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The Workshop sessions began on the evening of November 19 with welcome addresses by Surichai Wun’Gaeo, Program Director of API Partner Institution in Thailand and Program Director of API Coordinating Institution (Chulalongkorn University), and Tatsuya Tanami, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation. The keynote address was delivered by Sombath Somphone, Director of Participatory Development Training Center (PADETC) in Vientiane, Lao PDR. He was awarded the 2005 Ramon Magsaysay for Community Leadership.

The 10th Regional Workshop held in Chiang Mai during November 19-23, 2011

Culture, Power and Practices: The Globalization of Culture and Its Implications for Asian Regional Transformations

Ratana Tosakul

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Urban Progress in Consistency

Kenta Kishi discusses urban changes and possibilities of “consistency” in an urban development.

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In his keynote address entitled “The Force of Inter-connectedness,” Sombath stressed that we needed to go for the right and sustainable development model to make our planet livable and peaceful. Over the past several decades of modernizing our nations, we have witnessed advances in technological and industrial development in general. Still, there has been a widening socio-economic gap between the rich and the poor in most societies and between nations throughout the world. With the rising population growth and the urge for modernization and industrialization of our societies, we have over-exploited natural resources beyond its capacity to support us. Industrial pollutions threaten the life-support system of the planet earth. Sombath mentioned that “with addiction to growth comes addiction to consumption, and addiction to consumption has led many countries-as we now see happening in Europe and the US. —into debt and financial instability.” Sombath proposed a conceptual frame of a more balanced development model combining the four dimensions: economic development, environmental harmony, the preservation of culture, and spiritual well-being. In a world changing at an incredibly speed and full of distractions, Sombath encouraged us to cultivate inner peace and strength through interconnectedness of shared visions, collaboration, and learning from each other. Forces of interconnectedness would eventually inspire and lead us to the right and sustainable development direction.

The Workshop Theme

Two interrelated concepts—culture and globalization—were the main conceptual frame of the Workshop entitled “Culture, Power and Practices: A Possibility for Sustainable Development?”

The Workshop identified major globalization features: the constant flows and mixes of people, ideologies and practices across the globe, the heightened economic and social mobility, time and space compression as well as the integrating and stretching of cultures and communities.

The 24 API research projects reflected the cultural mixtures, innovations, problems and negotiations of life in the contemporary world. Asia as a region has experienced globalization unevenly. Local efforts and innovations have been under way in various parts of Asia. Obviously, local communities were not victims of cultural globalization, but agents of their own situations, as discussed in many API research projects. They realized the need to recognize cultural differences. Various API research projects discussed how local communities in the region shared their knowledge and exchanged experiences to strengthen each other. Affected by globalization forces, many local communities established cohesive networks such as civil movements to defend their rights, livelihoods and identities as well as to search for sustainable development. Persistent cultural problems throughout the region suggest that local communities in Asia have problems handling modernity that are distinct from the cultural imperialism and homogenization of the world originally invented by Western colonialism.

During two and a half days between November 20 and 22, we heard 22 presentations by API Fellows. A field exposure trip was organized on November 21 where we went to Doi Pui in Chiang Mai to learn about local efforts for forest preservation and conflicts resolutions pertinent to Hmong and other tribal group water in the lowland areas.

Twenty-two presentations by API Fellows were grouped into five thematic panels, as follows:

### Panel I: Multiple Modernities: Globalization in the Asian Context

The Asian Context was chaired by Koji Tanaka (Member of API International Selection Committee and Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University) with Supa Yaimuang (Thailand Fellow Year 2006-2007) and Penchom Saetang (Thailand Fellow Year 2005-2006) as discussants. Five Fellows discussed the key issue of cultural globalization and alternatives to globalizing forces. Rika Terano (Japan) discussed the future direction of rural development in the Malay Peninsula, with a more rural economic equalization policy. Yu Terashima (Japan) examined the social and environmental impacts of dam projects on local communities in Japan, Philippines and Thailand whereas Kritsana Kaewplang (Thailand) reported cases in Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, and Philippines to find various means of communication and education to raise public awareness.

### Panel II: Potential of Local Knowledge and Practices: A Possibility for Sustainable Development?

Chair: Yoko Hayami (Member of API International Selection Committee and Professor, Kyoto University) with Mary Racelis (Member of API International Selection Committee and Professional Lecturer, University of the Philippines) as discussant. Five Fellows addressed the theme detailing potentials of local knowledge for making changes in the globalizing world. Sri Wahyuni (Indonesia) discussed potential contributions of local traditions to social changes in Thailand and Indonesia. Claire Bongsalo Lacdao (Philippines) discussed experiences of indigenous engagements in local government in Malaysia and Indonesia. Learning from others, Pattaraporn Apichit (Thailand) studied processes of strengthening local communities based on experiences of Japan and Indonesia via beliefs in local spirits, traditional culture and sustainable tourism. Khosit Elvezio Kasikam (Thailand) investigated local knowledge pertinent to the consumption of native food and the utilization of indigenous medicinal vegetables for health care in Indonesia. Kenta Kishi (Japan) discussed master planning and networking approaches to solve contemporary urban crisis in Asian cities.

### Panel III: Multiple Modernities via the Globalization of Art, Media and Performance

Chair: Azyumardi Azra (Member of API International Selection Committee and Director of Graduate School, State Islamic University, Jakarta) with Sunait Chutintaranond (Director, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University) as discussant. Five Fellows addressed the key issue of shifting or multiple identities of people in diverse cultural locales and situations following flows of ideas, art, and performance across Asia. Hikmat Darmawan (Indonesia) investigated cultural impacts of Japanese comic (manga) on youth lifestyles and their identities construction
The 24 API research projects reflected the cultural mixtures, innovations, problems and negotiations of life in the contemporary world. Asia as a region has experienced globalization unevenly. Local efforts and innovations have been under way in various parts of Asia.

Panel IV: Multiple Modernities via Spirituality, Histories and Cultural Re-presentations was chaired by Jose M. Cruz (Member of API International Selection Committee and Dean, School of Social Sciences, Ateneo de Manila University) with Chayan Vaddhanaphuti (Founding Director of the Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development at Chiang Mai University) as discussant. Five Fellows addressed the key issue of spirituality, histories and cultural representation as significant contested spaces for multiple identities construction in the globalizing world. Dante G. Simbulan (Philippines) argued how theories and practices of mindfulness and Yoga practice could be of use in contemporary Asian context. His paper showed how people used spirituality in response to conflicts, stresses and poor health. Aroon Puritat (Thailand) examined contemporary art museum in Japan, pertinent to its role and function as a cultural institution in contemporary urban society. Ambeth R. Ocampo (Philippines) studied how national history was represented in common and everyday objects, such as coins and banknotes produced by the state to instill a sense of identity and nationhood in such a way that the country’s leaders began to think about what national identities should be. Pham Quang Minh (Vietnam) focused on the nature of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The project investigated the ASEAN identity, the changes over time and the social, historical and cultural factors influencing the ASEAN identity. Finally, Benigno C. Balgos (Philippines) argued that local concepts and practices were generally marginalized in the formulation of policy for climate change in Asia. Based upon his field research project, he proposed to extend and broaden the scope of local knowledge and practice in disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

Panel V: Flux and Flows of People, Power and Practices: Issues Relating to Social Justice was chaired by Taufik Abdullah (Member of
API International Selection Committee and Chair, Social Science Commission, Indonesian Academy of Social Science) with Wattana Sugunnasil (Associate Professor, Chiang Mai University) as discussant. Four Fellows addressed the key issue relating to social justice resulting from the flux and flow of people, culture, as well as power and praxis in the globalizing world.

