### ICAS 4 update: the future of Asia

The fourth International Convention of Asia Scholars will be organized by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) in Shanghai, 20-24 August 2005. At the time of writing, the ICAS 4 Organizing Committee is sending out letters of acceptance to nearly one-thousand participants. About 250 panels on topics varying from economics to politics and from anthropology to genomics have been assembled, the titles and short descriptions of which are published on the ICAS 4 website.

ICAS 4 will have as its theme 'The Future of Asia'. While previous meetings of ICAS lacked such a theme, it is clear why the organizers of ICAS 4 desired it: their backyard, Shanghai, is the future of Asia. The rise of this city over the past decade has been a story of superlatives. The skyline of the city has been transformed, now boasting some of the world's tallest buildings and longest bridges. Shanghai's unique appeal rests in its double role as a harbinger of China's future and a testing ground for the world at large. It draws inspiration from the co-habitation of Asian and Western ideas and peoples and the creative forces these engender. The landmark Shanghai Exhibition Center on Yanan Road will be the venue of ICAS 4. This communist icon, which opened its doors in 1955, is a culturally significant structure in Shanghai's historical mosaic. Initially called the China-Soviet Friendship Mansion (Zhong-Su youhao dasha), its name was changed to Exhibition Center in 1968. Its famous vaulted hall has been reserved for the exhibitors, supporters and visitors of ICAS 4.

### **ICAS Book Prizes**

The ICAS Book Prizes aim to create an international focus for publications on Asia while increasing worldwide visibility. All scientific books published in 2003 and 2004 on Asian topics were eligible. Three prizes will be awarded: (1) best study in the humanities; (2) best study in the social sciences; and (3) best PhD dissertation. The prize will consist of ff 2500 for each of the books while the best PhD dissertation will be published. In all, the ICAS secretariat received forty books on a broad range of topics from 17 publishers (for more information see www.icassecretariat.org; the back page of this newsletter lists the titles). A reading committee of six members is now judging the books. On 16 June short lists will be announced on the ICAS Secretariat website. The awarding of the ICAS Book Prizes will be during the opening ceremony of ICAS 4 in Shanghai on the 20th of August, at which we hope you will all be present.

### ICAS 4

Head, Supervising Committee: Wang Ronhua, President, SASS Head, Organizing Committee: Renhwei Huang, Vice President, SASS Organizer: Li Yihai

### **ICAS Secretariat**

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## Regional network for indigenous peoples in Southeast Asia

The Dutch government recently granted €1.26 million for a project to build a regional network among Southeast Asian indigenous peoples' NGOs. The project will be implemented through the Institute of Environmental Sciences at Leiden University, and its research station at Isabela State University in the Philippines. The project will be executed in collaboration with IIAS, in particular through its research activities in the field of cultural minorities.

The aim of the project is to support, safeguard, restore and protect natural livelihood resources to alleviate poverty among indigenous peoples in Southeast Asia. This will be pursued through the development and strengthening of a regional network of organizations working with indigenous peoples. Action research will be an important component of the project, which will work with local, national and regional organization in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand. In January an experienced Filipino network director was appointed, Rolando Modina. He will be assisted by Dante Aquino, who finished his dissertation on resource use among the Bugkalot (formerly known as Ilongot) in Luzon.

A first meeting is scheduled for April 2005 in the Philippines, where representatives of indigenous peoples' NGOs from across the region will exchange ideas and experiences, and identity research and training priorities. In many countries the 'development' of indigenous peoples is a complicated social problem, fraught with political sensitivities. Numerous donor agencies and national governments have struggled with this issue for a long time, and continue to do so. One of the problems they face is to find the right balance between government priorities and increasingly vocal indigenous peoples, who may choose alternative routes to the future.

It is the explicit aim of this project to listen to the voices of indigenous peoples themselves, and to support their efforts towards poverty alleviation and sustainable resource management though action research and the sharing of experiences across ethnic and other boundaries. A trust fund to finance small field projects is part of the overall program.

By facilitating this project at the campus of a university committed to the plight of indigenous peoples and the sustainable management of natural resources, we hope to bridge the gap between practitioners in development and the research community, whose results have not always reached all concerned parties. We also hope to stimulate and facilitate research activities by representatives of the indigenous communities themselves.

