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Grumpy editor's note

Early notice of scholarly opportunities is important for people producing and using knowledge. *Berita's* distribution schedule, since 2003, has been Feb 15, May 15, Aug 15 and Nov 15. rp

Periodicals (Relevant to M/S/B Studies)

>Akademika: jurnal sains kemasyarakatan dan kemanusiaan

Bil 66 Jan 2005 -- 1) Rahimah Abdul Aziz (ed), "Social sciences and humanities in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia: its development and prospects" [Begins with a short bibliography (8 items) of earlier works about the Malaysian social sciences, then provides her own assessment of the history of UKM and follows with brief descriptions of the other authors' chapters in the volume], pp 3-13; 2) Hanapi Dollah, "The study of new Malay literature" [Explores the development of modern Malay literature as a field of study at UKM], pp 15-29; 3) Saran Kaur Gill, "Language policy and planning: understanding UKM's past, present and future concerns and responses" [Writes about the development of the teaching of the English language], pp 31-50; 4) Rahimah Abdul Aziz, "The study of anthropology and sociology at the National University of Malaysia" [Reviews 35 years of the development of these academic fields at UKM], pp 51-80; 5) Sharifah Mastura Syed Abdullah, "Physical geography: *Isu, cabaran dan prospek*" [Discusses the development of geography generally and its sub-discipline, physical geography], pp 81-90; 6) P. Ramasamy, "The academic discipline of political science at the National University of Malaysia" [Argues that for nearly 2 decades, the political science program organized on the basis of core and elective subjects had the benefit of the departmental structure, but that restructuring in 2001, brought about epistemological problems], pp 91-105; 7) Dato' Dr. Haji Shafie Hj Mohd Salleh, Minister for higher education, "Malaysian studies, higher education and national development" [Excerpts of the keynote address delivered at the opening of the 4th International Malaysian Studies Conference (MSC4) held at UKM, 3 August 2004], pp107-109.

>American anthropologist V.109,n.1 Mar 2007 -- 1) Susan M. Darlington, review of Andrew C. Wellford & Kenneth M. George (eds). *Spirited politics: religion and public life in contemporary Southeast Asia*. 210 pp. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Southeast Asia Program [From the review – Notes that the volume raises critical theoretical questions relevant wherever religion, politics, and the identity of the nation-state

intersect -- The nine chapters are well framed by the editors, as they lay out the book's themes, including: cultural nationalism, identity politics, the relationship between modernity and religion, citizenship, and authenticity – Different chapters focus on particular interpretations of these concepts; and as a whole they demonstrate the fluid nature of religion, politics, and the nation state – Although the authors take varying positions on these themes, the chapters complement each other theoretically -- See Andrew Wellford's presentation of a Tamil Hindu medium within the Islamic Malaysian state], pp 229-230.

>Anthropology quarterly

V.80,n.1 Wntr 2007 -- 1) Kee Howe Yong, "The politics and aesthetics of place-names in Sarawak" [As elements of political landscape, place-names can express both ideological themes of the state and the political atmosphere and processes by which nation-states impress the landscape -- Based on fieldwork in 1999 & 2000 in Sarawak -- The nature of Sarawak place-names, focusing on how communities react to the place-names of their villages and townships in everyday life... how place-names are derived, who speaks them, how used, and in what contexts -- Place names are active, context-generating and context-reflecting -- Also: Communism, Hakkas, Cold War], pp 65-91.

>APMJ: Asian and Pacific migration journal

V.14,n.1-2 2005 -- 1) Brenda S.A. Yeoh, "'Singapore Unlimited?': transnational elites and negotiations of social identity in the regionalization process" [From the Abstract -- Draws on the burgeoning literature about globalization, international migration and the deterritorialization of social identity in transcultural contexts -- Examines the diasporic designs of the Singaporean state in its 'go regional' push and compares it with individual negotiations of social identity as a result of relocation in China -- More on Singapore's cultural penetration of China thru network capitalism and ethnic entrepreneurship], pp 71-95; 2) Nicola Piper, "Rights of foreign domestic workers - emergence of transnational and transregional solidarity" [From the Abstract -- Explores the notion of an emerging transnational or transregional labor solidarity of foreign workers across the Southeast and East Asian region as well as Europe by investigating migration as an instrument of political transformation thru the concept of transnationalism -- Includes some Malaysia and Singapore content], pp 97-119.

V.14,n.3 2005 -- 1) Jerrold W. Huguet, "International migration and development in Thailand" [From the Abstract -- Migration flows from and into Thailand are shaped by the country's strategies for economic development and other governmental policies -- Theory and recent experience suggest that levels of migration to Thailand will increase and that many migrants will wish to stay for a long period or permanently -- But migration policies often inconsistent with other development goals -- Some Singapore and Malaysian content], pp 269-291; 2) Nick Parr and Fei Guo, "Occupational concentration and mobility of Asian immigrants in Australia" [From the Abstract -- Provides a detailed description of diverse patterns of occupational concentration and mobility of selected Asian immigrant groups - Shows that Asian-Australians include not only groups which remain relatively concentrated in 'low-end' occupations, but also many others more likely than the Australian-born to be in 'high-end' professional occupations -- Some content about Singaporeans and Malaysians, as well as people from China,

Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Langka, Taiwan, and Vietnam], pp 351-380.

V.15.n.1 2006 -- (A special issue on forced migration in Southeast Asia) See especially, 1) P. Ramasamy, "Globalization and transnational migration: the Malaysian State's response to voluntary and forced migration" [From the Abstract -- Despite the rhetoric of strict immigration control, Malaysia has not been able to control the flow of voluntary and forced migrants -- Nation's goal to attain a fully developed state by 2020 makes it difficult to have full authority over transnational migrants -- Lack of differentiation between economic and forced migrants makes it difficult for the latter to seek protection from the state, and the fear of deportation denies them the limited protection granted to legal economic migrants], pp 137-157.

V.15.n.2 2006 -- See especially 1) I Lin Sin, "Malaysian students in Australia: the pursuit of upward mobility" [From the Abstract -- Reports findings of a qualitative study on the main factors that guide the initial migration of Malaysian students to Australia and their aspirations to stay on or leave the host country upon graduation -- Examines whether they deliberately seek qualifications that help them secure permanent residence], pp 239-266

>Asian folklore studies

V.lxv. n. 2 2006 -- Robert Wessing, "Symbolic animals in the land between the waters: markers of place and transition" [From the Abstract -- Analyzes use of symbolic animals in Indonesia and Southeast Asia generally, including the Malay world, as markers of place or state of being, and as aids in transitions between states of being -- Sections on 'The underworld and the upperworld', 'Naga', 'The land between waters', 'The horizontal plane', 'The human community', 'The founding and maintenance of states', 'The founding and maintenance of villages', 'Agriculture', 'The individual', 'Membership in the community', 'Death', 'Axis mundi'], pp 206-239.

>Asian perspectives: the journal of archaeology for Asia and the Pacific

V.46.n.1 Spring 2007 -- 1) John A. Peterson, review of Wilhelm G. Solheim II, with David Bulbeck and Ambika Flavel (Forward by Victor Paz), 2006, *Archaeology and culture in Southeast Asia: unraveling the Nusantao*, xvi + 316 pp, Quezon City: University of the Philippines Press, ISBN 9715425089 [The book a consummate review by Solheim of his life's work in the region, written in a fresh and sometimes conversational style, reviewing his previous work and also accommodating recent findings and literature -- Volume presents the history of an idea as well as the fieldwork and analyses -- The volume is a recounting of the data, a historiography of concept, a personal intellectual biography, and a vision of a vibrant maritime culture that has inhabited the region since the Late Paleolithic -- The book is divided into seven chapters: 2 contributions regarding the analyses of his Sa Huynh-Kalanay ceramic tradition in the Philippines and Vietnam, the regional iron age -- David Bulbeck and Ambika Flavel contribute statistical appendices that support Solheim's earlier stylistic categories -- Another section is an account of survey results from Papua, Halmahera and Ternate in Indonesia -- Solheim lays out the Nusantara as a maritime

communication and trade network that provided the frame for regional migration as well as exchange -- Other chapters on migration, and laying out the case of relating the transition from palaeolithic to neolithic -- And much more], pp 235-237; 2) Laura Lee Junker, review of John Miksic (ed), 2003, *Earthenware in Southeast Asia: proceedings of the Singapore symposium on pre-modern Southeast Asian earthenware*, xxii + 370 pp, Singapore: Singapore University Press, ISBN 971692716 [Chapters written by archaeologists from the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Assam -- Twenty-two plus chapters filled with data and analyses] pp 242-247.