Migration of people, especially of young workers, have created ambivalent and shifting identities in an age of globalization. Resmi Setia Milawati (Indonesia) examined the incorporation of young Third World workers into the global economy through a case study involving the outsourced call center industry in the Philippines. Alinaya Sybilla L. Fabros discussed how global workers in Japan and Malaysia conceived, recasted and/or practiced their own political agency as citizens, in view of transnational nature of their works. Loh Yin San (Malaysia) produced a documentary film of women's participation in politics, from feminist perspectives promoting the value of justice, empowerment and gender equality. The film documented the political journey of women politicians in Japan and the Philippines. Finally, Nguyen Van Chinh (Vietnam) discussed the increasing influence and role of China in the Mekong region. His research project sought to better understand the nature, extent, purposes and impacts of China's rising influence in the region and various responses of local people in the Mekong countries to such forces.

Roundtable: From API Fellows to Asian Public Intellectuals

A Roundtable was held on the last day of the Workshop. API Fellows were divided into three groups and asked to discuss the following three questions:

1. How do you intend to network with API Fellows in the region in the future; how can you bring others into these networks?
2. How can you disseminate API information to Fellows and the wider public in the future?
3. How can API contributions be linked to the development of Asian identities in the future?

The groups comprised current and past API Fellows as well as Members of the API Selection Committees and Partner Institutions. Surichai Wun’Gaeo, Mary Racelis and I acted as facilitators.

In summary, group responses highlighted themes focused on communication and organization. The first group felt that API should create a regional platform for Fellows to interact among themselves, but this platform should be effective and creative so as to proactively involve those inside and outside the organization. The second group felt that the current communications channels used were too static—as there was no one person or group behind the initiative. Thus, for this perhaps API should draw on Partner Institutions and expand its network outside of the ASEAN region into the Indian-subcontinent and China. The third group believed that whatever communicative framework we develop should include teaching and training, awareness raising, and publicity by drawing on the strengths of the Fellows, who represented the creative forces within the organization in order to connect to the wider public.

Conclusion

In summing up the conclusion of the Workshop, Tatsuya Tanami, Surichai Wun’Gaeo and I made the following observations.

First, the themes culture and globalization were timely and appropriate for this Workshop, as they were reflected profoundly in most API research projects. In Asia, we found at least four kinds of culture: the indigenous culture of a given society, common Asian culture based on Asian civilizations, such as China and India that we shared together, Western modern culture brought from outside traditional communities, and finally contemporary culture based upon globalization. This indicated significant external forces influencing our contemporary globalized culture. Each Fellow added discussion on these cultural facets and how they revealed themselves in different cultural patterns during the globalization period. Many topics were covered by Fellows in their presentations, but all reflected in some ways the impact of global forces on Asia, whether spiritually or culturally or more often than not, economically and politically.

Second, globalization came from above and below. Many Fellows reflected upon the impacts of globalization from above and below, as governments try to manage their nation-state territories and as local citizens attempted to deal with the forces imposed upon them by state and non-state sectors through citizen networks, civil movements and by adapting their livelihoods.

Third, regarding the future of API, we aimed at establishing a cohesive network among API Fellows to be forceful for local communities. Perhaps, API should be more inclusive in the future in terms of involving a greater range of people. We supported Fellows to do research in...
different participating countries of API. Fellows acted as a bridge between disciplines and local wider public. This also led us on to the themes discussed on the closing day of the Workshop comprising communication and organization, as alluded to in the previous section.

And finally, what was the meaning of “public intellectuals”? They were people committed to helping the plights of local people. They were able to learn from local people, understand people’s situations and effectively provide organizational and leadership capacities to respond to the needs of the people. They were concerned more with public interests. When Fellows returned to their home countries, could the knowledge and skills gained from API research projects be transferred to policymakers and influence to those within the state and corporate sectors who wished to make a difference? This might be one effective way of widening the scope of the group. There was also a need to extend the scope of API geographically, as the Indian sub-continent and China represented the largest nation-states and are growing in influence. All Fellows should take a responsibility for communicating what API was all about to the public. But the questions were who should take the lead and how? These were the questions that API needed to respond to in the near future.

Ratana Tosakul is the 10th API Regional Workshop Director and Director of Graduate School Program, Faculty of Sociology and Anthropology, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Field Trip and API Public Forum

Following the Regional Workshop, an API Public Forum, “Alternatives for Development: The Construction and Deconstruction of Asia with the Trans-border Context” was organized at the Social Research Institute, Chiang Mai University, on November 24, 2011, in cooperation with Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD). Apart from Surichai Wun’Gaeo and Ratana Tosakul, two API Fellows were invited as panel speakers in the Forum —Nguyen Van Chinh spoke in the Panel 2: Investment by China and Tavoy, Burma; Resmi Seti Milawait contributed in the Panel 3: Safe Migration and Human Trafficking.

During the field trip to Doi Pui on November 21, the Workshop participants learned about Hmong hill tribe people who lives there, in particular about their sustainable ways of land use, agriculture and their career development as minorities.
Tumultuous Times, Momentous Roles

Tatsuya Tanami

We are here to congratulate the 10th batch of API fellows on completing your fellowship tenure, and to welcome you into the API Community. Your fellowship is over but your membership of the API Community begins here. We hope it will last a lifetime.

Your fellowship period, from 2010 to 2011, coincided with a truly momentous period for the world.

There was that revolutionary wave of protests known as the “Arab spring.” According to my Middle Eastern friends, this was a romantic concept of Westerners unfamiliar with the Arabian climate. There is no “spring” in the Arab world, only “sand storms.” My friends tell me that the “Arab reawakening” is the proper description.

This citizens’ uprising in Tunisia last December has led to the crumbling of authoritarian rule in Egypt, Libya and elsewhere in the Middle East is only just taking root. However, a citizens’ movement without a clear leader has to overcome many challenges and we must watch developments closely. Nevertheless, this clearly marks the first step in a major transformation and a new era.

In Asia, a massive earthquake and tsunami struck Japan’s northeast Tohoku region on March 11. This was a disaster on a historic scale. Over 20,000 people were killed or remain missing. Many who barely survived have no homes to return to and live in temporary housing in difficult circumstances.

This disaster also triggered a crisis at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. Although this is now coming under control, many questions regarding radiation and health risks remain, and the Japanese people will have to take some big decisions regarding the future direction of their energy policy.

We Japanese do not have words enough to thank you for all the encouragement and support we have received in the wake of this disaster. From all over the world, from rich and poor alike, have come messages of sympathy and offers of assistance. The Thai people, and the API Community, have also been extremely generous.

This experience has taught us that we are not alone, that our lives are interdependent. It has also taught us the importance of increasing international exchanges and of deepening mutual understanding. So, from the bottom of my heart, I offer a very sincere thank you.

Many other developments have been taking place in Asia. There is no time to list them all, but they include the release of Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar which signals that Myanmar’s new administration is inching toward democracy. There are still many issues to be resolved, however, including the release of political prisoners, so we need to watch the situation in Myanmar closely.

Thailand was hit by massive flooding. The flood damage affected many companies, including Japanese ones, and disrupted the production and supply of parts and automobiles. This impact on the whole of Asia and world markets reminds us how central Thailand is to the supply chain, and shows us just how closely interlinked cross-border business and production activities are.

But not all changes have been positive.

Globalization means that an economic downturn can affect every region and country. The gap between rich and poor is widening, the poor is growing in numbers and youth unemployment is increasing. Europe is facing a debt crisis, with potentially serious consequences for the world economy. The way ahead is unclear.

Here in Asia, there are concerns about the environment, migration and other emerging problems that go beyond borders. It would be difficult for governments or politicians alone to find solutions.

The API program was started in 2000 for people who were actively seeking solutions to problems directly affecting communities, regions, countries and Asia as a whole. We called these people public intellectuals.

There were two objectives.

The first was to get outstanding public intellectuals to research issues of common concern among Asian neighbors and to provide individuals with opportunities to implement their projects.

The second was to get like-minded leaders who shared the goal of bettering society to form a group and act collectively, becoming a community that makes its collective voice heard.

Today, over 300 API fellows belong to this community, and we are reaching critical mass.

A debate is now under way on the role of the API Community now that we have completed our first decade. What collective, collaborative and proactive activities can our fellows partake? What linkages do we have with networks beyond the API Community? How can our advocacy, appeals and solutions be strengthened?

