

## Monash Asia Institute Bulletin (7/2011)

July 2011

### Contents

1. [Message from Prof Marika Vicziany](#) (Friday 1st July 2011)
2. [MAI Candidature Confirmation Seminar](#)  
'A phenomenological distillation of the essence of Morita Therapy'
3. [MAI Candidature Confirmation Seminar](#)  
'The politics and economics of resilience: peasant perceptions and responses to disaster in the Sundarban area, Bangladesh'
4. [MAI Candidature Confirmation Seminar](#)  
'Ikigai, the Life Worth Living: dreams and purpose amongst young Japanese in Australia'
5. [MAI Mid-candidature Review Seminar](#)  
'Local community perspective on foreign direct investment (FDI): Case study in Aceh Besar, Indonesia'
6. [Herb Feith Memorial Lecture and Book Launch](#)
7. ["Adoramus" Classical Music Concert](#) with Persian Classical Flute, Western Flute and Guitar
8. [The 19th New Zealand Asian Studies Society](#) International Conference 2011
9. [Melbourne International Film Festival](#)
10. [Melbourne conference on China](#)
11. [Conference on Media, Communication and Democracy](#): Global and National Environments

### Monash Asia Institute and Monash News

#### Item 1. [Message from Prof Marika Vicziany \(Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011\)](#)

*'As I am stepping down from my role as Director of the Monash Asia Institute today (1st July 2011), I take this opportunity to thank everyone who receives this MAI e bulletin for their support and encouragement over the years. We also attached below a copy of the Monash memo article explaining why I am stepping down after ten years in this role. I would also like to point out that the MAI bulletin will continue to be sent out during the transition period and until further notice.'* **With best wishes to all from Marika Vicziany.**

The University's announcement of Prof Marika Vicziany's stepping down appeared in Monash Memo on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011.

<http://www.monash.edu.au/news/show/professor-vicziany-steps-down-as-director-of-monash-asia-institute>

## **Item 2. MAI Candidature Confirmation Seminar**

### **'A Phenomenological Distillation of the Essence of Morita Therapy'**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011, 10 am to 12 noon

Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Caulfield campus, Monash University

#### **ABOUT THE SEMINAR:**

'Mindfulness' has become an evidence-based force in contemporary Western psychology, but there are other approaches to working therapeutically which predate the clinical use of mindfulness by many decades. Among these is Morita Therapy, and the research begins by exploring the key distinctions between Mindfulness Models and Morita's method. From that foundation, the project moves into a qualitative and highly experiential self-case study in search of the 'essence' of Morita Therapy, and in particular, the implicit Zen principles which underpin the therapeutic context and methodology.

#### **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

John Mercer is a PhD Candidate at the Monash Asia Institute and a practicing Psychologist working in a rural-remote Acute Health setting. He completed his Masters in Counselling Psychology through Monash in 2002, and has longstanding practice interests in a variety of Japanese traditions.

## **Item 3. MAI Candidature Confirmation Seminar**

### **'The politics and economics of resilience: peasant perceptions and responses to disaster in the Sundarban area, Bangladesh'**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011, 2.30 pm to 4 pm

Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Caulfield campus, Monash University

#### **ABOUT THE SEMINAR:**

This research analyses the perceptions and responses of the peasants of Bangladesh to climate change by understanding their long history of resilience and identifying the factors that enabled them to adapt to natural calamities in the past. Focussing on those who live close to the Sundarban area, the thesis

asks how responses to climate change relate to pre-modern paradigms of disaster management.

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Mohammad Harunur Rashid Bhuyan is a PhD Candidate at the Monash Asia Institute. He served as Research Associate to the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (the leading public think tank in Bangladesh) for 7 years. He began his doctoral research in 2010, after completing his Master of Arts in Sociology from The New School University, US, as a Fulbright Scholar. He has published a number of peer-reviewed articles and working papers on education, child mortality and employment. He is the co-author of *The Social Dimensions of Adaptation to Climate Change in Bangladesh*, *World Bank Discussion Paper (12)*, December 2010.

