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Table of Contents

Editor's Note	1
Periodicals	1
Books	7
Conferences & Calls for Papers	10
Amnesty International	11
Email from the Chair	12
Prospectus	12
Research & Production Staff	12

Editors Note

As volume 29, number 3 of *Berita* goes to press, I am reminded again that we set out several years ago to change the periodicity of our paper publication from three times a year to four, and to gradually develop a fully electronic version on a website. It seems that we have yet to find among the members of the Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei Studies Group anyone who has the necessary interest, skills and time to be the webmaster to construct and maintain the MSB website. Both Ohio University and Northern Illinois University have Southeast Asian Center websites where issues of *Berita* are posted each quarter, and where back issues can be viewed. What is missing is

the spontaneity and fun of scholarly discussion on our own website, interacting with colleagues regarding

current events, forthcoming conferences and publications, research and grant opportunities, tried-and-true and new paradigms, etc. We want this because we choose it and we love it. And as scholars we don't like limiting pages because of the costs of paper copy.

Periodicals (Relevant to M/S/B Studies)

>Akademika: jurnal sains kemasyarakatan dan kemanusiaan (*Journal of the social sciences and humanities*)

N.62 -- Jan 2003 -- 1) Hafriza Burhanudeen, "Separate opinions and declarations: the language choices of judges" [From the Abstract -- Draws upon Harre and Davie's concept of positioning to ascertain propositions expressed implicitly or explicitly in the language choices of three judges representing the International Court of Justice in the Philippines' request to intervene in the case between Malaysia and Indonesia concerning sovereignty over Pulau Sipandan and Ligitan], pp 3-15; **2)** Jamaie Haji Hamil, "*Kepimpinan politik: polo kepimpinan politik UMNO*" [From the Abstract -- Deals with the dynamism of Malay political leadership in UMNO -- Using the concept of political leadership, the research establishes the dynamic pattern of four UMNO presidents: Tunku, Razak, Hussein and Mahathir], pp 17-39; **3)** Shaiful Bahri Md. Radzi, "*Pantun suku kaum Mah Meri*" [From the Abstract -- Discusses *pantuns* of the Mah Meri in terms of origins, themes, motives and functions -- Based on a collection of 124 *pantuns* in Bersisi and Malay languages in Carey Island, Kuala Langat, Selangor], pp 41-57; **4)** Sharifah Munirah Alatas, "The role of NGOs and non-state actors in Malaysia's foreign policy formulation during the Mahathir Era" [From the Abstract -- In the 1990s non-profit organizations promoted good governance and rapid economic growth which generated or brought on effects of economic and cultural globalization and the urge to apply theories of good governance... then the economic complications of 1997 -- Discusses domestic dynamics in Malaysian society during the Mahathir era], pp 59-84; **5)** Vejai Balasubramaniam, "Academic musings on globalization and 'local' relevancy: a step in the right direction?" [From the Abstract -- Unemployment among Malaysian social science university graduates beg the relevancy of the courses taught -- Discusses the issues and asks whether it is social science or the social scientists who are at stake], pp 85-91; **6)** Mohd. Ekhwan Hj. Toriman, "*Membentuk System Bersepadu Buangan Efluen di Malaysia: Pengurusan Indah Water Konsortium*" [From the Abstract -- The formation of the Indah Water Konsortium following the agenda of the National Sewage System can be seen as a good

beginning for better effluent management in Malaysia], pp 93-111.

>American journal of physical anthropology

V.127,n.2 -- Jun-2005 -- 1) Hirofumi Matsumura & Mark J. Hudson, "Dental perspectives on the population history of Southeast Asia" [From the Abstract -- Use metric and non-metric dental data to test the 'two layer' or immigration hypothesis whereby Southeast Asia was initially occupied by an 'Australo-Melanesian' population that later underwent substantial genetic admixture with East Asian immigrants associated with the spread of agriculture from the Neolithic period onwards -- Examined teeth from 4,002 individuals comprising 42 prehistoric and historic samples from East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and Melanesia -- Results of both metric and non-metric analyses demonstrate close affinities between Australo-Melanesian samples and samples representing early Southeast Asia, such as the Early to Middle Holocene series from Vietnam, Malaysia, and Flores -- But the dental characteristics of most modern Southeast Asians exhibit a mixture of traits associated with East Asians and Australo-Melanesians, suggesting genetic influence from East Asia, etc.], pp 182-209.

>Area

V.37,n.2 -- Jun 2005 -- 1) Mark Brayshay, Mark Cleary & John Selwood, "Interlocking directorships and trans-national linkages within the British Empire, 1900-1930" [From the Abstract -- Focus on networks of the capitalist elite running 12 major multinational enterprises, including such familiar enterprises as: a) British North Borneo Company; and b) Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China], pp 209-222.

>Aseanie: sciences humaines en Asie du Sud-Est

V.14 -- dec 2004 -- 1) Michel Jacq-Hergoualc'h, "*La peninsule Malaise au tourant du xiiiie siecle*" [Inspired by an article by G. Coedes, titled "*Une periode critique dans l'Asie du Sud-Est, le xiiiie siecle*" [a critical period in 13th century Southeast Asia] which is an analysis of the political and cultural situation in Southeast Asia, especially regarding the maritime empire of Srivijaya, in the general context of the Mongolian conquest in China], pp 11-29.

>Asian affairs

V.xxxvi,n.i -- Mar 2005 -- 1) Richard Middleton-Smith, *review* of Margaret Shennan, *Out in the midday sun: the British in Malaya 1880-1990* [2004 - London: John Murray - 353 pp. Pb ISBN 0-7195-6570-7], pp 107-109; **2)** Donald Hawley, *review* of Susan M. Martin, *The UP Saga* [2003 - Copenhagen: Nias Press - 368 pp. Pb ISBN 8-7911-1451-9], p 110.

>Asian journal of social science

V.33,n.1 -- 2005 -- 1) Yao Souchou, *review* essay, "A good place to think: memory and the 'immigrant myth'", of a) David L. Kenley (2003), *New culture in a*

new world: the may fourth movement and the Chinese diaspora in Singapore, 1919-1932 (London & New York: Routledge) and b) Stephen Dobbs (2003), *The*

BERITA

V.29,n.3

PAGE

2

Singapore River: a social history 1819-2002 (Singapore: Singapore University Press), pp145-154;

2) Michael Hill, *review* of Lai Ah Eng, ed (2004), *Beyond rituals and riots: ethnic pluralism and social cohesion in Singapore* (Singapore: Institute of Policy Studies/Eastern Universities Press, 300 pp, Pb ISBN 981-210272-8), pp 155-156; **3)** Ooi Giok Ling, *review* of Tan Ern Ser (2004), *Does class matter? Social stratification and orientations in Singapore* (Singapore: World Scientific, 140 pp, Pb ISBN 981-238829-X), pp 157-159.

