

# UPDATES

FROM

# FELLOWS

## NEW POSITIONS



**Dicky Sofjan**  
(Indonesia Fellow Year 2007-2008) is now associated with the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS-Yogyakarta), an international, inter-religious and inter-disciplinary Ph.D. program that combines the strength of three Yogyakarta-based

universities, namely Gadjah Mada, the Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga and the Duta Wacana Christian University. As a Core Doctoral Faculty, Sofjan will teach *Religion and Human Rights* next semester, beginning in September 2011.



**Toshiya Takahama**  
(Japan Fellow Year 2005-2006) was appointed Professor, Printmaking Division, Dept. of Painting, Musashino Art University as of April 1, 2011.



**Tsukasa Iga**  
(Japan Fellow Year 2008-2009) com-

pleted a doctoral course in Kobe University in March 2011. The research theme was liberalization of the media and the role of the ICT in Malaysia. He has been a research associate of Kobe University since 1 April 2011, expanding his scope to neighboring countries, such as Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand.



**Josie M. Fernandez**  
(Malaysia Fellow Year 2006-2007) has been appointed a member of Executive Committee 2011-2013 of Transparency International Malaysia (TIM), the Malaysia Society for Transparency and Integrity. <<http://www.transparency.org.my>> She serves TIM as Secretary-General.



**Jose Luis Martin "Chito" Gascon**  
(Philippines Fellow Year 2007-2008), former education undersecretary for legal and legislative affairs, was appointed undersecretary for the Office of the Political Affairs (OPA) last April 15, 2011. Previous to this, Gascon served as board member of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) under the current administration.



**Jose Eliseo "Joel" Rocamora**  
(Philippines Fellow Year 2007-2008) was appointed by Pres. Benigno Aquino III as the lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) last September 20, 2010. He is currently the Director for the Institute for Popular Democracy. (PHrocamora.jpg)



**Rufa Cagoco-Guiam**  
(Philippines Fellow Year 2008-2009) was appointed in March 2010 member of the Regional Advisory Council for Southeast Asian and the Pacific for the Inter-Church

Development Cooperation (ICCO), a Netherlands-based non-government development organization. She also presented her paper *Outsourcing Peace: Notes on Donor Agencies and Civil Society Collaboration on the Mindanao Peace Process*, at the Association of Asian Studies International Conference, Hawaii Convention Center, March 30 - April 5, 2011. ♦

## OUTSTANDING WOMEN

Congratulations to the following Fellows who gained honors and distinctions recently.



**Sr. Mary John Mananzan, OSB**  
(Philippines Fellow Year 2002-2003) has been included on the list of the 100 Most Inspiring People Delivering for Girls and Women by the Women Deliver organization, in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Women's Day. She was also awarded Resolution No. 96 by the Philippine Government on March 14, 2011 for her achievement in merging feminism and faith in the Philippines. On September 16, 2011, she was elected a member of the Administrative Council of the International Association or Priorsesses of the Benedictine Order or the CIB (Communio Internationalis Benedictarium)



**Regina Hechanova-Alampay**  
(Philippines Fellow Year 2009 - 2010) was given The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) award last October 19, 2010, strongly recognized for her research on the organized psychology of the Philippine Workforce. She also received a Cardinal Sin Book Award last October 2010 for her book *For the People, With the People: Developing Social Enterprises in the Philippines*.



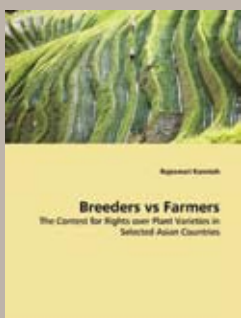
**Penchom Saetang**

(Thailand Fellow Year 2005-2006) and **Chalida Uabumrungjit** (Year 2002-2003) were honored by *Bangkok Post* as outstanding Environmentalist and Film Activist, respectively, among the 65 Women of Influence in Contemporary Thailand 2011, for the 65th Anniversary of *Bangkok Post* Newspaper. ❖

## PUBLICATIONS

**Rajeswari Kanniah**

(Malaysia Fellow Year 2003-2004) got her book *Breeders vs. Farmers: The Contest for Rights over Plant Varieties in Selected Asian Countries* published by VDM Verlag Dr. Müller on March 4, 2011.



**Abstract:**

When India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand became members of the World Trade Organization, they adopted the Agreement on Trade Related As-

pects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), obligating them to enact laws to protect rights over plant varieties. Kanniah's book critically examines the plant variety protection laws of these five countries in the context of these international treaties and how private property rights are balanced with measures to conserve biological diversity. Plant variety protection laws are not typical intellectual property laws and encompass a conflation of national interests with international obligations.

**Yeoh Seng Guan**

(Malaysia Fellow Year 2005- 2006) 's article entitled, *In Defence of the Secular? Islamisation, Christians and (New) Politics in Urban Malaysia*, was published in *Asian Studies Review*, March 2011, Vol. 35, pp. 83-103.

**Abstract:**

Besides the clarion call for a "new politics" by opposition political parties, a significant catalyst that arguably swayed Christian electoral choices in the landmark Malaysian

general elections of March 2008 was the counsel by religious leaders to safeguard "the secular state". This action was prompted by recent high profile controversial legal cases that were perceived to be a serious erosion of the freedom of religion clause guaranteed in the secularist Federal Constitution. In this essay, I not only examine the recent antecedents of this course of action but also delve into the more distant past in order to draw out how the apparently impervious categories of "religion" and the "secular" have been implicated in the structuring of social and political imaginaries in Malaysia.



