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The Newsletter of the Institute of Asian Studies at Universiti Brunei Darussalam

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INSTITUTE OF
ASIAN STUDIES

October 2021



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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

After 15 months with no locally-transmitted COVID cases, Brunei Darussalam is now experiencing a second wave of transmissions. As a result, the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has transitioned its activities online, from teaching and supervising to offering seminars.

While working during a pandemic presents various challenges, the staff of the Institute has continued to be extremely productive.

Over the past five months, four new volumes in the IAS/Springer “Asia in Transition” series have been readied for publication, and the Institute has published three new issues in its IAS Working Paper Series.

Additionally, IAS staff have been involved in the organization of, and have participated in, two major

conferences: the Universiti Brunei Darussalam-Borneo Studies Network conference and the 12th Engaging With Vietnam: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue conference.

Meanwhile, IAS staff members have continued to publish their own scholarship, and the IAS Wednesday Seminar series continues to provide a key forum for engaging with cutting-edge scholarship.

Last but certainly not least, IAS has welcomed new students to its MA and PhD by research programs, and looks forward to the arrival of new staff members by early 2022.

As we look further into 2022, we certainly hope that the intense efforts underway to increase vaccination rates in Asia will lead to a return to cross-border interactions so that we can meet again with our colleagues overseas, as well as invite visitors to Brunei Darussalam.

Bruno Jetin

Associate Professor,
Director of IAS



NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The Institute of Asian Studies at Universiti Brunei Darussalam is pleased to welcome as its new Deputy Director **Dk Dr Noor Hasharina Pg Hj Hassan**.

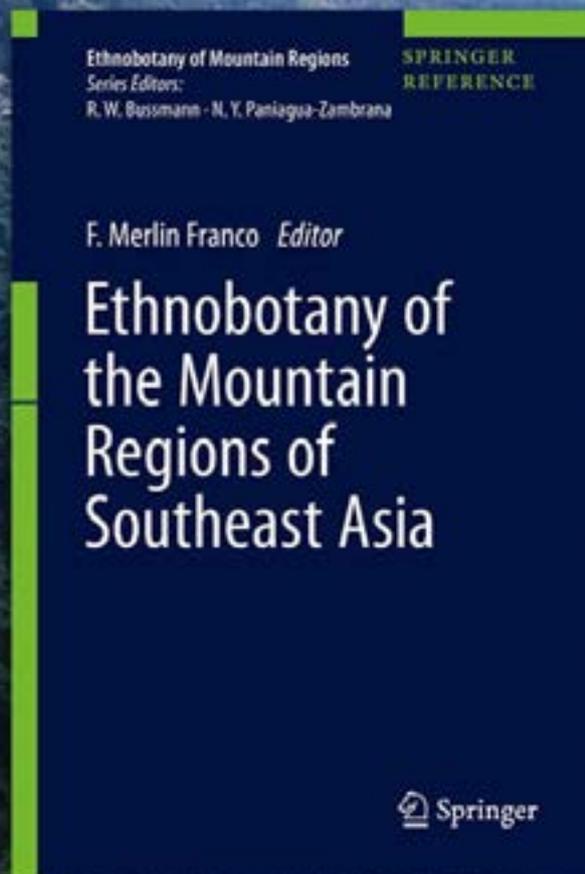
Dr. Hassan holds a Phd in Geography from the University of Southampton, and her research focuses on issues relating to the urban landscape and consumption.

Her current research interests include the following: retail and consumption dynamics; housing development; landscape studies and tourism; sustainable development and welfare.

Dr. Hassan currently also serves as the Head of the Borneo Studies Network Secretariat Office at UBD.

Finally, as we welcome Dr. Hassan, the Institute would also like to thank Assistant Professor **F. Merlin Franco** for his dedicated service as Deputy Director over the past three years.

Many of the images in the pdf version of this newsletter are hyperlinked.
Feel free to click on an image to learn more.



ETHNOBOTANY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Assistant Professor **F. Merlin Franco** has edited a new volume entitled ***Ethnobotany of the Mountain Regions of Southeast Asia*** as part of Springer's "Ethnobotany of Mountain Regions" series.

This volume is a compendium that discusses the medicinal, cultural, and economic importance of major plant species of the mountainous regions of Southeast Asia.