>Asian studies review

V.30.n.4 Dec 2006 -- 1) James Llewelyn, "Japan's return to international diplomacy and Southeast Asia: Japanese mediation in *konfrontasi*, 1963-66" [An important episode in postwar Japanese foreign relations for several reasons: a) Japan's first explicitly political role in postwar Asia; b) illustrates the important strategic dimension that SEA holds for Japan; c) shows that Japan from the 1960s was willing to undertake a mediation role in an Asian dispute where it clearly saw its strategic and economic interests at stake while demonstrating its desire to return to Asia as a key actor -- Article divided into 3 parts: a) the importance of Indonesia and Southeast Asia to Japan; b) an overview of *konfrontasi*; c) Japan's diplomatic efforts towards mediation examined year-by-year, by examination of archives], pp 355-374; 2) Brian Ridge, review of Saw Swee-Hock & K. Kesavapany (eds), 2006, *Malaysia: recent trends and challenges*, 313 pp, Singapore: ISEAS [The outcome of a 2004 workshop which was naturally 'tinged' by the 2004 Malaysian elections, as in the deep analysis of the phrase '*Bangsa Malaysia*' -- Topics of papers range from internal politics, voting patterns, demographic shifts, the rise of Islamism, and the fortunes of the Islamic opposition party PAS, an analysis of Islam Hadhari (Civilizational Islam), and Mahathirism], pp 438-439.

>Asian survey

V.xlvii.n.1 Jan/Feb 2007 -- Whole issue a summary of various aspects regarding Asian countries in the year 2006 -- 1) Opens with Lowell Dittmer's "Asia in 2006" [Topics: economic boom, security, Asian democracy, and conclusion], pp 1-9; 2) Robert Sutter, "The US and Asia in 2006: crisis management, holding patterns, and secondary initiatives", with a section on Southeast Asia], pp 10-21 -- 3) [Virtually every Asian country has a chapter... See especially, the chapters on: a) Malaysia by Claudia Derich [PM Badawi's policies in 2006 were accompanied by an uninvited yet hardly ignorable critique, voiced by his predecessor, Mahathir Mohamad ...Also, provisions of the 9th Malaysia Plan, inter-ethnic relations, and price hikes for fuel occupied minds and media], pp 148-154; b) Brunei by William Case [In 2006, with the government's petroleum earning rising, the only detectable pressures for more openness seemed to emanate from the sultan himself... staff at the *Borneo Bulletin* lamented finding little on the political scene to report], pp 189-193; c) Singapore by Chua Beng Huat [In the 2006 general election, the PAP won 82 out of 84 parliamentary seats; the purchase by the government investment company, Temasek Holdings of the Shin Corporation, contributed to the coup that sent Thai Prime Minister Thaksin into exile; and Lee Kuan Yew's remark on the

marginalization of ethnic Chinese in neighboring countries caused offense, especially in Malaysia], pp 206-212.

>**Comparative sociology**

V.5.n.4 2006 -- 1) Masamichi Sasaki, Tatsuzo Suzuki & Masato Yoneda, "English as an international language in non-native settings in an era of globalization" [Mostly from the Abstract -- Explores the importance of language study to sociology, and the apparent dominance of English as an international language -- Focus is to examine cross-national attitudes about English as *the* international language of non-English language peoples and of peoples who speak English only as a foreign language -- Inner circle (Aus., Can., NZ, UK, USA), Outer circle (Malaysia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka), and Expanding circle (Indonesia, Taiwan, China, Egypt, Israel, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Nepal, USSR, Zimbabwe) -- 8 tables], pp 381-404.

>**Current history: a journal of contemporary world affairs**

V.106.n.698 Mar 2007 -- 1) "The month in review (January 2007): Thailand" [a] Jan 17: Following a meeting of a top Singapore official and former PM Thaksin, Thailand rescinds an invitation for a visit to Singapore's foreign minister] ; [b] Jan 27: "Martial law, which has been in place since the September coup, is lifted in much of the country -- Northern regions sympathetic to Thaksin, restive Muslim areas in the south remain under martial law", p 144.

>**Daily Express** (East Malaysia) from www.asiaobserver.com

Apr 14 2007 -- 1) "Team up with us" [Opposition Parti Keadilan Rakyat Sabah has invited Chong and LDP to team up with them 'to fight for true democracy, transparency and justice for the people of Sabah' -- Deputy Chairperson, Christina Liew, said Chong's service to the State is not completed, because although he started the mass eviction of the illegal immigrants when he was Chief Minister, he stepped down before completing the task, and that Keadilan hoped Chong & LDP would join the party to resolve the illegal immigrant issue.]; **2)** "Meeting on Sibu secret societies" [Kuching -- A meeting to discuss ways to eliminate secret society activity in Sarawak, particularly in Sibu, to be held soon between the Member of Parliament, Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing and the Federal Police CID Director Datuk Christopher Wan Soo Kee -- Meeting to discuss issues concerning secret society activities and ways of regaining public confidence in the police to fight crime]; **3)** Sabah Progressive Party Wanita Chief, Melanie Chia, shocked to learn that Chong had resigned as Minister of the Tourism Ministry; **4)** "Malaysia and Philippines ratified the PhilMal Standard Operation Procedure" after policing the common border operations under a draft SOP for 12 years].

>**Far Eastern economic review**

V.170.n.1 Jan/Feb 2007 -- 1) Chester Venze (in Cameron Highlands), "Letters: yet another Singapore letter" [Frustrated, if not utterly disgusted, by the volume of *FEer's* readers' letters devoted to the Singapore saga in the past few months -- Why the antagonism focused on the politics of an island state?], p 6; **2)** Chul-Joon Park, Suvir Varma & Chris Bierly, "Private equity's new Asian recipe" [Before being purchased by private-equity investors, Singapore Yellow Pages (SYP) was giving out a lot of wrong numbers -- Despite an 87% market share, SYP had

seen revenues slide to just S\$62 million (\$36.5 million) in 2003 from S\$104 in 1999, with rapidly shrinking profit margins, and advertisers defecting apace, and an annual sales rep turnover rate of more than 50% -- How CVC Asia Pacific & CCMP Capital Asia led the private-equity consortium to rapidly expanding revenue and profit], pp 12-16; **3)** Grant McBurnie & Christopher Ziguas, "Institutions, not students, get the travel bug" [After 20 years of continued growth, now 1/3 of Singapore's tertiary students and 1/4 of Hong Kong's are enrolled in transnational education programs (UK the most, Australia 2nd & USA 3rd), pp ? (computer & library access problems); **4)** Garry Rodan, review of Cherian George, *Contentious journalism and the internet: towards democratic discourse in Malaysia and Singapore*, 288 pp, Institute of Policy Studies [The idea that the internet is a threat to authoritarian regimes has less influence since the mid-1990s, as net activists have fallen short of expectations -- The author delivers another assault on those expectations through analysis of some of the more successful attempts in Singapore and Malaysia at harnessing the internet to challenge institutions aligned with authoritarian regimes -- A former journalist for the government controlled *Straits Times*, George brings to his readers an acute appreciation of what contentious journalism is attempting to provide as an alternative -- Case studies: a) Sintercom, Singapore's earliest Internet site for political posting and online discussion initiated by Singaporean Stanford University doctoral student Tan Chong Kee; b) New Sintercom, launched by other Singaporean activists on the USA-based Geocities Web-site hosting service; c) the Think Centre, which pioneered bold online exposures of the partisan political nature of the authorities; d) Harakah (Movement), the popular and profitable bilingual (Malay & English) newspaper of the Islamic political party, Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS); and finally, the on-line newspaper, *Malaysiakini* (Malaysia Now)], pp 74-77.

V.170.n.2 Mar 2007 -- 1) Valerie Engammare & Jean-Pierre Lehmann, "Can Asia avert a globalization crisis" [The occasional rhetorical flourish notwithstanding, the policy agenda for global trade is paralyzed, endangering everyone, but especially Asians -- Driven by a fear of competition and job losses, a backlash against protectionism and globalization is growing in many places -- After the first few decades following World War II, the North Atlantic joined by Japan was the great driver and beneficiary of open trade; but since the 1990s the engines of global trade have moved rapidly to the Western Pacific and Indian oceans with benefits accruing enormous poverty reduction, the rise of a middle class; with China, India and Korea becoming major global economic players; Malaysia and Singapore as key regional and global economic hubs -- However, success has also made Asia a target of protectionism, especially in the US and the EU.], pp 7-10.

V.170.n.3 Apr 2007 -- 1) Hugo Restall, "From the editor: your forbearance, please" [Asks readers forbearance for periodical's tooting own horn about the Review garnering 7 Human Rights Awards, honors given annually by Amnesty International in conjunction with the Hong Kong Journalist Association, one of which was a first prize for an interview with Singaporean opposition politician Chee Soon Juan last July... the article now the subject of several of defamation suits by the PM and the MM -- See, also, the notice of the editorial in *The Wall Street Journal* in this issue of *Berita*], p 4.