For more information on this project, please contact Rolando Modina, network director, at rmodina@yahoo.com or Gerard Persoon, project leader, at persoon@cml.leidenuniv.nl. The website of the joint program of Leiden University and Isabela State University is: www.CVPED.org

Gerard Persoon

### Muslim authorities in twentieth century Indonesia

The IIAS project Islam in Indonesia: the dissemination of religious authority in the 20th century is now in its final year. This four-year co-operative research project, involving specialists from Indonesia, the Netherlands, Egypt, Australia, Canada and elsewhere, aims to study and document important changes in religious, especially Muslim, authority in Indonesia over the past century which have contributed to the shaping of contemporary nationhood. As the twentieth century has been a period of rapid social change – the result of, among other factors, spectacular rises in literacy, urbanization, economic growth and the visibility and influence of the state - the dissemination of religious authority has acquired highly dynamic and complex characteristics.

The project includes four advanced research programmes which address the most important areas of religious dissemination in Indonesia over the twentieth century and into our day, namely: 'Ulama and Fatwa: the Structures of Traditional Religious Authority', 'Tarekat: Mystical Associations', 'Dakwah Organizations and Activities in Urban Communities' and 'Education and the Dissemination and Reproduction of Religious Authority'.

As a spin-off activity to the joint research efforts, a comprehensive list of religious personalities in twentieth century Indonesian Islam, including well-known but also less important or not so well-known persons, is being compiled. The initial plan was to make a collection of short biographies, but in view of the abundance of biographical materials already available, it was decided to create a database with bibliographical references to already existing data.

The aim is to collect source materials from all over the world: monographs, articles or chapters in monographs, journal articles, pamphlets, editorials, papers for congresses, forums and seminars, translations of non-Indonesian source materials and so on. In due course, our intention is to collect other source items, including visual and audio material. In this phase of the project the work for the database is carried out in Leiden, home to the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) with its famous Indonesia collections.

At present the database is still in its formative stage. Hence, we very much welcome suggestions and submissions from your side. Disclosure on the web of the database is planned in the summer of 2005, shortly before the end of the project in September 2005. A print publication of the bibliography is also being considered.

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### Burma/Myanmar Update

#### 24 March 2005 Amsterdam

With its new status as Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) member state, Burma/Myanmar is subject to heavy international pressure to improve its human rights situation

and open up its borders. Consequently the government has been forced to set a new course in its political ambitions. This IIAS Update will shed light on the latest political developments in Burma/Myanmar.

Lena Scheen / Amis Boersma iiasfellowships@let.leidenuniv.nl www.iias.nl

#### 19th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies

27-30 June 2006 Leiden

IIAS will be hosting the 19th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, in Leiden, the Netherlands, 27-30 June 2006. Panel proposals should be submitted to the Conference Secretariat by 1 June 2005 by email in Rich Text Format (RTF) or PDF. The proposal should include a title, an abstract of 300 words, and contact information of the panel organizer (name, address, email, affiliation, and title). The Academic Advisory Committee will then review the panel proposals. Due to limited time and space available during the conference, the Advisory Committee reserves the right to combine or decline panels. The committee encourages panels open to a broad audience, and that apply a wide approach. Notices of acceptance will be sent out by August 2005 while accepted panel proposals will be listed in the IIAS Newsletter and on the conference website.

Convenor: D.H.A. Kolff ecmsas2006@let.leidenuniv.nl

### How the Balance Swung: a hundred years after the Russo-Japanese War

16 September 2005 Amsterdam

IIAS is organising a seminar on the aftermath of the 1904-05 Russo-Japanese War, which had a colossal impact on the self-confidence of colonised peoples all over Asia. Issues to be discussed include the effects of Russia's defeat on the nation's domestic and foreign politics; the influence of the war on social movements in other countries in the region; and Japan's use of its victory in its relationships with the Western powers and the people in its colonies. International experts in the field will be participating in the event.

For more information please contact the IIAS Amsterdam branch:

onderzoeksgroepiias@fmg.uva.nl

# Consumerism and the emerging middle class: comparative perspectives from India and China

IIAS/CASS/ICSSR/CERI/CSH Workshop Series, Number 2 India International Centre, New Delhi 7-9 November 2005

China and India - the world's two fastest growing economies accounting for a third of the world's population - have been going through comparable processes of liberalization and globalization in the past decades. In terms of scale and historical depth, they are obvious cases for com-

parison. Economic growth in both societies has enabled large segments of the population to move from frugal to consumption-oriented lifestyles. While attention has focused on the production side of the economy - where India provides services and China manufactured goods to the global market - the consumption side of national markets has not sufficiently been addressed. With economic growth comes greater penetration of capital and improved technologies of communication; it is only recently that a globally-oriented capitalist consumer culture has truly manifesting itself in India and China - at least among the middle classes. This cultural dimension of human action has rarely been directly addressed as the core resource for production and consumption.

