

# CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

## Progress Report for Research Centres (2018 - 2019)

### 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
<b>Centre Director:</b>	
Prof THOMPSON Mark Richard	AIS
<b>Core Members:</b>	
Dr PATTON Thomas (associate director)	AIS
Dr CARROLL Toby James	AIS
Dr CHAN Yuk Wah	AIS
Prof LYNCH Daniel Christopher	AIS
Dr ZHANG Jun	AIS
Dr STARRS Sean Kenji	AIS
<b>Other Members:</b>	
Prof CHAN Johnny C.L.	SEE
Dr CHANDRA Yanto	POL
Dr CHIA Stella	COM
Dr. EGRETEAU Renaud	AIS
Prof CUCKER Felipe	MA
Dr LA GRANGE Adrienne	POL
Prof LIM C.W.	ACE
Dr LOCKWOOD Jane	POL
Prof LYNCH C Daniel	AIS
Dr MARKS Danny	AIS
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

## 2.2 Advisors/Consultants

### **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 of International Politics, 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)
4. Prof Vedi HADIZ (Professor of Asian Studies, The University of Melbourne)
5. Prof Kevin HEWISON (Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Asian Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
6. Prof Paul HUTCHCROFT (Professor, Department of Political & Social Change, Australian National University)
7. Dr Michael JAKOBSEN (Associate Professor, Department of International Economics and Management; 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, Beijing)

## 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 Richard Walker (Dean, CLASS; Chair Professor of Social Sciences, from August 2019)

Prof Xiaowei ZANG (Dean, CLASS; Chair Professor of Social Sciences, to July 2019)

**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, SEARC invited total TWO local scholars to join us as research affiliates. The local scholars, are [Dr Raymond Kwun Sun LAU](#), Lecturer from Hong Kong Baptist University and [Prof Donald LOW](#), Senior Lecturer and Professor of Practice at the Institute of Public Policy of the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology as well as the Director of Leadership and Public Policy Executive Education. Dr Raymond Kwun-Sun LAU is a lecturer in the Department of History at Hong Kong Baptist University. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Queensland, Australia. His doctoral research examined the international response to genocide and mass atrocities in Africa and explored the relationship between the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle and the International Criminal Court (ICC). He is the author of "Protection First, Justice Later? Stopping Mass Atrocities in Northern Uganda", a book chapter in the edited volume, *Civilian Protection in the Twenty-First Century: Governance and Responsibility in a Fragmented World* (Editors Cecilia Jacob and Alistair D.B. Cook), published by the Oxford University Press in June 2016. Prof Donald LOW is a faculty member at the Division of Public Policy at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology as well as its Director of Leadership and Public Policy Executive Education. He was formerly the Associate Dean (Research and Executive Education) at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. His research interests include economics in public policy, inequality and social spending, behavioural economics, public

finance, organisational change, and governance and politics in Singapore. He served fifteen years in the Singapore government, holding various senior positions. He is the editor of *Behavioural Economics and Policy Design: Examples from Singapore* (2011) and *Hard Choices: Challenging the Singapore Consensus* (2014).

Our newly joined SEARC helped to energize the Centre in the reporting period 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) was inaugurated on 27 February 2001 as a faculty-based research centre, under the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, CLASS. SEARC is the *only* research Centre focused on Southeast Asia in Hong Kong and is a key area of excellence in the university which it distinguishes itself from all other Hong Kong universities and draws attention to CityU from around the region and globally as a world class setting for the study of Southeast Asia.