>Asian survey

V.xlv,n.2 -- Mar/Apr 2005 -- 1) Sandra R. Leavitt, "The lack of security cooperation between Southeast Asia and Japan: yen yes, pax Nippon no" [From the Abstract -- Threats in common, conducive goals & institutional safeguards predict a security role for Japan in Southeast Asia, yet collaboration has been recent & limited -- Oft cited collective memory & internal Japanese constraints are unfounded -- Realism and strategic culture explain more -- some Malaysia & Singapore content], pp 216-240; **2)** Hidetaka Yoshimatsu, "Japan's keidanren and free trade agreements" [Examines how societal actors' preferences & activities impinge on the evolution of a state's regional economic agreements in regard to Keidanren's involvement in Japan's free trade agreements with Singapore, Mexico and South Korea], pp 258-278; **3)** Jonathon T. Chow, "ASEAN counterterrorism cooperation since 9/11" [From the Abstract -- Examines ASEAN's intramural cooperation from 9/11 through the October 2002 Bali bombing and its effects on ASEAN cohesion and norm of non-intervention in other members' domestic affairs -- some Malaysia & Singapore content], pp 302-321.

V.xlv,n.3 -- May/June 2005 -- 1) Joshua P. Rowan, "The US-Japan security alliance, ASEAN, and the South China Sea dispute" [The South China Sea, with its oil and natural gas, creates a flashpoint with significant policy implications for U.S., Japan and ASEAN -- Some Malaysia and Brunei content], pp 414-436; **2)** Mely Caballero-Anthony, "SARS in Asia: crisis, vulnerabilities, and regional responses" [Examines lessons learned from recent SARS ('chicken flu') crisis in East & Southeast Asia -- Some Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei content], pp 475-495.

>Bijdragen tot de taal, land- en volkenkunde

161-1 -- 2005 -- 1) Alexander Adelaar, "Much ado about *di*." [From the author's Conclusion -- Addresses the various arguments that Van den Berg uses to

show that *di-* developed from an earlier *ni-* thru denasalization and remains convinced that *di-* was originally a preposition *d]*, pp 127-142; **2)** Lim Beng Soon, review of Neil Khor Jin Keong & Khoo Keat Siew, *The Penang Po Leung Kuk; Chinese women, prostitution and a welfare organisation* [2004 - Kuala Lumpur: MBRAS - v, 181 pp. ISBN 967-9948-32-3], pp 158-159; **3)** Holger Warnk, review of Azyumardi Azra, *The origins of Islamic reformism in Southeast Asia; networks of Malay-Indonesian and Middle Eastern 'ulama' in the seventeenth and eighteenth century* [2004 - Leiden: KITLV Press - ix, 253 pp. ISBN 9067182281], pp 175-177.

>Comparative politics

V.37,n.4 -- Jul-2005 -- 1) Sandra L. Suarez, "Does English rule? Language instruction and economic strategies in Singapore, Ireland, and Puerto Rico" [National educational policy, and thus language policy as a key component in national economic strategy... a comparison -- Importance of international trading partners, internal political considerations, etc], pp 459-478.

>Contemporary Southeast Asia: a journal of international and strategic affairs

V.27,n.1 -- Apr 2005 -- 1) Damon Bristow, "The Five Power defence arrangements: Southeast Asia's unknown regional security organization" [From the Abstract -- Traces the evolution of the FPDA since its origin in 1971 -- Details evolution of 3 main pillars: a) integrated area defense system; b) architecture for political-military dialogue; c) exercise program -- Tries to place FPDA in the context of ASEAN security roles, intra-regional bilateral military ties, and the defense relationship with the US -- FPDA not to be equated with US, but it nevertheless contributes to the ability of Malaysia and Singapore to address threats and security challenges], pp 1-20; **2)** Aurel Croissant, "Unrest in South Thailand: contours, causes, and consequences since 2001" [From the Abstract -- In past 3 years a rise of ethnic-based violence in southern-most provinces -- Article examines contours, causes and consequences of this development -- Main argument is that altho religious, cultural, economic & political issues are the root of ethnic violence, the drift toward militancy in last 3 years due to other factors -- Recent Islamization of Muslim minority identity, policy failures of the present government and low quality conflict management account for the increase in violence -- An enabling environment allows insurgency to grow], pp 21-43; **3)** Vejai Balasubramaniam, "The politics of locality and temporality in the 2004 Malaysian parliamentary elections" [Examines the role of locality (ethnic composition of the constituency) and temporality (almost 5-year hiatus between elections) for Barisan Nasional in the 2004 parliamentary elections -- It is in the mixed constituencies that BN has been most

popular, and the increase in the number of seats in this category of electorate has worked overwhelmingly to BN's advantage], pp 44-63; **4)** Arnold Puyok,

BERITA

V.29,n.3

PAGE

3

"The 2004 Ba' Kelalan by-election in Sarawak, East Malaysia: the Lun Bawang factor and whither representative democracy in Malaysia"[This article argues that irregularities in the conduct of the by-election demonstrate how democratic rights had once again been denied, and that the Lun Bawang community plays a pivotal political role in determining the balance of power among the ethnic groups in Sarawak],pp 64-79.

>Critical Asian studies

V.37,n.2 -- Jun 2005 -- 1) Mark Lincicome, "Globalization, education, and the politics of identity in the Asia-Pacific" [From the Abstract -- Examines a resurgent interest in 'region-ness' as a response to globalization, and looks at how governments and citizens have participated in the discourse on forging a new Asia-Pacific community developed in the last 15 years -- Part 1 distinguishes 'regionalization' from 'regionalism' as competing visions of the future AP community -- Part 2 considers challenges that regionalism poses for the nation-state and its leadership, by highlighting pressure for reform brought by globalization -- Part 3 assesses current prospects for reforms by examining recent educational developments in Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and Australia], pp 197-208.

> Cultural geographies

V.12,n.3 -- 2005 -- 1) Hamzah Muzaini & Brenda S.A. Yeoh, "War landscapes as 'battlefields' of collective memories: reading the *Reflections at Bukit Chandu, Singapore*" [From the Abstract -- Examines the commemoration of battle sites of WW II in the non-Western context of Singapore -- Argues that Singapore as a state has viewed the war, fought when Singapore was still part of a larger colonial entity, as a means of raising awareness of a shared multi-racial history among its current citizens -- But also enjoins multi-racial contestations], pp 345-365.

>English world-wide: a journal of varieties of English

V.26,n.2 -- 2005 -- 1) David Deterding, "Emergent patterns in the vowels of Singapore English" [From the Abstract -- In the past, vowels of Singapore English were often described with reference to British English, but recently emerging idiosyncratic patterns in Singapore English vowels cannot be predicted with reference to any other varieties of English -- Based on data from 38 speakers], pp 179-197.

>Environment and planning

V.37,n.4 -- Apr 2005 -- 1) Leo van Grunsven & Floor Smakman, "Industrial restructuring and early industry

pathways in the Asian first-generation NICs: the Singapore garment industry" [From the Abstract -- Employing an evolutionary economic perspective, contributes to the understanding of the industrial dynamics/evolution of mature export production complexes in the first generation Asian newly industrialized countries (NICs), -- Analyzes the pathways of one early industry (apparel) in Singapore thru the 1980s & 90s -- Its withering away is not inevitable], pp 657-680.

>Ethnic and racial studies

V.28,n.4 -- Jul 2005 -- 1) Mikael Gravers, book review of Christopher R. Duncan (ed), *Civilizing the margins. Southeast Asian government policies for the development of minorities*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004, 278pp. [The first example in the book is the Orang Asli of Malaysia, which is about how strategic concerns and hegemonic assimilation are intertwined], pp 788-790; **2)** John Stone, book review of Thomas Sowell, *Affirmative action around the world: an empirical study*, New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2004, pp 239. [A comparison of cases: Malaysia as well as India, Sri Lanka, Nigeria and US], pp 794-795.