>**Indonesia and the Malay World**

V.34,n.100 Nov 2006 -- (Centennial issue in honor of Nigel Phillips) **1)** Russell Jones, "Nigel Phillips and *Indonesia and the Malay World*" [Biography and appreciation of the ailing scholar], pp 215-218; **2)** Helen Cordell, "Publications of Nigel Phillips" [10 monographs and 24 articles, plus 19 reviews -- Mostly on Indonesia, but quite a bit on the Malay Peninsula as well as Malay literature]; pp 219-222; **3)** Amin Sweeney, "Abdullah bin Abdul Kadir Munsyi: a man of bananas and thorns" [An interesting characterization of Abdullah as an ambitious man of many parts, talents and attitudes]; pp 223-245; **4)** E. Ulrich Kratz, "Like a fish gasping for water: the letters of a temporary spouse from Bengkulu" [All about 6 Malay letters, in *jawi* (reproduced in the article) from 1784-85 sent by Ence' Lena of Bengkulu to John Marsten, elder brother of William Marsden, giving voice to a native women whose European husband has gone home to Europe, leaving her in 18th Century ('British') West Sumatra], pp 247-280; **5)** Vladimir Braginsky, "Meaning of the sound: magic and Sufi mysticism of the Malay charm and chant" [Discusses the structure and meaning of anagrammatic sound organization, its origin from the magic notion of the equivalency between the whole and its part, as well as the use of poetical devices of oral literature, and of the anagram in particular, written in Sufi works which resort to the archaic poetics of the charm and chant], pp 281-314; **6)** Muhammad Haji Salleh, "A Malay knight speaks the White Man's tongue: notes on translating the *Hikayat Hang Tuah*" [A translator translating the *Hikayat Hang Tuah* is faced with answering several questions: a) how to render the semi-oral quality of the work; b) what type of English should be used (classical/modern); c) to what extent should the traditional formulaic qualities be retained in the translation; and d) should the translator aim for a loyal rendering that is close to the original or a freer one allowing it to live and be enjoyed in the 21st century?], pp 395-405; **7)** Annabel Teh Gallop, "One seal good, two seals better, three seals best? Multiple impressions of Malay seals" [Use of more than one impression of the same seal on Malay documents is very rare, but is known from anecdotal evidence in Kalimantan: prescriptions in a guide to Malay letter-writing probably from Riau, and a few surviving letters from Sumatra -- Describes and analyses the extant sources, and concludes that only in Minangkabau was there ever a tradition of using multiple impressions of a royal seal on a document], pp 407-426.

>**Insaf: the journal of the Malaysian Bar**

V.xxxv,n.1 2006 -- **1)** A belated obituary notice: [Tan Sri Ismail Khan bin Ibrahim Khan -- A man of many positions, trained in medicine and law in England, he began his professional career in Malaya in 1932 as an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Courts of the Straits Settlements in 1932, served as Registrar of Companies and High Court judge in Ipoh in the 1940s, and after the war resumed private practice in Alor Star -- In the late 1950s through the mid 1980s he held high posts in the Malaysian judiciary in both the peninsula and Borneo -- He passed away in 18 April, 2000], pp i-ii; **2)** Joseph M Fernandez, "Free speech and journalism: Australia joins the race to tighten up" [Compares the tightening of free speech in Australia and Malaysia in the aftermath of the Sept 11, 2001 attacks in the

USA, arguing that while the legal mechanisms impacting free speech in Malaysia have long been considered inimical to a healthy democracy, Australian legislators have joined in by making significant additions of laws that offend established freedom of speech principles and practices -- Sections on 'Terrorism and the search for a definition': 'the position in Malaysia post- September 11', 'Internal Security Act', 'Printing Presses and Publications Act', 'Sedition Act', 'Official Secrets Act'; 'The position in Australia', 'An overview of post-September 11 legislative measures', 'Anti-terrorism Act (nr. 2) 2005, 'Sedition Amendments' -- Conclusion: Malaysia; Australia], pp 15-43; **3)** Seah Choon Chye, "A national land code?" [Given the never-ending problems at land registries and land offices in Malaysia, the stated objectives in the National Land Code remain but a utopian dream, despite the fact that the Code has been in force since 1 January 1966 -- A litany of common irregular and illegal practices -- Sections on: 'presentation of dealings at the KL land registry'; 'dealings by trustees and executors'; 'execution of dealings by corporations'; 'transfer subject to lease/charge'; 'creation of additional charges'; 'inclusion of relevant particulars in forms of dealing'; 'change/correction of name'; 'proprietor'; 'conclusion' (officers and staff inadequately trained)], pp 63-88; **4)** Charles Hector, "Migrants and rights in Malaysia more important than rights in the access to Justice" [There are about 1.8 million documented migrant workers in Malaysia -- 15 countries supply workers in various employment sectors in Malaysia, with Indonesia (1.2 million) and Nepal (170,000) supplying the most and next most numbers of workers -- Other countries also supply workers (India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Timor Leste, and the Philippines) -- The Malaysian government estimates that an equivalent number of undocumented foreign workers are in the country... bringing the total migrant workers to about 5 million -- Many have no real choice because of lack of waged employment in their own countries -- Migrant workers comprise 30% to 50% of the total Malaysian labor force -- And entry-exit records of migrant workers indicate that 38% of the documented migrant workers overstay -- Sections on 'Migrants and their rights under Malaysian law'; 'Arrest and detention'; 'Bail'; 'Migrants and the employment laws' (with 4 case studies); 'Right to love, marry and have a family' (with one case); 'Migrant domestic workers'; 'Undocumented migrant workers'; 'Migrants are human not saints'; 'Discrimination of migrants based on nationality'; 'A bleak future unless...'] pp 143-161.

>**International Herald Tribune** (No pagination)

Mon-Mar19 2007 -- From www.asiaobserver.com --**1)** Thomas Fuller, "Southern Thai towns increasingly rely on militias" [Lampaya, Thailand is about 500 miles south of Bangkok -- There is a police station very close to this village surrounded by rice paddies and rubber trees, but the village headman feels much safer with a shotgun at his side -- The Thai villagers have purchased 150 rifles and have received weapons-training from a program initiated by Thailand's Queen, and they have developed a 24-hour patrol system -- Unlike other Thai villages in the area, this village has not suffered killings or wounds from insurgents -- Thai militias spreading guns in a region with too many, because there is no system to control who joins militias, in spite of attempted official conciliation of government and insurgents -- Southerners frustrated with both sides.]

>Journal of economic development

V.31,n.2 Dec 2006 -- 1) Bernard K. Gordon, "U.S. perspectives on East Asian economic integration" [From the Abstract -- USA is the only major power with equal economic stakes in all regions, and will oppose Asian economic integration if it excludes USA -- Charts show relatively declining US role, rising China role as key trade partner for Japan, Korea, ASEAN -- Responding to China's lead in its ASEAN trade deals, there is growing US support for bilateral trade agreements; but from US prospective, the prognosis is not good -- Some separated Malaysia & Singapore content], pp 149-168; 2) Yunling Zhang, "China and East Asian economic integration and cooperation" [From the Abstract -- Due to its great diversity, East Asian trade and investment arrangements have to be gradual and flexible -- Pragmatic approach is to negotiate East Asian FTA on the bases of 3 FTAs of China-ASEAN, Japan-ASEAN, and Korean-ASEAN; which should be integrated into one by various degrees of liberalization of agriculture sector, labor mobility, rule of origin and other factors], pp 169-185; 3) Choong Yong Ahn, "Prospect and challenges of East Asian economic integration: a South Korean perspective" [Some Malaysia and Singapore content in the tables & charts], pp 187-215.

>Malaysian business

Oct1st-15th 2006 -- 1) Charles Raj, "Commentary: politicians vs civil servants" [A commentary on the (angry) retirements of the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Samsudin Osman, and a week later the country's Police Chief, Tan Sri Bakri Omar, was caught in angry controversy as he retired -- Lately, there have been cases where moves by the civil service seemed to be in direct conflict with the government's policies... Where do we draw the line? -- Politicians should realize that they serve at the pleasure of the people... Civil servants should know the limits of their power -- It is important that both parties put the nation before self-interest], p 10; 2) Khaldun Malek, "Politics of academia" [The recent controversy about the new textbook on ethnic relations for university courses and the way in which the episode was handled leaves much to be desired -- How are we going to improve the quality of tertiary education with this going on?], pp 12-13

Oct16-31st 2006 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: delayed Umno poll a tactical ploy" [The announcement that Umno is postponing its party election to after the country's poll has prompted a host of theories, allegations and speculation], pp 6-8; 2) Charles Raj, "Commentary: when foreign investors don't owe us a living" [Bureaucratic inefficiencies continue to put off investors to this country -- Sadly, nothing seems to have been done to counter this], p 10.