#### **Item 4. MAI Candidature Confirmation Seminar**

'Ikigai, the Life Worth Living: dreams and purpose amongst young Japanese in Australia'

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2011, 10am to noon

Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Caulfield campus, Monash University

#### ABOUT THE SEMINAR:

In a Japan devastated by natural disasters and an economy on the downturn, the aspirations of the up and coming generations are going to be more important than ever. In an increasingly ageing society, however, the voices of youth are straining for attention. Developing an interview framework from the Japanese term *ikigai* – loosely defined as “that which makes one’s life worth living” – this project aims to present Japanese youth in Australia as they see themselves. Through their eyes, we might see something of the future of Japan itself.

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Michael Slater is a graduate of the Master of Asian Studies, and is currently enrolled in a Master of Arts by Research. He has also acted as an administrative assistant in the MAI for the past 18 months. Previously he taught English in Japan, presented various papers at conferences, and has published on the subject of the attacks on Indian students in Melbourne.

## Item 5. MAI Mid-candidature Review Seminar

### 'Local community perspective on foreign direct investment (FDI): Case study in Aceh Besar, Indonesia'

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011, 10.00 am to 12 noon  
Monash Asia Institute, Room H5.95, Level 5, Building H, Caulfield campus,  
Monash University

#### ABOUT THE SEMINAR:

This research focuses upon FDI and the lived experience and social existence of the Acehnese. It is clear that FDI continues to transform the economic, political and cultural lives of the Acehnese. Is this all to their benefit as claimed by those who support neoliberal school of thought or does the evidence to support the dependency school of thought? This thesis will explore the answer to this question.

#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Azhari Yahya is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia. He is currently on study leave to pursue a PhD degree at Monash University after completing his Master of Public Policy from the Crawford School of Economics and Government, Australian National University in 2007. He is the sole author of the book '*The location determinants and provincial distribution of foreign direct investment in Indonesia*' Syiah Kuala University Press, Indonesia, 2008.

## Item 6. Herb Feith Memorial Lecture and Book Launch

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011, 6:00pm-8:00pm  
H1.16, Ground floor, Building H  
Monash University Caulfield Campus,  
900 East Dandenong Road, Caulfield East, VIC 3145

### 2011 Herb Feith Memorial Lecture and launch of "*From Vienna to Yogyakarta: The Life of Herb Feith*"

The Herb Feith Foundation invites you to attend a special event this year at Monash University in Caulfield. On Tuesday 2 August, The Faculty of Arts at Monash University will present the 2011 Herb Feith Memorial Lecture and launch of Herb Feith's biography.

This special event features Her Excellency Kirsty Sword Gusmao, Mr Peter Mares and Ms Jemma Purdey, author of "*From Vienna to Yogyakarta: The Life of Herb Feith*".

RSVP: by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011 to Eric Cheng, at [eric.cheng@monash.edu.au](mailto:eric.cheng@monash.edu.au) , or phone 03 9903 4616

More information:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/news-and-events/herbfeith2011.php>

### **Item 7. “Adoramus” Classical Music Concert with Persian Classical Flute, Western Flute and Guitar**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011, from 7:00pm  
Storey Hall, RMIT University, 360 Swanston St, Melbourne

Join us for a night of cross-cultural classics, with a performance by noted Persian classical group “Adoramus”. Experience the unusual mixture of sounds when the Ney, a classical Persian end-blown Flute that requires the sound being produced from inside the mouth, is joined by a Panschofon and an 8 string Guitar.

Adoramus also plays some more traditional music for various size flutes and guitar including Bach's beautiful Triosonata in G BWV 1039, a couple of pieces by Weber arranged for Flute and Alto Flute by Theobald Boehm and the Gran Duo Concertante op. 52 by Giuliani, the famous Hungarian Fantasy op. 35 by Doppler as well as a variety of duos and solos including Debussy's Syrinx.