Over a lengthy 1137 pages, and with contributions from 37 individual authors, *Ethnobotany of the Mountain Regions of Southeast Asia* offers the latest full-range research on important plants in Southeast Asia's mountainous regions.

Franco, FM (ed) (2021). *Ethnobotany of the Mountain Regions of Southeast Asia*. Springer Nature Switzerland AG. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-38389-3>



THE BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA & EUROPE

Associate Professor **Bruno Jetin** has published a book chapter on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Southeast Asia and Europe.

This book chapter examines the attractiveness of the BRI for the host countries but also the political and economic challenges it involves: the sudden massive presence of Chinese

companies, the new financial dependence on Chinese loans that will have to be paid back, and the political ties it establishes with China's diplomacy.

The authors argue that this may destabilise both ASEAN and the EU, which are ill-prepared to defend a common attitude vis-à-vis China.

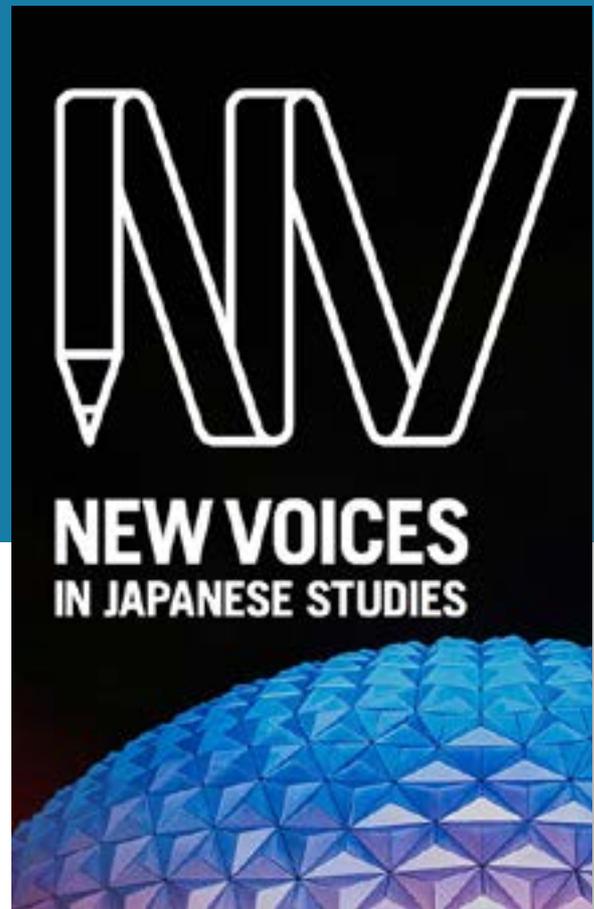
Jetin, B. (2021). "ASEAN and the European Union Face the Challenge of the 'New Silk Roads': Division or Coherence?" (in French). In D. Charles-Le Bihan, J. Lebullenger and Nguyen Minh Hang (eds.), *The Trade Diplomacy of the European Union in Southeast Asia*. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes.

JAPAN & THE MEKONG REGION

Assistant Professor **Nobumichi Teramura** has published two new works: one on Cambodia and one on the Mekong Subregion.

First, Dr. Teramura contributed a chapter on Cambodia to a volume that examines the direct jurisdiction of Asian courts with regard to cases involving cross-border elements.

Second, Dr. Teramura published an article which re-examines and re-assesses the influence of Japanese positive law in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, both in improving the



transparency of the legal systems in those countries and in enhancing communication among local, comparative and Japanese law experts.

Teramura, N. (2021). "Cambodia." In Anselmo Reyes and Wilson Rui (eds), *Direct Jurisdiction: Asian Perspectives*. Oxford: Hart. <https://www.bloomsburyprofessional.com/uk/direct-jurisdiction-9781509936441/>

Teramura, N. (2021). "Japan as a Source of Legal Ideas: A View from the Mekong Subregion of ASEAN," *New Voices in Japanese Studies* Vol. 13. <https://newvoices.org.au/volume-13/japan-as-a-source-of-legal-ideas-a-view-from-the-mekong-subregion-of-asean/>



WAR-ALTERED LANDSCAPES & DEVELOPMENT WORK IN CAMBODIA

Assistant Professor **Lisa Arensen** has published two articles. The first, "Living with Landmines: Inhabiting a War-altered Landscape," examines the efforts of the inhabitants of Reaksmei Songha village in western Cambodia to live in an environment that is littered with the material remains of war.