>Far eastern economic review

V.168,n.5 -- May 2005 -- 1) Nigel Sizer, "Halting the theft of Asia's forests" [Notes that Malaysia has made some major reforms such as banning import of unprocessed/semi-processed logs from Indonesia; and that the Singapore-based pulp and paper conglomerate, APRIL, changed its buying policy to eliminate illegal wood from its huge pulp mill in Sumatra], pp 50-53; **2)** Hugo Restall, review of Colin Smith's *Singapore burning: heroism and surrender in World War II* [Another interesting review of an interesting book], pp 72-75; **3)** "Travelers' tales: beamers for boom boom" [Governor of a Malaysian state gave BMW Chairman Helmut Panke inside marketing information to the effect that in Malaysia it is traditional to give the wife a Mercedes and the mistress a BMW; which has led to an alternative to the Bayerische Motoren Werke's abbreviation: "Black Market Wife"], p 80.

V.168,n.7 -- Aug 2005 -- 1) Ukrist Pathmanand, "Thaksin's policies go south" [PM Thaksin Shinawatra's opting to persist with Thai populist and confrontational tactics, such as deploying thousands of Thai troops into Thailand's Malay south, and generally mishandling the conflict; which has produced serious consequences in the South and internationally; hurting Thai security, straining relations with Malaysia and ASEAN and the Muslim world], pp 8-13; **2)** A. Lin Neumann, "A question of freedom" [Hong Kong journalist Ching Cheong, a correspondent for the *Straits Times* of Singapore, a distinguished journalist, was lured across the border from Hong Kong to mainland China and arrested on a charge of

espionage, in April -- An egregious case of state interference in the media], pp 50-53.

>International feminist journal of politics

V.7,n.2 -- 2005 -- 1) Lenore Lyons, "A politics of accommodation: women and the People's Action Party in Singapore", [From the Abstract -- For the first time since independence (1965) women comprise more than 10% of parliamentary representatives, only 5% in previous election... what led to this increase? -- Attitudes of senior party leaders (especially PAP) recent constitutional reforms -- A political environment in which women are identified with family life and the effects of a male-dominated party elite], pp 233-257.

>International security

V.29,n.3 -- Winter 2004/05 -- 1) David Shambaugh, "China engages Asia: reshaping the regional order" [Some Singapore & Malaysia content, especially as members of ASEAN], pp 64-99.

>Islamic law and society V.12,n.1 -- 2005 -- Issue theme is *fatwas* in Indonesia, but includes some discussion of Malaysia and Singapore... see especially **1)** Jajat Burhanudin, "Aspiring for Islam reform: Southeast Asian requests for *fatwas* in *al-Manar*" [From the Abstract -- Against the background of the transmission of Muhammad 'Abduh's reform ideas about Southeast Asia in *al-Manar*, the author examines requests for *fatwas* relating to affairs in the Malay-Indonesian archipelago -- Requests for *fatwas* from three groups: Southeast Asian students in the Middle East, Arabs living in Southeast Asia, and indigenous Southeast Asia readers of *al-Manar* -- *Fatwas* examined relate to three themes: Islam and modernity, religious practices, and aspirations for religious reform -- Notes that *al-Manar* created a new mode of discourse for Southeast Asian Islam in which *mustafti* and *mufiti* were not pupils but teachers], pp 9-26.

>Journal of anthropological research

V.61,n.2 -- Sum 2005 -- 1) Mary Scoggin, book review of Jean DeBernardi, *Rites of belonging: memory, modernity, and identity in a Malaysian Chinese community*, Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2004, 318pp. [Review focuses, in this complex and interesting book, on the author's theme of how Chinese immigrants modified and/or invented traditions to fit new circumstances, applying "...the familiar Chinese technique of 'using the past to pro-test the present'"]; pp 242-243.

>Journal of comparative family studies

V.xxxvi,n.1 -- Winter 2005 -- 1) Gavin W. Jones, "The 'flight from marriage' in South-East Asia and East Asia" [Text and statistics relevant to Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore by decade and age group

from 1960 thru 2000 in tables that include Manila, Bangkok, Jakarta, Yangon, Hong Kong, and Seoul; also other tables and text that show and discuss trends -- From the Abstract -- Thru recent decades the universality of marriage in Southeast and East Asia has ended at variable rates across the region and socio-economic groups -- Assesses factors that may account for variations in change of different parts of the region and discusses implications of increase in non-marriage], pp 93-119.

>Journal of East Asian studies

V.5,n.2 -- May-Aug 2005 -- 1) William Case, "Southeast Asia's hybrid regimes: when do voters change them" [From the Abstract -- Many governments seeking power in perpetuity operate hybrid regimes, manipulating institutions but holding periodic elections to gain legitimacy for extended incumbency -- But recent studies indicate voters can become so activated that they make use of this element of 'competitiveness' to change the regime and the government -- Cases examined include Singapore ("Perpetuating hybrid politics: Singapore", pp 227-228) and Malaysia ("Re-equilibrating hybrid politics: Malaysia", pp 228-230) as well as Burma the Philippines and Indonesia], pp 215-237; 2) Bryan K. Ritchie, "Progress through setback or mired in mediocrity? Crisis and institutional change in Southeast Asia" [From the Abstract -- A thesis in political economy claims crises create opportunity for change; but despite creating preferences for change, the Asian financial crisis led to reform of policies and institutions in some areas/countries in SEA but not in others -- Finds that policies & institutions related to technological upgrading of the economy are often immune to reform efforts, and states the reasons for this, using three cases... Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand], pp 273-313.

>Malaysian business

Jan1st-15th -- 2005 -- 1) A. Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: reading too much into things" [From the Abstract -- It seems that attempts are still being made to drive a wedge between the present Malaysian PM and his predecessor -- The present PM's recent 'look West' call as opposed to the previous PM's 'look East policy' as a case in point -- But they couldn't be more complimentary], pp 6-8; 2) Charles Raj, "Commentary: arrogance or sheer incompetence?" [From the Abstract -- It seems that some local authorities and state governments are turning from bad to worse regarding efficiency and competency -- It's time they buck up or bail out -- Cases in point: the Perlis government failed to pay up but cried foul when Tenaga Nasional Bhd cut off the electricity to most street lights in the state, saying that the utility giant was uncaring; the Kuala Selangor Municipal Council narrowly escaped having its headquarters sealed for failing to settle its debts to a legal firm; a parking skam

has continued for 2 years at the Selayang wholesale market in Kuala Lumpur; and Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon has revealed that political

BERITA

V.29,n.3

PAGE

5

interference has been making his job difficult, hitting out at his critics who say that state government lacked the will to clean up the state], p 10; 3) Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, "What's in store for Malaysia in 2005" [A look at economic achievements and anticipating trends of the near future], pp 12-13&15; 4) Seelan Sakran, "The future of Islamic banking" [Does the Islamic banking sector in Malaysia have the right infrastructure, and can it stand up to the challenges of globalization?], pp 55-57; 5) Clarence Y K Ngui, "A case of one too many ministries" [Has the enlarged Cabinet justified its expansion by improving the government's delivery system?], pp 58-59.