Nov1st-15th 2006 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: the Abdullah-Dr M meeting" [The meeting between former PM Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and PM Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is finally over -- While Dr Mahathir has voiced his views, it will be good if Abdullah makes public his response -- In the last year or so, Abdullah's controlled media and party apparatus have turned Dr Mahathir into a pariah and terms like 'traitor', 'power crazy' and 'post-prime ministerial syndrome' are being liberally used to describe him -- Having *bumiputras*, who are more than 60% of the population, controlling 18, 30 or 45% of the nation's corporate wealth cannot, in absolute terms, be

fair... Can we imagine the White Americans owning less of America's corporate wealth than the Blacks, Hispanics and Asians?], pp 10-12; 2) Charles Raj, "Where has all the money gone?" [Now the PM himself has given the directive that all ministries and government agencies settle their bills within 3 weeks of receipt... will it work? -- Or, do we need to resort to sterner measures, as is always the case], p14.

Nov16th-30th 2006 -- 1) Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Deputy PM, "Duly noted: 'We do not want Malays in Kampung Baru to be deemed as Malays living in a slum in the middle of a developed cosmopolitan city'" [DPM calling for the development of Kampung Baru in the Federal Territory to be the main agenda for the Malays], p 4; 2) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: please do not blow up your lovers" [Malaysia often catches the world's eye, and often for the wrong reasons... its ISA, the ear-squat controversy, the haze, and now a sensational murder -- The cruel murder of a Mongolian model could create an impression in France, where she had her modeling training, and in faraway Mongolia and other places where the news was published, that Malaysia is a very dangerous place -- With this kind of expose', one wonders just how safe our PM and other *Pembesar* (VIPs) are in the hands of their police guards] pp 6-8; 3) Charles Raj, "Why policy flip-flops are bad for investors" [What is amazing is that the same government that saw fit to initiate these projects (Senai Hub, Half Bridge, Bakun, and Double Tracking) now wants to shelve them... so much for political stability and continuity], p 9.

Dec1st-15th 2006 -- 1) Ungku Aziz, "Duly noted: 'Unlike some people who are superficial, Abdullah (Badawi) has sincerely and boldly come out in favor of genuine national unity embracing all races'", p 6; 2) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: challenges and opportunities of mega merger" [The mega merger involving Sime Darby, Kumpulan Guthrie and Golden Hope Plantations is the ideal vehicle for the present administration to prove its seriousness in perpetuating the spirit of the New Economic Policy... Will it deliver? -- Is Najib sending out a signal that future Umno assemblies would be a muted and sanitized affair because they are being telecast live by astro, and are we to understand that future Umno annual general assemblies will be tailor-made for private TV], p 6-8.

Dec16th-31st 2006 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: NSTP-Utusan merger courts controversy" [While the proposed merger between media stalwarts *The New Straits Times Press (M)* and *Utusan Melayu* (Malaysia) has been put on hold, it may still come to pass if the powers that be wish it so -- The worry, besides the financial and social implications of the deal, is the absolute power that the person behind the entity will eventually wield -- Possibly, and most critical, is the nature of control UMNO and its president would have on the merged entity], pp 6-8; 2) Charles Raj, "Commentary: merger mania" [Recent spate of proposed mergers, from corporate entities to political parties, some viable, have created suspicion and speculation -- While good and bad are in every merger, the good should far outweigh the bad, and there should be no coercion], p 10.

Jan1st-15th 2007 -- 1) A Kadir Jasin, "Other thots: globalisation vs confidence" [While globalization shrinks borders and makes Malaysian businessmen go abroad to expand their business base, it can also be construed to mean that they are seeking their fortunes elsewhere because profits are dwindling in their own country], pp 8-10; 2) Charles Raj,

"Commentary: can politicians just shut their mouths?" [It is deplorable that half-a-century into independence, our politicians are still using the race and religion card to serve their own vested interests -- Why do we tolerate such chicanery?" -- We must ensure that those who are racial bigots or religious zealots are kept out of mainstream politics for good -- Otherwise, these issues will continue to be exploited for the next 50 years], p 12.

>Pertanika journal of social science & humanities

V.13,n.1 Mar 2005 -- 1) Alias Radam & Shazali Abu Mansor, "Use of dichotomous choice contingent valuation method to value the Manukan Island, Sabah" [Presents the application of dichotomous choice contingent valuation method (CVM) to value outdoor recreational resources in Manukan Island -- Both the logit and probit models are used to analyze the primary data obtained through personal interview -- Maximum likelihood estimates show that income and price are significant variables in determining what one is willing to pay (WTP) -- The WTP figure derived from the model shows that it is much higher than present fees charged to the visitors -- Study also has estimated the revenue that could be derived if the fees were charged to the WTP framework], pp 1-8; 2) Wan Roselezam Wan Yahya, "The female body in K.S. Maniam's play 'The sandpit: womensis'" [A psychological reading of the play through Laura Mulvey's theory of the male gaze -- Points to the fact that 'women' on stage have most often been constructed by men, as an object to be viewed by other men -- Female character Santha seen as taking the position of the masculine protagonist expressing her fetishization of another female character Sumathi as an object of sexual desire -- Santha represented as older, traditional and asexual; Sumanthi's behavior and appearance coded as sexually confident and provocative -- Thus the women are able to expose the oppressive representation of the female body as ideological, but are unable to affirm a more adequate one] pp 9-22; 3) Kian-Ping Lim, Muzafar Shah Habibullah & Hock-Ann Lee, "Non-linear dependence in the Malaysian stock market" [Investigates the presence of non-linearity, employing the Brock-Dechert-Scheinkman (BDS) and Hinich bispectrum tests -- Reveals that the characteristics of the returns series in the Malaysian stock market are driven by non-linear mechanisms -- Application of the Hinich bispectrum test confirms the results of the BDS test - Study has strong implications for the empirical work involving the Malaysian stock market, suggesting the inappropriateness of using linear methods for drawing inferences], pp 23-38; 4) Jamaliah Ahmad & Iskandar Abdullah, "Social and cultural influences in reception of a development-oriented television programme in multi-ethnic society" [Present Malaysian development strategies, with reference to the challenges of Vision 2020, were analyzed through interpretation of respondents of a selected television program -- Respondents were very concerned about the perception that the development policies were politically-bound, thus causing anxiety among the different ethnic groups], pp 47-65; 5) Zulkornain Yusop, Law Siong Hook & Norashidah Mohd Nor, "Relationships among output, wages, productivity and employment in the Malaysian electronic and electrical sub-sector" [The electronic and electrical sub-sector an important component of

the nation's manufacturing sector, playing a vital role in exports, employment and economic growth -- Thus the imperative of sustainable growth of this sub-sector of the economy -- Investigates linkages between output, productivity, wage and labor. The Johansen co-integration test was conducted and revealed that a long-run equilibrium relationship exists among the variables -- The short run dynamic analysis revealed that except for real wages, labor productivity and employment are statistically significant in influencing output], pp 95-102; 6) Zakaria Kasa, "Apakah nilai kerja pekerja kilang" [Study of work values among factory workers in the the district of Hulu Langat, Selangor -- A random sample of 451 factory workers -- Questionnaires used to collect data on work values -- Workers valued job security, career development, economic rewards, workplace conditions, creativity, life style, relations with other workers -- Autonomy and prestige not so important -- Significant differences between males and females in the values of creativity, relation with other workers, and autonomy... Male workers regarded these values as more important compared to female workers], pp 103-106; 7) Wong Bee Eng & Chan Swee Heng, "English relative clauses: what Malay learners know and use" [Second language learners have problems with acquiring relative clauses -- This study examines and attempts to explain the learners' competence in the use of relative clauses], pp 107-115.

>The business times weekend

SatApr14 2007 -- 1) "Malaysia unfazed by strong ringgit" [KL -- Data last week showed Malaysian exports fell 2.8 percent in February from a year before, the weakest performance in 4 months -- However, Second Finance Minister Nor Mohamed Yakcop said yesterday that Malaysia is not worried that the ringgit is affecting exports -- The ringgit hit a 9-year high of 3.4405 to the US dollar yesterday and has strengthened nearly 2.5 % since the beginning of the year]

>The economist

Jan13th-19th 2007 -- 1) "Briefing: manufacturing in Asia... the problem with 'Made in China'" [China is literally choking on its own success at attracting the world's factories... which has handed its neighbors a big opportunity -- Costs in the most industrial developed region, the eastern coastal areas, are rising sharply; and China still lags in capital-intensive industries requiring highly skilled and educated labor... as in Singapore and Malaysia], pp 68-70.

