research cooperation, publication and knowledge transfer.** In collaboration, SEARC and SEASIA will work together to act as a common platform for promising and established scholars to demonstrate their latest research on area studies. With SEARC's extensive network and profound knowledge in the studies of Southeast Asia, we have proactively formed strategic partnership with a number of prestige research institutions and universities overseas, such as: Southeast Asia Program at Cornell University (SEAP); Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) at Northern Illinois University and Asia Research Centre (ARC) at Murdoch University. We already have MoUs with these leading centres for the study of this region. SEARC pursues research activities within the University and through external alliances that enhance high quality theoretical and applied research consistent with the mission and objectives of our Centre as well as of our University and these also echoes that of the SEASIA.

With the aim to promote education, research, and intellectual exchange on the politics, economies and cultures of Southeast Asia both historical and contemporary, SEARC supports learning on the region by coordinating seminar series, lectures, workshops, conferences, cultural events, film screenings and educational activities open to faculty, students, and the general public. We organize such events by inviting scholars, experts, and leaders to share their ideas, findings, and opinions on contemporary issues. These interactions provide staff, students and the general public with opportunities to exchange ideas with specialists on Southeast Asia studies. **We aspire to be a leading research Centre and think-tank dedicated to the study of socio-political, security, and economic trends and developments in Southeast Asia and its wider geostrategic and economic environment.**

We aim at a higher international ranking by means of the following objectives:

- To serve as a Centre for international, regional, and local scholars and other researchers to do research of the region and publish and publicize their findings so as to generate high-quality research publications
- To collaborate internationally with other institutions in order to conduct disciplinary-based and cross-disciplinary research in compelling academic debates in the social sciences with a wide range of events, from a regular seminar series and workshops, to one-off public lectures and conferences.
- To provide public with the knowledge and awareness necessary to understand the culture of Southeast Asia through social media, media outreach, media engagement and open events; and to enhance the interest in and understanding of Southeast Asia within the CityU and Hong Kong communities.
- To engage Hong Kong citizens, especially civil society organizations, through discussion forums, regular media engagement by core members to raise awareness and understanding of Southeast Asia at CityU and in the city as a whole.
- To develop an intellectual atmosphere in which studies of Southeast Asia is supported, valued and pursued by all faculty as well as to enhance public awareness of the region.
- To promote academic exchange and the further development of cooperative arrangements between Centres including an exchange of academic research personnel and administrative personnel; an exchange of students; scientific research collaboration and other issues of cooperation by signing MoUs with other leading Southeast Asia studies Centres. Our Centre is committed to build a wide-ranging network of research contacts among the other leading Centres for the studies of Southeast Asia.
- To foster exchanges and deepen collaboration among scholars and students of Southeast Asia based in the region and beyond. SEARC regularly hosts visiting fellows from the region and around the world.
- To stimulate greater general interest and understanding of the Southeast Asia region by drawing from SEARC's experts in social sciences and related disciplines, by promoting collaborative projects amongst scholars and experts and by building and developing research networks for scholars and institutions specialized in the region to research and debate within the scholarly circles.

SEARC has organized a number of international conferences which each attracted over a hundred of scholars from around the world to attend. Past conferences covered issues related to Asian Migration and the Global Asian Diasporas as well as the Asian Borderland. The Centre is constantly examining timely topics that warrant further studies and aim to use these

workshops, seminars, and conferences as a medium to facilitate the exchange of ideas between Hong Kong scholars and their international counterparts. We provided administrative and logistic support to ensure conferences, workshops and seminars to carry out smoothly.

Besides academic meetings, we also put a strong focus on cultural exchanges, we held a cultural festival with a variety of featured cultural events such as culinary delicacies, a cinema series, and a writers' forum. This unique event not only attracted students and faculty from CityU but also many people from the wider Hong Kong community. This was the largest celebration of Southeast Asian cultures ever held at a Hong Kong university. All ten Southeast Asian consulates were contacted about this event and most participated in various forms.