The conference will focus on the cultural analysis of consumption in India and China. Economic change affects the entire dream world of mass consumption, including cinema, advertising, luxury goods and their cheap copies. Consumption patterns are deeply embedded in class habits and the politics of distinction. As such, the art world and the conservation of architecture are parts of these new emergent lifestyles. Leisure and the enjoyment of life become available to new groups in society and give rise to important industries, such as tourism. Questions of authenticity and cultural reproduction are central to what Arjun Appadurai (1986) has called 'the social life of things'. Since consumption is so much fuelled by desire, it is also necessary to analyze new conceptions of gender and sexuality as integral to the conference theme. Individual sessions will address:

Cinema / Television. Asian television is in the throes of change; state-sponsored channels now compete with numerous satellite channels and new vistas of imagination. To some extent, the notion of a distinctly American (Hollywood) or Chinese or Indian cinema (Bollywood) is breaking down, as film industries around the world become integrated in ways that make them simultaneously more global and more local. Yet both India and China have survived the Hollywood onslaught with the popularity of their own films. India produces the largest number of films of any country in the world; Bollywood, in particular, is a national passion. Equally important, both countries are centres of two of the world's largest diasporas, often avid consumers of films and television from their 'home' countries. This session will examine the role of television and cinema in the formation of Indian and Chinese modernities, both within the countries, and for their diasporas. It will also redefine the televisual and cinematic experiences of Asia in an ever-changing global context.

Advertising. Contemporary advertising in India and China has reached international standards in scope and technical accomplishment. How have advertising strategies in the two countries changed over recent years? Is there increased customization to local cultures? An intensification of strategies aimed at targeting rural markets? How are consumers affected? In China, have the material standards promoted through advertising had ramifications the Party failed to foresee? How does women's entry into the workforce further change lifestyle patterns and purchasing behaviour? What does the use of 'Hinglish' in Indian advertising reflect? Is



it part of the latest attempt of empowering the youth market, aiming to make them independent consumers, defining their identities through the consumption of 'cool products'? How far do strategies such as this undermine the traditional hierarchy of family and reinforce individualism?

Tourism. India has a huge potential for tourism and now offers a variety of tours for both foreign and domestic tourists, including cultural, heritage, religious, adventure, train, rejuvenation, tribal, beach resort, even textile tours. China is already an important tourism destination in Asia, and ranks sixth in the number of arrivals in the world. It is estimated that, by 2020, China will be the world's number one tourist destination and the fourth largest nation of tourists (Asian Info online). Domestic tourism in China is growing vigorously and can be linked to the emergence of a new, urban middle class. This session will address issues such as Chinese perceptions of modernity and responses of ethnic minorities as they encounter state-sponsored modernization. How has television and print media transformed religious pilgrimages into a consumer experience in India? What changes occur for middle class Indians when, from believers and worshippers, they become audiences / consumers? How do such audiences relate to the sacralizing potential of mass media which offer alternative, and often individualized access to religious experience? Does it have a particular structure?

Art and Architecture. China's urban landscape has transformed over the last two decades. Using Shanghai and New Delhi and the adjoining new, urban area of Gurgaon as case studies, participants can examine how the city has been transformed, and explore some areas of contestation associated with this transformation. How does the super new modern architecture fit with the old? How has city life changed? How are Chinese and Indians coping with this change? How does the government manage both growth and environmental issues, collective and individual interests?

Anti-consumerism. Both India and China have witnessed strong currents of anticonsumerism in their modern histories. Gandhi's emphasis on frugality, traditional crafts, and the spinning wheel was an answer to imperialist capitalism. China's communist movement condemned bourgeois values of consumption and the aesthetic values of feudalism. In both cases these resistances have their ironies, such as the development of khadi into modern chic in India and the cottage industry of Maoist memorabilia in China. These and other forms of anti-consumerism and the irony of their commodification needs further exploration.

Further sessions will address the politicisation / depoliticisation of the urban middle class and the new middle class of entrepreneurs.

Convenors: Peter van der Veer and Shoma Munshi (IIAS); Christophe Jaffrelot (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales, Paris) Patricia Uberoi and Ravni Thakur (Institute for Chinese Studies, Delhi University).

