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

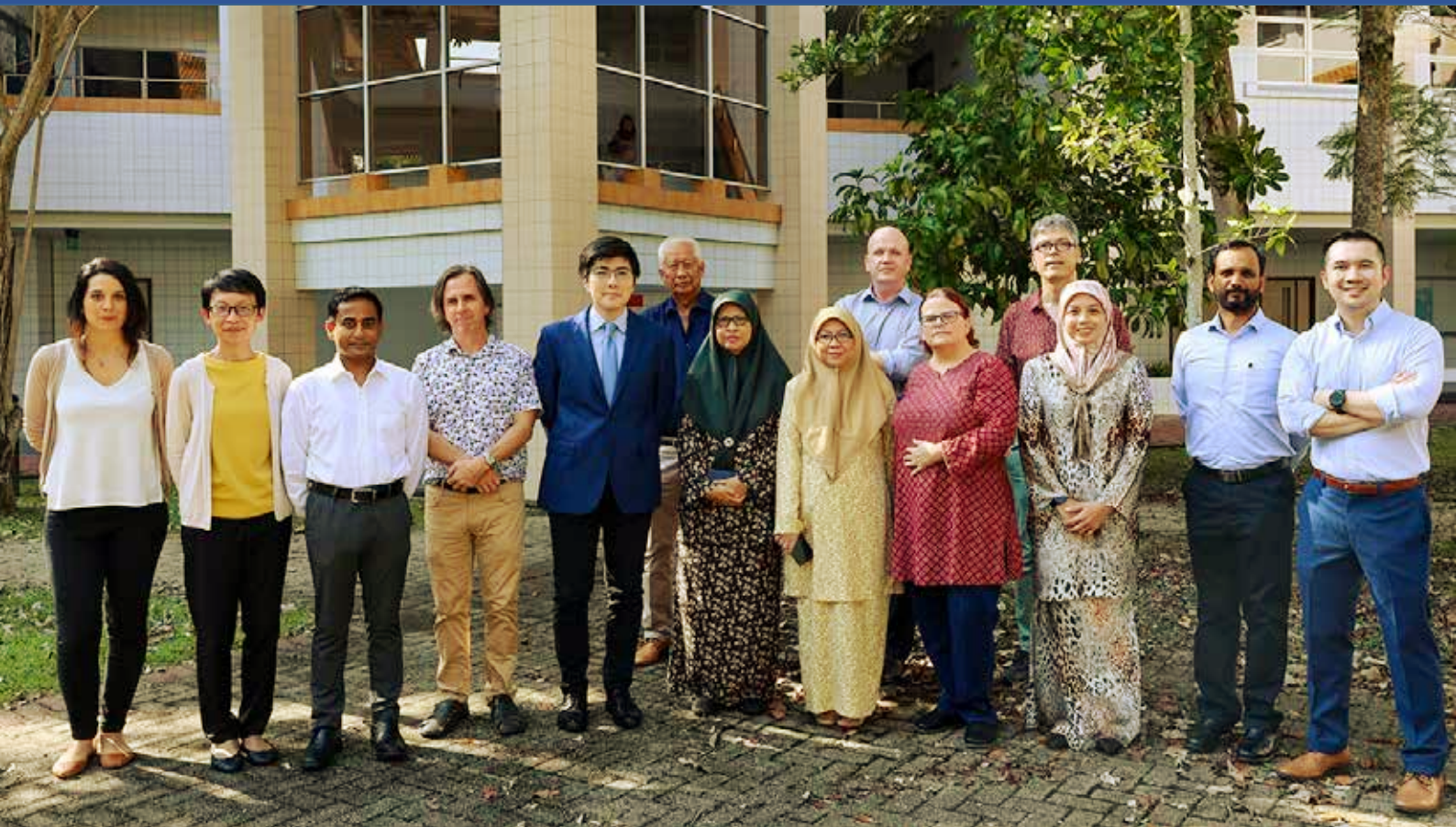
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INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES

ubd | Universiti Brunei Darussalam

July 2023





NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

2023 is proving to be another busy and productive year at the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). It also marks a milestone, as it is the 10th anniversary of IAS.

As a research centre, one of the key missions of IAS is to produce new knowledge about societies and issues in Asia, and it has been very successful in doing so. To date, 20 volumes have been produced in the “Asia in Transition” book series published by IAS and Springer.

Additionally, IAS has published 73 Working Papers and IAS staff have produced an average of between 35-40 publications each year.

As is evident in the pages below, this year is no exception. IAS staff continue to research and publish about a wide range of topics, including the important issue of sustainability.

Here we are also pleased to welcome a new staff member, Dr. Angela Tritto, as Assistant Professor of Human-Nature

Interactions and Biodiversity in Borneo at IAS. Dr. Tritto’s work focuses on issues of sustainability and development and will help enhance work on sustainability at the Institute.

Beyond research and publishing, IAS, together with the School of Business and Economics (SBE) at UBD, co-hosted an international symposium on “Academic Perspectives on Corruption and Foreign Direct Investment in the Asia-Pacific Region.”

This symposium brought together experts from Brunei, Australia, Hong Kong, Germany, Singapore, Thailand, India, Korea, the Netherlands and the Philippines to discuss this important and timely topic.

In connection with this symposium, IAS invited Professor Luke Nottage of the University of Sydney Law School to UBD as an Eminent Visiting Professor. While at UBD, Professor Nottage not only participated in the symposium, but he also gave talks at IAS, the Brunei Darussalam Arbitration Centre and the Attorney General’s Chambers.

These types of high-level scholarly exchanges help to enrich the work of the Institute and we look forward to more such engagements in the future.

**Dk Dr. Noor Hasharina
Pg Hj Hassan**

Senior Assistant Professor,
Director of IAS



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

As part of a research project funded by Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) and the School of Business and Economics (SBE) at UBD co-hosted an international symposium on “**Academic Perspectives on Corruption and Foreign Direct Investment in the Asia-Pacific Region**” at ILIA Conference Room on 29 May 2023.



