

Islam and Asia

18-21 August 2004
Manoa (HI) United States

Since 11 September 2001 Islam has moved from the margins of political thought to the centre of daily discourse in America. However, especially in the United States, our national dialogue unfortunately has been limited by a lack of knowledge and understanding about this religion. While experts in the media and government focus on the particulars of Islam in the Middle East, much less investigation, research or discussion has been directed toward Asian Muslims, a regional grouping that outnumbers Muslims in other parts of the world. And little or nothing is mentioned about the role of Islam in international commerce, and specifically its impact on Asian business.

The conference aims to bring together a diverse group of academic and professional experts, singly or in panel format, for presentations or discussion groups that analyse, explain or interpret Muslim Asia's current economic, social, political, and cultural environment. Most importantly, the conference hopes to unveil ongoing research and activities examining country-specific developments in Muslim Asian nations, business practices, bilateral and multilateral trade issues as well as Islam-related pan-regional topics that impact both Asia and the rest of the world.

Day 1 of the conference will be devoted to a historical profile of Muslim Asia, particularly in relation to economic concerns. Authors are encouraged to give attention to differences and similarities between Muslim practices in the Middle East and Asia. Submissions on the

following topics are welcome: (a) role of trade in the development of Islamic societies in Asia; (b) practice and ethics of commerce in Islamic contexts; (c) Muslim merchant communities in non-Muslim Asian states; and (d) women and the family economy in Asia's Muslim societies.

Days 2 and 3 will focus on the relationship between Islam and Asian business/trade: (a) banking systems; (b) management issues and human resources practices; (c) role of entrepreneurship and small businesses; (d) marketing, advertising, and public relations within an Asian Muslim context; (e) WTO, globalization, multilateral agencies and their impact on Asian Muslim countries; and (f) best practices and strategies by multinational and other non-Muslim corporations in the Islamic communities of Asia. Presentations on other relevant topics that fit the general theme of the conference will be considered. <

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Information >

Deadline abstracts/summaries: 22 March 2004
All required documents should be emailed to: rochelle@cba.hawaii.edu
Acceptances communicated by 15 April.
Depending on the availability of funds, successful authors from the developing Asian countries may receive conference fee discounts.
Sponsored by University of Hawaii, East-West Center, Muslim Association of Hawaii

WOTRO Postdoc Project

Since 2002 WOTRO invites researchers from developing countries to apply for a postdoc project within the DC fellowship scheme. The DC Fellowship scheme aims to support high-quality PhD and postdoc projects executed by talented researchers from developing countries. The fellowship offers the candidate the opportunity to continue earlier collaboration and strengthen his or her research experience.

Since WOTRO wishes to encourage postdoctoral research, we kindly invite Dutch senior researchers to submit a postdoc proposal for their former WOTRO funded grantees.

The candidate researcher is required to have successfully finished a WOTRO PhD project and in the recent past was, or supervised, a PhD student from a developing country with a so-called DC Fellowship from WOTRO. Eligible candidates should hold a position in a local research institute in a developing country, guaranteed to be continued after the postdoc fellowship is completed. There are no restrictions with respect to the topic of the research for postdoc DC Fellows.

The deadline for preliminary proposals for the 2005 competition is 15 April 2004. After evaluation and ranking by the Advisory Committee, 20 applicants (PhD and postdoc) will be invited to submit a final, more elaborated application. <

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www.nwo.nl/subsidiewijzer.nsf/pages/NWOP_5VEJSH_Eng

First International Conference on Lao Studies (ICLS)

20-22 May 2005, DeKalb (IL) USA

The Lao PDR today has a population of roughly five million people and as many as 25 million people in the Lao diaspora; comprising an amazing complex of ethno-linguistic groups. In recent years there has been an increased interest in Laos and its peoples. There has been a flowering of scholarly publications on topics pertaining to Laos in the last several decades and a growing interest cultivated by the international media. The First Lao History Symposium, held in the spring of 2002, heralded this growing interest in Lao Studies among a new generation of scholars. This conference will build on that momentum, beyond the study of history.