The second article, "Province of Thieves: On Violence, Reflexivity and

The Cross-Cultural Encounter," is a hybrid work of creative non-fiction and fiction that is an experiment in reflexive writing about development work in Cambodia.

This second work was awarded First Prize in the 2021 Creative Ethnographic Prose Writing Competition sponsored by the Society for Humanistic Anthropology.

Arensen, L. (2021). "Living with Landmines: Inhabiting a War-altered Landscape, *Material Culture* (Online First): 1-16. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/1359183521997506>

Arensen, L. (2021). "Province of Thieves: On Violence, Reflexivity and The Cross-Cultural Encounter," *Anthropology and Humanism* (Online First). Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/anhu.12352>

PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM IN SOLOMAN ISLANDS

Associate Professor **Paul J. Carnegie** recently co-authored an article on the political sociology of public service reform in Solomon Islands with colleagues from the University of the South Pacific.

The article examines the impact of new public management reforms on Solomon Islands' public service and the

ways in which a largely externally instigated reform agenda has been accepted, contested, and transformed.

The paper considers whether such a reform agenda has been compatible with the reality of achieving effective service delivery in Solomon Islands.

Siota, J. B., **Carnegie, P. J.**, Allen M. G. (2021). Big Men, Wantoks and Donors: A Political Sociology of Public Service Reform in Solomon Islands. *Pacific Dynamics* 5(1), 33-48.

IAS/SPRINGER BOOK SERIES

There are several volumes in the IAS/Springer “Asia in Transition” book series that have either just been published or are currently in production, including the following:

Displacement Among Sri Lankan Tamil Migrants by Diotima Chatteraj

Vietnam at the Vanguard: New Perspectives Across Time, Space, and Community edited by Jamie Gillen, Liam C. Kelley, and Le Ha Phan

Discourses, Agency and Identity in Malaysia: Critical Perspectives, edited by Zawawi Ibrahim, Gareth Richards, and Victor T. King

Fieldwork and the Self: Changing Research Styles in Southeast Asia, edited by Jérémy Jammes and Victor T. King

For more information about these volumes, as well as the other volumes in the series, please visit the “Asia in Transition” website:

[springer.com/series/13611](https://www.springer.com/series/13611)

If you have a scholarly work or an edited volume that you would like to submit to the IAS/Springer “Asia in Transition” books series, please feel free to contact Editor-in-chief Bruno Jetin (bruno.jetin@ubd.edu.bn).



IAS WORKING PAPERS

The Institute has published three new papers in its IAS Working Paper Series.

IAS Working Paper No 66: ***Migration, Ethnic Diversity, and Economic Growth: Towards an Empirical Understanding of Regional Development in Indonesia*** by Aris Ananta, Evi Nurvidya Arifin, Ari Purbowati, and Paul J. Carnegie.

This paper examines the question of whether impacts of migration on ethnic diversity correlate with economic growth in Indonesia.

By analysing statistics on ethnic groups and regional composition derived primarily from the 2010 Population Census of Indonesia and cross referencing them with recent ethnic classifications and fractionalisation and polarisation indexes, a fuller overview of ethnic diversity across the archipelago and its relationship to migration and economic growth is gained.

Ananta, A. et al. (2021). *Migration, Ethnic Diversity, and Economic Growth: Towards an Empirical Understanding of Regional Development in Indonesia*. Working Paper No. 66. Gadong: Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

IAS Working Paper 65: ***The Iban of Temburong: Migration, Adaptation and Identity in Brunei Darussalam*** by Victor T. King and Magne Knudsen.

The Iban are the most well-documented and studied of all Borneo indigenous peoples, however, the Iban of Brunei are relatively under-studied.

This paper is based on fieldwork from 2018 and 2021 on selected Iban communities in Temburong,

Brunei Darussalam. It focuses on current developments and the ways in which the Iban have adapted to life in the sultanate and come to terms with its politico-legal and socio-economic environment.

This paper aims to fill a gap in Iban Studies by providing recent data on the Temburong Iban's social organisation, economic activities and cultural identity in conjunction with their responses to their minority status in Brunei.

King, V. T. & Knudsen, M. (2021). *The Iban of Temburong: Migration, Adaptation and Identity in Brunei Darussalam*. Working Paper No. 65. Gadong: Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

IAS Working Paper 64: ***Digital Divides and Paradigm Shifts in the Time of COVID-19*** by Caroline Anne Yong Suk Zhen, Siu Tzyy Wei, and Paul J. Carnegie.

