



The Nippon Foundation Fellowships  
**API Newsletter**  
for Asian Public Intellectuals (API)

[ Issue No. 3 / June 2002 ]

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# BUSTLING WITH ACTIVITY

*The API Fellowships for the 2001-2002 batch saw a myriad of activities taking place - from intense literature review work, to stimulating discussions with people from all walks of life, to creating invaluable networks with individuals and organizations, to intriguing findings and conclusions in different projects. Read the following and find out what the first group of Fellows had been doing...*

Armed with a digital video camera, Nick Deocampo took almost 40 hours of footages in Indonesia and Malaysia to study the media's role in the changing Asian identity. He interviewed and recorded audio-visually some film personalities, film scholars, young and established film directors, and academics.

Meanwhile, in seeking to explore Muslim identities in Thailand and the Philippines, Nur A. Fadhil Lubis, conducted studies on the development of Muslim communities, to see how they inculcate and perceive their identities. To obtain information, he conducted numerous interviews and discussions with relevant academicians at various universities, with important Muslim figures, Islamic scholars and school headmasters.

Besides studying documented research, Phra Paisal Visalo conducted numerous interviews in Indonesia and the Philippines, particularly with people within the religious circles of Islam, Christianity and Buddhism, and held group discussions and seminars. His research covered issues concerning the various manifestations of religion in the modern world, religious responses to globalization, and the economic and cultural dimensions of globalization.

In the case of Pande Ketut Trimayuni, she set out to study the vulnerability of migrant workers to HIV/AIDS, particularly in the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia. She made contacts with several NGOs, spoke with many women migrant workers and conducted

in-depth interviews with men and women living with AIDS/HIV, and held discussions with academicians and policy makers. One of her respondents was Marina Mahathir, daughter of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, and well known for her work in AIDS care.

Rene Pio Javellana, S.J., used video documentation as a principal tool for his project. His project took him to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan, where he interviewed professionals and academics on heritage conservation and the formal educational programs that address this field. He explored the use of videography and the limitations of a portable video system in documenting heritage. His videos will be distributed in VCD format to students, teachers and heritage groups as a means of initiating discussion on issues regarding heritage conservation.

During his fellowship period, K.S. Jomo travelled to countries in the East Asian region to conduct interviews with key personalities who have an

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# From *The* Editorial Desk



**T**wo words come to my mind as I review the API activities over the past months of the year.... realism and optimism.

The realism is in the enriching activities and tremendous achievement of the first cohort of Fellows which went beyond our expectations. It certainly has been full steam ahead for the 26 'Pioneer' Fellows. The only alarming incident was when Herry Yogeswara fell 20 meters off a cliff and escaped with a slipped disc, a sprained hip and minor abrasions. We are thankful that he did not experience any major injury and we are glad that he is well on his way to recovery.

Of these 26 Fellows, only two remain to complete their Fellowships. These remaining Fellowships should be completed by October, according to their current schedules.

In retrospect, there have been no major problems with the first group of Fellows. It has been smooth sailing in as far as the logistics of obtaining visas from the Host Countries were concerned, to the support by Host Institutions, to the coordination by the Partner Institutions, to the smooth development of the projects.

Based on the experiences and reports of our first group of Fellows, there appears to be an ever increasing need to identify a multitude of issues affecting Asians in the wake of globalization. There is the need for greater understanding and interaction between the different cultures to generate greater solidarity and unity among Asians.

The experiences of our first group of Fellows with their projects continue to propel our enthusiasm and excitement for this program. Following are short excerpted comments from some of them:-

Pande Trimayuni — "Experience is beyond that of a hundred books".

Sri Nuryanti - "Challenges in coping with (Thai) language".

Nick Deocampo - "Intellectually rewarded and artistically enriched".

Pataya Ruenkaew - "Increases (my) qualification as a social researcher in the area of migration".

Sukran Rojanapaiwong - "...the necessity of cell phones while traveling on the projects!"

Colin Nicholas - "exposed to various situations and contexts that could never be experienced via books or interviews".

Etsuko Rodriguez - "a very good arrangement to introduce other Fellows".

The optimism is in the future successes of the API program. The continuing publicity and the promotion of the program certainly paid-off as the number of applications for the second year of Fellowships increased. From 131 applications in the first year it increased to 202 in the second. After the selection process, the successful 30 applicants were taken through an Orientation Program. There was only one subsequent withdrawal from the program because of an unforeseen job demand from the government of the Fellow concerned.

As we reflect upon our past experiences and the realistic insights it has given us, we also realize that there will be many unforeseen challenges ahead and as such, we must continue to remain optimistic. Therefore, to start off each year effectively, it is important that we work toward fostering a creative collaboration among all parties concerned. What better vehicle than the Orientation Program to help achieve this!

The Orientation Programs held at each Participating Institution to mark the beginning of the Fellowship, serves as an opportune event that should be fully utilized to serve as an integrated forum where Fellows are welcomed formally to the API community and introduced to the local public intellectual community. The Orientation Program is an important beginning to the Fellowship period as it is at this forum that the Fellows have a chance to dialogue with invited public intellectuals.

The Orientation Program is also used to provide the Fellows with an avenue to engage in intellectual discourse on the broader issues of their research projects and the potential implications of their areas of study. It is also at this forum that Fellows are familiarized with the Partner Institution of their residence country, the Institution that will provide logistical support, offer administrative services, and serve as the nexus for the research linkups and communication with the Fellows.

Another key area addressed during the Orientation sessions is the terms and conditions of the Fellowship. This establishes the understanding and accountability of the Fellows. This ensures that activities remain on track and on schedule, and that resources are used as effectively as possible by the Fellows in their mission. With regard to this and any other matter concerning the Fellowship that needs clarification, the Q & A session - an inherent part of the Orientation Program - answers all questions. We urge all Fellows to effectively utilize this session, to actively engage in the discussion and boldly seek clarifications.