**SEARC has successfully joined the Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA) as the Hong Kong representative, together with members at leading universities in Southeast Asia, Australia, Britain, Canada, China, Germany, South Korea, the U.S. and elsewhere. SEASIA's other Asian member institutions include: National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute Singapore, National Chengchi University, Jinan University, Academia Sinica. National Chengchi University, Kyoto University, Chulalongkorn University, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, University of the Philippines Diliman, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), and the Taiwan Association of Southeast Asian Studies. Joining SEASIA is an important new initiative for SEARC, enabling for closer networking with other leading Southeast Asian Centres in Asia and helping encourage greater research collaboration as well as strengthening the standing of Southeast Asian studies in the Asian region.**

By joining SEASIA, SEARC collaborates 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. SEARC aims to bring together scholars living and researching within or close to the region to join together for regular meetings. SEARC will foster both regional and global efforts to networking with Centres of similar missions, goals and objectives.

SEARC has already long 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 prestigious research institutions and universities overseas, notably the Southeast Asia Program at Cornell University (SEAP), the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, University of Sydney, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) at Northern Illinois University, and the 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.**

**A new part of SEARC's mission is to promote academic research and exchange with other research centres on Southeast Asia. For example, SEARC has accepted an invitation from the French School of Asian Studies/Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO). The project invited SEARC to participate in the European-funded project "Competing Regional Integrations in Southeast Asia" (CRISEA) on a self-funded basis. The project has been selected by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program successfully in early February 2018. In coming future, SEARC will work together with the other three research centres on Southeast Asia – The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre (SSEAC), University of Sydney; the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University; and Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore in forthcoming future. Such cooperation will help SEARC to develop more networks in Singapore, Austria and Japan.**

SEARC has established a strong international reputation as an important setting for the study of political, economic, and social issues in contemporary Southeast Asia. While receiving funding in most years from City University of Hong Kong (CityU), SEARC members have actively sought competitive external grant funding, helping to foster a steady output of high-quality publications and working papers. The Centre has also attracted many respected scholars as visitors who, in carrying out research projects and conducting seminars, have further energized the Centre. And in regularly sponsoring international conferences, workshops, public addresses, and roundtables, SEARC has contributed widely to public debate and intellectual life at CityU.

### *Mission*

The mission of the Southeast Asia Research Centre is to maintain its international reputation as a centre of excellence in academic and applied studies of contemporary Southeast Asia. *In keeping, however, with new priorities set by City University; greater attention is now given to theoretical and cross-disciplinary analysis, through which the intention of addressing real-world challenges in national political systems, workplace inequalities, gender relations, and disaster management. SEARC thus seeks to attract competitive external grant funding, to collaborate internationally with other institutions, to conduct disciplinary-based and cross-disciplinary research in compelling academic debates in the social sciences, to generate high-quality research publications, and to reach the public through open events and media engagement.*

## *Objectives*

The objectives of the Southeast Asia Research Centre are:

- to advance the Centre's international reputation and City University's standing by researching political, economic, and social developments in contemporary Southeast Asia;
- to obtain competitive external grant funding;
- to extend links to scholars and institutions researching other parts of the developing world, especially China and Northeast Asia, whose concerns resonate with those of the Centre;
- to conduct disciplinary-based and cross-disciplinary research;
- to address major debates in comparative politics, political economy, and comparative sociology;
- to produce high quality research publications on contemporary Southeast Asia;
- to engage Hong Kong citizens, especially civil society organizations, through open forums and media engagement; and
- to enhance the study of Southeast Asia in Hong Kong and to increase understanding of the region within the CityU and Hong Kong communities.

## **4. Research activities and achievements**

4.1 Research Grants (*To be extracted from IRIS by RO, referred to Appendix II*)

4.2 Research Outputs (*To be extracted from SciVal by RO, referred to Appendix III*)

4.3 Research Impact (*Referred to Appendix I*)

4.4 Visiting SEARC fellow

Dr. Bonn Juego, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, with interdisciplinary teaching responsibilities in the social, political and economic sciences of development issues, was a visiting fellow at SEARC from September – December 2018. He has held guest researcher positions at the Department of Political Science, Aalborg University, and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen. His recent publications and research endeavours are on contemporary Philippines and Malaysia, the political economy of the ASEAN Economic Community project, the challenge of right-wing populism and nationalism in Asia and Europe, the concept of authoritarian neoliberalism, and the new privatization of global development finance. His talk is based on two recent publications: “The Philippines 2017: Duterte-led Authoritarian Populism and Its Liberal-Democratic Roots” (Asia Maior, 2018) and “The Institutions of Authoritarian Neoliberalism in Malaysia: A Critical Review of the Development Agendas Under the Regimes of Mahathir, Abdullah, and Najib” (ASEAS, 2018).