Our directors made significant contribution to an excelled leadership. They are knowledgeable in the organizational structure, strategic goals, mission, as well as operation of SEARC. Both of our directors are from the Department of Asian and International Studies (AIS) with our director being the Head of the Department. This affiliated department, AIS, has hosted a number of seminars and international conferences and organized a couple of exchange tours with students visiting different Asian cities under the supervision of our faculty members. SEARC has knowledge and expertise to support the organizing of such events.

**All of our activities enabled audience to rethink and reflect the state of Southeast Asian studies in Asia by providing them with a fresh perspective on how the studies of Southeast Asia is vital to their lives as Asian and global citizens.**

#### **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 2016 to June 2017

In this reporting period, we organized three significant events:

##### **East Asian Security Architecture – The Status of Multilateral Fora**

Recently, we hosted a workshop in cooperation the Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), and the East Asian Institute (EAI) of the National University of Singapore together with AIS to address the role of multilateral fora in Southeast and Northeast Asia, the future role of the US and lessons from the European experience in creating a regional security architecture: [http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/Resources/Event/2017-07-28\\_Poster.pdf](http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/Resources/Event/2017-07-28_Poster.pdf)

The background of such a workshop was to assess the security situation in East Asia which is becoming much more volatile: not only maritime and territorial disputes, but also growing tensions on the Korean Peninsula, terrorism, nationalism as well as non-traditional threats. Despite growing economic ties, mistrust has remained and due to shifts in the balance of power, in some ways it has even increased. This workshop, attended by leading scholars from Germany, Japan, Korea, and China as well as from other Southeast Asia countries, sought to develop fresh analytical perspectives on these issues.

##### **One-Belt-One-Road (OBOR): Opportunities for Hong Kong and for the development of Southeast Asia**

SEARC organized a lecture on “One-Belt-One-Road (OBOR): Opportunities for Hong Kong and for the development of Southeast Asia” on 28 November 2016. This lecture was co-organized with the Research Centre on One-Belt-One-Road, Sustainable Hong Kong Research Hub and Global China Studies. Our speaker, Prof ZHAO Lei from the Institute of International Strategy of Central Party School of the Communist Party of China, mentioned that Hong Kong is pivotally placed to contribute to OBOR initiative as China sees OBOR as a new era of cooperation that will bring benefits to all Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries; given the economic importance of the ASEAN to China and its geographical proximity, a key focus of the belt and road initiative is ASEAN’s burgeoning economies. This was a successful event with a full house. As English is our medium of instruction, simultaneously interpretation service was arranged from Putonghua to English so more of our CityU community could attend the talk. Recording was arranged and the video was uploaded on CityUVoD [http://www6.cityu.edu.hk/cityvod/video/play/RCSA/SEARC\\_20161128.aspx](http://www6.cityu.edu.hk/cityvod/video/play/RCSA/SEARC_20161128.aspx) to document our speaker’s visit and to make our Centre’s activity immediately available to a broader academic community.

##### **ISA Asia-Pacific Conference 2016, Hong Kong**

Organized by AIS in cooperation with us, over 400 scholars from around the world took part in the ISA Asia-Pacific Conference held in mid-2016. The intensive and vibrant discussions made the conference one of the biggest regional ISA conferences ever held and one of the largest conferences hosted by CityU. 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 at the Conference to promote research on the region and in return, they contributed working papers to us.

As for seminars, we organized seven seminars who were all well-attended with members both from CityU and other tertiary institutions joining us.

Title:	<a href="#">“Under the Boot: Military-Civil Relations in Thailand since the Coup”</a> This presentation addressed the questions of how successful has the Thailand military junta been in establishing mechanism to ensure their perseverance in power, the internal and external challenges to the junta and the future of Thai military rule or the beginning of demilitarization.
Speaker:	Dr Paul CHAMBER (Director of Research, Institute of Southeast Asian Affairs (ISEAA), Faculty of Law, Chiang Mai University, Thailand; Research Affiliate at both the German Institute of Global Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg, Germany, and as the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) in Frankfurt, Germany)
Date:	12 September 2016