Following the Orientation for the second cohort of API Fellowships was the excitement in deciding on the venue for the first API Workshop, the choice of Workshop Director, the Workshop activities, and the budget involved. The Workshop will focus on globalization in Asia, its outcomes and its possibilities for change. Since the participating Fellows come from a diversity of disciplines, their interdisciplinary expertise will create intellectual ferment and give breadth and analytical depth to the API Fellowships' work.

We are sure that this will be a very rewarding activity, fully justifying the program.

All of us are now busy with preparations for the first API Workshop, in addition to closing budgets for the year, processing applications for the third round of Fellowships, and answering numerous questions on the Fellowship award.

If ever the world needed public intellectuals - it is now! The world faces threats of war and terrorism, the impact of political and cultural hegemony, concerns with national identity and sovereignty, the effects of an economic slowdown and the need for economic development. As we focus on such priorities of the world, let us not forget the "trickle-down" effect that these events have on Asia, where the larger portion of the world population resides. As Asia faces the many challenges that transcend boundaries, there will be a greater need for Asian Public Intellectuals to articulate these concerns, offer their understanding and interpretations in response to regional needs, and propose creative solutions. API Fellows, you are assuming an extremely important and consequential role in the lives of people in this region.

Moving on to related activities, a Memorial Conference (cum subsequent publication) was held in honour of the late Prof. Dr Ishak Shari, former Director of IKMAS, Malaysia, and a founding member of the API Fellowships. The conference was held at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia from 19-21 August. It had about 23 presenters and attracted an audience of more than 200 persons.

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the API community to "thank" the following persons for works rendered, and "welcome" the new recruits into the API community:-

Thanks to...

Donna Amoroso and Gemma Mallillin, who both left the Japan and Philippines API offices, respectively.

Au Yong Geok Lian and Koay Vi Nee who left the Coordinating Institution Office, Malaysia.

A warm welcome to...

Naoko Maeno (as Coordinator, Japan API Office)

Russell Tabisula (Philippines API Office)

Saowaros Saetang (Thai API Office)

Maarhafizah Maarof and Noraini Dhiauddin (C.I. Office, Malaysia)

Our program has surely benefited and will continue to be enriched by all their contributions. On the same note, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the second group of Fellows and sign-off with these words...

*"Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it.  
Autograph your work with excellence."*

Ragayah Haji Mat Zin, Director, IKMAS

# Signs of the Time & Cultural Tolerance in Asia

by Suwanna Satha-Anand

Some of you may wonder why the title, “signs of the time”? This phrase holds great significance in the Mono-theistic traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The thinking behind the phrase is essentially a belief in the special significance of a “grand narrative” achieved through the weaving together of smaller particular events in the life of a people. The interpretive understanding of the “big story” is arrived at through revelation to a certain selected few, called the “prophets.” A classic example from the Bible would be that of the charismatic leader Moses, leading the Jewish people successfully across the Red Sea, managing to flee the Egyptian troops and starting on a long journey which finally led the Jewish people to the promised land of Canaan. This flight of the Jewish people from enslavement has been understood, not only as a historical event, but as indicative of freedom from the bondage of sin. The grand narrative of freedom from sin is the interpretive understanding of the specific historical experience of the Jewish people of that time.

What I will attempt today is something much more modest. I am just borrowing the phrase to highlight certain points of my presentation without referring to a belief in God.

I believe that there is a crucial role that needs to be played by public intellectuals in Asia, that is, to offer interpretive understandings of events, understandings that are more than the piecemeal commentaries of particular news items. Public intellectuals should not confuse their role to the public with those performed by journalists. Once this role is better fulfilled by public intellectuals, I believe that the level of cultural tolerance in Asia should be greatly enhanced.

I would like to offer an analysis of three different events which would highlight the importance of this interpretive understanding: a major news at the global level; a key event in Asia which received world attention; and a dubious event in Thai society.

Nobody could have missed being informed of the World Trade Center bombing on September 11, 2001. This tragic event has been covered in news coverage, commentaries, analyses, and heated debates in the past months. However, there is one point that could be quite decisive in charting out one’s position on this issue. The point is, one can see this event either as a cause or as a result of other chains of events. If one views the incident as merely a cause, one would only see the fact that this is a grave crime committed by fanatic terrorists, that of killing thousands of innocent people. On the other hand,

if one views this incident not only as a cause, but also as a result of other causes, one would perhaps be more open to the possibility that the incident was a tragic response to the American government’s policy in the Middle-east in past years. Either one of these two views could lead to two very different attitudes to or judgments of the same event. By no means am I suggesting that terrorism is justifiable, I am suggesting that one attitude, based on one interpretive understanding, could lead to more terror; while another attitude, based on another interpretive understanding, could lead to a much more peaceful course of actions, since the acceptance of one’s past limitations are already embedded in the latter understanding.

A second example is the return of Hong Kong to the People’s Republic of China in 1997. For those of you who watched the Handover Ceremony being broadcast by CNN and the BBC, you might have got the feeling that you were watching totally different events, although most of the pictures being flashed on the screens were more or less the same. How come?

It is interesting to note that the storyline from the BBC focused on the historical role of the United Kingdom in transforming the once sleepy village of Hong Kong into a cosmopolitan financial center of the world. In an interview, the former British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, stated, “We delivered prosperity to Hong Kong, he (Deng Siew Ping) did not.” Responding to another question about economic corruption after the takeover, she replied, “What we call corruption is a common practice in China.”

While we were watching more or less the same set of pictures on television, that of the camera zooming in on the speech by Prince Charles, the lowering of the British flag and the sea of VIP guests who were witnessing the historic moment, the storyline from CNN centered around the evils of colonialism, calling the takeover of Hong Kong by Mainland China as a “Return to Motherland.”

Let us remember that July 4 was only four days away from the takeover. It would appear that America was seeing part of itself in the experience of Hong Kong, in their relationship to the British colonial empire.