Mr. Andy Buschmann is a graduate student at the Department of Politics and International Relations and St Antony’s College, University of Oxford. Before coming to Oxford, he studied at Humboldt University Berlin, City University of Hong Kong, University College London and Technical University of Berlin. He is interested in protest and social movements in times of regime change, with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific. The Myanmar Protest Event

Dataset is one of his projects. As a visiting researcher to the SEARC from July 23 to August 27, 2018, he is conducting research on youth activism in post-2011 Myanmar.

#### 4.5 Conferences/ seminars organized during the period from July 2018 to June 2019

SEARC has research seminar series on Monday's afternoon during the semester. During the reporting period, SEARC organized SEVEN seminars and ONE Roundtable Conference. All were well-attended by members from CityU and guests from other tertiary institutions and the broader community, including representatives of prominent NGOs based in Hong Kong. In addition, SEARC has co-hosted the seminar, workshops and conference with the internal and external parties, such as the Department of Asian and International Studies (CityU) as well as Hong Kong Shue Yan University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

##### **Research Seminar Series (SEVEN seminars in 2018-19)**

Date:	10 September 2018
Title:	<u>Propagating the Singapore Model: Geographic Imaginaries of Urban Renewal and Transnational Cooperation in the Belt and Road Era</u>
Speaker:	Dr Elmo Gonzaga Assistant Professor, Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong

Date:	5 November 2018
Title:	<u>The Rise of Duterte and the Return of Mahathir: Current Features of Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia</u>
Speaker:	Dr Bonn Juego, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Jyväskylä, Finland and visiting SEARC fellow, Sept.-December 2018

Date:	12 November 2018
Title:	<u>Federal Republic or Dynastic Federalism? Imperatives of Political and Electoral Reforms in the Draft Federal Constitution of the Philippines</u>
Speaker:	Prof Julio C Teehankee, Professor of Political Science and International Studies, De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines

Date:	14 January 2019
Title:	<u>Myanmar's Way to Genocide: The Rohingya Crisis in a Disciplined Democracy</u>
Speaker:	Dr Roger Lee Huang, Lecturer, Department of Security Studies and Criminology, Macquarie University

Date:	4 March 2019
Title:	<u>Stocktake of Myanmar's Economy and Reforms</u>
Speaker:	Prof Sean Turnell, Professor, Macquarie University

Date:	1 April 2019
Title:	<u>The Nature of Ming Loyalism a Century After the Fall of the Ming</u>
Speaker:	Dr Claudine Ang, Assistant Professor, Yale-NUS College

Date:	8 April 2019
Title:	<u>The 2019 Philippine Midterm Elections: Party Politics in the Age of Duterte</u>
Speaker:	Prof Julio C Teehankee, Professor of Political Science and International Studies, De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines

### **Authoritarian governance and Singapore's developmental state: The roundtable**

SEARC hosted a Roundtable Conference on 15 April 2019, the roundtable brought together three academic experts – Prof Donald Low, Prof Cherian George, and Dr Stephan Ortmann - to discuss Singapore's recent political developments and its relevance as a governance model for other countries. The recently published book *The Limits of Authoritarian Governance in Singapore's Developmental State* (Lily Zubaidah Rahim and Michael D. Barr, ed.) argues that Singapore's longstanding socio-political and economic formulae face unprecedented challenges as a consequence of heightened social and material inequalities and the government's reluctance to implement substantive social welfare measures. As a consequence the regime faces growing criticism from within at a time when there is speculation that an early election may be called sometime this year. At the same time, China's interest in the "Singapore model" appears to be waning.