**Muhammad Salleh**

(Malaysia Fellow Year 2002-2003) launched *Tautan*, (Verknüpfungen), a new anthology of poems in German and Bahasa Malaysia. It features 100 poems written by Malaysian and German literary writers and poets over the past 50 years. Muhammad Salleh's works are also included in the book. Goethe University Frankfurt's Department of Southeast Asian Studies led a team of 15 Malaysian and German translators to produce the volume. The training for translators by the University over the past four years has improved the skills and quality of the translation strongly.

**Kokaew Wongphan**

(Thailand Fellow Year 2004-2005) 's recent article *Local Printed Media in Indonesia* was published as a cover story on *Rusamilae Journal* Vol. 32 issue 2 (May – August 2011).



The Journal is a publication of the Prince Songkla University, Patani Campus.

**Abstract:**

The article aims to explore the origin, role and the growth of local printed media in Indonesia in relation to the qualitative development of the society and Indonesian culture. These would also help reflect Thailand's media business.

**Shanthi Thambiah**

(Malaysia Fellow Year 2008-2009) contributed to a book *Multiethnic Malaysia: Past Present and Future*. Her chapter was on *The Paradoxes of Diversity and Commonality in Identity Formation: The Ethnicisation of the Bhuket of Sarawak*. The book, edited by Lim Teck Ghee, Alberto Gomes and Azly Rahman, discusses how a people with no primordial sense of ethnicity became an ethnic group by embracing inclusiveness as their ethnic



logic. Thambiah's chapter introduces the Bhuket - their history and migration, political-economic upheavals and colonial interventions and the persistence of their cultural category "Punan", the hunter-gatherer. The discussion

moves from identity formation at the societal level to the micro level of what it means to be a Bhuket. ❖

## PUBLIC SHARING



**Wilfredo "Willy" Torres III**

(Philippines Year 2002-2003) gave a talk on *Rido: Clan Feuding and Conflict Management in Mindanao* to PNP Mindanao commanders on May 5, 2011 in Cotabato City. He also took part in the Symposium on *Moro Ethnicity and Cultural Identity: Implication to Law Enforcement* on April 7, 2011 in the Philippine National Police Museum.



**Cristina P. Lim**

(Philippines Year 2008-2009) presented her papers *Edging Up The Ladder: The Women*

*In Ban Thung Maha, Thailand* and *Braving The Sea: The Amasan (Women Divers) Of The Yahataura Fishing Community, Iki Island, Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan*, at the 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum, Shanghai, in April, 2011.

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### Ambeth Ocampo

(Philippines Fellow Year 2010-2011) held the public lecture *Mukhang Pera! Banknotes and Nation* on July 9, 2011 at the Ayala Museum Lobby, Makati City, Philippines. He also delivered a similar lecture on Thai Banknotes at Chulalongkorn University in February 2011.



Thitipol Kanteewong (the third from left) with other seminar participants.

### Thitipol Kanteewong

(Thailand Fellow Year 2009-2010) joined a seminar titled *An Analysis of Contemporary Lanna Music Composition in Chiang Mai: Case Study of Changsaton - The Neo-Lanna Musician Group* for celebrating 70 Years of Asian Scholars as a guest speaker. The seminar was held by the Association for Asian Studies & International Convention of Asia Scholars during March 31- April 3, 2011 in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. ❖

## FURTHER STUDIES

### Cahyo Pamungkas

(Indonesia Fellow Year 2005-2006) is currently pursuing a Ph.D in *Contact Avoidance between Ethno-religious Groups in Ambon and Yogyakarta* at the Department of Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Social Science,



Radboud University Nijmegen, in the Netherlands. From 2010 to 2013, Pamungkas will be supported by a scholarship from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO).



### Siti Sarah Muwahidah

(Indonesia Fellow Year 2009-2010) was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue a Ph.D study in Religious Studies, with concentration on Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding at Emory University, Atlanta, U.S.A., from 2011 to 2014.



### Nerfita Primadewi

(Indonesia Fellow Year 2005-2006) was also awarded a Fulbright scholarship to pursue her Ph.D. in Music in the University of California at Riverside.



### Motohide Taguchi

(Japan Fellow Year 2002-2003) recently finished his research in Thailand about the influences of traditional music on Thai contemporary music

(October 2010 to June 2011) as a grantee of the Asia Fellow program of Asian Scholarship Foundation. The research results will be shared with contemporary music composers, players and audience beyond the Asian region through academic paper, music festival, web site and so on.

### Michi Tomioka

(Japan Fellow Year 2006-2007) is in Yogyakarta, Indonesia and will be there until March 2012 to continue her research on art management under the program of Osaka City University, Urban Research.



### Thanyathip Sripana

(Thailand Fellow Year 2009-2010) received a six-month fellowship from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University (CSEAS) to do her research in *Ho Chi Minh in Thailand: The Struggle for Vietnamese Independence* at Kyoto University until the end of August 2011. ❖

## INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE



A still from the film, "Shibuya - Tokyo."

### Tomonari Nishikawa

(Japan Fellow Year 2008-2009) finished two films in 2010: *Tokyo - Ebisu* (premiered at the 35th Toronto International Film Festival) and *Shibuya - Tokyo* (premiered at the 48th New York Film Festival). He was invited by WORM, a Rotterdam-based artists' collective to conduct a 3-day filmmaking workshop in January 2011. Nishikawa also had recent screenings at the California Institute of the Arts, Portland's Disjecta Interdisciplinary Cinema Project, the LA Filmforum, and New York's MoMA PS1. The Liaison of Independent Filmmakers in Toronto also announced that Nishikawa will be participating in LIFT's international artist-in-residence program in summer 2011. For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.tomonarinishikawa.com">http://www.tomonarinishikawa.com</a> ❖