What is the Chinese story? In the Western media, the Chinese seemed to be emphasizing the necessity to honor a contract signed almost a century ago. A research article written by a scholar on Chinese studies, interpreted the takeover of Hong Kong, as signaling the end of a “Century of Humiliation.” For China, the beginnings of the 20th century were a turbulent period when external powers took over much of the grand



Dr. Suwanna Satha-Anand

The following is a translation of the keynote address by Dr. Suwanna Satha-Anand, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, on 21 March 2002, on the occasion of the API Fellowships Awards Presentation Ceremony, Year 2002 for the Fellows from Thailand. The translation was done by Dr. Suwanna Satha-Anand.

Middle Kingdom.

What is crucial to note here is that: there were no significant arguments over matters of fact. However, the “story” woven from the same facts seems to be totally different. The acceptance of one “story” over another indicates: first, a totally different understanding of the same facts; and second, the acceptance of one set of justifications over another. This, in turn, would result in one set of legitimization, and the power which produces it, reigns triumphant over all others.

A third example is an incident which took place last month at Chulalongkorn University. There was a seminar on “Threats to Buddhism in Thailand.” Two monks and two Buddhist laymen on the panel generated much distrust and fear of the non-Buddhists in Thailand. They suggested the possibility that a conspiracy between Christians and Muslims had resulted in various Government actions in the past few years, actions that posed a serious threat to the stability of Thai Buddhism. Various examples of these Government actions were given, three of which were as follows: the Thai government had granted permission to create new radio stations for Muslims in Thailand; the government had installed ablution places for Muslims at the Hua Lam Pong Railway Station; and there was a suggestion by Government to establish a national committee to oversee religious affairs, under the Office of the Prime Minister, instead of religious affairs being overseen by the Ministry of Education. Members of this national committee were to be made up of representatives from Buddhism, Christianity and Islam.

All three were cited as evidence of “threats” to Thai Buddhism, “threats” that would undermine the security and stability of Thai society. It was fascinating to be among the audience. For me, all three courses of action suggested to me that Thai Buddhism had finally come of age. These were all signs of strength, rather than of “threats”. They showed that Thai Buddhism had matured to the point of being able to allow all Thais to be Christians and Muslims, and being fully Thai at the same time.

Our next question is what is the relationship between these three cases and the issue of cultural tolerance in Asia?

For thousands of years, cultural diversity has been a historical reality in Asia. However, in the present age of globalization, a mono-mega-power has created a situation where there seems to be a “Mono-Narrative Hegemony” over every part of the world. In other words, the story of the world “has to be” one, one

which tells of progress in terms of technological development. A good and desirable life is defined in terms of the volume of consumption affordable. Capitalism is the only answer which can deliver prosperity to every corner of the world. Within this framework, other civilizations, especially the Islamic and the Chinese are seen as “enemies” who would eventually “clash” with the mono-mega-power. Do we need to mention that these two civilizations are both from the East?

What is alarming is the tendency, originating from the power of the Mono-Narrative Hegemony model, to reduce and destroy narrative diversity, thus making it more and more difficult to allow different senses to “make sense.” The possibility of seeing one set of events as indicating different stories from various groups of peoples’ diverse perspectives is severely diminishing. Vandana Shiva named this process “Monoculture of the Mind.” Another key symptom of this hegemonic process of world cultures, is the rapid disappearance of many “minor” languages throughout the world.

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**“An acceptance and  
appreciation of the diversity  
of cultures and meanings are a  
basic prerequisite for cultural  
tolerance.”**

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I suspect that the Asian Values debate in the past decade, was an attempt by some Asian leaders to carve out a different space of meaning for Asia at the global level. It was a contest of narratives. However, it is a pity that the debate was used by some authoritarian leaders in Asia for their own political advantage, rather than for an authentic reflection of the values of the Asian people. Perhaps a program like the API, will initiate a process which leads to the Asian peoples’ version of the Asian Values debate. Some of the key public intellectuals in Asia are already in the API Fellowships Program.

There are at least three levels of strategies for cultural tolerance in Asia. First, there could be alternative interpretive re-readings of major world events from the Asian perspective. Storylines as presented in global media like the CNN and the BBC could be re-interpreted and re-presented by public intellectuals in Asia, both for Asia and for the citizens of the world. The recent labeling of some countries as comprising “axis of evil” is

yet another attempt by the mono-mega-power to reproduce an image and symbol of the enemy as “evil.” Does the world not need a counter-balancing story with the possibility of Asian voices?

Second, there could be attempts by public intellectuals in Asia to offer interpretive understandings of events in Asia which would generate cultural tolerance in the region. The need for such efforts is highlighted by the escalating level of animosity and violence within different countries in Asia. In the past years, the clashes between India and Pakistan, the conflicts between Thailand and her immediate neighbors, and religious violence in Indonesia, all prompt to the necessity for serious effort to foster a high level of cultural tolerance here. I believe that efforts taken by the Nippon Foundation, under the able guidance of Mr. Tatsuya Tanami, to give opportunities to many public intellectuals in the region to “live with” their friends, would greatly enhance the possibility of cultural tolerance in Asia in the near future.

Third, cultural tolerance within one’s society also needs to be broadly cultivated. Given the rise of neo-nationalism in many Asian countries after the economic crisis in 1997, there seems to be a resurgence of oppression of religious minorities, the poor, the ethnic “other” in a given society itself. The denial of and resistance to the globalizing process are also making the issue of cultural tolerance more and more crucial in many Asian countries.

Yesterday, I was delighted with the news of a group of Jewish and Palestinian parents, whose children had been killed in the armed conflict in the recent years, getting together to pressure the Israeli government and the PLO to “stop shooting and start talking.” Together, as parents of the victims of violence, they are protesting against escalating violence. Of course, whether more “talking” would lead to a more constructive course of action remains to be seen. At least, the power of the victims is being utilized to express both religious tolerance and its moral-political potential. The Jews and the Palestinians who were most affected, were showing tolerance of each other. The state does not have the right to take away their noble gesture. Their collective show of religious tolerance needs to be respected, not negated.