This paper considers whether regional digital partnership offers an effective strategy for post-pandemic recovery.

To ground the paper in critical reflection, we combine personal impressions of our current situation with a discussion of the ways to achieve meaningful digital partnership.

The paper argues that our future wellbeing is predicated on our ability to bridge the digital divide and cooperate effectively for mutual benefit.

Zhen, A. Y. S., et al. (2021). *Digital Divides and Paradigm Shifts in the Time of COVID-19*. Working Paper No. 64. Gadong: Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES



The Wednesday Seminar series that IAS has hosted since 2012 has continued this Fall 2021 Term with the following seminars:

Lee Cheuk Yin (NUS) on “Admiral Zheng He (1371-1433) and China’s B&R Initiative.”

June Rubis (University of Sydney) on “Seeing the Utan (Forest) for the Orang (People): A Decolonial Indigenous Approach to Orang Utan Conservation.”

Sin Yee Koh (Monash Malaysia) on “The Mobilities Industry and Their ‘Migration Products’: The Materialisation of Lifestyle/Investment Mobilities in Asia.”

Angela Tritto (Division of Public Policy, HKUST) on “China’s BRI and Industrial Parks in Southeast Asia. Investigating Patterns of FDI and their Potential Impacts through a Novel Database.”

Victor T. King (IAS) on “East and West Synergies and Complexities: Syed Hussein Alatas, Willem F. Wertheim and Edward Said.”

Lisa Arensen (IAS) on “Cooling the Land: Sacred Topographies & Land Use Management on Cambodia’s Kulen Plateau.”

قرسيڤاڠن اونيفورسيٽي بروني دارالسلام - جاريڠن قڤاجين بورنيو

UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM - BORNEO STUDIES NETWORK

CONFERENCE

30 JUNE - 1 JULY 2021 | UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

PROFESSOR VICTOR KING | PROFESSOR JONATHAN RIGG

BORNEO STUDIES

The Institute of Asian Studies had a strong presence at the recent Universiti Brunei Darussalam – Borneo Studies Network (UBD-BSN) Borneo Studies Conference held 30 June – 1 July 2021 at UBD and virtually with the theme of “Borneo Within, Borneo Beyond.”

IAS Director, Associate Professor **Bruno Jetin**, a member of the conference organizing committee, introduced the first keynote of the conference by Dr. **Victor T. King**, Professor of Borneo Studies at IAS. Professor King’s keynote was entitled “A Contextualization and

Deconstruction of Borneo Studies over the last 50 Years,” and it provided a comprehensive context for understanding how Borneo has been studied over the past half century.

On the second day of the conference, Professor Jonathan D. Rigg of the University of Bristol gave the second keynote of the conference on “Climate Change and the Meantime: Borneo in the Asian Context,” and was introduced by IAS Deputy Director and member of the conference organizing committee Dr. **Noor Hasharina Hassan**.

Over the course of the 2-day conference, there were 12 panels that covered a wide range of topics, from Brunei's energy transition to Islamic finance, and from heritage to the impact of Covid-19. Several IAS staff members and research associates contributed to these panels.

In a panel on comparative studies of language and identity, IAS Professor **Lian Kwen Fee** and Associate Professor **Paul J. Carnegie** presented a paper on "Doing Sociology in Borneo: Aspects of the Everyday." In the same panel, Professor King and IAS Research Associate Dr. Magne Knudsen of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at UBD presented a paper on "The Iban of Brunei: Case Studies of Change and Response in Temburong." Both of these presentations were based on on-going research projects.

IAS staff member Associate Professor **Hoon Chang Yau**, currently serving as the Director of the Centre for Advanced Research (CARE) at UBD, chaired a panel on diversification from hydro-carbon energy that included a presentation by IAS Deputy Director Assistant Professor **F. Merlin Franco** on "Natural Ecosystems and their Management in Brunei Darussalam."

Finally, IAS Research Associate Dr. **Stephen Druce** of the Academy of Brunei Studies chaired a panel on "Borneo Historical Perspectives," while IAS Research Associate Dr. **James McLellan** (FASS) presented a paper in a panel on language, identity and music entitled "Borneo and Mindanao: A Comparative Study of Translanguaging Practices and Identity Projection, Negotiation and Concealment."