Jan16th-31st -- 2005 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: tsunami tests our neighbourliness" [While all kinds of Malaysians have come together in a show of compassion and generosity, are we really prepared to deal with such a large catastrophe?], pp 5-7; 2) Charles Raj, "Commentary: time to take stock" [After a short spell of efficiency, some government departments have slacked off... will they ever change?], p 8; 3) Datuk Mustapa Mohamad, "Mustapa's notes: growing friendship" [Closer ties between Malaysia and Singapore means more progress for both], pp10-11 & 26; 4) Seelan Sakran, "Crusade against corruption: Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim believes Malaysia can win the battle against corruption" [Malaysia's rank on the German-based Konrad Adenauer Foundation Transparency Index (TI) 23rd of 41 countries in 1995, can it do better than a middle of crowd rating?], pp 62-63.

Feb1st-15th -- 2005 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: heads must roll at TNB" [Another year, another blackout... why isn't Tenaga Nasional taking the blame for inefficiency?], pp 6-8; 2) Charles Raj, "Commentary: keeping crime in check" [Crime is out of hand... we need more enforcement and punishment], p 10; 3) Seelen Sakran, "Stockwatch: fortune in the pipeline?" [Construction outfit JAKS Resources' monopoly of pipe supply in Selangor & Melaka augurs well for its bottom line], pp 12-13.

Mar1st-15th -- 2005 -- 1) Charles Raj, "Commentary: foreign labour blues" [Despite grappling with the problem of huge numbers of illegal foreign workers, the government has decided that more sectors can hire them... what will the repercussions be?], pp 10; 2) Gurmeet Kaur, "Woman of steel" [A long interview of Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Malaysia's central banker by Datuk A Kadir Jasin, Charles Raj & Kurmeet Kaur -- Comments at length regarding her role during the

height of the 1997-98 financial crisis], pp 22-32; **3)** S Jai Shankar, "Economy: what is next for Malaysian Indians?" [Recent Malaysian Indian Congress' forum (*Malaysian Indians and the 9th Malaysian Plan*) generated recommendations to improve life for Malaysian Indians... the question is about implementation], pp 36-37 & 48.

Mar16th-31st -- 2005 -- 1) A. Kadir Jasin, "Other Thots: the importance of being 'clean'" [That PM Abdullah makes integrity the cornerstone of his government is laudable, but it would seem that he is surrounded by government officials who have no such qualms], pp 5-7; **2)** Charles Raj, "Keeping the abuse of power in check" [The Visa, Permit & Pass Division of the Immigration Dept and Censorship Board have come under scrutiny for the wrong reasons] p 8; **3)** Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, "The plan, the plan!" [The 9th Malaysia Plan will help keep us operating in a challenging environment], p 9-11; **3)** Nor Zahidi Alias, "The question persists" [Will the ringgit peg be dismantled?], pp 40-41.

Apr1st-15th -- 2005 -- 1) Charles Raj, "Unity through education" [Issue of increasing the number of Chinese schools resurfaced just before MCA members vote in crucial August party elections -- It is about time this issue is settled once and for all for the good of the nation], p 10.

>Population and development review

V.31,n.1 -- Mar 2005 -- 1) Stephen J. Appold, "The weakening position of university graduates in Singapore's labor market" [From the Abstract -- Pulled along by global developments Singapore is rapidly developing a "knowledge-based economy -- Altho gross domestic product more than doubled from 1990 to 2000 and managerial and professional jobs almost doubled, middle class Singaporeans themselves are under increasing economic pressure -- Documents the deteriorating position of the well-educated in the labor market, perhaps because of the role of migration], pp 85-112

>Race ethnicity and education

V.8,n.2 -- Jul 2005 -- 1) Victor Agadjanian & Hui Peng Liew, "Preferential policies and ethnic differences in post-secondary education in Peninsular Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- Uses the 2nd wave of Malaysian family life survey, 1988-89, to examine effects of national economic policy (NEP) in 1971 to promote education opportunities for disadvantaged ethnic Malays and to analyse the probability of entrance to post-secondary education across generational cohorts (pre/post NEP) and across 3 main ethnic groups (Malays, Chinese, Indians) -- Results show increase in likelihood of entering post-secondary education in each subsequent cohort for each ethnic group, but rate for Malays much greater than for Chinese & Indians], pp 213-230.

>Sojourn: journal of social issues in Southeast Asia

V.20,n.1 -- Apr 2005 -- 1) Syed Muhd Khairudin Aljunied, "Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles' discourse on the Malay world: a revisionist perspective" [From the Abstract -- Examines in detail Raffles' discursive

BERITA

V.29,n.3

PAGE 6

strategies that sought: a) to justify the study and preservation of Hinduism and Buddhism in the Malay world, portraying Hinduism and Buddhism as practiced by Malays as a binary opposite of Islam; b) to demonstrate the affinities of Hinduism and Buddhism with European traditions; c) to prove that the legacies of Hinduism and Buddhism in the Malay world were suffering from a climate of decline -- Demonstrates ways that Raffles' discourse was influenced by the dominant methodologies and ideologies of Europeans of his time and place]; pp 1-22; **2)** Sam Choon-Yin, "Singapore's experience in curbing corruption and the growth of the underground economy" [From the Abstract -- An extensive underground economy (UGE) is undesirable because it does more harm than good to economies, and curbing corruption is useful in curbing the growth of UGE, through enactment of rules enforced by good men]; pp 39-66.

>The economist

Jun4th-10th -- 2005 -- 1) "Militant Islam in South-East Asia: turning back the tide" [At the turn of the millennium, 'the arc of instability' referred to the area from the Middle East into Central Asia, the northern subcontinent and south into Southeast Asia, an area thought to grow terrorism in the cause of militant Islam, but things have changed: a) the toppling of Saddam and occupation of Iraq, b) secular rulers in Afghanistan and Pakistan controlling the Islamists, and c) once active al-Qaeda associates in Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines are now much less a threat -- Article strongly associates the PAS political party in Malaysia with religious militancy and notes that PAS is "... on the wane in Malaysia" and notes that "heavy-handed and incompetent treatment of Islamist in Thailand..." is an example of what not to do], p 16; **2)** "Islam in Malaysia: debating Islam" [Moderates and radicals fight it out, peacefully -- Begins with a brief description of a raid on a nightclub by officials of Kuala Lumpur's religious department -- A brief but reasonably accurate description of the everyday mix of democracy and Islamic law in Malaysia], pp 39-40; **3)** "Not yet reconciled: but at last the government is listening" [A brief account of the Malay unrest in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat provinces in southern Thailand, describing the separation of the three provinces from Malaysia as "an accident of colonial history", and noting the many shifts in Thai government policy during the last 18

months, from stupidly harsh to more conciliatory, and quoting a Thai provincial police chief as saying that "We are like the Americans in Vietnam" – Article quotes a head of a local Islamic school as saying that the conflict is "like a plate of *nasi kerabu*, a Malay dish with many ingredients" and notes that "heavy-handed repression by the security services, rivalry between the police and army, government neglect, political score-settling, drug-running, arms-smuggling and so on" contributes as much to the violence as the Muslim separatist sentiment – The NRC has recommended that the Thai government lift martial law and Mr. Anand has aired some controversial ideas, including a measure of autonomy for the three provinces], p 40.