I believe that the API Fellowships Program is investing in the strengthening of the kind of tolerance in Asia, the kind of tolerance that the Jewish and Palestinian parents demonstrated. Cultural tolerance gives rise to hope. Hope draws out potentials for peace. **API**

influence on economic and development policy-making, and to collect information on new challenges in these areas in view of globalization and liberalization. In addition, earlier this year, he published a book entitled "Ugly Malaysians". Several more books are in the pipeline, to be published later this year and early next year. He was also instrumental in launching IDEAs (International Development Economics Associates), which is a network of progressive economists from across the world. Their activities include research, teaching, dissemination and application of critical economic analyses of economic policy and development.

Herry Yogaswara, on the other hand, spent and is continuing to spend his time in Manila and Baguio establishing and immersing himself in discussions with government officials, tribal elders, NGO activists, church leaders and a variety of organizations concerned with indigenous peoples' issues. He attended conferences and seminars both as a speaker and as a participant, and has given lectures at some of the universities and a school.

The focus of this next research was the changing economic base of the Chinese-Filipino and its implications for their identity. Benny Subianto, who had conducted numerous research projects in his own home country, Indonesia, was grateful for the one-year exposure in the Philippines that allowed him to conduct in-depth library research, and establish ties with relevant academic and intellectual communities, as well as Chinese community leaders.

Etsuko Miyata de Rodriguez taught trade ceramics on the University of Philippines' Archaeological Studies Program. She taught a graduate level class. In addition, she also became a special member of the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines where she

attended meetings and lectures.

A substantial amount of Wong Soak Koon's two-month fellowship period was spent doing library research concerning Philippine history and recent creative works of Filipino writers in English.

In his travels through twelve cities and towns in Japan and speaking to numerous people, Pibhop Dhongchai found that many people viewed globalization from a negative perspective. Among other things, he conducted interviews and had discussions with those who are engaged with alternative politics in Japan.

Pataya Ruenkaew interviewed Thai migrant women in Japan and visited various NGOs, collecting information for her project on the migration of Thai women to Japan.

Tatsuki Kataoka found that it could be dangerous for foreigners to conduct field research in the hills of Chiang Mai! Nevertheless, after obtaining a researcher's ID and a recommendation letter issued by the Thai government, he proceeded to conduct interviews and witnessed several ritualistic practices as he compared a group of Christians to a "Sinified" group for his research project.

Yet another Fellow in Thailand, Yasuhiro Mizutani, spent six months studying the Thai language so that he could read Thai publications and conduct a literature review concerning the history of Thai police, and the close relationship between the police and national politics.

API Senior Fellow Colin Nicholas held numerous discussions with academics, students, community leaders and indigenous leaders, and made time to visit indigenous communities. He felt that the home-stays in Thailand gave him the best information for his research on indigenous leadership and the marginalization of indigenous society.

Flying to Bangkok for the first time, Sri Nuryanti, 'a proud recipient of the API fellowship', experienced her first cross cultural encounter minutes after landing when she got into a cab and the driver spoke nothing but Thai, and she did not speak a word of Thai! Undaunted, she moved-on, conducting her field research in Bangkok and Patani on the historical, social and political changes of Muslim settlers in Patani.

Surmiati Ali was very pleased and grateful to get the help of locals to interview the Rusamilae villagers in Thailand as these villagers do not welcome outsiders. She learned a lot about the difficulties of the villagers, the decline of marine resources, and the villagers' conflicts with commercial fishermen.

Prangtip Daorueng, on the other hand, enrolled first in a private Indonesian language school to study the language. She then visited media NGOs in Jakarta, conducted interviews and attended the Alliance for Independent Journalists Conference.

The preceding information are examples of only some of the interesting experiences of the first cohort of Fellows or the Pioneer API Fellows. As public intellectuals, these Fellows proceed to identify issues and articulate the common concerns of Asians, and propose possible approaches and solutions that would enable the people of this region to live lives of dignity and purpose. These Fellows have exhibited phenomenal support for the key themes of the Nippon Foundation Fellowships for Asian Public Intellectuals, and are to be praised for accelerating the momentum of creating a pool of public intellectuals in this region.

**To all API Fellows who have successfully completed their research projects - Kudos!**

## Changing Identities



Motohide Taguchi is a freelance composer at The Japan Academic Society for Music Education. He will be researching traditional music of the Philippines and

Indonesia. His project title is "The Relationship between Music and the Work of Contemporary Composers in the Philippines and Indonesia"

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Akiko Tashiro is a research fellow at the Institute of Asian Culture, Sophia University. Her project title is "Cultural Heritage and Process of Local Identity – A Case Study of Northeast Thailand"; in which she will explore the shaping process of local identity and how cultural policies impact on local identity.

e-mail: chizull@aol.com



Sr. Mary John Mananzan, OSB, is the President of St. Scholastica's College, Manila. She will be studying the impact of Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam on the

lives of women in Indonesia, Thailand and Japan. Her project title is "Women and Asian Religions and Spirituality"

e-mail: maryjohnm@hotmail.com

Francisco A. Englis is a Professor at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology. His project title is "Localizing the Global: Southeast Asian and Western Instrumental Styles in the Contemporary Soundscapes of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia"; where he will survey the impact of western music on the non-western music of the said countries.