You, the 10th batch of API fellows, are now joining this debate. We have high hopes that your activities will contribute to the public good. I urge you not to be armchair intellectuals, shut away in your research labs or in your studies. Please meet with the people who are affected by issues. Listen to them. Get to the essence of things. Be active public intellectuals.

The question put to you is: “How do we make Asian societies places where human beings can enjoy safe, stable and peaceful lives? The times are difficult and the issues are complex. But with your wisdom, knowledge, experience, and your solidarity and collaboration with other members in the API community it will be possible for you to find solutions that may lead us all to a better world.

In the API Declaration drawn up in 2000, it is written: By promoting mutual understanding and shared learning among Asian public intellectuals, the API Program aims to contribute to the growth of public spaces where effective responses to regional needs can be generated.

I hope all you API fellows will go forth with such dreams in mind.

An excerpt from the speech delivered by Tatsuya Tanami, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation at the opening ceremony of the 10th Regional Workshop of the API Fellowships Program on November 19, 2011
A recipient of the 2005 Ramon Magatsay Award for Community Leadership, Sombath Somphone is currently executive director of the Participatory Development Training Center (PADET) in Vientiane. After earning degrees in education and agriculture from the University of Hawaii, he returned to Laos in 1980 and launched the Rice-Based Integrated Farm System Project, to help Lao farmers achieve food security. In 1996, Sombath founded PADET, a pioneering non-profit organization designed to foster sustainable and self-reliant development in Laos. Recently he was invited to API Regional Workshop in Chiang Mai as Keynote Speaker on “The Force of Inter-connectedness” and shared with API more thoughts regarding the concept of “Inter-connectedness” and its relation to the ASEAN Community.

KEY ISSUES IN ASIA:
What are the key challenges of the ASEAN or the Southeast Asia region?
There is a lack, or very weak, connection between education and development. The two are being implemented in separate silos. The first challenge is the low quality and low relevance of the way we practice education. The second is that the development pattern being practiced is unsustainable and emphasizes economic growth at the expense of other key aspects of the quality of life. These key problems were inherited from the first world and have been repeated right up till the current globalized age.

What should be our priorities from your point of view?
Being part of the world’s new center of economic gravity, Southeast Asia region should prioritize on how to take leadership in re-designing education and development of its society to meet the challenges of the 21st century. This will require strong political will and “out of the box” thinking that focuses on holistic/humanistic development rather than just growth measured largely in terms of economic indicators. Our education approach also needs to be transformed to anticipate the real needs of future generations. And the substance of this education should support sustainable development of our societies— more balances in economic and social development with environmental harmony, and spiritual and cultural well-being.

SHARED VISION:
What should be a shared vision of the region?
Our shared vision should promote our region as livable rather than just wealthy and technologically-advanced. We should focus on creating healthy, inclusive, just and sustainable livelihoods for all, giving space especially to greater participation by young people and civil society. We shouldn’t just blindly copy the models of the developed world; rather we should work towards building societies which should stress compassion, peace, generosity, openness over competition and greed and self-interest. We should also give greater space to the development of a vibrant and responsible social media as a way of communicating, continuously educating and connecting the young and the old on issues affecting human security and global sustainability.

We should encourage our industries and corporations to seriously take on corporate social responsibility beyond “window dressing”. We should promote environmental sustainability and healthy lifestyles rather than mindless and abusive consumption of goods and services which are socially and environmentally detrimental for future generations. Fair trade principles should always be in practice for local producers.

THE ASEAN COMMUNITY (effective in 2015):
Is ASEAN the right body for regional development and cooperation since it was actually founded on the basis of economic cooperation?
The ASEAN Community has the potential to strengthen its bargaining power with bigger countries. If managed well, it can play a leadership role in shaping a more appropriate education and development model to meet the challenges of the 21st century. This means that ASEAN needs to operate beyond economic cooperation and trade. It also has to be a strong supporter/promoter of enhanced “quality of life” for its citizens with opportunities for all to receive relevant and holistic education and enjoy sustainable and just livelihoods. And it has to do so in a very participatory way with strong civil society and representation from all social groups, including our youth, women and minority groups.

How should Laos prepare itself for the ASEAN Community and what should be its main concern?
As a relatively new member of the ASEAN Community, Laos should not be passive. Laos should lobby not only on economic and trade issues, but for greater cooperation in human resource and social development as Laos still lags behind in these areas compared to its more developed ASEAN counterparts.

Laos should not allow its ASEAN partners just to view the country as a source for short-term natural resource extraction to feed the industrial development needs of its neighbors. Rather, Laos’ leaders should be more strategic and encourage ASEAN investors to view the natural richness of Laos as the community’s common heritage deserving of appropriate protection and sustainable utilization to benefit the entire community and for future generations.

GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS INDEX (GNHI):
Although the world has seen how an unbalanced development can impact adversely on the environment and the quality of life, economic growth is still the highest target in many countries. There are a lot of irresistible pressures to keep us focusing on profit maximization. How do we steer a country working towards Gross National Happiness instead?
Changing our way of education and development would shift the development paradigm from focusing on the GNP to GNH. A number of far-sighted political leaders and academics from the region are already interested in moving development beyond GNP to higher levels of GNH. There should be increased sharing of experiences and lessons learned, and communication between those leaders and intellectuals working on promoting GNH. There should also be more forum and discussions on GNH involving all sectors of society such as public, private, civil society, young people, educators, intellectuals, faith leaders, community leaders …so that the concepts of GNH can become mainstreamed. In this way, people can really express and share what they think are important in their lives and what constitutes their well-being and happiness, beyond economic issues.

At the same time, developing countries should also learn from lessons from the developed countries, especially in analyzing the problems and limitations of development stressing mainly economic growth.

Who are the far-sighted political leaders and academics from the region who are already interested in moving development beyond GNP?
Obviously, Bhutan is the world pioneer in happiness policy and has used the Gross National Happiness (GNH) index as an alternative to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) since the 1970s. In the last ten years there have been three international conferences on GNH, organized by the Centre of Bhutan Studies, which have been well attended and have showcased happiness-focused policies across Asia and the world.

Others include The School for Well-Being, an independent and multi-disciplinary think tank inspired by the concept of GNH. It was established in 2011 with three founding partners—Chulalongkorn University; the Center of Bhutan Studies; and Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation in Thailand.
INTERVIEW

Do you agree with the argument that only small countries like Bhutan can achieve the GNH approaches? Perhaps it depends on a particular background or core value on how the citizens weigh the importance of heritage/tradition conservation vs. economic growth?

Yes, I do agree that small countries will stand a good chance to successfully adopt GNH at the beginning. But as competition for limited natural resources intensifies globally and as cultural diversity and biodiversity become more threatened, countries will have to shift their development paradigm.

Happiness is not only a concept considered by small countries. The positive psychology movement which originated in the USA and Canada already regularly measures national subjective well-being. In 2009, French President Nicolas Sarkozy commissioned leading academics Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen and Jean-Paul Fitoussi to report on the potential advantages and challenges of including well-being considerations in national policy. Following the recommendations of this report, that subjective well-being should be systematically measured and should inform policy development, United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameron—supported by leading happiness economist Baron Richard Layard—announced that the Office of National Statistics would include measures of subjective well-being in regular surveys. A consultation to decide the exact indicators to be used will be concluded in January 2012. Therefore, while acknowledging that it may be easier for smaller countries to consider GNH and that there are still many questions about the accuracy and effectiveness of such broad-scale national measures, it seems that even bigger countries are beginning to take happiness seriously.

INTER-CONNECTEDNESS:
How do we encourage people from different backgrounds and areas to feel the inter-connectedness?

Inter-connectedness starts with acquiring habits of critical thinking. This must be re-enforced with experiential learning and real life exposure. There are many tools that educators are already using to promote such habits. And we need to use all of our 5 (or even 6) senses to promote deep learning that reaches into our conscious and sub-conscious mind in order to bring about the needed change in behavior of connectedness and inter-connectedness. Some schools are already using holistic or enquiry-learning methods to encourage self-discovery and holistic learning. This should be scaled up and integrated into all curricular subjects in the entire education system.