#### South Asian Diasporas: the creation of unfinished identities in the modern world

IIAS/ Erasmus University Rotterdam workshop 23-24 June 2005 Rotterdam

It is well known that 'twice migrant' Indians in the UK from the Caribbean and East Africa share little with each other, seemingly fragmented by their migration experiences. Outsiders (scholars, or the Indian Government) may define them as one, but they do not speak the same languages, visit the same temples or mosques, and hardly intermarry. In fact, the labels 'East African Asian' and 'Caribbean Asian' suggest these are new constructions of identity.

The main aim of the workshop is to bring together senior scholars in the field of Indian diaspora studies to discuss the potential and limits of the 'diaspora' concept. The conference will stress how different migration experiences, migrants' reception in host countries, and length of time abroad explain differences in identity formation among Indian diasporas. This approach goes against the general 'Asians in diaspora' literature, which tends to unify and homogenize migrants in terms of culture, religion, language and homeland, speaking of the Indian diaspora. The general literature uses broad 'checklists' of factors to define diasporic groups: dispersal to two or more locations; collective mythology of homeland; alienation from the host land and others.

While differences are acknowledged in terms of class, religion, gender and language, these differences are experienced in India as well. What, then, is the use of the diaspora concept if it cannot explain the socio-economic and cultural differences between Caribbean Asians, East African Asians and other South Asian migrants in London? How can the diaspora concept help us to understand changing attitudes towards India and the South Asian diaspora through generations?

Peoples in diaspora are part of global and local histories. Historians need to emphasize the dynamic processes of changing attitudes towards the homeland, host land and diasporic community. A historical and comparative approach may help us to understand some of these dynamics.

Two recent and related developments are of importance. The vast growth of mass media and the internet has in one way or another re-connected Indian diasporas with India. Bollywood videos and music are sold throughout the world; the internet now counts numerous sites where people share views, discuss politics and virtually reunite with the 'homeland'. In addition, since September 2000 the Indian government, in contrast to its earlier policy of indifference, has adopted a policy seeking stronger ties with the Indian diaspora (not diasporas).

Despite the technological and political developments, re-connection, however defined, is not an obvious and natural process. It has 'local' and 'global' meanings. People in diaspora choose to re-connect; choose what (and what not) to reconnect to. In some cases they may choose not to re-connect at all and still be 'Indian'. This occurred among Indian groups in East Africa, who initially strengthened their economic and cultural ties with India through trade relations and taking brides from the homeland. However, many Indian businessmen in East Africa today show little economic interest in India, despite the initiatives of the Indian government. On the contrary, the overall image of Indians in India among Gujarati businessmen in East Africa transformed from 'reliable family or community members' to one of 'unreliable, corrupt and, untrustworthy 'others'.

These issues raise questions related to the concept of diaspora as well as to migration and relocation issues. How was the 'Indianess' of South Asian migrants embedded in their host countries? Though many overseas Indians haven't visited India for three generations or more, they created myths, stories and opinions about it. Others visited India frequently (or just once) and shared their stories with friends and family members. What is the importance of their image of India in their local identity creation? How do local Indian communities respond to the growing importance of mass media and the internet and the new policy of the Indian Government to strengthen their ties with India? These questions are all related to the main question of this conference: how does the migration experience create new identities and/or alter old ones in the local and global process of assimilation and integration in the diasporas of South Asians?

Most scholars are aware that 'South Asian' identity is neither unchanging and primordial, nor infinitely flexible, which one may paint, fill in, or use depending on circumstances. South Asian identity is constantly negotiated in changing contexts. This assumption holds as much in South Asia as it does in the South Asian diasporas. A historical and comparative approach may help us to understand some of these dynamics. What is the use of the diaspora concept if it tends to unify the 'diapora'? Is the diaspora 'checklist' helpful in understanding migration experiences or does it close our eyes to variation and difference? In other words, is the diaspora concept useful in our empirical research or not?

#### Organizers:

G. Oonk, Erasmus University Rotterdam
H. Schulte Nordholt, Erasmus
University Rotterdam / University of
Amsterdam / IIAS
Contact: Oonk@fhk.eur.nl

### Chinese Cultures Abroad Directory

The Chinese Cultures Abroad Directory wishes to receive URLs and, if you wish, your evaluation of websites in any language by or about Overseas Chinese (however defined). Visit www2.hawaii.edu/~pollard/participation.html for details. The Directory is part of the China WWW Virtual Library and the Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library. Vincent K. Pollard pollard@hawaii.edu is the editor.