The invited speakers analysed and discussed the mechanism of corruption related to foreign direct investment from legal and economic perspectives, using case studies from countries in the Asia Pacific region.

The symposium was attended by 80 speakers and guests from Brunei and abroad, including UBD Vice Chancellor **Dr Hazri bin Haji Kifle** as the guest of honour and Solicitor General Hajah Zuraini binti Haji Sharbawi as a distinguished guest.

IAS Director **Dk Dr Noor Hasharina binti Pg Hj Hassan** opened the symposium with welcoming remarks.

The symposium was organised by Assistant Professor **Nobumichi Teramura** and Associate Professor **Bruno Jetin** of IAS, with administrative support from Dr Haji Masairol bin Haji Masri, Dr Wardah Hakimah binti Haji Sumardi, Dr Mohammad Hadi Hazwan bin Hj Haini and Frankie Ong of SBE.

Papers presented in the symposium will be published in Nobumichi Teramura, Luke Nottage and Bruno Jetin (eds), *Corruption and Illegality in Asian*

Investment Arbitration (Springer 2024) in the IAS-Springer “Asia in Transition” Book Series.

EMINENT VISITING PROFESSOR

The Institute of Asian Studies invited University of Sydney Law School Professor **Luke Nottage** to UBD from 28 May until 2 June 2023 as an Eminent Visiting Professor.

While at UBD, Professor Nottage presented a keynote lecture at an international symposium on “**Academic Perspectives on Corruption and Foreign Direct Investment in the Asia-Pacific Region.**” Professor Nottage also gave lectures at the Brunei Darussalam Arbitration Centre (BDAC) and the Attorney General’s Chambers (AGC).

On 30 May 2023, Professor Nottage visited the Brunei Darussalam Arbitration Centre and delivered a special lecture entitled “**Controlling Costs in International Arbitration.**” It was the first public event on arbitration hosted by BDAC.

The Honourable Radin Safiee bin Radin Mas Basiuni, BDAC’s Chairperson, opened the event with welcoming remarks. The lecture was attended by Permanent Secretary (Security and Law) at the Prime Minister’s Office Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib, Solicitor General Hajah Zuraini binti Haji Sharbawi, Registrars of the Supreme Court, counsels and officers from the government and the private sector as well as representatives from Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

In the morning of 1 June 2023, invited by Solicitor General Hajah Zuraini binti Haji Sharbawi, Professor Luke Nottage gave a special talk on “**Dispute Resolution in Asia: ASEAN – Treaties & Arbitration**” at the Attorney General’s Chambers. He discussed various topics on arbitration with AGC officers of the Civil Division, the Legislative Drafting Division, the International Affairs Division, the Communications and Strategy Division, among others.

Finally, in the afternoon of 1 June 2023, Professor Nottage presented a seminar at IAS on “**Asia-Pacific Online Legal Education Before and After the COVID-19 Pandemic.**”



STAFF PUBLICATIONS HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Lisa Arensen. 2023. Speaking for the Spirits: A Reflection on Knowledge, Expertise, and Methodology in Ethnographic Fieldwork on Religion. IAS Working Paper No. 72. Gadong.

Ananta, A., Arifin E. N., Purbowati A., and **Carnegie P. J.** 2023. "Does Diversity Matter for Development? New Evidence on Ethnic Diversity's Mediation of Relationships between Internal Migration and Economic Growth across Indonesia's Regions." *Journal of Population Research*, 40(3): 1-21.

F. Merlin Franco. 2023. "Natural Ecosystems and Their Management in Brunei Darussalam." In *Stability, Growth and Sustainability: Catalysts for Socio-economic Development in Brunei Darussalam*, edited by Aris Ananta, Chang-Yau Hoon and Mahani Hamdan, Singapore: ISEAS Publishing.

Chan, Y.K. and **C.Y. Hoon.** 2023. *Southeast Asia in China: Historical Entanglements and Contemporary Engagements*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books.

Ananta, A., **C.Y. Hoon** and M. Hamdan, (Eds.). 2023. *Stability, Growth and Sustainability: Catalysts for Socio-economic Development in Brunei Darussalam*, Singapore: ISEAS Publishing.

Liam C. Kelley. 2023. "Sinology in Vietnam," *Journal of Chinese History* (firstview).

Liam C. Kelley. 2023. Revisiting the Chinese Sources on Early Southeast Asian History. IAS Working Paper No. 73. Gadong.

Hyun Bang Shin, Yimin Zhao & **Sin Yee Koh** (eds.). 2022. Special Issue on

"The Urbanising Dynamics of Global China: Speculation, Articulation, and Translation in Global Capitalism." *Urban Geography* 43(10): 1457-1468.

Lee CY. 2022. "Management Values from Zheng He's Maritime Expeditions." In *Knowledge Tradition & Civilization Essays in Honour of Professor Osman Bakar*, edited by Khairudin Aljunied, 25-35. UK: Beacon Books.

Lee CY. 2022. "Individual Autonomy and Dissent in Mid Ming China: The Case of the 'Four Talents of Wu.'" *Ming Qing Studies*, 53-66.

Lee CY. 2022. "From the Studies on the Sage Learning to See the Inner Sageness Leaning in Late Ming" (in Chinese) in *Guiyang Institute Journal* No.6: 1-9.

Sanjeev Routray. 2023. Paper struggles: documents, inscriptions, and citizenship negotiations in Delhi. *City: Analysis of Urban Change, Theory, Action*.

Nobumichi Teramura and Salim Farrar. 2023. "Online Legal Education in Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore: Comparing the Members of the Commonwealth in Southeast Asia," in Luke Nottage and Makoto Ibusuki (eds.), *Comparing Online Legal Education: Past, Present and Future*. Intersentia, 91-127.

Nottage, Luke, **Nobumichi Teramura** and James Tanna. 2022. Developing Diversity within Diversity Discourse: Remembering Non-lawyers in Arbitration, in Shahla F Ali, Filip Balcerzak, Giorgio Fabio Colombo and Joshua Karton (eds.), *Diversity in International Arbitration: Why It Matters and How to Sustain It*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 101-118.