How do we enhance the understanding among the people of different background and geographical origin that we are all inter-connected and to make them feel we are all in the same boat?

When we shift to GNH or when people feel that they need to shift away from GDP, people will try to understand the reasons why. This is voluntary inter-connectedness.

When crises increasingly take place due to climate change, for example, people will come together and become more caring and sharing. This is a forced inter-connectedness. The question I have to ask us all is that “Should we wait till an ecological crisis hits before we wake up?” Our intelligence or even common sense could do better than that.

HOLISTIC EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT:
Why is holistic education which you strongly support so important?

How far are Southeast Asian countries in reaching this goal?

Southeast Asian countries are very far from reaching the goal of holistic education or education for sustainable development. Our education systems do not adequately promote justice, peace and sustainability. We will require some major transformation before we can implement a holistic and sustainable education.

The best way of bringing about holistic education is the participation of young people in designing the future of our education and pattern of development. Young people themselves are more open-minded to new ideas and behaviors and should take ownership in designing their own future. We, adults, are not their future. We, adults, have broken the world. And we do not know how to fix it. So let the young people work on it. We can use our wisdom, not greed, and compassion to guide and mentor them.

How is the concept of holistic education in your definition and practice different from those of pioneers such as Maria Montessori and Rudolf Steiner?

It is pretty much the same in terms of child-centered approaches and pedagogy. Our practice of holistic education additionally offers inter-connectedness, experiential learning using all 5 senses to communicate with the brain, and a bias towards action and real-world application: children learn that school and life or “the real world” are the same, and that not only are they responsible custodians of their community and environment but they are also agents of change and possess the power to make a difference.

All the teaching styles discussed here are designed to help the development of the “whole” child. As I understand it, Montessori focuses particularly on the intellect whilst Steiner focuses on creativity and spiritual development. I think our style focuses particularly on the children’s role within their community and the relationship they have with those around them.

ROLE OF INTELLECTUALS
What can intellectuals do to support inter-connectedness?

There is so much to learn from the recent series of economic crisis, natural calamity and climate change. Intellectuals and educators should connect these events to their personal/ individual ways of life as well as to the larger collective ways of life. Each and every one of us can make a difference, either positively or negatively.

Concretely, intellectuals and educators should focus more on making education more holistic as well as re-directing development towards a more balance and sustainable path-way. They should view themselves as partners in learning and development with their students and young people who look up to them for inspiration and as role models. They should use their various skills and efforts to work hand-in-hand with the state, private sector, and civil society to promote human security and global sustainability. To be effective the intellectuals and educators should also learn to communicate in simple language and to demonstrate by concrete example rather than just theorizing. In other words, we have to focus more on practicing and less “intellectualizing”.

PADETC CONTRIBUTION IN THE FUTURE
As you are the founder of the Participatory Development Training Centre (PADETC), please share your organizational vision for the next 10-20 years.

PADETC’s priority is to work at a national level, particularly in sharing its experience among the Mekong countries. We have started engaging teachers and young people in designing practical learning activities. These will improve the quality and relevance of education, especially towards a more sustainable development. We will continue to work with and learn from communities and facilitate the sharing of indigenous knowledge and wisdom in schools and communities. We will document such processes on film and in simple publications to share with other communities in Laos and with the region. At the same time PADETC will develop more learning centers to promote organic agriculture, community forestry, community libraries and small business enterprises operated by local communities.

“ When crises increasingly take place...people will come together and become more caring and sharing. This is a forced inter-connectedness. The question is that—should we wait till an ecological crisis hits before we woke up?”

Chadapan Malipan
Bunohan was a film that I’d lived with for a few years. It expressed all the ideas and concerns that I had been reading and researching, and became a constant in my life and my interest in oral cultures and their relations to land and nature in shaping cultural narrative and memory. I had done a few film works related to this theme, first in a video installation screened at the Sydney Biennale, then a documentary looking at fishermen who hunt fish by listening for them under water. So in Bunohan these themes of animistic beliefs, folklore and modernity become the fabric on which the story/film is woven.

Of course my personal experience of growing up in the area, where life is a constant shift in the lagoons, the violence and passions of a people living in a border area between Kelantan, the north eastern part of Malaysia and southern Thailand, helped in forming the idea for the film. This fitted with the story, about three brothers, living in a border area where life is a constant shift in the lagoons, the violence and passions of a people.

Once the script was written, I discovered during my research there, a town called Kg. Bunohan, which in Malay means “murder” or “killing”; and ironically it is 15 minutes away from Tumpat, the town I grew up. So 30 years later I come home to make a film near where I grew up.

Our film Bunohan, generated interest, and when a major European sales agent Easternlight came on board before we even finished shooting, we were emboldened to think beyond our borders. Of course when Universal Pictures wanted the rights of our film for distribution in Europe, Australia and New Zealand, it really spurred our hopes and ambitions. These festivals of course have a network of their own, and once we got invited to Toronto for our world premiere, that started a snowball effect...
Creating ASEAN Cinema Highways: 
The 2012 Hua Hin International Film Conference

Last January 2012, a sedate town south of Bangkok became the center of Thailand’s latest international film event, the Hua Hin International Film Festival. Long before Phuket and Samui, Hua Hin was the country’s premiere resort. In the 1920s King Rama VII himself saw the potential of the fishing village’s five-mile-long beach and transformed it into the home of the royalty’s Klai Kangwon (Far From Worries Palace). Today it is still one of country’s favoured family weekend destinations — just two-hours from the capitol— by both locals and expats.

The four-day event (January 26-29), showcased the best new efforts of both local and foreign filmmakers, especially those from the ASEAN region. Some fifty titles were screened in four major venues around the city, including the imposing Hua Hin Cineplex and the open-air Centennial Park.

One of the highlights of the festival was a film conference entitled “ASEAN Movies for ASEAN Community”. Held at the Vic Hua Hin Performing Arts Centre, the two-day seminar included country reports by film experts from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, on the state of their particular cinemas. Two special forums were also held, “Can Government Help?”, which explored how the State can support local film industries; and “The Way Ahead”, which discussed international co-production potentials and issues related to intellectual property.

The nine country papers covered a variety of issues and concerns. They included the following:

- “Documentary in Cambodia: The First Steps of the Reconstruction of a Cinema Industry” by Davy Chou (Cambodia)
- “Islamic Films in Indonesia: Market Highlights” by Eric Sasono (Indonesia)
- “The Luang Prabang Film Festival: Encouraging a Nascent Film Industry in Laos” by Gabriel Kuperman (Laos)
- “The First Edition of the Art of Freedom Film Festival in Myanmar” by Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi (Myanmar)
- “Governmental Funding and its Benefit on Thai Films Industry 2011” by Pawas Sawatchaiyamet (Thailand)
- “Two or Three Things about Singaporean Cinema 2000-2010” by Bee Thiam Tan (Singapore)
- “State Development Policies On Vietnam Cinema” by Ngo Phuong Lan (Vietnam)
- “Rempits and Bohsia: The Loudest Voice in Contemporary Malay Cinema” by Amir Muhammad (Malaysia)
- “Contemporary Pinoy Cinema: Porous Borders between Indies & Mainstream?” by Edward Paciano Cabagnot (Philippines)

The latter two presenters were API fellows.

Wrapping up the conference was a round-table discussion between the country representatives, and moderated by noted Thai film critic and scholar, Kong Ritiddee. This last, open session hoped to synthesize the diverse concerns brought up during the presentations — seeking commonalities, as well as paving the way for further collaborations between these nations.

Some of the resolutions include a concerted tapping into ASEAN funds for regional film development vis-à-vis efforts from each member-country. However, it was pointed out that previous dealings with ASEAN have been bogged by bureaucratic procedures and processes. Also, tie-ups with this institution favour certain film types — mostly controversial works that skirt critical issues of their countries of origin.