Prof Donald Low is a faculty member at the Division of Public Policy at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology as well as its Director of Leadership and Public Policy Executive Education. He was formerly the Associate Dean (Research and Executive Education) at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. His research interests include economics in public policy, inequality and social spending, behavioural economics, public finance, organisational change, and governance and politics in Singapore.

Prof Cherian George is professor of media studies at Hong Kong Baptist University's School of Communication. His research focuses on media freedom, censorship, and hate propaganda around the world.

Stephan Ortmann is an assistant professor in the Department of Asian and International Studies of City University of Hong Kong. His research focuses on political transformations, civil society, and contentious politics in Asia.

Recording was arranged and the video was uploaded on web

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mzls-W8nX-w> to document our speakers' visit and to make our Centre's activity immediately available to a broader academic community

In addition, during this reporting period, SEARC has co-hosted TWO events with external partners - Hong Kong Shue Yan University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and overseas universities such as the University of Western Australia, Lund University, Sweden, Penang Institute, Malaysia, De la Salle University, the Philippines, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool, China University etc. These events were well-attended with members both from CityU and other tertiary institutions.

### **International Conference on Cultural Governance in Asia 2019**

#### **Soft Power, Place-(re)making and Civility: Cultural Governance in Asia**

SEARC co-hosted a two-day conference on 10-11 May 2019. This is a conference in collaboration with: Department of Asian and International Studies (CityU), Department of Anthropology (CUHK) and Contemporary China Research Centre (Hong Kong Shue Yan University)

[https://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/Events\\_CWS.aspx](https://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/Events_CWS.aspx);

[http://www.cityu.edu.hk/ais/doc/newsandevents/2090510\\_ICCGA\\_program.pdf](http://www.cityu.edu.hk/ais/doc/newsandevents/2090510_ICCGA_program.pdf)

Cultural governance in Asia has emerged as an important area amongst scholars who are concerned about different aspects of cultural transformation due to economic and political changes. Asia, the economic engine of the world economy, has become the focus for the debates of varied forms of cultural governance, place-making, identity and soft power. This conference covered the above mentioned issues in the whole of Asia, including Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, West Asia and South Asia.

It aimed to enhance academic exchange on issues regarding cultural governance, arts, heritage, soft powers, identities, and multiculturalism in Asia, develop CityU scholars' academic profiles, cultivate collaborations with other universities in HK and helped to enhance the academic standing of AIS, SEARC and CityU.

## **Localizing Liberalisms in Southeast Asia**

SEARC co-hosted a one-day workshop on 16 May 2019 with the Department with Asian and International Studies (AIS).

This workshop aimed to come to terms with this mass of contradictions and to rethink liberalism in its Southeast Asian setting. The chief focus was how liberals responded to democratic majorities and how they framed liberalism in terms of local context.

The workshop proceeded from the premise that liberalism is often misrecognized in Southeast Asia because it takes positions that do not confirm with Western liberalism's endpoint (a series of benchmarks or ideals that are dis-embodied from the history that produced them). Consider that in Thailand liberals have implicitly supported coups' d'etat or at least have participated in political action that has created political crisis that calls for extra-ordinary intervention. In Malaysia, liberals worked cautiously in a combustible political environment seeking to influence public policy by nurturing a supportive network of sympathizers across political and professional spectrums or combatively through opposition party politics. In Indonesia liberals have an uneasy relation with national ideology (Pancasila) regarding its implicit pluralism as a safe-guard against Islamization, and yet this illiberal national ideology cannot sanction atheism. In the Philippines, liberals debate participation in governments that are considered corrupt and illegitimate. None of these specific observations capture the vibrancy or advocacy of liberal politics in the respective countries. Indeed, there exists in all countries mentioned and in the region as a whole a wide range of journalists, jurists and policy makers all working towards similar liberal aims aided by a limited domestic constituency but supported and sustained often by international organizations and norms. They form liberalism as a "party of opinion". However, the observation points to the contradictory settings for the formation of specific liberal strategies. If liberal aspirations might be defined as universal, that category does little to help understand its local manifestation.