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Wilfredo M. Torres III is the Director of Research and the Director of Community Extension Services at the Notre Dame of Jolo College. He will be in Malaysia

investigating the dynamics of ethnic identity formation and identity renegotiation among the Sama Dilaut of Semporna. His project title is "Conflict Resolution and Leadership in the Dynamics of Ethnic Identity Formation Among the Sama Dilaut of Semporna"

e-mail: torreswilfredo@yahoo.com

Daruneet Tantiwiranond is the Director of Women's Action and Resource Initiative (WARI). She plans to analyse the growth of women's leadership in civil society in the historical and cultural context of Southeast Asia and their contributions to political and legal changes. Her project title is "Organising for Change: Changing Gender Relations and the Growth of



Women's Leadership in Asia"  
e-mail: daruneet98@hotmail.com



Pitthaya Wongkul is the Chairperson of the Thai Development Support Committee (TDSC). His project title is "The Reform of Social/Community Structure

for a New Asian Base on Sustainable Culture and Wisdom". He will be travelling to the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia to study the people's way of life, culture and wisdom.

e-mail: pitthaya56@hotmail.com

Vasana Chinvarakorn is a features writer at the Post Publishing Public Company. Her project title is "Search for Alternatives to Consumerism: Studies of Consumer's movements in Japan and Malaysia". She will study these consumer movements to see how ordinary people can initiate, cultivate and mobilise themselves on proposing alternatives to consumerism and promoting social justice in the era of globalization.

e-mail: vasanac@bangkokpost.com



Slamet Trisutomo is the Chairperson of the Post Graduate Programs, Hasanuddin University. His project title is "Towards Sustainable Urban Identities:

A Comparative Study of Johor Bahru and Fukuoka". He is keen to learn about the management of urban identities particularly in cities in developed and developing countries in lieu of urban development.

e-mail: strisutomo@kompascyber.com

Aprilia Budi Hendrijani is a Research Assistant at the Asia Pacific Studies Center, Gadjah Mada University. Her project title is "Virginity and Prostitution: Search for Cultural Concepts in Thai Contexts", where she will undertake to study the cultural concept of virginity and disgrace and its relation to prostitution, with a focus on women's lives.

e-mail: aprilia\_b@yahoo.com



Lumenta Dave is a Consultant at IFAD (The UN International Fund for Agricultural Development). He aims to look at how once-unified communities

have used ethnicity to cope within a transnational setting, and specifically to observe how networks of ethnicity have helped illegal Iban and Kenyah workers from Indonesia cope in Sarawak. His project title is "Networks of Ethnicity: An Ethnography of Illegal Migratory Workers and Host Communities – Case Studies of Transnational Iban and Kenyah Communities in Sarawak"

e-mail: dlumenta@indosat.net.id

## PROFILES OF AP 2002-

After studying numerous applications, the Interim recommendations by the five country committees, selected 29 candidates for the 2003 API Fellowships. The following 29 candidates were selected for the 2003. The Fellows will carry-out their projects in five countries, i.e. Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

The projects will focus on one of the following themes:

- 1) Changing identities and their social, historical and cultural contexts
- 2) Reflection on the human condition and the social and cultural changes
- 3) The current structure of globalization and its impact on the local and global societies

A major contribution of the Fellows will be their research on a variety of concerns and creating understanding of the local and global societies.

Mohamad bin Salleh is a Professor of Literature at the Universiti Sains Malaysia. His project title is "Literature: Roles and Functions for the Past and in the New Millennium, A Comparative Study of Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan". He will be studying the traditional and contemporary functions of literature and identify the humanizing and civilizing roles it played in the past, and the possible roles in the new millennium.

e-mail: mhs2000@hotmail.com



Mustafa Kamal bin Anuar is the Assistant Secretary for ALIRAN and Associate Professor at the School of Communications, Universiti Sains Malaysia. His project title is "The Alternative Media and Democracy in a Globalised World". This project attempts to compare the experiences of the alternative media in Malaysia, the Philippines and Japan in their respective efforts to push for wider press freedom and democratic space.

e-mail: mustyell@yahoo.com

Sumit Kumar Mandal is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), UKM. His project title is "The Social Life of 'Race' in Indonesia and Malaysia: A Comparative History". He has done considerable research on race and cultural diversity in Indonesia and Malaysia, and now aims to locate and compare the particular character of racialisation in the two countries from a historical perspective.

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Adeline Ooi Yah-Chine is a Curator at Valentine Willie Fine Art Gallery. Her project title is "The DIY Spirit in Indonesia's and Philippines' Young Artists". She plans to develop a programme/exhibition in creating more regional awareness of alternative art forms in the visual arts.

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# FELLOWS FOR 2003

National Selection Committee, based on recommendations selected the candidates to be awarded the 2002-2003 fellowships tenure is from June 2002 – May 2003. Areas of research in one or more of the participating countries and Thailand.

Themes:  
Social and cultural contexts.  
Research for social justice.  
Possible alternatives.

Research reports bearing practical insight, examining on issues of strategic concern to the five member-

Nadiyah Bamadhaj is a lecturer at the Center for Advanced Design (CENFAD). Her project title is "Questioning Historical Memory in Malaysia;" and she intends to produce a site-specific sculpture exhibition based on the theme 'Changing identities and their social historical and cultural context e.g. the use of historical memory in building regional and national identities'; in a public place in Kuala Lumpur.  
e-mail: nadiyah\_b@hotmail.com



## Human Condition & Social Justice



Fumio Nagai is Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Law, Osaka City University. His research will take him to Thailand where he intends to study the concept of decentralization, how it is practiced, how it is accepted by the locals and the changes it has brought about. His project title is "Transformation of Political Structures in Decentralisation: The Case of the Local Municipality in Thailand".  
e-mail: fnagai65@hotmail.com

Toshiaki Takasago is a staff writer at The Sankei Shimbun. His project title is "Evaluating New Possibilities for Traditional Culture in International Aid." The main objective of his research is to evaluate how effective the abacus is and the factors and conditions that make this Chinese-Japanese instrument effective in Thailand.  
e-mail: toshit@ivory.plala.or.jp