By the same token, it was pointed out that government participation can and does provide the necessary infrastructure support in most instances — particularly in areas of policy-making and incentives-building. An example of this was provided by Sawatchaiyamet, who claimed that many Thai independent films in recent years wouldn’t have been completed without the help of the state. The only bugbear is that dealing with government might possibly involve some censorship in the process. It was cited that one of the region’s more successful efforts — the Philippines’ Cinemalaya, for instance, could only have been made possible by the synergy between government, the private/business sector, the academe, as well as the country’s mainstream and indie proponents.

The notion of out-of-the-region funding also cropped up (i.e. from Europe). However, it was pointed out that the support may be more for the distribution of a completed work and not its production.

Film education was on every representative’s list of priorities as was the need to augment archival efforts as well as develop national consciousness towards films.

Another major consensus was the need to raise awareness of ASEAN films among ASEAN audiences. Vietnam’s Ngo Phuong Lan claimed that the average audience in the region seems to generally lack adequate knowledge of films from their neighbouring countries. The situation is made more tragic by the cultural hegemony imposed by Hollywood’s worldwide hold, as well as its Asian counterparts (e.g. South Korea). This last issue brought up the suggestion of creating “cultural bridges” between the cinemas of the region — paving a digital highway for interchange, not only of content, but also of skills between film artists on this side of the planet.

At the end of the discussion, it was agreed that each presenter should come up with suggested strategies to help create such a linkage between the cinemas of the ASEAN. These suggestions will then be integrated into a comprehensive conference report, in terms of programs and next-steps, to be presented, not just to the ASEAN and its member-nations, but also to the hoped-for, next edition of the Hua Hin International Film Festival.
We are in a period, where cities in Asia are facing massive changes at various levels. Through my urban study projects, I recognize one clear struggle in this urban change; choosing either “copying an image of modern city of advanced countries” or “finding an alternative vision of a city based on its local identity”. The former has an advantage in terms of the rationality in time and economy. Let us talk about the latter as to what values we can find.

In 1985, Italo Calvino, a contemporary Italian writer, prepared scripts for the Charles Elliot Norton Lectures in Harvard University. A title of his lecture was “Six Memos for the Next Millennium”, which covered speculations on possibilities of our understanding and representation of this world in literature. Out of six memos, five themes were discussed; “Lightness”, “Quickness”, “Exactitude”, “Visibility” and “Multiplicity”. The sixth one was not written because of his death, but was supposed to be titled “Consistency”. This interruption has given us an opportunity to study about “Consistency”, since this word seems to become a standard orientation of our present life in various aspects.

“Consistency” is often literally understood as “the allegiance to being consistent”. This understanding would be used as a convenient slogan for both our personal life-planning and a large urban-planning. We tend to believe a “Consistency” is a key to protect our efforts to achieve a goal of “planning”. However, in this complex and fast moving world, we have become doubtful how far “Consistency” could be maintained. A critical fact is that there is definitely a limitation in the length of our prediction toward the future.

Two urban ideas, proposed in the last century might give some hints to thinking about the above issue. “Contemporary City of Three Million Inhabitants” was proposed by French architect Le Corbusier in 1922. This urban model was planned to replace undesirable places like a slum and/or disordered blocks with an organized living area. This gigantic urban development method has been applied in many cities because of its rationality and convenience in planning. The second reference “Logplug/Rockplug” was proposed by British architect David Greene in 1969. He proposed to introduce technological nomadic lifestyle by denying an organized and fixed living area. This idea has been realized now by development of technologies of terminal devices and infrastructures of information. These two steps might have been understood as a correct cultural progress of mankind, but a fundamental problem can be seen in both projects. They emphasize homogeneity and equality, which, however, seem to erase diverse local identities consistently.

Another possibility of “Consistency” in urban development is found through my API activities in Surabaya in 2010-2011. The following example of urban scenarios is reference for it; 1) children play football in the alley in downtown village, 2) neighbors gather there to watch the children, 3) street vendors settle at this busy place for their business, 4) neighbors bring wooden benches for chatting, 5) a local community arranges fixed benches, 6) a community provides a simple roof structure and lights, 7) a small praying space with a hall is built by community...An ecosystem of open-ended concatenation of diverse activities can be seen in these scenarios and also a spontaneous momentum to create spaces and communications is clearly recognized.

These urban scenarios in an Asian city have given us another more positive meaning of “Consistency”, that is a “harmony of elements in progress”.

Born in Tokyo, Kenta Kishi received a BA in Architecture from Tokyo University of the Arts and an MA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan, USA. After graduating from Cranbrook, he conducted several experimental design studios at art institutions in Singapore. Since 2007, he has been directing international urban study projects through the Crisis Design Network (CDN) together with architects, artists and other professionals from US and Asian countries. He has been also conducting an urban study organization OHS -Orange House Studio- in Surabaya, together with local partners since his API activities in Indonesia.

“Recognize one clear struggle in this urban change: choosing either ‘copying an image of modern city of advanced countries’ or ‘finding an alternative vision of a city based on its local identity’”
Newly-Selected Fellows Year 2012-2013

For the Fellowship Year 2012 – 2013, there are 21 newly-selected fellows from Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and CLV (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam) countries, as listed below.

**INDONESIA**

From left: Kuntum Melati, Wiwik Mahdayani, Boni Setiawan, and Kadek Wara Urwasi

- **Boni Setiawan**
  Project Title: Political Economy of the Supply Chain

- **Kadek Wara Urwasi**
  Project Title: Cultural Landscape Urban Design: Preserving Local Identity in the Global Environment, A Comparative Study of Japanese and Malaysian Cities

- **Kuntum Melati**
  Project Title: Gender Challenge: Economic Resilience in Coastal Community Household

- **Wiwik Mahdayani**
  Project Title: Ecotourism at Thailand’s Great National Parks

**JAPAN**

From left: Makiko Wakai, Makoto Nomura, and Mizuho Ikeda

- **Makoto Nomura**
  Project Title: Practice and Documentation of Collaborative Composition in Southeast Asia

- **Makiko Wakai**
  Project Title: From Asahi to Abucay: Video Archive Project

- **Mizuho Ikeda**
  Project Title: Research for the Educative Use of the Cultural Heritage and the Development of the Human Resources

**MALAYSIA**

From left: Janet Pilai, Noor Mahnun Binti Mohamed, Janarthani A/P Arumugam, and Dina Zaman

- **Liyana Pillai Binti Abdullah (Janet Pilai)**
  Project Title: Study of Approaches in Mobilising Local Community in Research, Promotion, Conservation and Revitalisation of Local culture

- **Dina Zaman**
  Project Title: The Influences of Saints and Their Teachings on Faith, Its People in Malaya (sia)

- **Noor Mahnun Binti Mohamed**
  Project Title: Printmaking Archive for Reference, Research & Regional Links

- **Janarthani A/P Arumugam**
  Project Title: Women Plantation Workers Organizing in Southeast Asia: A Study of Women in Plantation Unions
PHILIPPINES

Raul C. Pangalangan
Project Title: Politics Above Law: The Tension between Democracy and Social Justice

Ken T. Ishikawa
Project Title: Japanese Filipino Children and Youth: Offsprings of a Better Sun

Isnira A. Baginda
Project Title: The Dynamics and Elan of Ijtihad to Provide New Readings of Islamic Laws and Customary Practices on Women Human Rights

THAILAND

Sayamol Kaiyourawong
Project Title: Legal Pluralism in the ASEAN Community: Preserving Local Wisdom, Community Rights and the Eco-Cultural System

Supara Janchitfah
Project Title: The Japanese Nuclear Industry after March 11, 2011

Ruayrin Pedsalabkaew
Project Title: Investigating the Problem of Land Grabbing by Multinational Companies in Aceh: Impact on Human Rights and Local Traditions

Walaiporn Mooksuwan
Project Title: A Study of Academic Scientists’ Roles and Works in Managing Problems Associated with the Natural Disaster and Related Industrial Hazards: Taking a View from the Non-Governmental Organization’s Perspective

CLV

Farina So (Cambodia)
Project Title: Cham Muslims in Malaysia and Thailand: Then and Now

Nguyen Thi Kim Cuc (Vietnam)
Project Title: Are Marginalized Populations Segregated in the Wake of Disaster? Lessons Learned from Japan and Thailand

Leakhana Kol (Cambodia)
Project Title: Addressing Social Housing and Livelihood Needs in Cambodia: Learning from the Thai Experience

From left: Farina So, Walaiporn Mooksuwan, Nguyen Thi Kim Cuc, Ruayrin Pedsalabkaew, Supara Janchitfah, Sayamol Kaiyourawong, and Leakhana Kol
Social science research is essential to social development as it helps us to understand social context and support sustainable living. Yet less funds are available for research in social science than research for science and technology because the latter has more economic impact. In fact, compared to other Asian countries, there has been little social research in Thai musical culture.