### Speakers:

1. Prof Mark R Thompson, AIS, co-chair
2. Dr Michael Connors, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool, China University, co-chair
3. Dr Federico Ferrara, AIS
4. Dr Renaud Egretreau, AIS
5. Dr Stephan Ortmann, AIS
6. Dr Lisandro E Claudio, De la Salle University, Philippines
7. Dr Astrid Norén-Nilsson, Lund University, Sweden
8. Dr David Bouchier, University of Western Australia, Australia
9. Dr Kee Beng Ooi, Panang Institute, Malaysia

The workshop was attracted to the members from the CityU and other tertiary institutions, as well as some general public.

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

As one of the research unit in CityU, SEARC has followed the University “GO GREEN” policy, which is promoting paperless office best practices at the enterprise level to achieve to the green campus, sustainability, social responsibility, and environmental friendliness.

Among that, SEARC has regular promotion with the updated event information and news send through the digital platform, such as SEARC web page, facebook, twitter, academic and youtube. SEARC has distributed the latest news with the highlights of SEARC events (from July 2018 to June 2019) to the members in the subscriber’s list.

Plentiful information related to SEARC can be viewed on the SEARC web page, including the forthcoming event calendar, research seminar series with video, event archive, and latest news of the SEARC’s members and working paper with the updated research findings from our Centre Fellows, Visiting Scholars and Guest Speakers. Thus far, we have published 195 working papers. The latest working paper (no. 195) with the title [“Context and conflict: the political economy of Southeast Asia’s development from independence to hyperglobalisation”](#) is by Dr Toby Carroll (Associate Professor, Department of Asian and International Studies, CityU). The “Event Archive” on the web page is aim to share information and data about our research. This section (<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc/Archive.aspx>) contains the materials for seminars, workshops and conferences that 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 feature worth mentioning is the “Event Calendar at a Glance”. This section contains a brief description of SEARC events and easy reference regarding our upcoming events.

As a member of the Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA), SEARC’s information and news are also share on the [SEASIA’s web page](#), which enlarge the networking of Southeast Asian Centres in Asia, and helps to encourage greater research collaboration as well as to strengthen the standing of Southeast Asian studies in the Asian region.

Apart from this, social media become an important platform to SEARC, for enhancing the communication among facebook, twitter, academia and Youtube. SEARC is on-going to release the event information and news related to SEARC on facebook and reached a record-breaking nearly 3000 likes and follows in 2019. The number of our followers increased more than seven hundred within a year. All videos of our research seminar series were uploaded on YouTube and Facebook. There was more than hundred views for our research seminar [“Singing While Filipino: Reflections on Authenticity and Musical Labour”](#) by Dr Anjeline de Dios.

With the SEARC Facebook page 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.

## **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

SEARC has accepted an invitation from the French School of Asian Studies/Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), to participate in the European-funded project "Competing Regional Integrations in Southeast Asia" (CRISEA) on a self-funded basis. The project has been selected by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program in early February 2018 and SEARC will work together with the other three research centres on Southeast Asia – The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre (SSEAC), University of Sydney; the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University; and Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore in forthcoming future.

Apart from this, SEARC joined the Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA) as the Hong Kong representative successfully. 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. There is 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.

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.

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.

Despite budgetary constraints, SEARC reaffirmed both our ability and our commitment in promoting the studies of Southeast Asia. We will do our best to 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

ONE new member Dr Renaud EGRETEAU from AIS, joined SEARC as a member. He received his PhD in Political Science from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) and now works across the areas of Comparative and International Politics as well as South and Southeast Asian Studies. His most recent research focuses on the dynamics of political change in Myanmar, particularly the resurgence of parliamentary affairs and the evolving policy role of the armed forces in the country's "post-junta" context.