Jan20th-26th 2007 -- 1) "South-East Asia: wandering workers" [More Southeast Asians are leaving home to seek work -- January 13th, leaders of an ASEAN meeting in the Philippines signed an agreement to aid and regulate migrant workers... acknowledging the flow of labor, often illegal & undocumented, between their countries is a growing problem -- Of the 10 ASEAN countries, the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos export labor; Singapore and Brunei import it; and Malaysia and Thailand do both -- Worker-exporting, experts say, will grow by a third in the next 10 years; But, adding in the illegal exported labor indicates that worker-exporting will be twice that -- Labor importing countries are terrified that, with huge numbers of poor people just across their borders, any moves to improve the welfare of their existing immigrant workers and give papers to the illegal ones will only encourage masses more to stream in -- Citizens in receiving countries already worried about competition for

their jobs... Half of the Singaporeans oppose admitting more foreign workers... And Malaysians think that the increase in foreign workers has worsened crime rates (but official statistics show that foreigners commit proportionately fewer crimes than Malaysians], p 54.

Feb10th-16th 2007 -- 1) "South-East Asia: Let's all bash Singapore" [The rich little place that the others love to hate -- Singapore won Southeast Asia's soccer championship in a February 4 final against Thailand, in which the Thais stomped off the pitch and sulked for 15 minutes -- Thai junta's leader accused Singapore of spying on Thailand thru the telecoms business it bought last year from Thaksin's family -- Similar accusations against Singapore from other countries: Indonesian parliamentarians recently claimed that their military secrets were at risk because Singaporeans had bought into a local satellite firm; Indonesia & Malaysia have banned Singapore's importation/smuggling of sand in their territorial waters (which Singapore buys to reclaim land from the sea) -- Being richer and more successful than its neighbors is part of the problem], p 42; **2)** "Economic and financial indicators: trade and output" [Singapore's exports and imports amounted to 450% of its 2006 GDP (Hong Kong, just over 400%)], p 106.

Feb17th-23rd 2007 -- 1) "The world this week" [Malaysia's PM Abdullah Badawi held talks with the Thai junta and offered to mediate to end Muslim separatists insurgency in southern Thailand], p 8; **2)** "Thailand and Malaysia: in need of help to douse the flames" [An extension of 1) -- Malaysia has offered help to tackle the violent separatist insurgency, but no end to the violence in sight -- Bombing, shootings, al-Qaeda-style beheadings almost every day in Thailand's southern provinces -- Teachers and monks, not just soldiers and police as targets - - Muslims also regularly murdered in revenge for killing Buddhists -- About 2,000 people killed since 2004 -- Bangkok suffered a wave of bombings on New Year's Eve... Thai military government deny that the perpetrators were Muslim insurgents, saying that supporters of the deposed PM Thaksin were responsible -- The violence continued unabated while Malaysian PM Badawi visited Bangkok for a week -- Thai leaders want Malaysia to help seal the border with Thailand -- Malaysian leaders don't want a hotbed of international terrorism on the border -- Talk of giving southern Thailand a 'special autonomy' such as Indonesia's Aceh province... but a distant prospect], pp 43-44

Feb24th-Mar2nd 2007 -- 1) "A special report on offshore finance: places in the sun" (A 16 pp special section between regular pp 60-61) -- See especially: **a)** 'On or off: it's a matter of degree' [Ireland & Singapore are big in manufacturing but also have thriving financial centers that cater to offshore business -- Singapore has strict rules on banking secrecy and doesn't consider foreign tax evasion a crime], p 7; **b)** 'Jack be nimble, Jack be quick' [Thanks to nimbleness, Singapore has out scored Hong Kong, its slower rival -- Singapore's new trust laws came into effect a year ago, prompting Hong Kong to re-examine its own -- Singapore also ahead in passing legislation on real-estate investment trusts (REITS), a new investment class in Asia that is growing rapidly, fuelled by the local property boom], p.8; **c)** 'Rich pickings: how to defeat tax cheats' [Singapore is trying to edge out Hong Kong as a home for

hedge-fund investors and bankers by offering permanent residency in two years or less and a low-tax, business-friendly environment, as well as a bit of fun -- A former government official explains 'One problem we face is that hedge-fund managers are young and lively, and compared with Hong Kong we are boring' -- So Singapore has reversed a law that banned dancing on bar-tops, opened many new bars and restaurants and loosened restrictions on racy films], p 11.

Mar3rd-9th 2007 -- 1) "Container ships: maxing out" [The sheer bulk of the latest ships is concentrating traffic in big hub ports -- About 20 ports, led by Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai, dominate container shipping, with cranes big enough to handle the huge ships and channels deep enough -- At some point the economies of scale will run aground on the cost of upgrading ports to handle ever larger vessels], p 71.

Mar17th-23rd 2007 -- 1) Chaa Venn Tzu, "Letters: don't fuel the fire" [Granting the southern Thailand region 'special autonomy' would not augur well for Malaysia, by encouraging Malay separatists in the north to fight for their own autonomous region], p 18; **2)** "Economic and financial indicators: the cost of living" [Among selected cities of the world, Oslo is #1 (most expensive), Paris is #2, London is #4, Hong Kong is 16th, New York is 28th, Shanghai is 51st, and Kuala Lumpur is 88th..... but Manila is 131st!], p105.

Mar24th-30th 2007 -- 1) "Malaysia: cleaning up?" [Sleeze saps the prime minister's election prospects -- Malaysian ministers' positive statements on the economy from the pro-government press prompt speculation that the PM will call an election this year (not necessary until 2009) -- But he has not yet curbed official corruption, and 2 surveys this month indicate no real progress -- Moreover the head of the anti-corruption agency has been accused of illicit enrichment; and there are other cases: a deputy police minister is accused of taking bribes to set criminal suspects free and there is a gruesome murder case involving a government adviser (due in court in June) in which several government officials seem to be involved... All of which tend to stain the PM's reputation for honesty], pp 46-47.

Mar31st-Apr6th 2007 -- 1) "Asia's economies: once bitten" [Asian countries on the front-line of financial crisis in 1997 are suffering still -- Among Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea and the Philippines, only the Philippines has had a higher economic growth rate in the period 2000-06 than 1990-96; Malaysia, which had the highest 1990-96 growth rate of the 5 countries, was only third among the 5 countries in 2000-06 -- The questions is, 'why are companies not investing?'], p 50.

Apr7th-13th 2007 -- 1) "Thailand: southern discomfort" [In southern Thailand, no one wants to be village chief -- After 3 years of separatist violence in the ethnic-Malay Muslim-dominated region, no one wants to be on the side of the Thai authorities, and local-government officials are easy targets for unidentified separatist gunmen -- More than 400 have died since Thailand's army seized power last September and vowed to bring peace to the south -- Thailand's overstretched security forces cannot guarantee safety to anyone -- Muslims believe Thai forces are responsible for many of the killings], p 40.

Apr14th-20th 2007 -- 1) "Timor-Leste: a half-built nation" [An election season has begun peacefully but Timor-Leste will need years more babysitting from the UN -- At the polling station, about 100 villagers queue patiently, shepherded by policemen from Singapore, Portugal and Namibia... The tiny country is

packed with soldiers, police, diplomats, election monitors and aid-workers from every corner of the globe...], p 48; 2) "Economic and financial indicators" [Singapore's GDP growth slowed to 6% in the year to the first quarter, down from growth of 10.1% a year ago -- Malaysia's industrial output unexpectedly fell by 0.2% in the year to February, possibly reflecting weaker American demand, p 109].

>**The journal of Asian studies**

V.65.n.4 Nov 2006 – 1) Andaya, Barbara Watson, "Oceans unbounded: transversing Asia across 'Area Studies'" [The full text of the author's presidential address to the annual meeting of the AAS membership, April 6, 2006 – [Begins at the beginning, with the western Austronesian diaspora and the Orang Laut sea trade from China westward thru Southeast Asian seas to India, noting also the 600th anniversary of the 1st of Zeng's He's voyages and his impressive vision of a world connected via water, which contributed to the goal of knowing, describing and taming the oceans, and thus confirming their conceptual subservience to the land – Interesting history and photographs], pp 669-690.