Music is a reflection of society, particularly in Southeast Asia. By this, we do not only mean the music business and entertainment, but also music for courtship, ritual ceremony, and sacred music.

My own research and field work in ethnomusicology has been inspired by how the local Lanna (Northern Thai tradition) Thai not only attempts to preserve their musical heritage but also to create contemporary music. In 2007, the Komai Fellowship from the Hitachi Foundation supported my research; “The Meaning of Traditional Music in the 21st Century: A Study of Traditional Music and Northern Thai Music.” In 2009, the API Fellowships Program supported the study, “Changing Identity of Japanese Traditional Music in the Twenty-First Century.”

As a result, Chiang Mai University gave me a “Golden Elephant” award-the Young Researcher of Social Sciences and Humanities for the year 2011. It was part of the University’s annual event on November 24, 2011 at Chiang Mai University Convention Hall. The event was titled “The way of research: to develop and serve the public (Research Path for Social Development and Responsibility).” I was honored to receive the recognition. But more to the point was the fact that social research has been acknowledged as being as crucial as economic research. Knowledge and understanding on the social and cultural order would help reduce conflicts and cultural differences. As my researches typically focused on cultures and the social context of Thai and Asian music, the result revealed that music did indeed play a significant role for the Asian community and the world.

In general, music research such as mine has had impact on local musicians’ communities as well as academia. The primary source of my information, for instance, was rooted in fieldwork sound recordings, music transcriptions and interviews. Also, research provided the opportunity for students, scholars and intellectuals in the field of ethnomusicology, sociology, art and culture to improve themselves, especially when they had to present academic papers at international conferences.

In brief, my research suggests solutions that help in the conservation and development of folk music against the context of international contemporary music. More research of this kind should be supported in future.

Assistant Professor Thitipol Kanteewong is a lecturer in Department of Thai art, Faculty of Fine Arts, Chiang Mai University.

Social research has been acknowledged as being as crucial as economic research.

Brief History of Northern Thai Music Research

Historically, there was little research on traditional music in northern Thailand. Some foreigners had studied Thai music during the 1970s, including David Morton (“Traditional Music of Thailand”, 1976) and Gerald P. Dyck, the American ethnomusicologist who focused his research on northern Thailand from 1960-1970. In 2009, Dyck published his book the “Musical Journeys in Northern Thailand: adventures in ethnomusicology and other miscellaneous music making”. His book is a significant archive for the study of Northern Thailand’s traditional music as he documented the sound recordings of folk musical instruments. Moreover, he also took many photographs of cultural activities, ritual ceremonies, and rare musical instruments, for instance, Pin Pia the two strings.


In short, all of these books and researches have become significant archives for traditional musicians in understanding the social contexts of their own traditional music and in adapting traditional music into neo-traditional or contemporary music composition.
Kidlat Tahimik (Philippines Fellow Year 2009-2010) was selected as Arts and Culture Prize laureate for 2012 Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize. The Fukuoka Prize was established to honor outstanding achievements by individuals or groups in preserving and creating the unique and diverse cultures of Asia, to raise awareness of the value of Asian cultures and to establish an inter-learning framework in Asia.

Ninoy Balgos (Philippines Fellow Year 2010-2011) contributed in Gender & Development publication. His article, “The warias of Indonesia in disaster risk reduction: the case of the 2010 Mt Merapi eruption in Indonesia” was part of his API project activities in Indonesia.

Abstract:
The article discusses the vulnerability, marginalisation, and capacity of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in facing natural hazards. As a case study, this paper highlights the response of warias, members of the LGBT community in Indonesia, during the 2010 Mt. Merapi eruption. Through interviews and observation of warias-led relief operations in several evacuation sites in Yogyakarta and Central Java, the paper highlights the contributions warias have made in disaster risk reduction (DRR) despite the marginalization and discrimination against them. The paper argues that their needs and capacities should be acknowledged in DRR policies and practice.

Project Documentary was also screened at the event to share the key issues and challenges of the Asian region.
A1

2012 API COUNTRY WORKSHOPS

An API Country Workshop is held annually in each country. It serves as an important platform for information exchange and discussions on ongoing API activities and development. It is attended by fellows of different batches, representatives of The Nippon Foundation (TNF), the API Coordinating Institution (CI), and the respective Partner Institution (PI) in each of the five participating countries.

In the 2012 country workshops, participants previewed the Regional Project (RP) documentaries (one regional documentary and five country documentaries) in preparation for official screenings at the API RP Culminating Event in Thailand on June 14-15, 2012. They considered past achievements and future directions for the API RP, Regional Committee (RC) and National Coordinating Committee (NCC) representatives who would play key roles in the community-building work for fellows were selected (see inset).

The schedule was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>March 28-29, 2012</td>
<td>Wisma Makara, University of Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>March 10-11, 2012</td>
<td>CO-OP Inn Kyoto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>March 24-25, 2012</td>
<td>Taylor’s University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>March 2 - 3, 2012</td>
<td>School of Social Sciences, Ateneo de Manila University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand &amp; CLV</td>
<td>March 16 - 17, 2012</td>
<td>Sasa International House, Chulalongkorn University</td>
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</table>

The workshop was attended by 29 fellows, TNF and CI representatives, and community members of the Indonesia RP site, Kali Code. Taufik Abdullah, Program Director of API Indonesia opened the event and briefly discussed crisis management in the country due to demonstrations over the fuel price hike.

Updates on the API Strategic Planning
It was presented that the Strategic Planning Team (SPT) established in March 2011 has reviewed API goals and proposed several new ideas, including establishing a community think tank.

Regional Project Documentary
A documentary covering the five sites of the RP was screened and was greatly appreciated by participants, including those from Kali Code. Some feedback was contributed, including a suggestion to delete a scene showing the ritual slaughter of a cow in Kali Code.

Regional Committee (RC) Updates
Day two of the workshop started with revisiting the brief history of the RC. Principle documents developed by the RC such as API Community Vision and the RC Charter were reviewed. Participants examined how opportunities, (such as networking across borders), and challenges could be approached through the RC mechanism.

With regard to the API RP, it was reported that each country produced its own products during the years 2008-2012. For example, Japan produced a pictorial book on API engagement with the site community in Japan; Thailand has a Khiriwong book; the Philippines has a book on Batanes; Malaysia has a pictorial book and postcards; and Indonesia has an MoU and follow-up implementation in revitalizing the Kali Code community. A briefing was given on the RP Culminating Event in Thailand in June, with a focus on two sessions in a public seminar: “Voices from the Local Communities” and “Community Engagement: Transforming Knowledge into Action.”

Conclusion
Discussions were held on whether the API structure in the future needs an institution in each country with a loose legal entity. The Indonesia API Community would create a blog for the purpose of follow up communication and for establishing niche interest groups which could perhaps form discussion panels for the country workshop in 2013. Two API fellows were selected to be members of this task force.
The 7th Japan Country Workshop was attended by 23 fellows, together with a special guest from the Biwako community RP site and representatives of TNF, CI and Japan PI. After the opening session by Japan Program Director Yoko Hayami, TNF Executive Director Tatsuya Tanami briefly presented the goal of the workshop and shared his desire to sustain the API's resources and spirit which have been nurtured for the past 12 years.