Tetsuya Araki is a graduate student at the University of Tokyo. His project title is "Putting the First Last – Networking NGOs in Indonesia" and it will take him to West Java where he aims to develop a PRA-based (Participatory Rural Appraisal) networking model of LSMs (NGOs).  
e-mail: aa97153@mail.ecc.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Arnold M. Azurin is the Vice-President for External Affairs at the Anthropological Association of the Philippines. He will be interviewing people from two disparate Muslim communities found in Bangkok, Thailand and Sabah, Malaysia to find out their coping mechanisms. His project title is "The Question of Minoritization and the Quest for Justice (A Comparative Study of Two Muslim Minority Groups in Malaysia and Thailand)".  
e-mail: cidslib@cid.org.ph



Alan J. Villarante is a Legislative Staff Officer VI at the House of Representatives. His project title is "Comparative Study of Juvenile Justice Systems in Malaysia and Japan: A Review of Policies, Approaches and Strategies." He will be reviewing existing legislation and relevant issues as he compares the policies, approaches and strategies of the two governments in relation to the administration of juvenile justice.  
e-mail: plra\_inc@excite.com

Pateep Methakunavudhi is Head of Department at the Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University. Her project aims to survey people's ethical awareness related to IT security issues and analyse them according to cultures and the code of ethics. Her project title is "The Comparative Study of Ethical Awareness Related to Information Technology Security Issues between Japanese and Thai".  
e-mail: mpateep@hotmail.com



Mohammad 'Azzam Manan is a Researcher at the Center for Social and Cultural Studies (PMB-LIPI). His project title is "Problems and Prospects of Industrial Relations: The Social and Economic Dimensions of Foreign Workers in Fishing Enterprises in Sabah, East Malaysia". His research will take a normative approach and will focus on the migration of foreign workers to Sabah and their social and economic rights in fishing enterprises.  
e-mail: aska\_manan@yahoo.com

Tatak Prapti Ujijati is a Researcher at the Institute for Economic and Social Research (LP3ES). Her project title is "The Street Vendor Movement in Southeast Asian Cities". She plans to undertake to study the present condition and history of street vendors in Manila, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok and as such, shed light on the ways disadvantaged groups are affected by different types of regimes and state policies.  
e-mail: tatakujijati@hotmail.com



## Structure & Alternatives Of Globalization



Motoko Kawano is a doctoral student at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University. She will be in Malaysia exploring the transformation of ethnic relations between the Malays and Chinese concerning the production of 'ikan bilis' and as such clarify the social change in Malaysia since the 1950s. Her project title is "Ikan Bilis, Ethnic Relations and the State: Fifty Years of Social Linkages through a Marine Product in Malaysia".  
e-mail: kawano@asafas.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Jose M. Galang Jr. is the Assistant Publisher and Editorial Director of The Manila Times. His project title is "The Impact of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Flows on Globalization in selected Southeast Asian Economies". He will be studying the impact of ODA and FDI in Thailand and Malaysia, and also looking into how people's lives are affected directly or indirectly by these funds.  
e-mail: jgalang@journalist.com



Lalita Rochanakorn is a freelance artist. Her project title is "Fostering Botanical Art Illustration toward Plant Conservation and Environmental Protection". She is an advocate of botanical art illustration as a potential discipline through which one could contribute toward plant conservation, especially endangered plants.  
e-mail: lalita900@hotmail.com



Chalida Uabumrungjit is Project Director of the Thai Film Foundation. She will be in Japan studying their independent film movement, specifically aspects of producing, financing, distribution and networking. Her project title is "Independent Film: Alternative Film Culture in Japan".  
e-mail: lida@ji-net.com



Anas Saidi is a Researcher at the Center for Social and Cultural Studies (PMB-LIPI). His main area of research for the last decade has been concerning culture and economy issues. His project title is "Coping with Crisis: Adaptation Strategy of Small Enterprises of the Moslem Minority in the Philippines during the economic crisis era".  
e-mail: li2s@hotmail.com



# Getting a Headstart Via The Orientation Program

The start of each API Fellowship period is special. It marks the beginning of new experiences and events, the mental and physical preparation for the unexpected, the challenges of different cultures, the art and science of discovery, creating and establishing valuable contacts, and the list goes on... Consequently, a major contribution of each Partner Institution is the conduct of an Orientation Program for its Fellows.

The Program must incorporate sufficient information to familiarize the Fellows so that they fully comprehend the obligations and accountability toward the API Fellowship. The Program must also prepare the Fellows to understand the complexity of logistical support offered by each Partner Institution as this will aid the smooth completion of their research project activities. This is in addition to introducing them to the local community of public intellectuals.

Kicking-off the series of Orientation Programs for this year was the API office in the Philippines. Two events were held, where one was limited to API Fellows and staff, while the other was open to the public. These took place on March 11 at the Ateneo de Manila University. Fr. Jose

M. Cruz, S.J. was the moderator of the Orientation Program. On the same day, the API Fellowships - Philippines website was launched.

In Malaysia, an Orientation Program was held on March 13, at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Among the key speakers who addressed the Malaysian Fellows and about 40 guests were Prof. Dato Dr Abdul Samad Hadi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, UKM; Dr Ragayah Haji Mat Zin, Director, IKMAS; Dr. Krishen Jit, well known Historian and Theatre Manager, and Mr. Tatsuya Tanami, Director, Department of International Affairs, The Nippon Foundation.

On March 15, the Indonesians held their Orientation Program at the Indonesian Scientific Documentation Center - Indonesian Institute of Sciences. They held a lunch for 43 guests including the Fellows, and this was followed by a presentation and a discussion with the Fellows. Prof. Dr. Taufik Abdullah, Chairman, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, officiated at the program.

At Chulalongkorn University, a seminar and an Orientation Program were conducted for the Thai Fellows on March 21 at the Sasa International House. The main speakers at this program were from Chulalongkorn University, namely Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jeerasak Nopakun, Vice-President, Academic Affairs; Prof. Dr. Supang Chantavanich, Director, Institute of Asian Studies; and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suwanna Satha-Anand, Philosophy Department, Faculty of Arts.