GOING FORWARD

Engaging with Vietnam and ASEAN

Mobilities & Identities in an Age of Global Transformation

EWV 12 in Conjunction with ICAS 12
24-27 August 2021 - Kyoto, Japan



VIETNAM STUDIES

The Institute of Asian Studies likewise had a strong presence at the 12th Engaging With Vietnam: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue (EWV) conference. This annual conference is co-organized by IAS Research Associate Senior Professor **Phan Le Ha** of the Sultan Hassanal Institute of Education at Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Associate Professor **Liam C. Kelley** of IAS.

The 12th EWV conference was held in conjunction with the 12th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) conference from 24-28 August 2021, and had as its theme

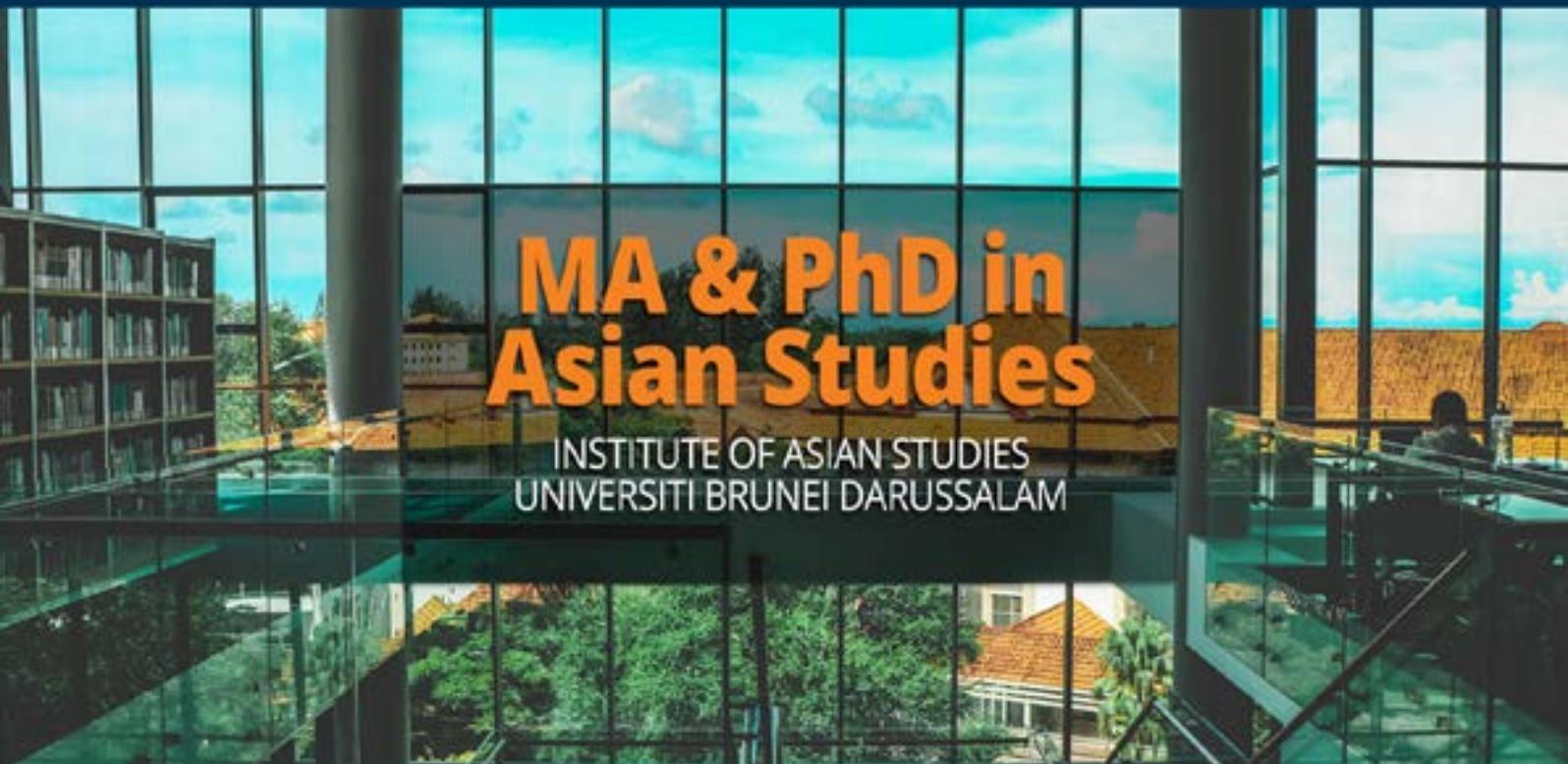
“Engaging with Vietnam and ASEAN: Mobilities and Identities in an Age of Global Transformation.”