Nobumichi Teramura. 2022. Challenging the Arbitrariness Perception of Ex Aequo et Bono to (Re-)discover Procedural Diversity, in Shahla F Ali, Filip Balcerzak, Giorgio Fabio Colombo and Joshua Karton (eds.), *Diversity in International Arbitration: Why It Matters*

and How to Sustain It. Edward Elgar Publishing, 229-241.

Angela Tritto. 2023. "Tourism Sustainability: Bridging the Say-Do Gap." HKUST IEMS Thought Leadership Brief No. 73.



**Brunei /
Sustainability**

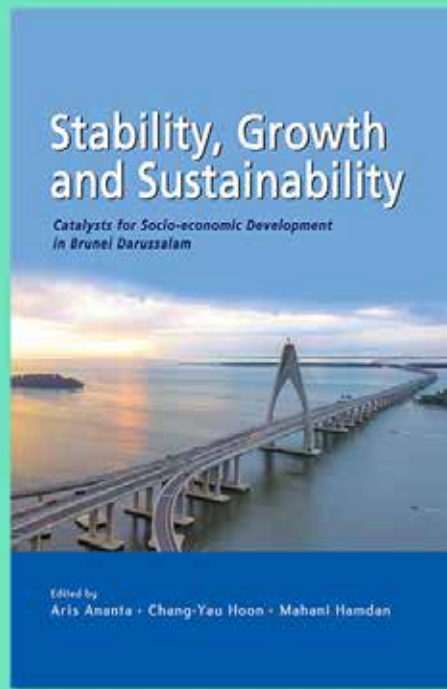
THE NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS OF BRUNEI

Senior Assistant Professor F. Merlin Franco has published a chapter on "Natural Ecosystems and Their Management in Brunei Darussalam."

Brunei Darussalam is one of the smallest countries in the world, yet it boasts one of the highest percentages of forest cover. The country is endowed with a coastline of 161 km and 11 ecosystems that are home to around 15,000 vascular plant species, including 2,000 tree species.

Brunei's economy today is largely driven by oil and gas. Yet, local communities and industries have actively been using the ecosystems and the various tangible and intangible benefits they provide (ecosystem services). In this chapter, Dr. Franco provides an overview of the changing dependencies on Brunei's ecosystems and their current state. He then explores the challenges faced by the government and local communities in the conservation and management of ecosystems.

F. Merlin Franco. 2023. "Natural Ecosystems and Their Management in Brunei Darussalam." In Aris Ananta, Hoon Chang-Yau and Mahani Hamdan (eds.), *Stability, Growth and Sustainability: Catalysts for Socio-economic Development in Brunei Darussalam.* Singapore: ISEAS Publishing.



GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY IN BRUNEI

Professor **Chang-Yau Hoon** has recently co-edited a book with UBD colleagues Aris Ananta (Visiting Professor at CARE) and Mahani Hamdan (Director of IPS) on ***Stability, Growth and Sustainability: Catalysts for Socio-economic Development in Brunei Darussalam*** (Singapore: ISEAS).

The book examines the current socio-economic development in the journey toward a diversified social economy, as targeted in Brunei Vision 2035.

By examining the unique context of Brunei, this book fills in the gap on studies focusing on socio-economic diversification. It highlights the importance of the environment, digital technology and human capital in the diversification process.

His Excellency Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, the 11th Secretary-General of ASEAN, and currently the Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, refers to the book as “a very useful analysis of the challenges facing Brunei Darussalam as the country prepares itself for the 21st century.”

Professor Emeritus Hall Hill from Australian National University, a world leading economist on Southeast Asia, states that, “This forward-looking study of the Brunei economy is timely and topical. This is a very useful and informative guide not only for the Brunei government and society, but also for neighbouring ASEAN member states.”

Aris Ananta, **Hoon Chang-Yau** and Mahani Hamdan (eds.). 2023. *Stability, Growth and Sustainability: Catalysts for Socio-economic Development in Brunei Darussalam*. Singapore: ISEAS Publishing.

TOURISM SUSTAINABILITY

Assistant Professor **Angela Tritto** has published a policy brief for the Institute for Emerging Market Studies at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on “**Tourism Sustainability: Bridging the Say-Do Gap.**”

During the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, most tourist activity around the world came to a standstill. While this was financially challenging for the tourism industry, there were hopes among some that the industry would take that respite to develop more sustainable approaches.

Since the ending of pandemic restrictions, the tourism industry has made a strong recovery. However, Dr. Tritto notes in this paper that

a “say-do gap” has emerged with regards to sustainability.

In particular, the industry has in many cases not developed novel approaches and there is now a gap between the type of sustainable products and services that many tourists say they desire and what the tourism industry is actually providing.

Dr. Tritto proposes that policymakers and industry associations should work to bridge this gap by providing trustworthy information to tourists and monitoring sustainable practices.



Angela Tritto. 2023. “Tourism Sustainability: Bridging the Say-Do Gap.” HKUST IEMS Thought Leadership Brief No. 73. <https://iems.ust.hk/publications/thought-leadership-briefs/tritto-tourism-sustainability-bridging-the-say-do-gap>



THE URBANISING DYNAMICS OF GLOBAL CHINA

Senior Assistant Professor and IAS Deputy Director **Sin Yee Koh** has co-edited a journal special issue entitled “**The Urbanising Dynamics of Global China: Speculation, Articulation, and Translation in Global Capitalism**” with Professor Hyun Bang Shin (London School of Economics and Political Science) and Dr Yimin Zhao (Renmin University of China).

Published in the journal, *Urban Geography*, the special issue contains four research articles and a commentary by Professor Tim Bunnell (National University of Singapore).

The assembled papers in this special issue jointly explore the urban

manifestation of “Global China” at different scales and involving diverse actors, discussing the ways in which the urban has been reconfigured by China’s global expansion and uncovering the differentiated modes of speculative and spectacular urban production at present.

Observing from Ghana, India, Malaysia and China, these papers collectively make theoretical, methodological, and empirical contributions to recognise the dynamics of speculation, articulation and translation in global capitalism, where China plays an increasingly significant role.