Title:	<a href="#">“Operationalizing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in South East Asia”</a> This seminar analysed the operationalization of Security Council Resolution 1325 in South East Asia, focusing primarily on the Philippines, the first ASEAN member state to adopt a National Action Plan.
Speaker:	Prof Amy BARROW (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, CUHK)
Date:	17 October 2016

Title:	<a href="#">“Revolusi! Rebolusyon!: A Filipino Revisiting of Benedict Anderson's "The Languages of Indonesian Politics" (1966)”</a> This seminar reflected upon the different fates and trajectories of revolutionary Tagalog and Malay.
Speaker:	Prof Ramon GUILLERMO (Professor, University of the Philippines)
Date:	31 October 2016

Title:	<a href="#">“Contemporary Cambodia Cinema and the Afterlife of War”</a>
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	This seminar focused specifically on Panh's 2011 film <i>Shiiku</i> , The Catch and his 2013 Oscar-nominated film <i>The Missing Picture</i> , and considered their experimentations with film form as well as their relevance to the current global refugee crisis.
Speaker:	Dr Y-Dang TROEUNG (Assistant Professor, Department of English, CityU)
Date:	23 January 2017

Title:	<a href="#">“Marital dissolution and transnational householding in Indonesia”</a> An analysis in contextualising an understanding of continuity and change in marital relationships and examines how aspects of the migration experience impact on marriage was revealed in this seminar. A fixed-effect model is applied to capture the possible causal relationship between migration and marital dissolution within the couples and to compare couples that have not been separated by migration with those that have.
Speaker:	Dr Lucy JORDAN (Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, HKU)
Date:	23 March 2017

Title:	<a href="#">“The ‘Magic’ of Modern Malaya: Remembering Histories of Muhammad's Guns”</a> This talk analysed elaborate Islamic genealogies and popular historical traditions, and investigates how ‘magical’ manuscripts are prime sources of socioeconomic histories and are informative about religio-economic sensibilities. This talk further presented Dr Sevea's explorations into the cosmopolitanism of the Malay <i>frontier</i> .
Speaker:	Dr Teren SEVEA (Assistant Professor, South Asia Studies, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania)
Date:	3 April 2017

Title:	<a href="#">“Designing the early-American Colonial City in the Philippines, 1898-1916”</a> This presentation explained the form and meaning of the first generation of Asian City Beautiful projects implemented between 1905 and 1916 as part of America's early colonial administration of the Philippines.
Speaker:	Prof Ian MORLEY (Assistant Professor, History Department, CUHK)
Date:	10 April 2017

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

##### Updated web page and Facebook

“Event Archive” is our new section with the aim to share information and data about our research. This section (<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/Archive.aspx>) contains seminar/workshop/conference materials we compiled over the past few years. With these resources made available for free access, we demonstrate our strong commitment and potential contributions to those who are interested in knowing more Southeast Asia. The other two features worth mentioning are our “Event Calendar at a Glance” and “News Section”. The former one is for easy reference regarding our upcoming events. This section also contains a brief description of those events. The latter in the middle of our website provided the latest news about our Centre members’ achievements.

Social media is becoming a new platform for enhancing communication among academia, while at the same time driving cost out of old processes. Our Facebook is updated at least twice a week and reached a record-breaking 2,000 likes in late June. All videos of our seminars were uploaded on YouTube and Facebook. With SEARC Facebook and our comprehensive website, we are building on a foundation of knowledge that we are leveraging to reduce costs and connect with a community who are interested in Southeast Asia. With SEARC portal, we share all our resources for free with the public and provide a range of news (Call for Proposals, details of upcoming conferences and job openings) about Southeast Asia and updates of the development of the region.

Besides Facebook, we published weekly announcements targeted to inform our AIS PhD students of the aforesaid information from our nearby regions. We maintain a large mailing list to inform those interested in the studies of Southeast Asia of our upcoming events.

SEARC publishes a Working Paper series to showcase the updated research findings of our Centre Fellows, visiting scholars and guest speakers. Thus far, we have published 193 working papers. All are uploaded on [http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/Publications\\_SEARCWorkingPapers.aspx](http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/Publications_SEARCWorkingPapers.aspx) and hard copies are also available for seminar participants.