### 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.

### 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 I - Research Impact (from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2019)

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 2018 to June 2019</u></p> <p>Prof Daniel LYNCH, SEARC Board Member has received RGC General Research Fund (GRF) on “Changing Patterns of Threat Securitization in Democratic Taiwan”, awarded on 12 July 2018.</p> <p>Dr Toby CARROLL, SEARC Board Member has received RGC General Research Fund (GRF) on “Privatising Development? The E56International Finance Corporation's impact upon development in Asia”, awarded on 28 June 2019.</p> <p>Dr Renaud EGRETEAU, SEARC Board Member has received RGC General Research Fund (GRF) on “Negotiating Parliamentary Control of the Armed Forces in Praetorian Regimes. Evidence from Myanmar”, awarded on 28 June 2019.</p> <p>Dr. Thomas PATTON, SEARC Board Member has received a Getty Foundation (USA) grant on “Site and Space in Southeast Asia.” He is Principal Investigator (PI) and Field Director for 'Site and Space in Southeast Asia', funded by Getty Foundation's Connecting Art Histories.</p> <p>Dr Bradley WILLIAMS , SEARC Board Member has received RGC General Research Fund (GRF) on “Cultivating Conservatives, Clandestinely: The Role of US Covert Action in Building Friendly Regimes in Japan and South Korea”, awarded on 28 June 2019.</p> <p><u>Research grant from July 2017 to June 2018</u></p> <p>Dr Stephan ORTMANN, SEARC Board Member has received ECS on “Environmental Protests and Political Change in Authoritarian Regimes: The Case of Vietnam.</p>

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
General	Prestigious research awards and prizes		<p>Dr Yuk-wah CHAN, SEARC Board Member has received a Global Consortium for Sustainability Outcomes (via ASU) on “Transferring and Scaling Sustainable Local Food Economy Solutions”, awarded on 26 June 2018.</p> <p>Dr Justin ROBERTSON has received a CSF awarded for “The CityU Sustainability Debate Series”, awarded on 30 May 2018.</p> <p>Dr Danny MARKS, SEARC Board Member has received a CityU Start-up Grant for New Faculty (StUp) on “The Political Economy of Transforming Bangkok's Transportation System”, awarded on 25 May 2018.</p> <p>Dr Yuk-wah CHAN, SEARC Board Member has received a <a href="#">Knowledge Transfer Grant (KT)</a> on “Empowering the Nepalese Youth in Hong Kong through Engaged Anthropology and Ethnography-writing”, awarded on 23 April 2018.</p> <p>Dr Stephan ORTMANN, SEARC Board Member has received a CityU Start-up Grant for New Faculty (StUp) on “Civil Society Alliances in Hong Kong: The Case of the Save Our Country Parks Alliance”, awarded on 8 February 2018.</p> <p>Prof Mark R THOMPSON, SEARC Director received a RGC General Research Fund (GRF) on the “The Rise of Illiberal Populist Rule in the Philippines”, awarded on 1 July 2017.</p> <p>Dr Nicholas THOMAS, SEARC Board Member received a CityU Teaching Excellence Award (TEA) on “DEC Beyond the Fourth Wall”, awarded on 30 June 2017.</p>

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 2014 to June 2017</u></p> <p>Dr Thomas PATTON, SEARC Associate Director 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, SEARC Board Member 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, SEARC Board Member 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, SEARC Board Member has received a RGC General Research Fund (GRF) on “Local Actors, Institutions and Mechanisms: Unraveling Intergovernmental Dynamics of Climate Governance in China”, awarded on 1 July 2016.</p> <p>Dr Justin ROBERTSON, SEARC Board Member has received an Environmental Conservation Fund (ECF) for GROW CityU on “Green Roofs Over Walls”, awarded on 29 Feb 2016.</p> <p>Prof Mark R THOMPSON, SEARC Director 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, SEARC Board Member on a project about China and the “Singapore Model.” Together they explore the issue of whether Singapore’s</p>