### Invitation to join the Nagani Project

The Nagani (Red Dragon) Book Club was founded in 1937 in Rangoon, by a vanguard of Burmese independence fighters who tried to transmit international knowledge and literature into Burma. Modelled on Victor Gollancz' Left Book Club, its members included Thakin Nu, who later became the first Prime Minister of independent Burma. The purpose of the Club was to print books in Burmese language containing the essence of the contemporary international literature, history, economics, politics and science at a low price. Up to 1941, the club published more than 70 books, issued a newsletter and was popularised by a still popular song that was sung by a film star.

The current *Nagani* Project intends to study various aspects of Burma/Myanmar's intellectual and literary history. It aims to encourage and establish joint research by Burmese (and non-Burmese) individuals living both inside and outside Myanmar, and to establish a network of people concerned about Burma/Myanmar's past as well as future intellectual life and literature.

The current project, as a first step, aims to provide an overview of the *Nagani* Book Club's publications. Towards this end, we are looking to publish 'book-reports' on *Nagani* publications in English, of 8,000-12,000 words. After about 40 reports are submitted, a seminar will be held to discuss the results and decide on the foci for further investigation and research. The Singapore conference on Burma in July 2006 will provide a first opportunity for this discussion.

For more information, please contact:
Hans-Bernd Zoellner
University of Hamburg /
Asian-Africa-Institute
habezett@t-online.de



### Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics

#### 23-24 May 2005 Amsterdam

The next Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) will be held in Amsterdam 23-24 May 2005. This year's conference will focus on 'Securing Development in an Unstable World?' and will be jointly organized by the World Bank, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Development Cooperation and the Ministry of Finance of the Netherlands.

Each year, the ABCDE brings prominent researchers and policymakers from around the world together with the senior leadership of the World Bank and other multilateral and bilateral agencies, to discuss major development challenges. It is usually attended by a broad audience of 500 academics and development experts.

Contact: Nina Maqami nmaqami@worldbank.org www.worldbank.org/abcde-europe

### Naming in Asia: Local Identities and Global Change

23-24 Feb 2006 Asia Research Institute Singapore

The cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary study of personal names is one of the most promising endeavours in the fields of history, social anthropology, sociology and linguistics. It holds the key to a number of important issues, including the definition of personal identities, the position of the individual in society, religious and cosmological representations, social change, gender and history. In Asia, a great variety of personal naming systems are present. Each bears on the way society defines personal and social identity. The colonial period and subsequent pressures of globalization are reflected in various systems of naming, typically intended to combine some link with indigenous practice (tenuous in some colonial cases), ethnic identification, legibility to government, and utility within a globalising system.

Papers are encouraged either to explore the dynamics of a particular naming system, or to pursue various thematic issues more broadly across several societies. The following topics are among those encouraged:

- Comparative study of personal names
   typology of naming systems
- The politics of naming: surnaming and the state
- What is in a name: worldviews, cosmologies, representations
- Names and religious identities.
- Name-changing and religious conversion
- Names and inheritance. Do patrilineages concentrate capital?
- Structural role of naming in different societies
- Regional naming systems: global and local
- Islamic naming in Asian societies
- Names in daily use, the politics of conversation
- The linguistic structure of naming systems

The conference aims to bring together historians, anthropologists, sociologists and linguists. The regional scope of the conference is centred on Asia including Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Laos, Burma, Vietnam, China, Korea and Japan. Languages belonging to all major linguistic families present in the zone will be considered. Paper proposals including 250-word abstracts and 5-line biography should be sent to Valerie Yeo at ariyeov@nus.edu.sg by 31 March 2005. Some funding will be available for those in the Asian region, post-graduate students, and others unable to fund themselves. It is hoped that the conference will lead to an important book.

For enquiries, please contact:
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www.ari.nus.edu.sg/conf2006/

### Asian Expansions: the historical processes of polity expansion in Asia

12-13 May 2006 Asia Research Institute Singapore

naming.htm

Many of the nation states of Asia are products of territorial expansion over time. Others, although smaller today than their largest historical scales, are also products or vestiges of territorial expansion. The expansions by which Asian polities grew, however, were diverse in nature, varied in mode and of differing lengths in process.