Jun11th-17th -- 2005 -- 1) "The world this week: business" [Singapore police arrested Chen Jiulin, suspended CEO of China Aviation Oil, finance director and 3 executives of the company's Chinese parent company], p 7.

Jul9th-15th -- 2005 -- 1) "Malaysia, a storm in a teapot: the government gets tough on apostasy" [Ayah Pin (Ariffin Mohammad), leader of an interfaith group (Muslims, Christians, Buddhists & Hindus) in Trengganu, claims divinity in the 'Sky Kingdom' -- Has a few thousand followers -- State officials were skeptical and jailed 4 of his Muslim followers for attempting to renounce Islam in the 1990's ... a crime in most Malaysian states -- Ayah Pin jailed 11 months for deviancy by an Islamic court in 2001 -- On July 3 this year, police raided his compound and arrested 21 followers, but Ayah Pin escaped capture in the raid -- UMNO says it believes in persuasion rather than coercion in religion, nonetheless tracks 22 sects deemed deviant and the Federal Court has ignored the issue...], p 34.

Jul23rd-29th -- 2005 -- 1)"Pattani: the prime minister gives himself sweeping powers" [In response to an escalating insurgency in Thailand's Malay-speaking southern provinces, an emergency decree, effective July17, in response to another Malay dissident attack in Pattani, allows Thailand's PM Thaksin to detain suspects without trial, tap phones, ban public gatherings, expel foreigners, and censor media reports that could adversely affect security, peace or morality -- Four months ago Thaksin had announced conciliatory measures such as replacing martial law with civilian (Malay) control -- Latest decree grants immunity from prosecution to security forces in 'emergency zones' -- 3 Muslim men shot dead June 20th in town of Pattani], p40.

>**The national interest**

Nr. 78 -- Winter 2004/2005 -- 1) Greg Sheridan, "Jihad Archipelago" [Begins with the observation that Indonesia gets no respect in Washington even though its 200 million Muslims (total Indonesian population = 230 million, much more than in the Arabian peninsula or in India and Pakistan) make it overwhelmingly the

most populous Muslim nation in the world -- Arabs disdain the Indonesian and Malaysian Muslims, because their languages are not Arabic; but, perhaps for the same reason, the West has not focused on Southeast Asian Muslims as probable Islamist

BERITA

V.29,n.3

PAGE

7

terrorists -- But there are Al-Qaeda-linked terrorist groups in Indonesia such as Jemaah Islamiyah -- Deeper problem in the linkage between the terrorist groups and emerging mainstream political Islam, which share much common ideological ground -- Moves on to Malaysian UMNO and PAS, noting that Mahathir linked traditional Islamic piety with East Asian economics so that Islam became a friend of economic modernization, etc. -- Other sections on Singapore, Malays of southern Thailand, and Brunei; as well as the southern Philippines -- Ends with a section on how Indonesia remains the center of Southeast Asian Islam], pp 73-80.

>**The Pacific review**

V.18,n.1 -- Mar 2005 -- 1) Whole issue in memory of Michael Leifer, whose work focused on ASEAN and therefore included Malaysia & Singapore content; **2)** Donald K. Emmerson, "What do the blind-sided see? Reapproaching regionalism in Southeast Asia", 1-21; **3)** Yuen Foong Khong, "The elusiveness of regional order: Leifer, the English school and Southeast Asia, pp 23-41; **4)**Jurgen Haacke, "Michael Leifer and the balance of power, 43-69; **5)** See Seng Tan, "Untying Leifer's discourse on order and power", 71-93; **6)** Amitav Acharya, "Do norms and identity matter? Community and power in Southeast Asia's regional order", 95-118; **7)** Christopher R. Hughes, "Nationalism and multilateralism in Chinese foreign policy: implications for Southeast Asia", pp 119-135.

>**World focus: monthly discussion journal**

N.297 -- Sep 2004 -- 1) Baladas Ghoshal, "India's relations with ASEAN: the historical setting" [Some particular Malaysia & Singapore content], pp 3-6; **2)** G.V.C. Naidu, "India and Southeast Asia: look East policy"[Review of first 13 years of the policy -- Some particular Malaysia & Singapore content], pp 7-10; **3)** Pankaj Kumar Jha, "India-Singapore relations" [Mentions a few early relations, but mostly about relations since the late 1980's], pp 16-18; **4)** Shri Prakash, "India-China-ASEAN" [See especially the separately formatted section titled "India and Malacca Straits security" on p 20], pp 19-20.

Books Books books books (Relevant to M/S/B)

>**Abdullah Ahmad, Tan Sri Dato'**

2005 **Notes from the United Nations / Abdullah Ahmad.** Subang, Malaysia: Times Editions, Marshall Cavendish. 368 pp. Pb ISBN 983-580-960-7. [From

the backcover -- A narration of Malaysian political developments and of international political developments between 1996 and 2000, a crucial period for Malaysia, the UN and the US -- Relates stories of the people he met, Malaysian foreign policy, diplomacy & politics at the UN and in the United States -- An impassioned observation of disturbing insights as well as interesting perceptions.]

>**Anwar, Dewi Fortuna & Helene Bouvier & Glenn Smith & Roger Tol (eds)**

2005 *Violent internal conflicts in Asia Pacific: histories, political economies and policies*. Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia, Most-Lipi, Lasema-CNRS, and KITLV-Jakarta. xviii, 416 pp. Pb ISBN 979-461-514-5. [Chs on many different states in the area, and several on Indonesia -- See especially: 1) Leo Suryadinata, "Anti-Chinese actions in Southeast Asia: in search of causes and solutions", which has several pages on Malaysia and more in comparison with Indonesia and Vietnam, pp 151-162; and 2) Kees Van Dijk, "Coping with separatism: is there a solution?", which has several pages on Malay separatism in southern Thailand and comparisons with the southern Philippines and Aceh", pp 187-210.]

>**Braginsky, Vladimir**

2004 *The heritage of traditional Malay literature: a historical survey of genres, writings and literary views*. Singapore: ISEAS. xiv, 890 pp. Hb ISBN 981-230-292-1. [From the back cover -- The first comprehensive survey of traditional Malay literature in English since 1939, it embraces more than a millennium of Malay letters from the vague data of the 7th century to the beginnings of modern literatures in the late 19th century -- Traditional literature is viewed in historical and theoretical perspectives as a development of an integral system influenced by cultural and religious changes such as gradual Islamization, considered in the entirety of its genres and works as seen both externally and internally: from the point of view of modern scholarship and through examination of indigenous concepts of literary creativity, poetics and aesthetics -- An original study based on a specific historical-theoretical approach, but also an accessible reference work and manual for students.]

>**Braine, George (ed)**

2005 *Teaching English to the world: history, curriculum, and practice*. Mahwah, NJ & London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc. xx, 191 pp. Pb ISBN 0-8058-5401-0. [See especially: 1) Ch13, Antonia Chandrasegaran, "A success story: English language teaching in Singapore", pp 135-145.]

>**Canagarajah, A. Suresh (ed)**

2005 *Reclaiming the local in language policy and practice*. Mahwah, NJ & London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc. xxx, 297 pp. Pb ISBN 0-8058-4593-

3. [See especially: 1) Ch6, Maya Khemlani David & Subra Govindasamy, "Negotiating a language policy for Malaysia: local demand for affirmative action versus challenges from globalization", pp 123-145; 2) Ch10, Peter Martin, "Talking knowledge into being in

BERITA

V.29,n.3

PAGE

8

an upriver primary school in Brunei", pp 225-246.]