On April 19, the Japan API office organized a lunch for the Japanese Fellows as part of their Orientation Program. This was followed by a presentation by Ms. Michiko Taki on the API Fellowships and its terms and conditions. The Fellows were then taken on a tour of the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University. Earlier in the program, Dr. Takashi Shiraishi, Director of the API Program for Japan, addressed the new Fellows.

Mr. Tatsuya Tanami, Director, Department of International Affairs of The Nippon Foundation, addressed the Fellows at all five partner institutions' Orientation Programs.



Filipino Fellows with Mr Tatsuya Tanami.



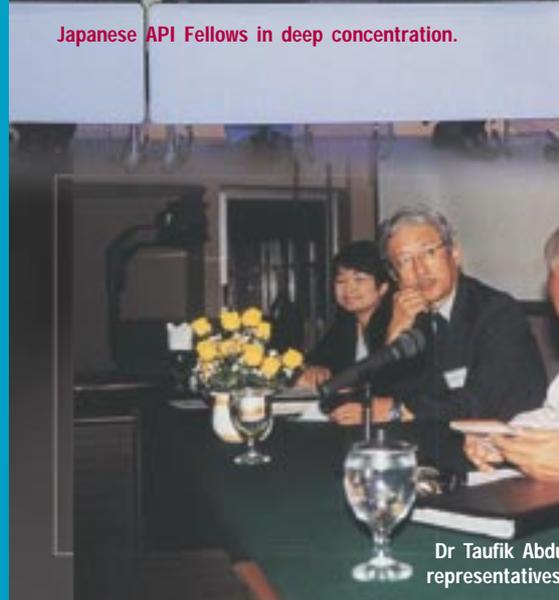
It's a Kodak moment for the API Fellows from the Philippines.



One for the camera - API Fellows from Malaysia. Muhammad Redza Piyadasa (third from the left) is recalled by the Malaysian government for v...



Japanese API Fellows in deep concentration.



Dr Taufik Abdullah, Chairman, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, officiated at the program.

All Smiles - API Fellows from Japan (front row) and distinguished guests from The Nippon Foundation and the Japan API Office (back row).



Cross-section of the speakers, Fellows and guests at the Malaysian Orientation Program.



Asia, except for (left) who has been work reasons.

Present at the Thai Orientation Programme were keynote speakers from Chulalongkorn University, Nippon Foundation representatives and Thai API office support staff.



Indonesian Fellows and guests listening intently to a presentation.



Abdullah (far right) with key from The Nippon Foundation.



Key panelists and speakers who addressed the Thai API Fellows

# District Autonomy in Indonesia:

## *Opportunities and Challenge in Forestry from the Perspective of Local Communities*

by Henry Chan



*(As one of the pioneer API Fellows, Henry conducted research in Indonesia and Thailand to seek comparative experience and understanding of forest resources and conflict management. This proved to be an important study as forestry resources provides a base for the livelihood of many forest dependent communities. As such, the forestry management systems in the mentioned countries provided Henry the backdrop to conduct case studies for a comparative analysis. Following is brief account of some of his findings and some invaluable suggestions.)*

In 1999, the Government of Indonesia granted autonomy in decision making to regional administrators at the district level. This was to enable local communities to commercially manage their forest resources and add income to their livelihood and provide revenue for regional administration. Unfortunately, decades of bad governance, coupled with the poverty of the local communities, resulted in many community leaders taking advantage of the government policy to further their own individual interests. The result was an excessive exploitation of fragile forest areas in the headwaters regions that in its turn caused massive environmental problems to downstream ecosystems.

Instead of the policy improving community livelihood, the opposite occurred. As a result, the central government revoked the policy of granting forest concessions to the local communities. New methods are now being devised to enable local people to manage their resources in a sustainable manner.

A field study to address these issues was undertaken in the headwaters of the Makaham River, in the West Kutai District of East Kalimantan. This study found that unless the underlying problems affecting local communities and government administration were addressed, efforts to enable the local people to manage their resources would fail.

The study recommended the following to alleviate the problems:

1. That local communities and local governments be provided with educational programs to achieve good-governance.
2. That the fragile rainforest ecosystem be maintained and restored through a sustainable forest management system.
3. That a community management system for development and accumulation of capital be established.

With the above, it might be possible for the poor and socially disintegrated local

communities to be transformed into prosperous socio-economic communities.

An understanding of the internal and external environments emphasizes the strategic importance of such pre-requisites, both to the local communities and to Indonesia as a whole. Rapid development brought about by the impact of the modern market economy had resulted in social and leadership breakdowns among rural communities. A corresponding lack of accountability, loss of authority and the inability to obtain consensus in community decision-making, were among the main reasons for the failure of the community based forest management system.

External to the village environment, the fall of President Suharto in 1998 led to economic and political instability. Despite three changes in Presidents, many issues facing the country remain. Although the root cause is economic disparity, religious and ethnic conflicts in some areas, have further threatened the fragile relationships between communities.

Two provinces have taken action to seek independence. Should they achieve success, a domino effect of other provinces seeking to gain independence would be likely to occur. In a society made up of different groups with diverse interests, the failure of a democratically formed government to integrate the different communities would inevitably give rise to ethnic, religious and territorial conflicts.

It would appear that strategic goals need to be defined to provide the platforms to resolve these conflicts. These goals could be prioritized as follows:

- \* Increasing awareness of the need for such projects through community consultation. Such an approach would also gain the participation of the community.
- \* Broad based informal community education and formal education, focusing on good-governance, for the local

community and the bureaucracy.

\* Establishment of community institutions that could provide effective collaboration with external organizations.

\* Development of a sustainable forest and resource management system to utilize resources to obtain revenue.

\* Management of revenue to finance community based administration, social-economic infrastructure, and entrepreneur activities to gain capital growth.

\* To further capital accumulation through the development of entrepreneur activities that are appropriate with the social-economic situation and natural environment.