While historical expansion by European states and European empires has been a subject of intense research in recent decades, Asian expansions is a field which remains largely unstudied. The processes of decolonization and nation-building in Asia over the last half century have produced much nationalist history posited on a long-term 'natural' historical genealogy of contemporary polities. The mechanisms by which Asian polities have developed and expanded over time have thus generally been understudied and, in some areas, entirely ignored. Yet it is crucial to an understanding of the modern world that the evolution of Asian polities be explored not only in terms of political systems (the Northeast Asian bureaucratic forms versus the Southeast Asian 'charisma' mandalas, for example), but also in terms of expanding territories. In looking at the emergence of modern states, the autonomous Asian processes of bureaucratization and accretion need also to be compared to those of Europe. These are very major issues in terms of how the world we know has come to be, and how the problems which face many nations have come to be created.

Victor Lieberman has recently drawn attention to processes of expansion and integration which show 'strange parallels' across Eurasia, yet the Asian end of the equation remains understudied. While scholars such as Lattimore, Di Cosmo, Elvin and Purdue have investigated frontiers and expansions of the polities of China and Central Asia, comparative studies of Asian expansions are still lacking.

This workshop is intended to open a space for such comparative studies. By examining the aims, modes, mechanisms and processes of polity expansion in Asia, some generic conclusions about the nature of such expansion may well be forthcoming. Was polity expansion always accompanied by military ventures? How important was bureaucratic support for expansion? What role did environment play as an inducer of or obstacle to expansion? Was incorporation of surrounding areas into an economic network centred in the expanding polity a frequent precursor to, or perhaps a common effect, of political expansion? Was cultural affiliation a useful or desirable condition for the absorption of surrounding polities or peoples? How much active acculturation of occupied peoples did expanding polities engage in? Was control over people or territory the key concern of the rulers of historical Asian polities? How have such concerns changed? It is hoped that papers will address both specific examples of polity expansion as well as address possible patterns which might be shared with (or differ from) other examples of Asian expansions.

The issues involved in such an exploration are, admittedly, enormous and a workshop of this scale will only be a preliminary step in beginning to address some of the connections and commonalities between diverse historical processes. It is hoped, however, that by bringing attention to the need to study the history of polity expansion in Asia, new ways of understanding historical and contemporary Asia will emerge.

Paper proposals including a 400-word abstract and a short biography of the proposer should be sent to Valerie Yeo at ariyeov@nus.edu.sg by 6 April 2005. Those selected to participate will be advised within two weeks of this date and will be required to submit completed papers by April 2006.

For enquiries, please contact: Convenors: Geoff Wade (arigpw@nus.edu.sg)

Geoff Wade (arigpw@nus.edu.sg)
Zheng Yangwen (arizyw@nus.edu.sg)
Bruce Lockhart (hisbl@nus.edu.sg)
Anthony Reid

Secretariat: Valerie Yeo (ariyeov@nus.edu.sg)

## Études mongoles et sibériennes, centrasiatiques et tibétaines

The journal Études mongoles, founded in 1970 by Roberte Hamayon, initially focused exclusively on the Mongol world. Its following coverage of Siberia was reflected in the new title Études mongoles et sibériennes, delineating the contours of a cultural area in Northern Asia. This orientation, however, led to the neglect of important aspects of Mongol reality, connected with the Turks of Central Asia through language, geography, history. Other aspects of the history and culture of the Mongols link them to the Tibetans.

With the aim of better accounting for this complexity, the journal is now moving to include coverage of Central Asia and Tibet. Although one is Muslim and the other Bud-

dhist, it is not a matter of claiming to deal with Buddhism or Islam in their own right, but of studying these worlds comparatively as parts of a vast whole extending from the Arctic Sea to the Himalaya. The journal seeks to contribute to knowledge on the region's peoples and to clarify questions of interest to the scientific community. This step is conveyed in the modification of the name of the journal, which becomes Études mongoles et sibériennes, centrasiatiques et tibétaines (EMSCAT). The editorial policy remains open, as before, to individual essays, monographs, and to a single theme entrusted to a guest editor. All suggestions or proposals of themes are welcome and should be sent to the editor:

Katia Buffetrille Centre d'études mongoles et sibériennes katia.buffetrille@ephe.sorbonne.fr

### Siksacakr: peer-reviewed journal of the Center for Khmer Studies

Siksacakr welcomes articles related to Khmer and Southeast Asian Studies. Articles must be either in Khmer, English or French. Accepted articles are published in their original language and translated into Khmer. The deadline for No.8 (Spring 2006) is 21 December 2005.

A new on-line version for shorter articles comes out every six months. The deadline for the first, June 2005 issue is 30 April 2005.

Contact: Michel Rethy Antelme, Editor-in-Chief Manuscript to: siksacakr@khmerstudies.org

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