V.66.n.1 Feb 2007 – 1) Robert W. Hefner, review of Tun-jen Cheng & Deborah A. Brown (eds), 2006, *Religious organizations and democratization: case studies from contemporary Asia*, 306 pp, NY: M.E. Sharp, Hb doi 10.1017/S002191180700071 [This is a '... welcome collection of case studies on religious organizations and democratization in East and Southeast Asia' – See especially, '... Patricia Martinez's chapter on Malaysia (which) moves gingerly between Islamic jurisprudence and contemporary debates on the concept of the Islamic state ... (showing) that government efforts to outflank the Islamist opposition have compromised the rights of non-Muslim Malaysians, (and she) brilliantly deconstructs a problem found across the Muslim world (regarding) the reluctance of ordinary Muslims to declare their opposition to religious illiberalism...' – The other case studies: Greg Barton on Indonesia; Julia Ching on the Falun Gong in China; Daniel Metraux on Japan's Soka Gakkai, Andre Laliberte on Taiwan; David Ambuel on Thailand; Murray Rubinstein on Taiwan; Hyug Baeg on South Korea; Coeli M. Barry on the Philippines; and Deborah Brown on Hong Kong], pp 201-203; 2) Stacey G. H. Yap, review of Shirlena Huang, Brenda S.A.. Yeoh & Noor Abdul Rahman (eds), 2005, *Asian women as transitional domestic workers*, 428 pp, Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Academic, Pb doi 10.1017/S0021911807000101 [The most up-to-date volume addressing the role of women migrant workers, their plights and their contributions to the economies of their countries of origin and countries of destination – Part I: 'Sending countries' covers the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and India dealing with the preparedness or indifference of the state in formulating overseas employment programs and regulation of employment agencies – Part II: 'Receiving countries' includes Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Canada regarding a range of issues, such as lack of lack of employment right and insurance coverage in Malaysia – Documents the strength and supportive networks that workers possess in their host countries... For example: Malaysia and Hong Kong allow non-governmental organizations to operate, but Singapore and Bangladesh offer

very minimal activist organizing opportunities], pp 203-205; 3) Hjorleifur Jonsson, review of Will Kymlicka & Baogang He (eds), 2005, *Multiculturalism in Asia*, 364 pp, NY: Oxford University Press, Pb doi 10.1017/S0021911807000113 [Studies of Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, Laos, China, Japan, India, Sri Lanka, and another on foreign domestic workers in Hong Kong and Singapore – See especially: Kymlicka's chapter on liberal multiculturalism, a discussion of fundamental aspects that juxtaposes Asian examples with Western ones; N. Ganesan and Chua Beng Huat on the Malaysian and Singaporean reproduction of the British colonial division among Chinese, Malay, and Indian populations; Bell and Piper on the interests of foreign domestic workers in Singapore and Hong Kong being better served by not choosing the option of citizenship – Book charts a terrain of contemporary social dynamics that will interest scholars of many different fields], pp 205-208; 4) Michael H. Bodden, review of Jacqueline Lo, 2004, *Staging nation: English language theatre in Malaysia and Singapore*, xi + 227 pp, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, doi 10.1017/S0021911807000514 [Shows the way in which contemporary English-language theatrical texts from Malaysia and Singapore resist and are complicit with the ideologies and practices of their respective post-colonial states – Contends that there is no 'pure' oppositional position outside the state and its structures and discourses of power – Lo's examples: K.S. Maniam's play about Indo-Malaysian labor-class life, *The Cord*; Kee Thuan Chye's parable of oppression and rebellion, *1984 Here and Now*; Stella Kon's *Emily of Emerald Hill*, about the life of a Singaporean *peranakan* Chinese family matriarch; and Kuo Pao Kun's *The Coffin Is Too Big for the Hole*, a monologue on one man's struggle with rigid Singaporean bureaucracy – Welcome because it complements previous works on the Singaporean theater, especially in the 1990s], pp 283-285.

>**The journal of comparative Asian development**

V.5.n.2 Fall 2006 -- 1) Kankesu Jayanthakumaran, "Performance and prospects of export processing zones: Asian an update" [A comprehensive survey of the literature of the performances of the EPZs (export processing zones) in Asia that have used descriptive and benefit cost analytical frameworks -- Possible effects on the globally and regionally oriented integrations on the EPZs are analyzed; Background of EPZs is discussed; Two sections report results of descriptive and cost-benefit studies of selected Asian countries; Another section reports the changes globally and regionally; Conclusion -- Countries include Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, and China -- Conclusion notes that Malaysia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, China and Indonesia are economically efficient and generate returns well above the estimated opportunity costs of these respective countries -- And more], pp 229-246.

>**The Pacific review**

V.19.n.4 Dec 2006 -- 1) Mark Beeson, Alex J. Bellamy & Bryn Hughes, "Taming the tigers? Reforming the security sector in Southeast Asia" [From the Abstract -- Despite global trends towards military reform characterized by processes of professionalization and democratization, militaries in SEA have continued to play prominent roles in domestic politics since 11 September -- Suggest that wider patterns of global military reform have not had as great an impact on the control, capacity

and cooperative functions of armed forces in SEA as they may have elsewhere -- Investigates recent patterns of civil-military relations in Southeast Asia, focusing on experiences of militaries of Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia - - Argue that the security sector reform agenda is informed predominantly by the North American approach to civil-military relations, and ask whether the reform agenda itself should be modified to fit the Southeast Asian context], pp 449-472.

>**The Wall Street Journal**

27 Mar 07 -- "Our sister publication, the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, has been defending itself against a lawsuit in Singapore after it published an article last year on opposition leader Chee Soon Juan. So we hope you'll forgive us if we take some pride that the *Review* has now been honored by its peers for its journalism. (*Far Eastern Economic Review* Editor Hugo Restall received first place in the magazine category of the annual Human Rights Press Awards, organized by the Hong Kong Journalists Association, the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club and Amnesty International. Among the attributes the judges look for is 'courage on the part of the journalists or publisher' [From Margaret John, Al Canada Malaysia and Singapore coordinator].

Books Books books books

>**Battersby, Paul**

2007 *To the islands: White Australia and the Malay Archipelago since 1788*. 254 pp. Landham MD: Rowman & Littlefield. Hb ISBN 0-7391-2051-4 / 978-0-7391-2051-4. [From the web promo -- Advances the argument that globalizing processes are drawing Australia incrementally closer to modern day Southeast Asia and the wider Asia Pacific -- Traces the history of Australia's regionalization back to the 19th century; to lived experiences of Australian travelers, tourists, prospectors, mining entrepreneurs in the Netherlands Indies, Malaya and Siam/Thailand as it is today -- By the early 1900s, Java was a popular tourist destination for Australians and Malaya and Siam were emerging as major Australian foreign investment destinations -- Highlights the role of non-state actors and people-to-people connections in shaping the contours of Australian diplomatic engagement in the region -- An essential book for advanced students and researchers of the history and politics of the region.]

>**Bayly, Christopher & Tim Harper**

2007 *Forgotten wars: freedom and revolution in Southeast Asia*. 514 pp. Cambridge, MA. Harvard University Press. Hb ISBN 978-0-674-02153-2. [From the promo -- A sequel to the authors' acclaimed *Forgotten armies* -- A panoramic account of bitter wars at the end of empire, seen through the eyes of the fighters and ordinary people caught up in British forces and revolutionaries in Malaya and with India's Hindu-Muslim massacres -- A stunning portrait of societies poised between the hope of independence and fear of strife.]

>**Cohen, Matthew Isaac**

2006 *The Komedi Stamboel: popular theater in colonial Indonesia*. xviii + 473 pp. Leiden. KITLV w/Ohio University Press. ISBN 90-6718-267-2. [From the web promo -- A social history of a popular (Istanbul-style) theater than began in 1891 in Surabaya and toured colonial Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia by rail and steamship, performing musical versions of

the Arabian Nights, European fairy tales and operas such as 'Sleeping Beauty' and 'Aida', Indian and Persian romances, Southeast Asian chronicles, true crime stories, and political allegories -- The region's first cross-ethnic theater -- Shows how the theater was also used as a post-colonial symbol of cross-ethnic integration and as an emblem of Eurasian cultural accomplishment.]

>**Cooke, Fadzilah Madjid (ed)**

2006 *State, communities and forests in contemporary Borneo*. Canberra: ANU E Press. ISBN 1-9209425-2-1 (online), ISBN 1-920942-1-3(print) [From the web promo -- Contributors: Ramy Bulan, Anne Casson, Fadzilah Majid Cooke, Ketut Deddy, Cristina Eghenter, Gregers Hummelose, Ole Mertz, Mogens Pedersen, Justine Vaz, and Reed Wadley -- 'Borneo' evokes visions of changing landscapes, but with important island-wide continuities: forests which for generations have been created and modified by the indigenous population; but over the past 3 decades have been partially replaced by tree crops, grass or scrub -- This first book of the *Asia-Pacific environmental monographs* series inspects the political complexities of forest management across Borneo: issues of tenure, land use changes & resource competition, 'tradition' vs. 'modernity', disputes within & between communities, communities & private firms, communities & governments -- It focuses on changes in local political economies and conservation, but inspects larger changes in both Indonesia and Malaysia -- The volume's main theme is the need to situate local complexities into larger institutional contexts, and the possible gains from such an approach in a search for alternative models of conservation and development.]

>**DeBernardi, Jean**

2006 *The way that lives in the heart: Chinese popular religion and spirit mediums in Penang, Malaysia*. 392 pp. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press. Hb ISBN 0804752923 [From the web promo -- A richly detailed ethnographic analysis of the practice of Chinese religion in the modern, multicultural city of Penang: conveying both understanding of shared religious practices and orientations, and a sense of how individual men and women imagine, represent and transform popular religious practices within their own lives -- Original in three way: 1) investigates Penang Chinese religious practice as a total field of enquiry, suggesting ways in which religious culture, including spirit-mediumship, has been transformed in its conjuncture with modernity; 2) emphasizes the way marginal spirit mediums use religious anti-language and unique religious rituals to set themselves apart from mainstream society; and 3) investigates Penang Chinese religion as the product of a specific history, rather than presenting an over generalized view that claims to represent a single 'Chinese religion'.]

