

## Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) invites you to our seminar series.

Dr Farah Purwaningrum

**"A Comparative Study of Knowledge Acquisition in ICT Companies in Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia"**

Assistant Professor Dr Koh Sin Yee

**"Learning from *Kampong Kirkby* and *Kirkbyites*: The Creation and Maintenance of Multicultural Conviviality "**

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 2.30pm

IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

### Abstract

The paper examined how knowledge is acquired amongst Information Communication Technology (ICT) companies in Brunei Darussalam and in Malaysia. Malaysia accords Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) Malaysia status to ICT companies as part of its commitment in implementing a global ICT hub; whilst Brunei Darussalam through Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) and Authority for Info-Communications Technology Industry (AiTi) provides start-up grants to ICT companies and establishes Anggerek Desa Technology Park. The study contributes in understanding how prepared the two countries are in achieving digital economy in Southeast Asia. Through a comparative qualitative study in 2010-2015, the author highlights similarities and differences of knowledge acquisition in Cyberjaya Industrial Cluster in Malaysia and in Brunei-Muara district in Brunei Darussalam. Such similarities and differences should be seen in light of socio-economic conditions in the two countries.

### Speaker's Profile

Farah Purwaningrum is a sociologist based at the Institute of Asian Studies - Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

### Abstract

Between 1952 and 1962, 1,500 teacher-trainees from Malaya and Singapore were sent to train at Kirkby College in Merseyside, greater Liverpool, United Kingdom. The college has been affectionately referred to as *Kampong Kirkby* ('Hometown Kirkby') by graduates of the college ('Kirkbyites'), who sustain strong alumni ties till today. This paper analyses contemporary and archival materials related to Kirkby College, including newspaper and magazine articles (published in Malaya, Liverpool, and Malaysia), *Panduan* (Kirkby College annual student magazine, published 1952-1962), and materials on the Kirkby College alumni website (e.g. newsletters, photographs, memorials, etc.). Notwithstanding the specific historical circumstances of the Kirkby College project, this paper suggests that much can be learnt from the past. Specifically, this paper highlights the importance of education and the role of educators for the creation and maintenance of multicultural conviviality.

### Speaker's Profile

Koh Sin Yee is Assistant Professor in Geography at the IAS. Her research interests are in postcolonial geography and colonial legacies; migration, mobilities, ethnicity, and citizenship; and urbanisation and inequalities.