##### **Public Outreach**

To contribute to internationalization, in a cooperative venture, SEARC put efforts through cultural events, maintains contact with the ten ASEAN country consulates in Hong Kong and the Asia Society (including co-organized events) to actively connect people inside and outside of the university to provide a multilateral forum for organizing academic meetings, seminars, workshops, and symposia. SEARC organized seminars for free admission and we have all seminars’ videos posted on the Internet so as to document SEARC activities and make them

available to the wider public and academic community.

We reach out to the larger community of Southeast Asians in Hong Kong and to people in Hong Kong with events and information about this region. SEARC hosted a major [Southeast Asia cultural festival](#) in spring 2013 in cooperation with the Southeast Asian consulates in Hong Kong and Southeast Asian groups in the Special Administrative Region. Through SEARC, CityU already has close ties to the Southeast Asian migrant community (over 300,000 strong) in Hong Kong with its focus on migration issues. A major conference, “[Asian Migration and the Global Asian Diasporas](#)” held on 6-7 September 2013 co-hosted with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) brought together leading scholars to discuss Asian migration along many different dimensions. We hosted an international conference “[4th Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network Activated Borders: Re-openings, Ruptures and Relationships](#)” with over 150 scholars from around the world attended in 8-10 December 2014. The conference was a joint event organized by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), the Netherlands and the Asian Borderlands Research Network (ABRN) together with us. It featured papers and panels that addressed continuities and transformations along routes and borders in Asia, broadly related to the theme “Re-openings, Ruptures and Relationships.”

We see ourselves as a meeting place for scholars whose research is focused on Southeast Asia and for those wishing to learn more about it. SEARC has contributed widely to public debate and intellectual life not limited to the University community but also to the general society. In short, SEARC is well positioned to enhance its reputation as a globally recognized Centre for the study of Southeast Asia.

## **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)*

### Plans to generate income for sustaining Centre activities and plans to become financially independent for Centres

Our core members met with the Development Manager of the Development Office of our University, Cecilia Tang, on 7 February 2017 to discuss possible fundraising strategies for SEARC. Cecilia was very impressed by SEARC’s achievements and the contributions SEARC made to CityU. She suggested us to approach potential donors by means of an invitation letter followed by personal contact. Last November, our directors had discussed with Mr Kenneth and Mrs Nelly Fung on this matter. Prof Thompson also met with Mr Bernard Chan to raise the issue of fundraising for SEARC. We have been engaging in fundraising activities and seeking sponsors from wealthy donors and/or businesses/organizations within the Asian region.

During the SEARC Southeast Asian cultural festival in 2013, SEARC had built up and made a lot of our contacts with the Southeast Asian consulates. We have particularly close ties to the Philippine consulate which our director attended most of their events and we have close connection with them; alongside with the Thai and Indonesian consulate. Dr Patton, a specialist in Myanmar studies, has contacts with the Myanmar consulate. At of the writing this report, we are working on joint events with AIS and will apply for money to hold a second Southeast Asia cultural festival at CityU. In addition, we are drafting proposal to apply for grants from Hong Kong Government and international bodies that support the study of Asian Studies.

This reporting year was a year of continuous challenge. Despite budgetary constraints, SEARC reaffirmed both our ability and our commitment in promoting the studies of Southeast Asia. We navigate the uncertain funding waters ahead. SEARC actively assists its members through seminars, workshops, and small grants to boost their research output (particularly in terms of SSCI/SCI ranked publications) and seek external grant acquisitions. SEARC benchmarks its research output and international competitiveness with leading Southeast Asia Centres such as those at the Australian National University and the National University of Singapore as well as Cornell University, Kyoto University, SOAS, and University of Sydney as mentioned above.