Hyun Bang Shin, Yimin Zhao & **Sin Yee Koh** (eds.). 2022. Special Issue on “The Urbanising Dynamics of Global China: Speculation, Articulation, and Translation in Global Capitalism.” *Urban Geography* 43(10): 1457-1468. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2022.2141491>

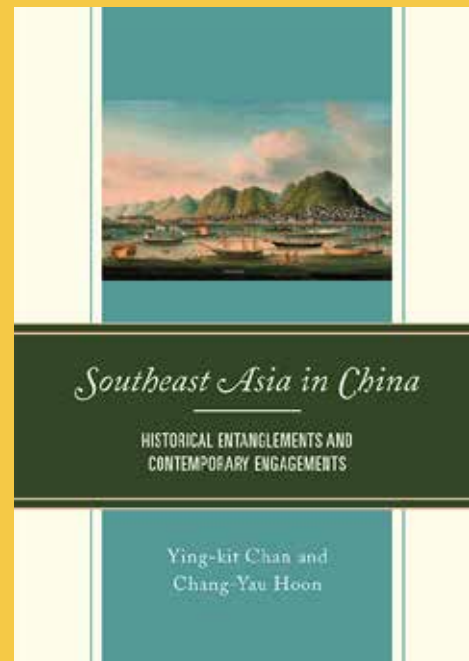
SOUTHEAST ASIA IN CHINA

Professor **Chang-Yau Hoon** has recently co-authored a book together with Ying-kit Chan of the National University of Singapore entitled ***Southeast Asia in China: Historical Entanglements and Contemporary Engagements*** (Lexington Books, 2023).

This volume examines various interactions and connections between Southeast Asia and China, both historical and contemporary, and it is innovative in that it attempts to do so from a Southeast Asian perspective.

Professor David Shambaugh from George Washington University, who is also the author of *Where Great Powers Meet: American & China in Southeast Asia* commented that: "This unique volume is a significant contribution to understanding Southeast Asia's relations with China. Rather than viewing the relationship through the too-familiar perspective of China's impact on the region, this thoughtful and well-researched study reverses the analysis to examine Southeast Asia's roles in, and impact on, China over time. It is a necessary corrective to existing scholarship and a welcome addition to the field, which should be read by all those seeking to understand the 'inner history' of interactions between Southeast Asian societies and China."

Professor Paul Evans from the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, University of British Columbia wrote: "A valuable and overdue assessment of the neglected side of the China-Southeast Asian connection — Southeast Asian influence in China.... An unsentimental and self-confident view from the periphery, it speaks to the multitude of interactions that have shaped contemporary international relations and revealed the limits and possibilities of Southeast Asian agency. Stimulating for regional and international relations specialists alike."



Chang-Yau Hoon and Ying-kit Chan. 2023. *Southeast Asia in China: Historical Entanglements and Contemporary Engagements*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books.

THREE ARTICLES ON MING HISTORY

Senior Professor **Lee Cheuk Yin** has recently published three articles on different aspects of Ming dynasty history.

In **“Management Values from Zheng He’s Maritime Expeditions,”** Professor Lee examines the early-fifteenth-century voyages of the Chinese admiral, Zheng He, from the perspectives of leadership and management and attempts to identify his management traits.

In **“Individual Autonomy and Dissent in Mid Ming China: The Case of the ‘Four Talents of Wu,’”** Professor Lee looks at the emergence of anti-traditional thought in the late Ming period through an examination of the works of four famous scholars and painters of that time known

collectively as “The Four Talents of Wu.”

Whereas some scholars have seen such an intellectual trend as constituting a rupture in the history of Chinese thought, Professor Lee sees the ideas of “The Four Talents of Wu” as continuing and developing from intellectual trends earlier in the Ming period.

Finally, in an article in Chinese on **“From the Studies on the Sage Learning to See the Inner Sageness Leaning in Late Ming,”** Professor Lee examines a strain of thought in the late Ming period known as “Sageliness Within and Kingliness Without.”

Lee CY. 2022. “Management Values from Zheng He’s Maritime Expeditions.” In *Knowledge Tradition & Civilization Essays in Honour of Professor Osman Bakar*, edited by Khairudin Aljunied, 25-35. UK: Beacon Books.

Lee CY. 2022. “Individual Autonomy and Dissent in Mid Ming China: The Case of the ‘Four Talents of Wu.” *Ming Qing Studies*, 53-66.

Lee CY. 2022. “From the Studies on the Sage Learning to See the Inner Sageness Leaning in Late Ming” (in Chinese) in *Guiyang Institute Journal* No.6: 1-9.



DIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Associate Professor **Paul J. Carnegie** recently published a co-authored article in the *Journal of Population Research* with colleagues from CARE and Badan Pusat Statistik entitled “**Does Diversity Matter for Development? New Evidence on Ethnic Diversity’s Mediation of Relationships between Internal Migration and Economic Growth across Indonesia’s Regions.**”

The article draws on comprehensive statistics and updated classification of Indonesia’s ethnic groups to present new evidence on the archipelago’s ethnic diversity which is cross-referenced with recent fractionalization and polarization indices.

This methodological enhancement allows the study to translate with a greater degree of accuracy the mediation of ethnic diversity on the relationship between internal migration and economic growth across Indonesia’s regions than previously carried out.

It identifies a discernible link between the economic region in question, the indicators of ethnic diversity referenced, and the given rate of migration. Placed in composite relief, the findings draw attention to the uneven and complex character of Indonesia’s regional development.

Ananta, A., Arifin E. N., Purbowati A., and **Carnegie P. J.** 2023. “Does Diversity Matter for Development? New Evidence on Ethnic Diversity’s Mediation of Relationships between Internal Migration and Economic Growth across Indonesia’s Regions.” *Journal of Population Research*, 40(3): 1-21.

SINOLOGY IN VIETNAM

Associate Professor **Liam C. Kelley** has recently published an article on “**Sinology in Vietnam**” in the *Journal of Chinese History*.