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
General	Prestigious research awards and prizes		<p>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, SEARC Associate Director has received 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, SEARC Board Member has received 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, SEARC Board Member has received 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 Justin ROBERTSON, SEARC Board Member has received GRF on “China and the Caribbean in the 21st century”. Cont'd</p> <p>Dr Bradley WILLIAMS, SEARC Board Member has received GRF on “Anatomy of a "Friendly Spy": Japan and Intra-alliance Intelligence with the United States”.</p>

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
Economic and commerce	- Spin-out or funding (e.g. venture capital/Business Angel) for start-up businesses.		
Economic and commerce	- Licences awarded and brought to market.		
Economic and commerce	- Business performance measures (e.g. sales, turnover, profits, cost-effectiveness or employment) associated with new or improved products, processes and services.		
Economic and commerce	- Demonstrable collaborations with industry (e.g. partnership agreements, research contracts, or consultancies)		
Public policy and professional services	- Documented evidence of policy debate (e.g. media, materials produced by NGOs).	✓	All SEARC news including the book published, article in Newspaper, interview with newspaper/radio are listed on SEARC web page.
Public policy and professional services	- Documented evidence of changes to public policy, legislation, regulations or guidelines.		The Director of SEARC, Prof Mark R 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. Recently, he was interviewed by the influential online newspaper Rappler about his research about and current assessment of Philippine politics on 12 Jul
Public policy and professional services	- New or modified professional standards and codes of practice.		

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
Public policy and professional services			<p>2019.</p> <p>The Associate Director of SEARC, Dr Thomas PATTON was featured in the “Member Spotlight” of the Association for Asian Studies and his opinion often quoted by the international media, like the South China Morning Post and BBC News. Recently, he was interviewed for the podcast "Myanmar Musings" about his new book and current research on 18 Jun 2019.</p> <p>Prof Daniel LYNCH, SEARC board member was frequently interviewed by International media such as US News &amp; World Report, CNN TV, BCC, The New York Times and Foreign Affairs on US government and policy issue. He recently was quoted in The New York Times about the Hong Kong protests.</p> <p>Dr Stephan ORTMANN, SEARC board member has interviewed by the local and international media, like the Ming Pao, The Christian Science Monitor, Trouw, Asia Times, Caijing, The Paper, Stand News. He was interviewed for an article entitled: "“Seeing My City Being Stripped Away Piece By Piece Makes Me Angry But Also Anxious About Our Future” - Hong Kong Students On The Extradition Bill" in The Speaker published on 27 June 2019.</p>

Area of Impact	Indicator of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
Public policy and professional services			<p>Dr Sean STARRS, SEARC board member was frequently interviewed by International and local media, such as The Real News, RTHK Radio, O Estado de Sao Paulo (Brazil), Weekendavisen and South China Morning Post. His new chapter was cited on Bookforum's blogpost on "America Choosing Decline" and his research on China-US political economy was cited by Prof Adam Tooze of Columbia University while discussing his major new book on the global financial crisis.</p> <p>Recently, he was interviewed by The Real News Network (US) on HK's protests against the extradition bill on 11 Jun 2019,</p> <p>Dr Yuk-wah CHAN, SEARC board member was interviewed by South China Morning Post to give her views on the anti-China protests regarding the issue of the establishment of Special Economic Zones in Vietnam. She has published an essay, 'Life Elsewhere: Migrant, Refugee, and Traveler', on the global-e journal, which is part of the series on 'Hong Kong and Liberty'.</p> <p>Dr Bradley WILLIAMS, SEARC board member quoted in an article about Japanese security policy changes for Sputnik on 1 April 2018.</p> <p>Dr Danny MARKS, SEARC board member wrote an article about the Southeast Asia's plastic waste problem in the East Asia Forum on 26 Jun 2019.</p> <p>Dr Toby CARROLL, SEARC board member 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>

<b>Area of Impact</b>	<b>Indicator of Impact</b>	<b>If yes, please tick (✓)</b>	<b>Summary of Impact</b>
Public policy and professional services			Dr Renaud EGRETEAU, SEARC board member was quoted in The New York Times for an article entitled "Jack Dorsey, Posting About Myanmar on Twitter, Is Accused of Being Tone Deaf" on 10 December 2018.