Further information will be provided in the next month Bulletin

## **News from other institutions**

### **Item 8. The 19<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference 2011**

2 - 4 July 2011,  
Massey University, Palmerston North, Turitea campus

The rise of Asia and shift of emphasis to Asia as the site of emerging power are key factors in the twenty-first century. We are seeking papers on topics of original research that address these and other issues on the local, national and international levels and in a context that is multidisciplinary. The discourses could include East, Southeast, South, Central and West Asia.

All papers will be included in a conference proceedings with ISBN number. The organizers are considering producing an edited volume.

Details can be found at: <http://www.nzasia.org.nz/conference.html>

## **Item 9. Melbourne International Film Festival**

21 July – 7 August, 2011

Various cinemas around Melbourne

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Melbourne biggest film festival, the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF). Included are dozens of films and short films from across the world, from established directors and upcoming talents.

This year will feature a special “Accent on Asia” program, featuring films from the best of the best in our region.

More information about films and ticketing can be found at: <http://miff.com.au/>

## **Item 10. Melbourne conference on China**

6-7 August, 2011

Sydney Myer Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne

The Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne is pleased to announce the 2011 Melbourne Conference on China, to be held at the University of Melbourne on Saturday, 6 August and Sunday, 7 August 2011. We invite researchers, policy makers and advisers, educators, industry representatives, representatives of professional and other bodies, and independent scholars and experts working anywhere in the world and in any area of China studies to meet in Melbourne - the 'New Gold Mountain' for Chinese settlers in the 1850s, and now Australia's 'capital of culture' - to consider the complex developments (both contemporary and historical) in China's cities and countryside and in China's wider global setting, and to explore the interactions between these different domains.

This conference will engage with current research on rural and urban social, political, economic, cultural, environmental and other conditions in China and on the relationship between China and the rest of the world. It seeks to unite specific studies on particular aspects - rural, urban, or global - with examination of the interrelationships between them. The organisers welcome empirical studies on any aspect of this broad topic, and also look forward to receiving proposals that situate recent developments within a longer historical perspective, to explore how the current ordering of these relationships might be seen not so much as a radical break with the past but as a successor to much older patterns of interaction between the cities and the countryside and between China and the outside world.

The conference takes a multi-disciplinary approach. It seeks to bring together researchers from the humanities and social sciences and from areas such as economics, law, education, health, logistics, engineering, architecture and planning, and environmental studies. The key objective of the 2011

Melbourne Conference on China is to explore the interplay between rural, urban and global phenomena from a plurality of perspectives so as to integrate diverse forms of analysis in a productive dialogue. It is expected that a selection of the conference papers will be published.

**Call for Papers is now closed.**

Each presentation will be for 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for discussion. The conference will be conducted in English, but a few sessions will be bilingual and conducted in both English and Chinese.

Website:

<http://www.chinastudies.unimelb.edu.au/conferences/2011/index.php>

**Item 11. Conference on Media, Communication and Democracy: Global and National Environments**

1-2 September 2011

Melbourne

We are looking to bring together researchers working on media, communication and democracy in the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe, the Asia Pacific region, Latin America and Africa and the Conference will be organised around the following areas:

- Class, property, markets and money: the social environment of communication and democracy
- Re-thinking the relations between media and democracy: institutions, organizations, representations, scales of government
- The changing practices and relations of journalism: towards democratic affordances?

Inquiries: [cathy.greenfield@rmit.edu.au](mailto:cathy.greenfield@rmit.edu.au)

**About the MAI Bulletin**

The Monash Asia Institute Newsletter incorporates news items from the research centres of the Monash Asia Institute, partner organisations and other groups working to promote Asian Studies in Australia.

For further information about the Monash Asia Institute and this newsletter:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/mai/>

To unsubscribe, please send an email to: Monash-Asia-Institute Enquiries,

[MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au)