Sinology is the study of “China,” and although the Vietnamese educated elite read and wrote classical Chinese for centuries, this paper argues that it is only in the twentieth century that a body of knowledge emerged in Vietnam that we can refer to as “Sinology,” as it was only at that time that nationalist concepts took hold and the educated elite came to see the world in terms of

separate nations with their own distinct cultures.

This paper documents the emergence of Sinology in Vietnam in the early twentieth century and then traces its development, demonstrating how revolution and political movements affected the production of this form of knowledge. In many ways, the author argues, the history of Sinology in modern Vietnam mirrors and reflects the various political transformations that took place at that time.

Kelley, Liam CW. 2023. “Sinology in Vietnam,” *Journal of Chinese History*, (firstview). <https://doi.org/10.1017/jch.2022.29>



CITIZENSHIP IN DELHI

Assistant Professor Sanjeev Routray has recently published an article entitled “Paper Struggles: Documents, Inscriptions, and Citizenship Negotiations in Delhi.”

Published in the journal, *City: Analysis of Urban Change, Theory, Action*, the article examines how certain documents, such as ration cards and voter IDs, play a role in establishing and validating claims of urban citizenship in Delhi.

In particular, Dr. Routray examines how citizenship is claimed, negotiated, performed, and realized through various documentary, inscriptive, and enumeration counter-tactics. Enumeration counter-tactics include letter-writing, office visits, self-surveys, the solicitation of information through the Right to Information policy, and the production of counterfeit documents.

Dr. Routray then argues that bureaucratic calculations marked by such factors as arbitrariness and indeterminacy remain a predominant mode of urban governance and dispossession. Yet these calculations also precipitate counter-tactics by the poor, drawing our attention to the heterogeneous character of the state.

Routray, Sanjeev (2023). “Paper Struggles: Documents, Inscriptions, and Citizenship Negotiations in Delhi.” *City: Analysis of Urban Change, Theory, and Action*, 27 (1-2): 137-161. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13604813.2023.2180827>



LEGAL EDUCATION, DIVERSITY & ARBITRATION

Assistant Professor **Nobumichi Teramura** has recently published three chapters on Asian legal education and international dispute resolution. The first, **“Online Legal Education in Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore,”** compares the development of online legal education in three quite closely linked Asian economies following the English common law tradition.

The second chapter, **“Developing Diversity within Diversity Discourse,”** considers, from an empirical point of view, the lack of professional diversity in the discourse of diversity in international arbitration.

Finally, the third chapter, **“Challenging the Arbitrariness Perception of**

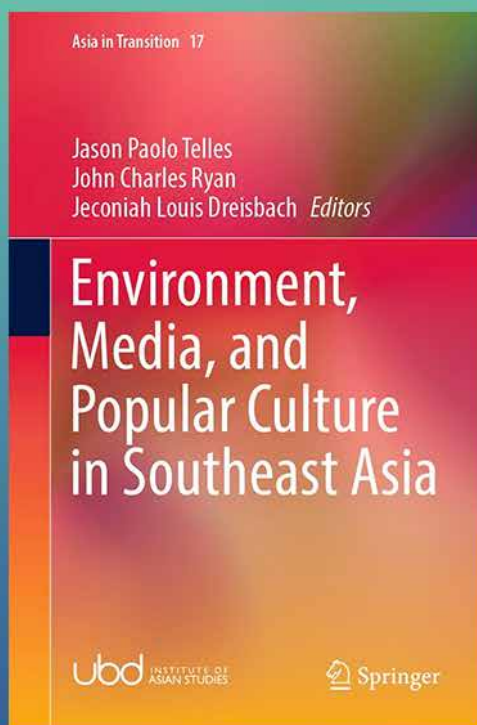
Ex Aequo et Bono to (Re-)discover Procedural Diversity,” discusses procedural diversity in international arbitration, focusing on *ex aequo et bono*.

Ex aequo et bono is a long-lived legal principle that allows arbitrators to decide disputes robustly and flexibly based on what they regard as fair and good conscience. It has long been undervalued by arbitration practitioners and commentators due to their concern on the excessive discretion of arbitrators and the lack of legal certainty that are allegedly brought about by the application of *ex aequo et bono*. This chapter challenges the negative perception.

Teramura, Nobumichi and Salim Farrar. 2023. Online Legal Education in Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore: Comparing the Members of the Commonwealth in Southeast Asia, in Luke Nottage and Makoto Ibusuki (eds.), *Comparing Online Legal Education: Past, Present and Future*. Intersentia, 91-127.

Nottage, Luke, **Nobumichi Teramura** and James Tanna. 2022. Developing Diversity within Diversity Discourse: Remembering Non-lawyers in Arbitration, in Shahla F Ali, Filip Balcerzak, Giorgio Fabio Colombo and Joshua Karton (eds.), *Diversity in International Arbitration: Why It Matters and How to Sustain It*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 101-118.

Teramura, Nobumichi. 2022. Challenging the Arbitrariness Perception of *Ex Aequo et Bono* to (Re-)discover Procedural Diversity, in Shahla F Ali, Filip Balcerzak, Giorgio Fabio Colombo and Joshua Karton (eds.), *Diversity in International Arbitration: Why It Matters and How to Sustain It*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 229-241. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781803920047.00024>



ENVIRONMENT, MEDIA AND POPULAR CULTURE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Institute of Asian Studies is pleased to announce the publication of the 17th volume in the IAS/Springer “Asia in Transition” Series, ***Environment, Media, and Popular Culture in Southeast Asia*** edited by Jason Paolo Telles, John Charles Ryan and Jeconiah Louis Dreisbach.