**It needs to be understood that none of the leading Southeast Asia research Centres in the world - in the US (e.g. Cornell, Berkeley, Michigan, NIU), in Japan (Kyoto), in the UK (the LSE and Leeds), in Australia (the ANU, Sydney, and Murdoch), and in Singapore (ISEAS) are self-financing. All receive significant financial contributions from their respective universities. If CityU - long recognized as a major Centre for Southeast Asian studies in Asia and more recently around the world - is to remain internationally competitive, alongside seeking external funding, regular university funding is required.**

#### Plans to bring in new members

SEARC has recruited a strong cohort of core members. Dr Sarana NUTANONG, who speaks native Thai from CS, joined us. Another new member was from SLW, Dr Daniel PASCOE, who has been actively involved in researching Law and Society in Southeast Asia. We have re-organized our governing boards as members have left and new ones have joined the Centre. Dr Y-Dang TROEUNG from EN joined our Centre as a new member in our Management Committee. Her involvement energises the Centre. As a recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award, she is a promising scholar and she provided constructive comments and suggestions on the future development of SEARC.

#### Succession strategies

Dr PATTON, our associate director, is taking on increasing responsibilities with an eye towards a transition to the directorship over the next couple of years. We are going to put the

application forward to the Dean early next year.

Other future plans:

1. To contribute to an intellectual climate in the Centre that encourages SEARC core members to apply for competitive external grants and to present their research at conferences, workshops, and seminars.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. To continue to organize conferences and workshops that attract top local and international scholars and that lead to high-quality publications.
5. To maintain SEARC's working paper series as an outlet for established, especially new researchers to enter their findings quickly into the public domain.
6. To continue engaging CityU students in seminars, thereby strengthening linkages between scholarly research and classroom teaching.
7. To work effectively with both local and regional institutions and organisations, where such partnerships can lead to outstanding research, internationalization, cultural exchanges, academic exchanges and cross-institutional collaboration.
8. To develop our capacity to generate and share knowledge about Southeast Asia, ensuring significant contributions to the understanding of the region.
9. To enhance structures for collaboration across departments, colleges, and the University.
10. The annual planning and budgeting process will provide the framework for making our future plans to operation practically.

**Appendix C: Research Impact (from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017)**

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
General	- Prestigious research awards and prizes	✓	<p><u>Research grant from July 2016 to June 2017</u></p> <p>Prof Mark R THOMPSON, SEARC Director has submitted the RGC General Research Fund (GRF)'s proposal on The Rise of Illiberal Populist Rule in the Philippines, subject to approval in July 2017.</p> <p>Dr Thomas PATTON, SEARC Associate Director has received a CityU Start-up Grant for New Faculty (StUp) on The Buddha's Wizards: Magic, Protection, and Healing in Burmese Buddhism, awarded on 8 September 2016.</p> <p>Dr Toby CARROLL has received a CityU Strategic Research Grant (SRG-Fd) on Investigating the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Role in the Transformation of Development, awarded on 1 September 2016.</p> <p>Dr Justin ROBERTSON has received a RGC General Research Fund (GRF) on Accommodating Global Finance: The Integration of Emerging Markets within the Offshore Economy, awarded on 1 July 2016.</p> <p>Dr Justin ROBERTSON has received an Environmental Conservation Fund (ECF) for GROW CityU on Green Roofs Over Walls, awarded on 29 Feb 2016.</p>

**Appendix C: Research Impact (from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017)**

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
	Prestigious research awards and prizes	✓	<p><u>Research grant from July 2012 to June 2016</u>            Prof THOMPSON has received a GRF together with Prof William CASE for “Democracy and its Discontents in Southeast Asia.” He has an article published 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>