>**Derichs, Claudia & Thomas Heberer (eds)**

2006 *The power of ideas: intellectual input and political change in East and Southeast Asia* (NIAS studies in Asian topics, volume 36). 352 pp. NIAS Press. Hb ISBN 9791114810. [From the web promo -- ['Steps back' and examines ideas and visions as well as those who articulate them and/or put them into operation -- Aim is to conceptualize what discourse means for political change, and how ideas in discourse affect political practice -- Chapters also offer deep insights into the national

and local, into the general and specific situation of selected countries – 3 themes: one reflects the relationship of different actor groups; Another reveals the multi-layered structure of discourses; And the various directions and types of change – Cases analyzed: a) 2 authoritarian states (China & Vietnam); 1 multi-ethnic, formally democratic state with strong authoritarian leanings (Malaysia); and 2 democratic states with parochial structures and patterns of behavior (South Korea and Japan).]

>Eklof, Stefan

2006 *Pirates in paradise: a modern history of Southeast Asia's maritime marauders*. 160 pp. NIAS Press. Pb ISBN 8791114373. [From the web promo – Traces development of piracy in SEA from the 18th century to present – SEA seas are the world's most pirate-infested (1/3 of all pirate attacks world-wide), partly because they have the world's busiest shipping waters... more than half of the world's commerce passes thru the Straits of Melaka – Insights into contemporary terrorism, piracy and transnational organized crime in the region.]

>Freedom House

2006 *Countries at the crossroads 2006*. 760 pp. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Company. Pb ISBN 0-7425-5801-0. [From the web promo -- A collection of in-depth, yet concise and accessible assessments of the state of democratic governance in countries that are politically fluid or strategically important – See especially, William Case's "Malaysia".]

>Henders, Susan J. (ed)

2007 *Democratization and identity: regimes and ethnicity in East and Southeast Asia*. 276 pp. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Company. Pb ISBN 0-7391-0689-9. [From the web promo – Contributors introduce their research and experiences of East and Southeast Asia into the study of democratization in various Asian states and diverse societies – See especially, Judith Nagata's "Elusive democracy: appropriation of 'rights' ideologies in Malaysian ethnic and religious political discourse".]

>Hoddie, Matthew

2005 *Ethnic realignment: a comparative study of government influences on identity*. 187 pp. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. Pb ISBN 0-7391-1325-9 / 978-0-7391-1325-7. [From the web promo – Argues that ethnic identity is malleable and in case studies of four countries shows how groups and individuals adjust identities in response to political opportunities, pressures, policy incentives and constraints – Analyzing tensions between assimilation and identity maintenance, and discussing how the findings relate to and challenge instrumental, constructivist and other explanations – An important contribution to theorizing ethnicity – Case studies of Malaysia, Assam, Australia and the PRC.]

>Hollingsworth, David

2007 *The rise, the fall, and the recovery of Southeast Asia's minidragons: how can their history be lessons we shall learn during the Twenty-first Century and beyond*. 290 pp. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group. Hb ISBN 0-7391-1981-8 / 978-0-7391-1981-5. [From the website www.rowmanlittlefield.com promo – Offers a comprehensive study of recent Asian economic history thru examination of specific case models from the 1990s, drawing

conclusions, creating paradigms, and preparing guidelines for the future – Studies of Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Taiwan, and an in-depth analysis of the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997-1998 – Shows the relevance of recent history to current economic situations – Shows that contract principle is essentially the driving force that propelled East Asia to engage in a series of policies that were responsible for its economic growth and sustainability since the late 1950s – Discusses such growth and examines the economic history of this period – Examines the move from import-substitution-industrialization to export-orientation and the forces leading to the subsequent 1997-98 crisis – Applies structural case investigations to Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia – 'Epilogue: a final school of thought, taking stock in a vision with and beyond the lessons'.]

>Iqbal, Munawar & Ausaf Ahmed (eds)

2005 *Islamic finance and economic development*. 264 pp. Palgrave Macmillan. Hb ISBN 140394718X. [See especially, M.A. Majid, N.G.M. Nor, F.F. Said, Z. Hasan & S.A. Siddiqi, "Efficiency of Islamic banks in Malaysia".]

>Miksic, John N.

2006 *Historical dictionary of ancient Southeast Asia* (Series: Historical dictionaries of ancient civilizations and historical eras #18), 568 pp. Lanham, MD : The Scarecrow Press, Inc. Hb ISBN 0-8108-5522-4. [From the web promo – Covers Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam from the 1st to the 15th century – Helps comprehension of the complex history of the region thru chronology, bibliography, appendices, maps, photos, diagrams, and cross-references of entries on major and minor sites, the significant historical figures, kingdoms, economic and social relations, and the artistic, cultural and religious contexts.]

Shahid Yusof & Kaoru Nabeshima

2006 *Postindustrial East Asian cities: innovation for growth*. 368 pp. World Bank Publications. ISBN 0-8213-5622-4. [From the web promo – Explores the growth process and its sources, which are changing for middle and high income economies, drawing on a wide range of literature and interviews of firms, and focusing on Singapore, Bangkok Beijing, Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo – A valuable source for researchers, urban planners, urban geographers, and policy makers.]

>Vanderveest, Peter & Pablo Idahosa & Pablo S. Bose (eds)

2006 *Developments displacements: economies, ecologies, & cultures at risk*. 288 pp. Seattle, WA. University of Washington Press. Hb ISBN 0-7748-1205-2. [See especially: ch3, Keith Barney, "Uprooting communities and reconfiguring rural landscapes: Industrial tree plantations and displacement in Sarawak, Malaysia and Thailand".]

>Waleed Haider Malik

2007 *Judiciary-led reforms in Singapore: framework, strategies, and lessons*. 144 pp. World Bank Publications. Pb ISBN 0-8213-5376-4. [From the web promo – While no one would suggest that Singapore's judiciary strategy is a 'magic formula' that can erase judiciary 'inefficiency', its strategies for reform are interesting.]

>Waterson, Roxana (ed)

2007 *Southeast Asian lives: personal narratives and historical experience*. x + 317 pp. Singapore: NUS Press.

Pb ISBN 13: 978-9971-69-344-2. [Roxana Waterson's 37 page "Introduction: analyzing personal narratives" begins with a brief but interesting commentary on personal narratives in ethnography and history, and continues with a series of issues in the chapters and analysis of life histories, gradually and interestingly weaving together the contributions of the other authors of the volume – "Part I: singular lives", includes a) Carol Warren's "Made' Lebah: reminiscences from 'Jaman setengah Bali'" (Half –Bali Times), pp 41-87; b) Janet Hoskin's "Who owns a life history? Scholars and family members in dialogue", pp 88-124; c) Roxana Waterson's "A Toraja pilgrimage: the life of Fritz Basiang", pp 125-178 – "Part II: voices and fragments" includes a) **Robert Knox Dentan's** "Arifin in the iron cap: confessions of a young man drowning", pp 181-220; b) Annette Hamilton's "Marking time: narratives of the life-world in Thailand", pp 221-252; c) Yoko Hayami's "Transversing invisible borders: narratives of women between the hills and the city", pp 253-277; d) **Saroja Dorairajoo's** "Gendered lives, gendered narratives: stories from a Muslim fishing village in Southern Thailand", pp 278-314 – See especially Part II a & d... But why not read all the whole book!.]

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

>SSRC sponsored 4-day thematic workshop on "Inter-Asian Connections". Workshop directors selected by the SSRC will help recruit and select 8 international workshop participants from across relevant disciplines in social sciences and related fields – The conference will be held February 21-24, 2008, in Dubai; and will showcase innovative research on sub-themes particularly related to "Inter-Asian connections" from the Middle East to Eurasia and from South Asia to East Asia -- The conference will encompass a wide range of projects, such as inter-regional historical and material connections as well as cross-national comparisons of contemporary political, socio-cultural, and economic processes – Researchers are invited to organize a workshop on a theme of their choice, each workshop to have 1 or 2 directors and include 8 participants (graduate students, junior faculty, other researchers and scholars) – Deadline for submission of proposals is Friday, June 1, 2007. There is more information at: http://www.ssrc.org/program_areas/global/papers/, and e-mail at intl_collaboration@ssrc.org.

>Midwestern Conference on Asian Affairs. The East Asian Studies Program at Washington University will host the 56th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs on October 19-21, 2007 at the St Louis, Mo. Campus – Proposals solicited for panels, roundtables & individual papers in all fields dealing with East, South, and Southeast Asia, the Asian Diaspora, and topical and comparative panels – Deadline for proposals: 31 May 2007 – More at: mcaa@artsci.wustl.edu and <http://artsci.wustl.edu/~eas/mcaa/>.