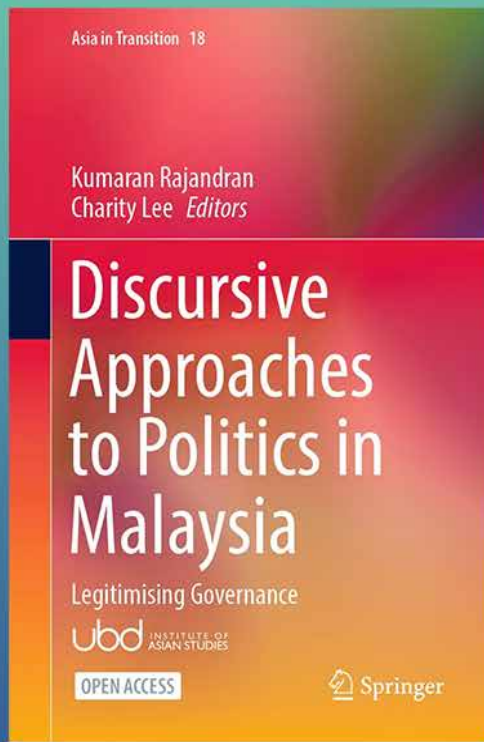
This book addresses the increasingly important subject of ecomedia by critically examining the interconnections between environment, ecology, media forms, and popular culture in the Southeast Asian region, exploring methods such as textual analysis, thematic analysis, content analysis, participatory ethnography,

auto ethnography, and semi-structured interviewing.

It is divided into four sections covering topics such as broadcast media (radio and TV) and the environment; green cinema and ecodocumentaries, ecodigital art, digital environmental literature.

Environment, Media, and Popular Culture in Southeast Asia will be of great interest to researchers, students, practitioners and scholars working in the area of humanities, media, communications, cultural studies, environmental humanities, environmental studies, and sustainability.

Telles, Jason Paolo, John Charles Ryan, Jeconiah Louis Dreisbach (eds.). 2022. *Environment, Media, and Popular Culture in Southeast Asia*. IAS/Springer Asia in Transition Series. Singapore: Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-1130-9>



DISCURSIVE APPROACHES TO POLITICS IN MALAYSIA

The Institute of Asian Studies is pleased to announce the publication of the 18th volume in the IAS/Springer "Asia in Transition" Series, ***Discursive Approaches to Politics in Malaysia: Legitimising Governance*** edited by Kumaran Rajandran and Charity Lee.

This book, made open access through the generous support of Universiti Brunei Darussalam, examines Malaysian politics using a linguistic perspective. It explores how language serves to (de)legitimise governance, and its subsequent policies and activities in Malaysia.

Grounded in discourse studies, this edited volume presents research on the discourses produced by and on Barisan Nasional, Pakatan Harapan and Perikatan Nasional from 2008 to

2020, studying how political actors (de) legitimise their governance through discursive means.

The thirteen original chapters select spoken, print and digital texts in English, Malay, Mandarin and Tamil, and deploy varied theoretical and methodological approaches. Their linguistic analysis unearths the language features and strategies that facilitate (de)legitimation.

The chapters in the volume show how political actors shape the discursive representation and evaluation of multiple concerns in Malaysia. Consequently, *Discursive Approaches to Politics in Malaysia* improves our understanding of contemporary Malaysian political discourse.

Discursive Approaches to Politics in Malaysia: Legitimising Governance will be of interest to graduates and researchers in the field of discourse studies, seeking to understand the discursive contours of politics in this developing Asian country.

To access the chapters in this volume, please visit the Springer/IAS “Asia in Transition” Series website:

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

Kumaran Rajandran and Charity Lee (eds.). 2023. *Discursive Approaches to Politics in Malaysia: Legitimising Governance*. IAS/Springer Asia in Transition Series. Singapore: Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-5334-7>

IAS/SPRINGER BOOK SERIES OPEN-ACCESS INITIATIVE

The Institute of Asian Studies is pleased to announce that thanks to the generous support of the Universiti Brunei Darussalam, the IAS/Springer “Asia in Transition” book series is set to publish 15 open-access volumes over the next five years.

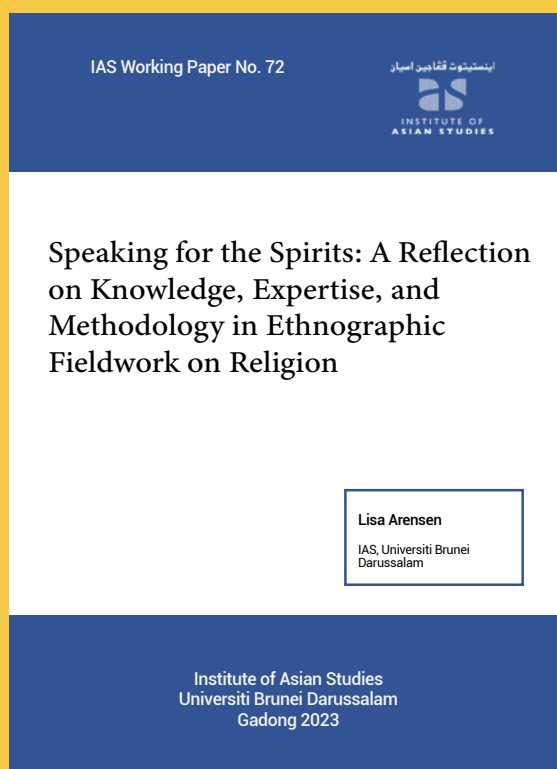
The “Asia in Transition” series addresses the interplay of local, national, regional and global influences in Southeast, South and East Asia

and the processes of translation and exchange across boundaries and borders from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.

For more information about the series, please visit the Springer 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 Paper No 72:
*Speaking for the Spirits: A
Reflection on Knowledge,
Expertise, and Methodology
in Ethnographic Fieldwork on
Religion* by Lisa Arensen**

This paper interrogates methodological questions regarding who to listen to as cosmological interlocutors in fieldwork, and how to interpret diverse perspectives and varied claims of expertise on the spirit-worlds.