**Appendix C: Research Impact (from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017)**

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
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Public policy and professional services	- Documented evidence of policy debate (e.g. media, materials produced by NGOs).	✓	<p><u>From July 2016 to June 2017</u></p> <p>The Director of SEARC, Prof Mark 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 the international media, like the Time Magazine, The Diplomat, Vox, Southeast Asia Globe, South China Morning Post, The Huffington Post, East Asia Forum, Voice of America. He has also been interviewed by the major radio station, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Radio) about US President Donald Trump inviting Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte to the White House.</p> <p>The Associate Director of SEARC, Dr Thomas PATTON's opinion has often quoted by the international media, like the South China Morning Post and BBC News.</p> <p>Dr Sean STARRS has been a panel member of the RTHK Radio Backchat Programme. Backchat is RTHK Radio 3's current affairs programme with expert panels and listener participation. His was interviewed by the University of Connecticut radio about American hegemony and China and his research was cited in the international media.</p> <p>Dr Toby CARROLL co-authored an article with and Dr Ruben GONZALEZ VICENTE entitled "From New Deal to the art of the deal: how the neoliberal project led to Trump" was published in The Conversation on 20 January 2017.</p>
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**Appendix C: Research Impact (from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017)**

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
	<p>Documented evidence of policy debate (e.g. media, materials produced by NGOs).</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Dr Stephan ORTMANN has interviewed by the local and international media, like the Ming Pao, The Christian Science Monitor, Trouw, Asia Times, Caijing, The Paper, Stand News. His opinion was quoted in Los Angeles Times, Asia Times. He has an article entitled "From 'Two Systems' to 'One Country': China's Re-centralization and Hong Kong's Autonomy" was published in China Policy Institute.</p>

**Appendix C: Research Impact (from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017)**

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
Health and welfare	- Documented changes to guidelines.	✓	Dr Catherine LO, the visiting researcher wrote an article, co-authored with Dr Kirit Premjibhai Solanki (a Member of Parliament in India), entitled "AIDS-free by 2030, India included," in <i>The Hindu</i> on April 6, 2017.
Society, culture and creativity		✓	<p>The members in Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC) has been continuing participate in a range of academic conferences and appear in local and international major printed, online media and radio such as <i>Ming Pao</i>, <i>Time Magazine</i>, <i>The Diplomat</i>, <i>Vox</i>, <i>Southeast Asia Globe</i>, <i>South China Morning Post</i>, <i>The Huffington Post</i>, <i>East Asia Forum</i>, <i>ABC Radio</i>, <i>BBC Radio</i> and <i>RTHK Radio</i>, about the issues related to the 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>SEARC members' publications are in high ranking journals according to <i>SSCI/SCImago</i>, top ranked university and major commercial presses. An example is Prof Mark THOMSPON has a book "Authoritarian Modernism in East Asia" will be published by <i>London: Palgrave</i> in forthcoming 2017. There are also several articles written by Prof THOMSPON were published in <i>Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs</i>, <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, <i>Journal of Developing Societies</i> and <i>Philippine Studies</i> on the Philippines studies.</p>

**Appendix C: Research Impact (from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017)**

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
Other	<p>- Please specify</p> <p>➤ Collaboration (CityU research centres)</p>	✓	<p>SERAC has organized the various events on the study of southeast area which attracted to the scholars over the world.</p> <p>On 28 November 2016, SEARC organized a lecture on “One-Belt-One-Road (OBOR): Opportunities for Hong Kong and for the development of Southeast Asia”. This lecture was co-organized with the Research Centre on One-Belt-One-Road, Sustainable Hong Kong Research Hub and Global China Studies. Our speaker, Prof ZHAO Lei from the Institute of International Strategy of Central Party School of the Communist Party of China, mentioned that Hong Kong is pivotally placed to contribute to OBOR initiative as China sees OBOR as a new era of cooperation that will bring benefits to all Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries; given the economic importance of the ASEAN to China and its geographical proximity, a key focus of the belt and road initiative is ASEAN’s burgeoning economies. This was a successful event with a full house. As English is our medium of instruction, simultaneous interpretation service was arranged from Putonghua to English so more of our CityU community could attend the talk. A recording was arranged and the video was uploaded on CityUVoD to document our speaker’s visit and to make our centre’s activity available to a broader academic community.</p>



**Appendix C: Research Impact (from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017)**

<b>Area of Impact</b>	<b>Indicator of Impact</b>	<b>If yes, please tick (✓)</b>	<b>Summary of Impact</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Academic exchanges (international)</li> </ul>		<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>