>**Carstens, Sharon A.**

2005 *Histories, cultures, identities: studies in Malaysian Chinese worlds*. Singapore: Singapore University Press. 448 pp. Pb ISBN 9971-69-312-7. [From the promo -- Deals with 2 central questions about the Chinese in Malaysia: a) How has being Chinese shaped their responses to political, economic & social developments in the country; b) How have their experiences affected how Chinese immigrants & their descendants identify themselves as Chinese? -- Draws on mix of historical and ethnographic research in Chinese & English-language sources -- Analyses from several interesting perspectives.]

>**Cheema, G. Shabbir**

2005 *Building democratic institutions: governance reform in developing countries*. Bloomfield CT: Kumarian Press Inc. xi, 271 pp. Pb ISBN 1-56549-197-1. [Some occasional Malaysia and Singapore content throughout; but see especially Ch7 "Globalization and public sector management capacity", and Ch9 "Governance in crisis situations".]

>**Fernandez, Warren (cartoons by Miel)**

2004 *Thinking allowed? politics, fear and change in Singapore*. Singapore: SNP International. 256 pp. Pb ISBN 981-248-061-7. [From the author's Introduction -- Political debate in Singapore hampered by two major inhibitions: a) many citizens assume that politics do not exist there; b) the chilling effect that robust responses from some politicians which are said to deter citizens from exercising their right to be engaged in the political process -- This book an attempt to help further the process of engaging Singaporeans in thinking about their collective future... an attempt to spark questions and thought rather than a menu of answers -- Essays are drawn from the author's columns and editorials in *The Straits Times* over many years, especially from the features "Thinking Aloud", "My View" and "From the Gallery".]

>**Hussain, Mustapha & Insun Sony Mustapha (trans.) & K.S. Jomo (ed.)**

2005 *Malay nationalism before UMNO: the memoirs of Mustapha Hussain*. Singapore: Singapore University Press. 424 pp. Pb ISBN 967-61-1698-X. [From the promo -- This English translation (from the Malay) traces the author's coming-of-age in a Minangkabau-Malay community in Perak, his part in the formation of the Young Malays Union (KMM), the

Japanese conquest, the anti-colonial nationalist movement, and his narrow defeat to Tunku Abdul Rahman for first president of UMNO -- Traces life in colonial Malaya, origins and development of Malay nationalism, and Malay politics in the mid-20th century.]

>Jawan, Jayum A. & Victor T. King

2004 ***Ethnicity & electoral politics in Sarawak.*** Bangi: Penerbit Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. 68 pp. Pb ISBN 967-942-679-3. [From the backcover -- Examines the continuing role of ethnicity in Malaysian politics, with an in-depth examination of recent election results in Sarawak, focusing on the involvement of the Iban in elections from 1991 -- Demonstrates that the complex ethnic mosaic of Sarawak and its relationship to electoral constituencies have resulted in shifting intra and interethnic divisions and alliances -- Nonetheless, the long-standing alliance between a dominant Muslim-based party and a predominantly Chinese client party in Sarawak, parallels that in Peninsular Malaysia.]

>Jomo, K. S. & Wong Sook Ching & Chin Kok Fay (eds)

2005 ***Malaysian 'bail outs'? Capital controls, restructuring and recovery.*** Singapore: Singapore University Press. 320 pp. Pb ISBN 9971-69-319-4. [From the promo -- The global financial community criticized Malaysia's responses to the 1997-98 financial crisis as bailouts for politically influential corporate interests, while the government claimed that its measures, including capital controls, were responsible for recovery -- Jomo *et al* sets the record straight: refuting both sets of claims, shedding new light on the Asian crisis and government policy responses.]

>Kratoska, Paul & Remco Raben & Henk Schulte Nordholt (eds)

2005 ***Locating Southeast Asia: geographies of knowledge and politics of space.*** Athens, OH: Ohio University Press. xi, 326 pp. Pb ISBN 9971-69-288-0. [Preface by Wang Gungwu -- From the back cover: brings together observations about Southeast Asia from a variety of perspectives... the authors discuss the significance of borders, monetary networks, transnational flows of people, goods and information, and knowledge in shaping Southeast Asia... for its residents and for scholars who study it -- See especially 1) Ch3, Wang Gungwu, "Two perspectives of Southeast Asian Studies: Singapore and China", pp 60-81; 2) The other 12 chapters are very interesting reading, and include some MSB content, but are not particularly focused on MSB.]

>Liow, Joseph Chinyong

2005 ***The politics of Indonesia-Malaysia relations: one kin, two nations.*** (RoutledgeCurzon contemporary Southeast Asia series) London & New York: RoutledgeCurzon. xvii, 236 pp. ISBN Hb 0-

415-34132-9. [Introduction, pp 1-7 -- Part I: Theoretical and conceptual framework, (Ch1, "Kinship and nationalism in international relations", pp 11-28; Ch2, "Kinship and Indo-Malay historiography", pp 29-53; Ch3, "A tale of two nationalisms", pp 54-76) -- Part II: Diplomatic history of Indonesia-Malaysia relations

BERITA

V.29,n.3

PAGE

9

(Ch4, "Ties that divide, 1949-1965", pp 79-106; Ch5, "Re-building the 'special relationship', 1966-1980", pp 107-131; Ch6, "The Indonesia-Malaysia 'prestige dilemma, 1981-200'", pp 132-156) -- Conclusion, pp 157-172 -- Glossary, pp 173-174 -- Notes, pp 175-215 -- Select Bibliography, pp 216-232 -- Index, pp 233-236.]

>Maier, Hank

2004 ***We are playing relatives: a survey of Malay writing.*** Leiden: KITLV Press. viii, 542 pp. Pb ISBN 90-6718-217-6. [Ch1, "We are playing relatives: a survey of Malay writing", is about emergence of Malay and its dialects and its development as national language(s), pp 1-34; Ch2, "A *vade mecum* of Malay writing: the fragrant flowers of the Tale of Hang Tuah", with sections on Malay reading and writing, the form of *hikayat*, the voice of writing, dangers of writing, speaking & writing, days of yore, a survey of Malay writing, on regeneration, on system and standard, the forms of *pantun* and *syair*, etc, pp 35-107; Ch3, "Repetitions and beginnings: Muhammad Bakir and his *Hikayat Sempurna Jaya*", pp109-156; Ch4, "'Yuck! Europeesche beschaving!' Mas Marco Kartodikromo's *Student Hidjo*", pp 157-201; Ch5, "Malay dreams: Ahmad bin Muhammad Rashid Talu and his friends", 203-271; Ch6, "An eulogy of mechanical sounds: Armijn Pane and his shackles", pp 273-324; Ch7, "Sparks of love and misery: Hamka and *Tenggelamnja kapal van der Wijck*" pp 325-408; Ch8, "The notes of a lonely man: Pramoedya Ananta Toer in the world of human beings", 409-484; Ch9, "In search of what is gone: adventures in Cyberia", pp 485-505; Bibliography (selective & extensive), pp 507-526; pp 527-539; Acknowledgements, pp 541-2. -- Organized around a serious discussion of related texts crucial to the development of Malay and Indonesian literature, it is also a lot of fun to read.]