>The 10th Biennial Tun Abdul Razak Conference "Malaysia and the World – 50 years on" at Ohio University was held on May 11-12, 2007 (Notice received by *Berita* on 26 April 2007) – Malaysia's Ambassador to the USA, Datin Paduka Rajmah Hussain gave the opening address – Other speakers included: Indonesia's Ambassador to the United States, Sudjandhan Parnohadiningrat; Dr. Jomo K.S., UN Assistant Secretary-

General for Economic Development; Ronald Palmer, former US Ambassador to Malaysia; Prof. Omar Farouk, Hiroshima City Univ; Prof. David Steinberg, Director of Asian Studies, Georgetown Univ.; Prof Dato' Mansor Mohd. Isa, former Director of Malaysian Studies, Cairo Univ.; Dr Pamela Sodhy, Adj Prof of History, Georgetown Univ; & Prof. Dato' Mohamad Abu Bakar, Tun Abdul Razak Chair at Ohio Univ. – More info from Karla Schneider at schneidk@ohio.edu.

>The international workshop for the Encyclopedia of the Malay Diaspora project, met March 29-31, 2007 at the National University of Singapore, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Migration Research Cluster. [1) The organizer and host for the workshop, Associate Professor, Hussin Mutalib, Ph.D., Deputy Head, Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore, gave the 'Introduction' address with sections on "A better appreciation of Malay homelands", "Focus on this workshop"; "Sources and materials", and "Final notes"; 2) Professor Tan Sri Ismail Hussein (GAPENA/ University Malaya), who has been a scholarly force in Malay Studies and the leader of *Gapena* (Malay writers association) for more than a half century, gave the principal keynote address – Other formal papers included, in order; 3) Prof. Emeritus (NIU) Ron Provencher, on the importance of prehistoric and early historic migrations, trade and trade languages, and Malay language as a major parameter of Malay ethnicity; 4) Prof. Peter Reeves (Curtin University of Technology) & Dr. Rajesh Rai (NUS), on the importance of the Encyclopedia of the Malay Diaspora, the encyclopedia of the Indian experience, organizational dimensions, editorial dimensions, and the task ahead; and 5) Prof. Shamsul A.B. (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia) "The Malays and its *rantau*: of definitions, locations and discourses" -- **Part I** ... "Knowing the Malays and their world: of imaginations and realities" : a) "The Malay world as a physical reality"; b) "The Malay world as a form of knowledge"; c) "The category 'Malay': from an 'inclusivist' to an 'exclusivist' one" -- **Part II** ... "Thoughts on the Malay Diaspora Encyclopedia project" : a) *Diaspora or rantau?*; b) Wouldn't it be more appropriate to call this project *Encyclopedia of Malay Rantau?*; 6) And more speakers.]

WEBSITES

>Asia Observer -- www.asiaobserver.com -- [A relatively 'safe' portal to Asian news, guide and forums; access only to members -- You choose your 'name' and your 'password' and the website seems secure and very well tended ... updates virtually on a daily basis – So far it seems to be free to members (no membership fees, and some advertising, but not obnoxious) – Each member is invited (but not obligated) to put a small blog on the website, and to participate in forums of their interests in Asia – Perhaps a model for the MSB-SG website – I am a member, and have abstracted several news items for this issue of *Berita*... rp]

CALL FOR PAPERS

>The East Asian Studies Program at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. Will host the 56th annual meeting of the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs on Oct. 19-21, 2007 at the Washington University campus – Proposals solicited for panels, roundtables, and individual papers in all fields dealing with East, South, and Southeast Asian, the Asian diasporas, and

topical and comparative panels -- Faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students, as well as independent Asianists, are encouraged to participate and attend – Proposals are due May 31, 2007 – Persons presenting papers must be members of MCAA and should pre-register by August 1, 2007 – For details regarding proposals or other information visit the 56th Annual MCAA website: <http://artsci.wustl.edu/eas/mcaa/> or e-mail mcaa@artsci.wustl.edu . tel: 314.935.4448 / fax: 314.935.7462.

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

>Asia past and present: new research from AAS

This new AAS series succeeds *AAS Monographs and Occasional Papers* – The new series will be overseen by the AAS Editorial Board and the Series Editor – The two or three papers a year, will be fully refereed and selected on the basis of exemplary, original, and enduring scholarship – All arenas of Asian studies are welcome – In addition to monographs, the Board will consider translations, essay collections, and other forms of scholarly research – Authors must be current members of AAS.

>The journal of urban technology

Call for papers for a special issue on “The architecture of war and peace: urban artifacts and social practices in contested spaces” – A large, growing number of cities world-wide are characterized by ethnic, ideological, religious, linguistic or other forms of diversity; while diversity is not embraced as an asset but results in tensions, competing claims, polarization and seclusion, as can be seen in cities like Belfast, Beirut, Berlin, Mostar, Jerusalem, Nicosia, Johannesburg, Kuala Lumpur and many others – Such contestations have massive spatial, architectural and infrastructural implications in the form of clear-cut segregation: a patchwork of enclaves, an array of walls and fences, no-go areas, street blockades, duplication of services and infrastructures, or, more subtly, painted curbstones as territorial markers – The purposes of the special issue: highlight how the built environment reflects the social reality; and/or, in what ways does the man-made environment exert an intended or unintended gravitational pull upon social practices – Guest editors are Dr. Ralf Brand, U. of Manchester e-mail = ralf.brand@manchester.ac.uk & Dr. Rachid Chamoun, Lebanese American U. = rachamoun@lau.edu.lb -- Submit a 1 page abstract to both e-mail addresses by June 1, 2007.

OPPORTUNITIES

>Southeast Asia Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI)

Funding for teaching Southeast Asian languages is allocated annually by the Office of International Education, U.S. Department of Education, under provisions of Title VI legislation for Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) grants for study of the following Southeast Asian languages at SEASSI: Burmese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian (Malay), Javanese, Khmer, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese. Although these funds are allocated to the Southeast Asian FLAS-granting institutions, they are pooled and are awarded on a national basis. FLAS awards consist of: 1) payment of SEASSI tuition, and 2) a living stipend. The awards are made possible through the generous cooperation of the eight universities that receive them and who host the SEASSI in turn. Students from

nonSEASSI universities are eligible. If *Berita* does not receive notice in time to help advertise the details for students at non-SEASSI campuses to apply; or, scholars receive late notice of teaching positions, research opportunities, scholarly conferences, or calls for manuscripts, I am concerned. *Berita*'s present format is limited to 12 pages, and sometimes news has to be 'condensed' to fit small spaces, left for the next issue, or reduced to a web address. E.g... go to <http://seassi.wisc.edu> , for very late news of SEASSI. And remember *Berita*'s distribution schedule, since 2003: February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15. Send you news earlier. Grumpy editor

>Institute for Advanced Study

Each year the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ invites 15 to 20 scholars to be in residence the full academic year to pursue their research – Applications in economics, political science, law, psychology, sociology and anthropology – Encourages social scientific work with an historical and humanistic bent; also history, philosophy, literary criticism, literature & linguistics – Applicants must have Ph.D. – 2008-9 thematic focus (half the applicants) is 'social norms and cooperation' – Application deadline: Nov 15, 2007 – Submit application online at www.sss.ias.edu/applications .

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

[From Margaret John, Coordinator, AI Singapore and Malaysia Network – Edited to save space -- Full text at www.amnesty.ca and www.asiapacific.amnesty.org – The complete preface to Francis Seow's latest book, *Beyond suspicion? The Singapore judiciary*, is available at www.yale.edu/seas/BeyondSuspicion .

Singapore executed Nigerian Iwuchukwu Amara Tochi and stateless African Okele Nelson Malachy, on 26 January 2007, despite worldwide appeals from the UN and the Nigerian government – M Ravi, a Singaporean lawyer for a number of death row prisoners, was suspended from practice for a year for showing disrespect to a judge.

See *The Wall Street Journal* 27 Mar 07 on pg 9 in this issue of *Berita* regarding *Far Eastern Economic Review* Editor Hugo Restall receiving first place in the magazine category of the annual Human Rights Press Awards – Senior academics at ANU protested the university's conferring Lee Kuan Yew an Honorary Doctorate of Laws. 29 Mar 07: Amnesty International Malaysia believes that 2 Malaysians (Mohd Farik Amin & Mohammed Nazir Lep in Guantanamo will not receive fair trials, despite the call by the Malaysian government as stated by MP Datuk Shabery Cheek on 28 Mar 07. (See www.aimalaysia.org)

PROSPECTUS

Berita is a quarterly bulletin board, forum and publication for all of the scholarly disciplines concerned with Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Studies. It is published and distributed mid-month in February, May, August and November.

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