The First International Conference on Lao Studies (ICLS) wishes to provide an international forum for scholars to present and discuss various aspects of Lao Studies. The conference will feature papers on any topic concerning Lao Studies. Topics include all ethno-linguistic groups of Laos, the Isan Lao and other ethnic Lao groups in Thailand, cross-border ethnic groups in Thailand, Vietnam, China, Burma, and Cambodia (e.g. Hmong, Tai Dam, Phuan, Kammu), and Overseas Lao. They are provisionally divided into the following broad categories: (1) languages and linguistics; (2) folk wisdom and literature; (3) belief, ritual, and religions; (4) history; (5) politics; (6) economics and environment; (7) ethno-cultural contact and exchange; (8) architecture, arts, music, and handicrafts; (9) archaeology; (10) science and medicine; (11) information technology; (12) the media and popular culture; and others. The First ICLS will create special panels for individuals, groups or organizations that have four or more presenters. <

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First International Conference on Lao Studies (ICLS)
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www.seasite.niu.edu/lao/events/Conference2005/FICLS.htm
Registration form: www.seasite.niu.edu/lao/events/Conference2005/registration.htm

Connecting Civil Society of Asia and Europe

16-18 June 2004, Barcelona Spain

Civil Society organizations can make a unique contribution to the political, socio-economic, and cultural development in Asia and Europe. The efforts of civil society actors, such as NGOs, trade unions, universities, research institutes, think-tanks, foundations, and resource organizations are indispensable to the building of a community sense in the two regions.

Recognizing the importance of bridging civil societies in Asia and Europe, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF, Singapore), Casa Asia (Barcelona, Spain), the Japan Center for International Exchange (Tokyo, Japan), and the IIAS are co-organizing the two-day conference 'Connecting Civil Society of Asia and Europe'. The meeting will bring representatives from various civil society groups in Asia and Europe together to discuss issues of mutual concern, such as governance, environment, academic cooperation, interfaith dialogue, social issues, and international relations. It will provide a platform for constructive dialogue on the future direction of civil society cooperation between Asia and Europe, a few months before the fifth ASEM summit, to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Participants will be invited to exchange ideas on possible solutions for an enhanced relationship between Asia and Europe and to describe their vision of future links between the regions. The Asia-Europe Foundation will convey the outcome of this consultation to the ASEM governments. <

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EUROSEAS 4

1-4 September 2004, Paris, France

The two panels described below can be seen to reflect the interdisciplinary character of the 36 panels at the fourth conference of the European Association for South-East Asian Studies. Participation to all panels is open to EUROSEAS members and non-members alike. The deadline for receiving paper abstracts (max. 200 words) is 1 April 2004. Those scholars interested are referred to the conference website.

Economic, Political, and Cultural Transformations of the Southeast Asian Uplands (Panel)

Scholars of Southeast Asia have long made a radical distinction between lowlands and uplands in matters ecological, political-economic, and cultural. They have only recently begun to question this separation on the basis of topographic features.

This panel intends to bring together and stimulate scholarship on the economic, political, and cultural processes constituting the Southeast Asian uplands. Its participants will be encouraged to investigate not only the processes differentiating lowlands from uplands, but also the processes linking these areas through tribute, trade, markets, state-formation, conservation, and development processes. Moreover, in order to debunk essentializing and generalizing notions of the uplands, participants will seek to understand patterns and processes of variation within upland regions.

Participants are expected to combine locally grounded studies with attention to the larger-scale forces bearing upon upland lives and environments. Concrete issues of interest include the dynamics of market liberalization, migration, international conservation, the exercise of state power, human rights agendas, and the representation of upland people in Southeast Asian media.

Those interested in participating may contact:
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The Development of the Indochinese Peninsula: Risks & Possibilities (Panel)

In the 1990s various countries and international organizations were involved in ambitious development plans in Indochina. One of these projects is a development programme launched in 1992 by the Asian Development Bank called 'Greater Mekong Sub-region' (GMS). It has been very successful as well as controversial.

The aim of this project is to create the integration of the new ASEAN member economies (Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam) into ASEAN. However, concerned observers, mainly NGOs, as well as citizen groups and rural communities across the peninsula, have urged the Asian Development Bank to stop this large scale infrastructure project since it presents serious threats to the environment, the resources, and the livelihoods of millions of people in Mekong region. This panel proposes a cross-border and interdisciplinary examination of the GMS project to objectively appreciate the plan's merits and possibilities.

Those interested in participating in this panel may contact:
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www.kitlv.nl/euroseas.html#conference