>Marshall, Paul (ed)

2005 ***Radical Islam's rules: the worldwide spread of extreme Shari'a law.*** Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. xix, 226 pp. Pb ISBN 0-7425-4362-5. [1] See especially, Peter G. Riddell, Ch6 "Islamization and partial *Shari'a* in Malaysia" [Begins with Mahathir's '2020' speech "based on 'a correct balance between material and spiritual development'" -- Focuses on "the problem of how fidelity to the majority Islamic spiritual identity of the

country can be achieved without excluding the spiritual identities of religious minorities" -- Sections on a) "From nationalist awakenings to an independent state"; b) "Resurgent Islamic politics at the national level"; c) "Islamic law under PAS in Kelantan and Trengganu"; d) "UMNO-dominated states"; e) "Nongovernment Da'wa groups"; f) "Educating the activists"; g) "The Islamic state debate in 2001-2002"; h) "The 2004 elections"; i) "Conclusion"; and j) Notes], pp 135-160.

>Noor, Ismail (edited by Elina Noor)

2004 *Passing the baton from Dr Mahathir to Abdullah Badawi: a model for effective leadership succession*. Batu Caves, Selangor: Thinker's Library Sdn Bhd. ix, 182 pp. Hb ISBN 967-69-0395-7. [Ch1, "Leadership succession-a most overlooked priority"; Ch2, "Mentoring leadership-the process of leadership succession"; Ch3, "The concept of loyalty in the succession equation"; Ch4, "What *The Economist* said was really a backhanded compliment!"; Ch5, "Dr. Mahathir's legacy remains intact"; Ch6, "Abdullah's main challenges in government"; Ch7, "A special message for leaders in all facets of life"; Endnotes, Bibliography, Abbreviations used, and Index.]

>Owen, James R.

2005 *Currency devaluation and emerging economy export demand*. Hants, England & Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing Company. 141 pp. Hb ISBN 0-7546-3963-0. [1) See especially Ch4, "Malaysia: exports and currency changes", pp 29-49 -- 2) Chs1, 2 & 3 are about: a) "The currency devaluation problem", b) "The efficacy and effects of devaluation: previous literature", and c) "A methodology for disaggregated devaluation impact analysis"; 3) Like Ch4, Chs5 & 6, (respectively, "South Korea: exports and currency instability" and "Chilean currency: from crisis to stability") are cases for comparison, and 4) Ch7 is "What have we learned?"]

>Owen, Norman G.

2005 *The emergence of modern Southeast Asia: a new history*. Singapore: Singapore University Press. 568 pp. Pb ISBN 9971-69-328-3. [From the promo -- Sort of an up-date or successor to *In search of Southeast Asia*; but offers a new perspective on the region, with shifts between thematic and country chapters (Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei chapters included) -- More on economic and social history, education, gender, ecology, capitalism, nationalism, and socialism, as well as the spread of dislocation and misery.]

>Reddy, K. Raja (ed)

2005 *India and ASEAN: foreign policy dimensions for the 21st century*. New Delhi: New Century Publications. xiv, 296 pp. Hb ISBN 81-7708-081-4. [See especially: 1) Ch7, Kripa Sridharan, "The ASEAN region in India's 'Look East' policy", pp 111-137; 2) Ch8, Aruna Gopinath, "The strategic relations of India-

ASEAN in the 21st century: An ASEAN perspective", pp 138-151; 3) Ch9, P.V. Rao, "Sub-regional strategies of cooperation in ASEAN: the Indian Approach", pp 152-170; 4) Ch11, Vallabhu Srilatha, "India-ASEAN: prospects for maritime cooperation", pp 185-204 -- A fair amount of Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei content.]

BERITA

V.29,n.3

PAGE 10

>Widodo, Johannes

2004 *The boat and the city: Chinese diaspora and the architecture of Southeast Asian coastal cities*.

Singapore: Marshall Cavendish International. viii, 246 pp. Pb ISBN 981-210-253-1. [Ch1, "Southeast Asian urban morphology" outlines the topics of changing cosmological patterns of situating villages and cities and architectural changes that reflect major cultural changes thru time, setting the stage for subsequent chapters defined by chronological segments, pp 1-18; Ch2, "The maritime trade and the advent of coastal cities in Southeast Asia (1st-16th centuries)", has sections on Funan, Srivijaya, Samudra Pasai, Zhen He's Voyages, Mazu Temple & the coastal urban pattern, and the cosmopolitan spirit of coastal cities, p 19-40; Ch3, "The entrepots of Southeast Asia, 15th-16th centuries" with sections on the north coast of Java, Pattani on the east coast of southern Thailand, Palembang, Singha-pura and early Melaka, pp 41-73; Ch4, "The great emporiums of Southeast Asia, 16th-17th centuries" defines 'the emporium' and provides examples in Ayutthaya, Banten, and Sunda Kelapa, pp 74-89; Ch5, "The colonial coastal cities in Southeast Asia, 16th-20th centuries: colonizing the city", notes such types/features as the trading post, castle town, fortified city, racially segregated city, pre-war modern city and provides examples in Melaka, Penang, Singapore, as well as Batavia and Semarang, pp 90-188; and a brief chapter titled "Concluding remarks", 189-197; Notes, 198-212; Many useful outline maps of important old places and line drawings of important old structures.]

>Yap, O. Fiona

2005 *Citizen power, politics, and the 'Asian miracle': reassessing the dynamics*. Boulder, CO & London: Lynne Rienner Publishers. ix, 187 pp. [See especially, Ch2, "Politics and economics in Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia", pp 23-61.]

Conferences & Calls for Papers

>*Asian journal of communication* -- Call for papers (draft) for a special issue on "health communication in Asia" (V.16,n.2 -- 2006) -- Manuscripts representing state-of-the-art scholarship on health communication in Asia -- Announcement mentions Singapore and Malaysia -- Special issue co-editors are Douglas Storey at Johns Hopkins University and Waipeng Lee

at Nanyang Technological University -- Send manuscripts to Douglas Storey - Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health - Center for Communication Programs - 111 Market Place, Suite 310 - Baltimore, MD 21202 USA -- Email: dstorey@jhuccp.org -- Submission of manuscripts in Microsoft Word via email attachment is best -- Manuscripts must be received by October 1, 2005. See <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/01292986.asp> for submission guidelines.

>International Conference on Southeast Asia 2005 (ICONSEA) – The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is organizing an International Conference -- Theme: "Transformation in Southeast Asia: facing new challenges in the 21st Century" – interested scholars are invited to present papers based on the following themes: **1)** politics and governments in Southeast Asia; **2)** Southeast Asian economies; **3)** maritime Southeast Asia; **4)** culture and societies of Southeast Asia; **5)** Southeast Asia's international relations; **6)** other issues related to Southeast Asia, e.g. gender, poverty, development, environment, governance, religion. For more information, visit : <http://www.um.edu.my/umweb/SeaWeb/index.html> .

(From U. Washington Southeast Asia Center...thanks)
>Journal of multicultural discourses – To promote intellectual diversity and draw attention to marginalized discourse communities, a new journal, *Journal of multicultural discourses*, has been launched – Edited by Professor Shi-xu, Director of the Institute of Discourse and Cultural studies, Zhejiang University, China -- Journal features diverse disciplines: including linguistics, discourse studies, communication studies, cultural studies, anthropology, literary criticism, philosophy, religion and pedagogy – Prospective manuscripts should be presented, according to the guidelines for authors of papers, at <http://www.multilingual-matters.com> .