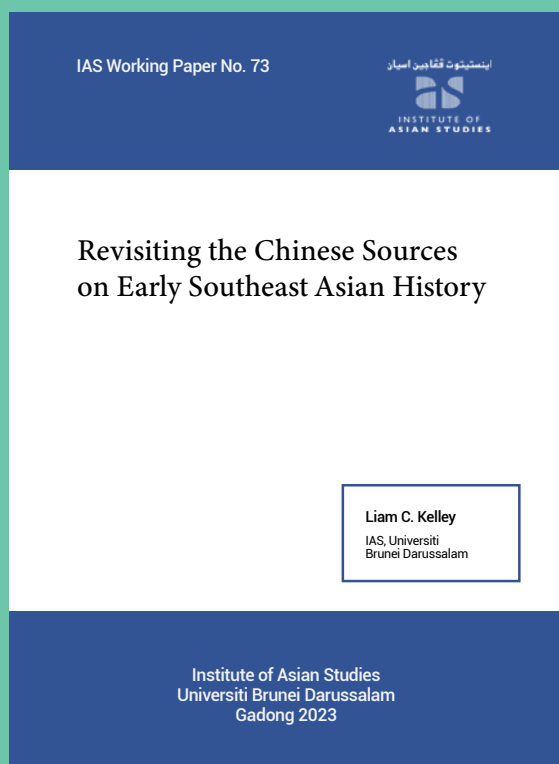
The work is an attempt to be transparent about the methodological untidiness of fieldwork on a topic upon which there seemed to be a very nebulous body of ideas and practices.

Based on ethnographic fieldwork in the Kulen plateau in northwest Cambodia, the author describes an expressed

paucity of specialized knowledge about the nature of the cosmological inhabitants of the place.

However, when it came to engaging with the spirit-worlds, mountain residents joined together in complex ritual practice. Cosmological knowledge was not held by one but many, and supernatural solutions were sought through a network of expertise and in community.

The author contrasts the types of knowledge held by pilgrims to the mountain with that of its long-term residents, and discusses the challenges presented in observing and representing a varied cosmological ethnoscape in a sacred place.



**IAS Working Paper No 73:
*Revisiting the Chinese Sources
on Early Southeast Asian
History* by Liam C. Kelley**

Chinese sources have played a very important role in the writing of early Southeast Asian history. However, scholars have struggled to understand the information in those sources and over the past century, there have been countless different interpretations that have been put forward.

In this paper, we revisit the Chinese sources on early Southeast Asian history and do not simply offer a new interpretation, but also attempt to demonstrate why previous scholarship has been inaccurate.

In particular, previous generations of scholars failed to recognize the

way that Chinese scholars in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries distorted information about Southeast Asia by (arbitrarily) equating historical placenames with the names of contemporary kingdoms. In doing so, they made false connections between placenames, thereby leading later scholars astray.

In this paper, we return to the earliest sources and build our knowledge from scratch. What emerges is a new picture of early Southeast Asian history and one that is free of the many textual problems and contradictions that scholars have struggled with over the past century.

WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES

The **Wednesday Seminar Series** that IAS has hosted since 2012 has continued with the following seminars:

Fariastuti Djafar (Universitas Tanjungpura, Indonesia), "Rethinking the Remittances-Development Nexus: The Case of Sambas District, Indonesia."

David Ludden (New York University), "State of Asian Studies: Trajectories and Recent Tendencies."

Angela Tritto (IAS), "Urban Utopia or Pipe Dream: Examining Chinese Invested Smart City Development in Southeast Asia."

Sanjeev Routray (IAS), "Emplacements: Production and Social Reproduction in an Industrial Neighbourhood of Delhi."

Duong Van Bien (IAS), "The Localization of Religion in Vietnam."

Luke Nottage (University of Sydney Law School), "Asia-Pacific Online Legal Education Before and After the COVID-19 Pandemic."





MA & PhD in Asian Studies

INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

GRADUATE STUDIES

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

Prospective students can check the IAS website for information about,

requirements, application deadlines and scholarship information.

<https://ias.ubd.edu.bn/graduate-studies/>

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Universiti Brunei Darussalam is offering postdoctoral fellowships for highly qualified researchers who are dedicated to making a significant impact in their chosen field.

Applicants must apply to collaborate with a unit at UBD. The Institute of Asian Studies welcomes such collaboration.

In order to be eligible, applicants must demonstrate a track record

of publishing high-quality research papers in reputable academic journals.

Please contact the Director or a researcher at IAS if you are interested in applying. For more information about the fellowship, please follow the link below:

https://research.ubd.edu.bn/?page_id=3797

PROMOTION / NEW STAFF



Dr. **Chang-Yau Hoon** has been promoted to the position of Professor. Professor Hoon joined IAS in 2016 as Associate Professor of Anthropology.

Professor Hoon specializes on the Chinese diaspora, identity politics, multiculturalism, China-ASEAN relations, and cultural diversity in contemporary Southeast Asia. His monographs and edited books include *Chinese Identity in Post-Suharto Indonesia: Culture, Media and Politics* (Sussex Academic Press; 2008), *Chinese Indonesians Reassessed: History, Religion and Belonging* (Routledge, 2013), *Catalysts of Change: Ethnic Chinese Business in Asia* (World Scientific, 2014), *Contesting Chineseness: Ethnicity, Identity and Nation in China and Southeast Asia* (Springer, 2021), *Southeast Asia in China: Historical Entanglements and Contemporary Engagements* (Lexington, 2023), and *Stability, Growth and Sustainability: Catalysts for Socio-economic Development in Brunei Darussalam* (ISEAS, 2023).



IAS welcomes Dr. **Angela Tritto** as Assistant Professor of Human-Nature Interactions and Biodiversity in Borneo at IAS.

Dr. Tritto is a political scientist interested in finding sustainability solutions to developmental challenges and most of her research has been concerned with either tourism and conservation or with China's Belt and Road Initiative and its sustainability impacts. This includes the effects of Chinese foreign direct investments on host countries, as well as examining Chinese aid and medical assistance under the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr. Tritto has extensive field research experience in both China and Southeast Asia. Her research interests include management of innovation, environmental policies and technologies, heritage management, and sustainable development. In the future, she hopes to help find ways to protect and integrate traditional ecological knowledge in conservation management.



CELEBRATIONS

There has been much to celebrate at IAS. In March, the Institute held an event to celebrate its 10th anniversary. **Congratulations to IAS!!**

At the same event, we also celebrated our retiring colleague **Sariman Bte Judin's** many years of service to the Institute as an administrative assistant.

We will all miss Sari and hearing her joyful greeting of "Selamat pagi!" each morning, but we wish her the best in her retirement.