Updates from Fellows
Fellows were requested to report their past and recent activities. Booklets containing self-introductions and updates on each Japanese fellow (including those who did not attend the workshop) were distributed.

Regional Project
Fumio Nagai (Fellow Year 2002-2003), former Japan Regional Project Working Group (RPWG) leader, provided updates on major RP activities. He introduced Tetsuya Imakita as a special guest from the Mukugawa community RP site. Motohide Taghichi (Fellow Year 2002 - 2003) reported on his visit to Batanes and Michi Tomioka (Fellow Year 2006-2007) reported on her visits to Kali Code and Tasik Chini.

RP Documentary Preview
The RP Documentary produced by Nick Deocampo was screened and Nick collected comments and clearance forms. The country version of the documentary was also shown to the RP Focus Group Discussion (FGD) attended by selected fellows and concerned members the following day.

Special Lecture
Kenta Kishi (Fellow Year 2010-2011) gave a special lecture on his API project “Master Planning & Networking” conducted in Surabaya, Indonesia, and it was followed by a lively discussion. The audience highly valued his project, which they could relate to API goals.

Future Visions of the API Community
Motohide Taguchi requested fellows, especially those from an arts background, to give suggestions on a new grant scheme that the RC is trying to propose. Tatsuya Tanami, representing TNF and the API Executive Committee (EXECO), reported on TNF policy (approved by EXECO) regarding future visions of the API Community. His report also covered the progress of the SPT and explained the SPT membership. Some ideas/plans are being discussed and the SPT will make a proposal to the EXECO meeting in November. The discussion continued on how to maintain and utilize the API Community.

The Country Workshop was a very lively activity, with 26 participants. The agenda included welcoming “new” API fellows, updates by fellows on their activities, discussion on the relevance and composition of the NCC, representation on the RC and progress of work on the API RP. As an extension of their involvement in the RC, some fellows, with the assistance of Transparency International, Malaysia, had organized a conference to develop strategies to address issues faced by local communities at Tasik Chini, the Malaysia RP site. One of the decisions made at the conference was to send a memorandum on the issues and strategies to the Prime Minister. The memorandum has since been drafted and sent.

Discussions on API Fellowships Program
Tatsuya Tanami provided updates on the work of the SPT as it develops the direction and strategies for the next phase of the API Fellowships Program.

The general view was that the API Fellowships Program should be more focused as its objectives seemed too diverse. It was also suggested that the API Community should be more of a catalyst for social transformation.

The notion of API as a “think tank” was also exchanged. Some participants felt that a “think tank” that collects information and expertise...
and transmits this through engagement with policy-makers, could be a possibility. The API Community could be a consultative body to policy-makers, researchers, academics and activists.

There was general agreement on the need for mechanisms to be in place for API fellows to engage with one another and with others in the API Fellowships Program. The NCC and RC currently provide fora for such dialogues between API fellows.

**RP Documentary Preview**
The workshop also included a screening of the RP Documentary. Comments and suggestions for its improvement were made to director Nick Deocampo, who was present during the screening and assured the workshop that all comments would be attended to. Nick Deocampo also took the opportunity to screen a possible country documentary on Tasik Chini, to the workshop participants and community members from Tasik Chini.

**PHILIPPINES**

The 2012 Philippine Country Workshop focused on two items: (1) the RP which has reached its conclusion after a three-year implementation, and (2) the generation of ideas and exchange on the topic of community-building and regional collaboration within the transitional period 2012 to 2015, and beyond.

**Regional Project**
In November 2011, members of the Philippine RPWG revisited the northern province of Batanes for follow-up activities after the main site visit in April 2010. On November 12-16, Philippine RPWG Leader Glecy Atienza, together with Cecilia de la Paz, conducted a heritage management workshop and debriefing session for members of the Mahatao community. A few days later, on November 19-20, Theresita Atienza and Rosalie Hall conducted a teacher training seminar and public forum. Atienza and Hall also arranged for a screening of the Batanes documentary directed by Nick Deocampo/Center for New Cinema, which was very well received.

The role of the API Fellowships Program in the creation of an art installation housed in the San Carlos Borromeo Church in Mahatao was acknowledged on a Church signage. API fellows hope that these activities will contribute to an increased appreciation and understanding of the unique heritage of Batanes.

Among the remaining tasks of the Philippine RPWG was the completion of a book on Batanes and participation by representatives in the RP Culminating Event in Thailand in June. The screening of the RP Documentary gave a taste of the events that would take place in Bangkok. Aside from providing a sense of the breadth and depth of the RP, it also provided an opportunity to gather important feedback to further improve the documentary before its official launch.

Lastly, an overall assessment of the RP was underway in order to provide important lessons for future projects of a regional and collaborative nature. It was reported that the assessment was being conducted by the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) in coordination with an Assessment Team under the RC.

**Regional Committee (RC) Updates**
The rest of the workshop focused on how fellows could collaborate in addressing country and regional needs. Facilitated by Theresita Atienza and Rosalie Hall, fellows were encouraged to evaluate the RC in terms of its mandate, relevance, identity and impact on the larger public. Despite the uncertainty posed by what are currently unclear plans for the program’s future, it was heartening that the API fellows in the Philippines appeared eager to come together as a more active force in affecting social transformation.
THAILAND

The 2012 Thailand and CLV Workshop was attended by nearly 50 participants from Thailand and CLV countries. Prawase Wasi M.D., Special Advisor to the API Fellowships Program, and Lawrence Surendra, Facilitator of the API Strategic Planning Team were special guests.

API’s way forward
Tatsuya Tanami reviewed past API achievements, current status and future values. As the current structure will cease by 2015, a new form of API is being sought in response to emerging needs and demands. In this context, the SPT was formed with a mandate to identify concrete strategic direction. It was emphasized that API’s original goals were to organize a powerful API Community and to create a platform for regional collaboration. There were lively discussions on goals and expectations as well as new ideas for future activities that could be enhanced by regional collaboration.

RP Documentary Preview
The documentary by Nick Deocampo was shown to participants and feedback collected. Khiriwong community leaders contributed to the feedback, which included views that the impact of the 1988 disaster might be better explained.

Preparation for the Culminating Event
Narumol Aphinives and Supa Yaimuang, as part of the Organizing Committee, presented on the on-going preparations for the RP Culminating Event in Thailand. The event’s operational structure was shared and main concerns were discussed. Useful suggestions and recommendations were made to create more visibility for API and its activities.

RP Focus Group Discussions and RP Documentary Review (Country version)
On the following day, interviews with Khiriwong community participants and Focus Group Discussions for RP Assessment took place with selected fellows. The latter sessions were attended by RPWG members and site participants. The RP documentary (country version) was also shown to collect direct comments from RPWG members, site participants and Khiriwong community leaders/members. Useful comments were solicited with an agreed timeline to improve the scenes and the script of the Thailand country documentary.
Updates on Regional Committee (RC) and National Coordinating Committee (NCC)

**Indonesia**
In addition to Dias Pradadimara (Fellow Year 2007-2008) who has been serving RC since March 2010, Rina Shahrrullah (Fellow Year 2007-2008) was elected as an RC representative to replace Herry Yogaswara.

**Japan**
Tatsuki Kataoka (Fellow Year 2001-2002) was selected as Chair of the RC. Motohide Taguchi (Fellow Year 2002-2003), replacing Akiko Tashiro last year) would continue to serve as RC representatives for one more year. The present NCC representatives were confirmed as the following: Mokoto Kawano (Fellow Year 2002-2003), Wataru Fujita (Fellow Year 2003-2004), Mizuki Endo (Fellow Year 2004-2005), Tetsuya Araki (Fellow Year 2002-2003), Kohei Watanabe (Fellow Year 2009-2010), Itsue Ito (Fellow Year 2005-2006), Tomoko Momiyama (Fellow Year 2003-2004), Kaori Fushiki (Fellow Year 2006-2007), and Kenta Kishi (Fellow Year 2010-2011).