To achieve these goals, an integrated approach needs to be undertaken. The different institutions involved, such as government agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations and community based organizations to work collaboratively. Once the conceptual elements of a collaborative project have been determined, the local communities need to be consulted to seek and incorporate their ideas on strengthening the project. Such an approach has been undertaken in the Upper Mahakam of the East Kalimantan Province of Indonesia.

Financial support would also be needed. This support would have to come from both national and international organizations as the effort would require a major undertaking in terms of program design and development, testing, review and implementation.

In conclusion, such collaborative efforts by all parties, would lead to fundamental changes among the local communities and governments. Ultimately, this would empower the local communities to achieve good governance. The local communities would then be able to benefit from the granting of autonomy to the regional government in the management of their forest resources. **API**

# Notice Board

## API Fellowships Calender for the June 2003 - May 2004 period:

Aug. 31, 2002 – closing date for all countries, except Japan.

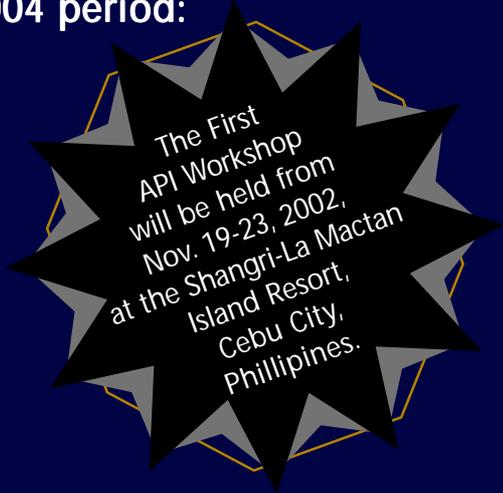
Sept. 27, 2002 – closing date for Japan.

Dec. 2002 – Award notification.

June 2003 – Start of the Fellowship period.

## Next International Selection Committee Meeting

Nov. 18, 2002



The First  
API Workshop  
will be held from  
Nov. 19-23, 2002,  
at the Shangri-La Mactan  
Island Resort,  
Cebu City,  
Phillippines.

WE WELCOME CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE API NEWSLETTER IN THE FORM OF ARTICLES, REPORTS, LETTERS OR PHOTOGRAPHS.

*Send To:*

**'API FELLOWSHIPS' AT IKMAS, UKM (CONTACT DETAILS ARE ON PAGE 12).**

**NOTE: WRITTEN WORK MAY BE EDITED FOR CLARITY AND/OR SPACE.**

## SHORT TAKES...

### How about that?

This short story comes from Senior Fellow Arnold Azurin (Philippines). Soon after arriving in Malaysia, Arnold decided to visit IKMAS. He got into a taxi and he and the taxi driver got into a conversation. The taxi driver asked him why he was going to University Kebangsaan Malaysia and Arnold patiently explained to him about API and public intellectuals. To Arnold's surprise and amazement the taxi driver announced, "In Malaysia, we also have a public intellectual". Curious, Arnold asked the taxi driver who this person was. With great pride, the taxi driver responded, "Jomo" (referring to Dr. K.S. Jomo). The taxi driver then elaborated, "Jomo is a public intellectual because he bravely speaks-out against the government!"

Editor's note: I wonder what the man-in-the-street understands as the 'public intellectual'?

### Patience Pays...

The High Court in Malaysia recently made a landmark decision calling for compensation for a group of indigenous Malaysians after they were unlawfully evicted from their land in 1996. The land was used to build a major highway. Several Orang Asli (aborigines), sued the Federal and State governments, and two private companies for the loss of their land, breach of their legal rights, and for payment of special damages and costs. According to Senior API Fellow, Colin Nicholas, who is also the Coordinator for the Center for Orang Asli Concerns, this decision by the High Court in Malaysia marked a major move forward in the fight for native rights. This success only came after many failed attempts by the Orang Asli to be recognized as land owners.

Editor's note: Long-awaited justice has been served!

*To all API Fellows—if you have any story or news that can evoke either a physical or emotional response, or, if you are involved in an interesting issue, or, encountered a humorous situation during you stay in your host country, or, you recently did something of noteworthy mention (e.g. published a book, held an exhibition or display), please call us and tell us about it, or, fax/e-mail the story/information to us at IKMAS.*

## *The International Selection Committee (ISC)*

**Taufik Abdullah** - Head, The Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI)

**Jose M. Cruz, S.J.** - Dean, School of Social Sciences, Loyola Schools, Ateneo de Manila University

**Nurcholish Madjid** - Rector, Paramadina University

**Ragayah Haji Mat Zin** - Director, Institute of Malaysian & International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

**Takashi Shiraishi** - Professor, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University

**Tatsuya Tanami** - Director, Department of International Affairs, The Nippon Foundation

**Prawase Wasi** - Professor Emeritus of Medicine, Mahidol University

**Surichai Wun'Gaeo** - Deputy Director, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University

## *Participating Countries and Partner Institutions*

### **Research Center for Regional Resources**

#### **The Indonesian Institute of Science (PSDR-LIPI)**

Widya Graha, 9th Floor

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Fax: +62-21-522-4667/+62-21-570-1232

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Ateneo de Manila University

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**Contact Person:** Dr. Felice Noelle Rodriguez/

Mr. Russell Q. Tabisula

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### **Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS)**

#### **Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)**

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Ms Saowaros Saetang

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E-mail: [api\\_fellowships@chula.ac.th](mailto:api_fellowships@chula.ac.th)

## **The Nippon Foundation**



The Nippon Foundation is an independent, non-profit, grant making organization that was founded in 1962. It supports projects both in Japan and overseas. It funds activities in four areas: social welfare, volunteer support, maritime research and development, and overseas cooperatives assistance. It works with other non-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations and international organizations.

For more details on The Nippon Foundation, please refer to:-

### **The Nippon Foundation**

#### **Department of International Affairs**

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