IAS Director Associate Professor **Bruno Jetin** and his colleague Erwan Lannon of the Ghent European Law Institute, Faculty of Law and Criminology, Ghent University, presented a paper on “The EU-ASEAN Relationships and the Growing Role of Vietnam in the COVID-19 Pandemic Context.”

Assistant Professor **Nobumichi Teramura** participated in the conference with a paper entitled

“Comparative Development of Civil Law in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos: The Legal and Judicial Development Project in the Mekong Subregion since 1996.”

Finally, Associate Professor **Paul J. Carnegie** presented a paper at EWV on “Mapping Human Security in Southeast Asia.”



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IAS @ UBD

GRADUATE STUDIES

The Institute of Asian Studies offers both an MA and a PhD by research. These programs accept new students for both the August and January intake each year.

This Fall 2021 term, the Institute is pleased to welcome two new PhD students and three MA students.

Prospective students can check the IAS website for information about application deadlines and requirements.

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IAS STAFF NEWS

Bruno Jetin served as a discussant for a panel on “The Battery Value Chain: Opportunities and Challenges” for the 29th GERPISA conference “The Transformations of the Global Automotive Industry: Digitalisation, Ecological Transition and the Impact of the Covid 19 Crisis,” organized in Paris, France (14 June 2021).

Nobumichi Teramura presented a paper on “Shariah as the Law Applicable to an International Commercial Contract: Challenges and Opportunities in Australia and Brunei” at the International Seminar on Private International Law in Islamic Countries: Development and Challenges at the Faculty of Law Universitas Brawijaya (24 August 2021).

Nobumichi Teramura also presented a paper on “Japan as a Source of Legal Ideas: A View from the Mekong Subregion of ASEAN” at the Law Crisis and Revival in Asia: The Asian Law and Society Virtual International Conference at Chulalongkorn University (17 September 2021).

C. Y. Hoon presented a paper on “ASEAN-China Cooperation over the Past 30 Years: History and Experience” at the Conference on Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, organized by the China Institute of

International Studies in Beijing (28 July 2021).

C. Y. Hoon also participated in a plenary session on “The Importance of Multilateralism in Diverse ASEAN” at the 5th ASEAN Media Forum, organized by the ASEAN Secretariat (13 August 2021). Dr. Hoon was a plenary speaker with HE Dato Lim Jock Hui (ASEAN Secretary General), HE Marty Natalegawa (former Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs), HE Ong Keng Yong (former ASEAN Secretary General) and Ms Moe Thuzar (ISEAS Research Fellow).

Liam C. Kelley presented a paper on “Possessing All Under Heaven in Nineteenth Century Vietnam” at the *Tianxia* in Comparative Perspective: Alternative Models of Geopolitical Order Conference, organized by the Berggruen Research Center, Peking University, 17-18 & 24-25 April 2021.

Hasharina Hassan, Merlin Franco, and **Liam C. Kelley**, each chaired a session at the Brunei Malaysia Forum on “Trans-Asian Networks: Continuity and Change” organized by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (14-15 September 2021).

IAS STAFF



Bruno Jetin

Assoc. Prof.,
Director



**Hasharina
Hassan**

Lecturer, Deputy
Director



**Lisa
Arensen**

Assist. Prof.



**Paul J.
Carnegie**

Assoc. Prof.



**Chang-Yau
Hoon**

Assoc. Prof.



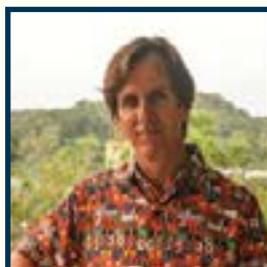
**F. Merlin
Franco**

Assist. Prof.



**Lian Kwen-
Fee**

Professor



**Liam C.
Kelley**

Assoc. Prof.



**Victor T.
King**

Professor



**Nobumichi
Teramura**

Assist. Prof.



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