Area of Impact	Indicators of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
Health and welfare	- Documented changes to guidelines.	✓	<p>Dr Catherine LO, SEARC 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 The Hindu on April 6, 2017.</p> <p>Dr Justin ROBERTSON was quoted in South China Morning Post for an article "Hong Kong could be world leader in green energy and technology if the government invests, extreme explorer says" on 1 May 2019.</p>
	- Evidence of take-up and use of new or improved products and processes that improve quality of life.		
	- Measures of improved well-being, patient outcomes, public health or health services.		
Society, culture and creativity	- Evidence of enhanced awareness of health risks and benefits by consumers.		<p>The members in Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC) have been continuing participate in a range of academic conferences and appear in local and international major printed, online media and radio such as Ming Pao, Time Magazine, The Diplomat, Vox, Southeast Asia Globe, South China Morning Post, The Huffington Post, Asia Times, O Estado de Sao Paulo (Brazil), World Politics Review ,US News &amp; World Report, East Asia Forum, The Real News, ABC Radio, BBC Radio and RTHK Radio, 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>
	- Critical reviews in media, and/or other professional publications.	✓	
	- Increased public uptake of scientific training, through public engagement.		

Area of Impact	Indicators of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
Society, culture and creativity			<p>SEARC members' publications are in high ranking journals according to SSCI/SCImago, top ranked university and major commercial presses.</p> <p>Prof Mark R THOMSPON has a book "Authoritarian Modernism in East Asia" will be published by <i>London: Palgrave</i> in 2018. There are also several articles written by Prof THOMSPON were published in <i>China Quarterly, Contemporary Politics, Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs, Journal of Democracy, Journal of Developing Societies</i> and <i>Philippine Studies</i> on the Philippines studies. His latest article "<a href="#">Perilous presidentialism in Southeast Asia?</a>" (with Bunte, Marco) was published in <i>Contemporary Politics. 24, 3, p. 251–265.</i></p> <p>Dr Thomas PATTON, Associate Director of SEARC, published a book titled, <i>The Buddha's Wizards: Magic, Protection, and Healing in Burmese Buddhism</i>, (Columbia University Press, Oct 2018).</p> <p>Dr. Thomas PATTON also published two articles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Phantasmagorical Buddhism: Imagination's Role in the Creation of Burmese Buddhism." <i>Religions</i> <b>2018</b>, 9(12), 414; <a href="https://doi.org/10.3390/rel9120414">https://doi.org/10.3390/rel9120414</a></li> <li>2. "The Academic Study of Lived Religion and Buddhist Wizards in Myanmar." Patton, Thomas. "<a href="#">Buddhist Wizards (Weizzā/Weikza) of Myanmar.</a>" In <i>Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion</i>. Oxford University Press. Article published April 2019. doi: <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199340378.013.640">http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199340378.013.640.</a></li> </ol> <p>Prof Daniel LYNCH, SEARC board member has a new book on "The End of China's Rise: Consequences for the PRC Debate on Soft Power" will be published by New York: Routledge in Oct 2018 and his article on "<a href="#">Is China's Rise Now Stalling?</a>" was published in <i>The Pacific Review</i>, in Jun 2018.</p>

Area of Impact	Indicators of Impact	If yes, please tick (✓)	Summary of Impact
Society, culture and creativity			Dr Stephan ORTMANN, SEARC board member has an article (with Yang, K.) <a href="#">“From Sweden to Singapore: The Relevance of Foreign Models for China's Rise”</a> in The China Quarterly, 28 May 2018.
Other	- Please specify		