Amnesty International

(Selected and edited to fit available space from news provided by Margaret John, Coordinator for Singapore & Malaysia, Amnesty International Canada) – **1)** June 28, 2005, Nazri Beh Lih Yi (Malaysiakini) says, Free them (Internal Security Act detainees) now or charge them in court -- Parliamentary Human Rights Caucus chief Mohd Nazri Abdul Aziz, also in the Prime Minister's department, said that detainees who have been held more than 2 years should be released immediately or be charged in courts rather than be served with another two year detention order -- 64 of the 115 detainees in the Kamunting detention camp have been detained for more than 2 years, according to statistics obtained by the caucus during a visit on June 17 – During a press conference in the

Parliament library, Mohd Nazri also called for repatriation of foreigners held under the Internal Security Act to their own countries... noting that he was sure that they would be detained and dealt with in their own countries -- Other recommendations of the caucus include: a) restoration of full rights to detainees held in solitary confinement following riots

BERITA

V.29,n.3

PAGE 11

last December, who have been penalized for more than 6 months, which is a violation of the Internal Security Detained Persons Rules 1960; b) asked that detainees be allowed physical contact with family members during visits; c) provide adequate social welfare support to all needy families of detainees, including assistance for arranging visits by families facing financial problems or live far from the place of detention; d) Parliamentary Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang, deputy chief of the caucus called for restoration of parity of pay and perks for prison officers; e) the caucus found the detention center, which currently houses 3,439 detainees, to be overcrowded by some 72 percent ; f) the caucus will arrange a meeting with the Internal Security Ministry and prison officials for responses to memoranda that detainees handed to caucus members; g) on how soon he expects the recommendations to take effect, Mohd Nazri said this was hard to predict... however, as a member of the government, he will bring the matter up through any possible forum.

The death penalty in Singapore is now being increasingly questioned within the country, though still by a small number of Singaporeans. The case of Shanmugam Murugesu, who was hanged for drug trafficking, sparked unprecedented campaigning in the country. The Shanmugam case sparked public sympathy within Singapore. Sinapan Samydarai, President of the Think Centre, commented: "This is definitely the first time the local community has come forward to look at the death penalty issue... At least we now have people saying that things should change." One outcome was an NGO public forum on the death penalty, at which AI's lead researcher on Singapore was invited to speak. At the same time, several articles by Singaporean lawyers posed questions about its constitutionality. It has not, however, become a debatable issue at the government level. AI's researcher on Singapore, Tim Parritt, was allowed to enter Singapore to attend the forum, but not allowed to address the forum. The forum drew 120 participants.

As part of an ongoing series of regional concerts against the death penalty, the first "Concert against the death penalty" was held in early August titled 'Songs for Sam: hung at dawn' in memory of the execution of Shanmugam Murugesu.

In July, Julia Bohl, a 22 year-old German student, who had faced the death penalty for drug possession and trafficking, but instead given a 5 year sentence, was released after 3 years for good behavior in July. She escaped the death penalty after tests showed that her marijuana was less pure than originally determined.

Email from the Chair *(Received 7 August 2005) [From the editor – Not in the format received, which is changed to fit the space available, but hopefully has not affected the meaning and intent of the Chair.]

Dear MSB Colleagues,

I hope this note finds each of you well and prospering. The deadline for AAS proposals for the annual meeting is (very!) fast approaching * August 12th -- and I have yet to receive any panels for possible MSB sponsorship. Any member who would like MSB to sponsor a panel, please contact me asap and I will send in the necessary endorsement. I encourage all interested to submit proposals to the AAS, on line at: (Deadline past due, but here it is again.)

<http://www.aasianst.org/Proposal/pages/2006CFP.htm>

Please find the attached minutes from the March meeting. A number of important items were decided:

- a) MSB Funding – MSB decided to opt for a voluntary contribution to be checked off on the annual AAS membership form of \$5 -- This check-off option will allow the MSB group to raise funds;
- b) MSB Conference -- MSB members at the AAS decided to explore the possibility of holding a conference in conjunction with the AAS meeting in San Francisco -- Subsequent communication with Stanford Malaysian Students Studies organization, based in Stanford and UC Berkeley, indicated that it would be difficult to host the event locally – Thus, next year a conference is not viable -- The option of holding a MSB conference in Boston 2007, which has more options for possible locations to hold the event, remains viable -- We need as a group to solicit possible locations and determine whether members as a whole are interested in holding a conference –
- c) Publication prizes... MSB decided to award a prize of \$50 to the best book, article and graduate paper – Nominations sent to the chair are due by January 15th – The MSB Executive committee is in the process of formalizing the committees to review each prize –
- d) Website: Uploading a group website remains a key priority – The organization is actively seeking a web master and host for the website – I hired a person to update the content of the website this summer to include the bulletin board function and membership directory solicited at the meeting, and the revised changes would be available for uploading/management in early September – Volunteers to host the site and manage it are most welcome --
- e) Berita – Ron Provencher reported that

over the next year he will be working to reduce the number of hard copies mailed to libraries and is considering expanding the electronic version – He welcomes contributions at: rprovenc@juno.com. – If you have questions... contact me ... Sincerely,
Bridget Welsh, Chair MSB

BERITA - V.29,n.3 - 3rd Qtr - 2005 - PAGE 12

Prospectus

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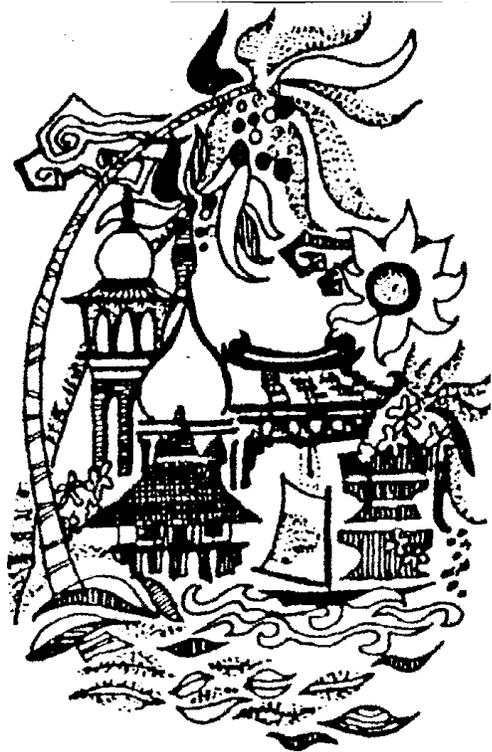
Address all correspondence and submissions for publication to rprovenc@juno.com or to Ron Provencher, P.O. Box 13336, Burton, WA 98013. Submissions for publication of announcements or scholarly contributions should be sent: (1) as an attachment to an e-mail message to the above e-mail address; OR (2) as a typed manuscript to the above mailing address. The Editor

Research & production staff

Barbara L. Provencher, M.A. (History)

Haron Omar Abdullah, B.A. w/Distinction (Anthropology)

Thanks to the staff of Suzzallo/Allen libraries of the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.



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