Finally, in May, the Institute held an Open House to celebrate Hari Raya. With pandemic restrictions now fully lifted, it was wonderful to enjoy the company of our many colleagues and friends from across the campus.

Chang-Yau Hoon's promotion to professor was also celebrated at this event.



IAS STAFF NEWS

Assistant Professor **Lisa Arensen** presented a paper on **“When the Bombs Fell: An Analysis of Incidents on the Kulen Plateau during the Nixon Administration’s Bombing of Cambodia”** at the Association of Asian Studies Conference in Boston, Massachusetts on 16-19 March 2023.

Dr. Arensen also presented a paper on **“Rivers and Reservoirs: A History of Water and Human Efforts to Control It on the Kulen Plateau”** together with Ming Li Yong at the Fluvial Phenomena: Re-engaging Rivers in the Anthropocene conference, hosted by FASS, UBD on 27-28 February 2023.

Associate Professor **Paul J. Carnegie** co-presented a paper with Dr. Ta-Wei Chu from Chiang Mai University entitled **“Dam Trouble: Transdisciplinarity and the Case of a Riverine Livelihood Study”** in Northeastern Cambodia at the FASS Conference, Fluid Phenomena: Re-engaging Rivers in the Anthropocene, 27-28 February 2023, Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Dr. Carnegie also presented a paper entitled **“Of Social Imaginary and Violence: How Did Indonesia Diminish its Extremist Threat?”** at the 14th Asian Conference on the Social Sciences (ACSS2023), 27-29 May 2023, Tokyo, Japan.

Senior Assistant Professor Merlin Franco gave a TEDx presentation on **“What is in a name? Unravelling the Beauty of Local Names of Plants and Animals”** on March 4 at Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Professor **Chang-Yau Hoon** recently gave a talk as an invited speaker on **“A Hub for Diversity: Social Cohesion as a Statecraft for Nation-Branding in Singapore”** at the Conference on Singapore as a Hub and Corridor in Asia, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 3-4 March 2023, as well as a talk as an invited speaker on **“Christianity and the Chinese in Indonesia: Ethnicity, Education and Enterprise”** at the Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong, 4 April 2023.

Professor Hoon was also invited to give two webinar talks, one on **“Brunei-China Economic Connectivity: Achievements and Challenges”** for the Webinar on China-ASEAN Economic, Financial, and Development Cooperation, Centre for International Knowledge on Development, Beijing, China, 15 February 2023, and another on **“Negotiating China’s Economic Presence in Brunei Darussalam: The Dynamics between the New and Old Chinese Community”** for the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, 27 April 2023.

Finally, Professor Hoon was also an invited speaker for the Workshop on **“Southeast Asia in U.S.-China Policy”** at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute and US Task Force on US-China Policy, 23-24 May 2023.

Associate Professor Bruno Jetin presented a paper co-authored with Jamel Saadaoui and Haingo Ratiarison, entitled **“The Effect of Corruption on Foreign Direct Investment: ‘Helping**

Hand' or 'Grabbing Hand?'" at the international symposium organised by IAS and UBDSBE at UBD, Academic Perspectives on Corruption and Foreign Direct Investment in the Asia-Pacific Region, 29 May 2023.

Dr. Jetin also made a presentation on "Electric Batteries and Critical Materials Dependency: A Geopolitical Analysis of the USA and the European Union" at the 31st GERPISA International Conference, Toward Sustainability? The Electrification of the Automotive Industry, at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, 27-30 June 2023.

Senior Assistant Professor **Koh Sin Yee** and Dr. Mai Truong (Department of Political Science, Mount St. Mary's University) co-organised an online writing workshop for a group of social science early career researchers who are based in and beyond Southeast Asia. The workshop was funded by the Women in Southeast Asian Social Sciences (WiSEASS) network and was held 6-10 March 2023.

Assistant Professor **Sanjeev Routray** presented the following three conference papers: "**Almost like Engineers! Material and Symbolic Practices of Plumbers in Delhi**" and "**Migration Narratives: Delhi as an Imagined Space of Belonging and Citizenship**" at the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology, Melbourne, Australia, June 25 to July 1, 2023, and "**Emplacements: Production and Social Reproduction in an Industrial Neighborhood of Delhi**," at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, March 23 to 27, 2023.

Dr. Routray also presented the following two virtual talks: "**Who is a Construction**

Worker? Bureaucratic Arbitrariness, Entrepreneurial Unions, and Performances of Eligibility in Delhi," for the Sussex Asia Centre, University of Sussex, UK, May 10, 2023 and "**The Right to Be Counted: The Urban Poor and the Politics of Resettlement in Delhi**" for the Delhi Book Panel from Stanford University Press' South Asia in Motion Series, Centre for South Asia, Stanford University, February 28, 2023.

Finally, Dr. Routray also co-organized The International Sociological Association (ISA) Economy and Society Research Committee (ISA RC02) **Pre-Congress Early Career Sociologist Workshop**. Melbourne, June 24, 2023.

Assistant Professor **Nobumichi Teramura** presented a paper on "**International Commercial Arbitration in Cambodia**" for the ASEAN's Investment Policy and Economic Law Seminar Series at the Centre for Social Systems Innovation at Kobe University, Japan, 11 November 2022.

Assistant Professor **Angela Tritto** presented her work on smart cities in Myanmar at a workshop on **China's Global Capitalism From the Ground Up** co-organized by COST Action CA18215 China in Europe Research Network (CHERN) Working group 5 – Labour and migration and ZRC SAZU – Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, 8 June, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

IAS STAFF



**Dk. Dr. Noor
Hasharina bte
Pg. Haji Hassan**

Senior Assistant
Professor, Director



Koh Sin Yee

Senior Assistant
Professor, Deputy
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**Lisa
Arensen**

Assistant
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**Paul J.
Carnegie**

Associate
Professor



**F. Merlin
Franco**

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Assistant
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**Chang-Yau
Hoon**

Professor



Bruno Jetin

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**Liam C.
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Lee Cheuk Yin
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Lian Kwen-Fee
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