**Malaysia**
As already endorsed, the RC representatives are Josie M. Fernandez (Fellow Year 2006-2007) and Mustafa Kamal. Anuar (Fellow Year 2002-2003).

**Philippines**
Theresita Atienza (Fellow Year 2005-2006) completed her term as RC representative on June 2012. This necessitated a new round of nominations and a plan for the election of a new country representative to join Rosalie B. Arcala Hall (Fellow Year 2004-2005) on the committee.

**Thailand**
Yuwadee Silapakit (Fellow Year 2008-2009), Kritsana Kaewplang (Fellow Year 2010-2011), Varinthra Boonchay (Fellow Year 2006-2007), Wimonrat Issarathommoon (Fellow Year 2003-2004) and Thitipol Kanteewong (Fellow Year 2009-2010) were appointed to the NCC. Narumol Aphinives (Fellow Year 2005-2006), a former RC representative, and Supa Yaimuang (Fellow Year 2006-2007), the Thailand RP Working Group leader, were appointed advisors to the new NCC.

**CLV (Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam)**
Since January 2012, one fellow from CLV countries has been invited to participate in the RC as a special participant. For two meetings in January and July, Nguyen Van Chinh (Fellow Year 2010-2011) actively served on the RC.
Salzburg Global Seminar (SGS) focuses on critical challenges confronting the global community and is designed to formulate innovative solutions to global problems. Since 2008, the SGS and the API Fellowships Program have collaborated to provide API Fellows the opportunities to expand their intellectual capacities and to share Asian perspectives with other regions. For the 2012 Program, the following three API Fellows have been selected:

Carlo Irwin A. Panelo  
(Philippines Fellow Year 2003-2004), Associate Professor, Department of Clinical Epidemiology and the Social, College of Medicine, University of the Philippines-Manila  
**Session:** Making Health Care Better in Low and Middle Income Economies: What are the next steps and how do we get there? April 22-27, 2012

Ukrist Pathmanand  
(Thailand Fellow Year 2008-2009), Professor/Associate Director, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University  
**Session 501:** China in the 21st Century: What Kind of Power? December 4-9, 2012

Ekoningtyas Margu Wardani  
(Indonesia Fellow Year 2008-2009), Researcher, the Centre for Asia Pacific Studies, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta  
**Session 501:** China in the 21st Century: What Kind of Power? December 4-9, 2012

The International Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA) provides a platform for experts on various aspects and dimensions of Asian History to share their knowledge. API Panel Grant for IAHA Conference was initiated in early 2012, to encourage the members of the API Community and others in the region to further collaborate in interdisciplinary and cross-border manner in order to critically address key challenges. The following two Fellows and two non-fellows were selected to participate in Panel 6: “Confronting Disasters: Historical Underpinnings of People’s Agency, Human Solidarity, and Government Responses in the Climate Change Era”. Their Panel presentations took place during July 2-5, 2012 in Solo City, Indonesia. The paper of Dwi Any Marsiyanti (Indonesia Fellow Year 2009 – 2010) entitled “Learning from History: The Earthquake in Modern Yogyakarta” was also presented at the Panel.

1. **Benigno C. Balgos**  
(Philippines Fellow Year 2010-2011) Sectoral Advocacy and Publications Coordinator, the Center for Social Concern and Action at the De La Salle University

2. **Ekoningtyas Margu Wardani**  
(Indonesia Fellow Year 2008-2009), Researcher, the Centre for Asia Pacific Studies, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta

3. **Nur Widiyanto**  
(Non API Fellow), Researcher and Facilitator, Bingkai Indonesia (specialized in Disaster Risk Reduction and Natural Resources Management field)

4. **Jesusa Grace Molina**  
(Non API Fellow), Programme Officer, Center for Disaster Preparedness, Philippines
Tasik Chini Pictorial Book

A pictorial book entitled “Tasik Chini: A lake at the edge of ecological collapse” was launched in November 2012 as a result of the collaboration among API Fellows and Malaysia PI. Written by Ahmad Hezri Bin Adnan (Malaysia Fellow Year 2006 – 2007) and Henry Chan (Malaysia Fellow Year 2001-2002), the book shows how Tasik Chini is a national treasure and addresses human conscience to restore its environmental condition. This bilingual book in English and Bahasa Malaysia showcases maps and rare images of lives around Tasik Chini. People interested in the book, please contact Hezri via e-mail at hezriadnan@gmail.com and cc: apifellowships@yahoo.com. The price of the pictorial book is US$10 per copy and its proceeds goes to the local community of Tasik Chini.

Transition at the Regional Coordinating Institution (CI)

Kanyarak Phisitnaruemit,
Finance & Administrative Officer
Kanyarak (Lek) joined API as a Finance & Administrative Officer in February 2012. She accomplished an MBA degree in Management from Srinakarin Viroj University. Prior to joining API, she had been working as an Accountant & Administrative Officer for the Asian Scholarship Foundation for almost nine years. She hopes to learn from working with the API Fellowships Program. Kanyarak enjoys reading and traveling.

Transition at API Philippines

Isabel Consuelo A. Nazareno
Isabel Consuelo A. Nazareno served as the Program Coordinator for the Philippines PI from March 2008 to November 2012. She is a faculty member of the Department of History under the School of Social Sciences of Ateneo de Manila University. She looks forward to having more time with her family as well as engaging in research and further studies relating to arts and heritage.

Clarissa Mijares,
Program Coordinator
Clarissa, nicknamed Issa, started assisting the Philippine Partner Institution during the 11th Regional Workshop held in Tagaytay City, Philippines. She has officially assumed the Program Coordinator position since December 2012, succeeding Isabel Nazareno. She holds a Masters Degree in Anthropology from the Ateneo de Manila University and is also a dance artist. Very much interested in culture and the arts, Issa is excited to enrich her knowledge and engage in new adventures with the API community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **API Collaborative Grant**
  - Application Deadline: February 25, 2013
  - Project duration: June 1, 2013 - May 31, 2014

- **API Country Workshop** will be held in each PI country during February - March 2013
The API Fellowship Program is entering 13th year since the launch in 2000. It is now one of the longest running programs in the Nippon Foundation. The program has evolved over the years to meet with changes and challenges in this most dynamic part of the world.

This past year, API has embarked on yet another initiative to match with emerging trends in Asia by opening door to Myanmar for the fellowship program. This is the latest sign of evolution of API program after addition of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam three years ago. As we all know, the Mekong countries are showing strong economic performances in recent years, which is often the case the first sign of grand transformation of the society. Most notable is Myanmar, where political/ economic/social transformation is exceeding expectations of many of Myanmar watchers.

The Nippon Foundation group has been supporting Myanmar since the early 1990s through various programs on capacity enhancement, networking and inter-regional cooperation. I myself had an opportunity to work for several Myanmar programs at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, where I worked for nearly 10 years before I joined the Nippon Foundation.

Largest Myanmar program that I worked for was capacity enhancement program for Myanmar civil servants launched in 2002. We had over 100 civil servants from all ministries participated to short-term in-country workshop every year. We graded every participant and top 30 were given opportunity to join the study tour to neighboring countries such as Thailand, Malaysia and India to learn the way in which civil service is administered in other countries. The program discontinued in 2011 with the understanding that it served the purpose, as other donor agencies including governments and international organizations start to compete to extend support for Myanmar after the transition.

Other Myanmar program that I worked for was a joint program with the Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation sending prominent Japanese politicians to Myanmar. Primary objective of sending politicians to Myanmar was to create a non-governmental channel at the time when government to government relation were in deadlock and hoped that the visit would create breakthrough to the situation at that time. With that purpose, we have dispatched two missions, first were headed by Ryutaro Hashimoto and second were headed by Yoshiro Mori, both are former prime minister. The results of the visits were inconclusive, but significance of this program was continuing engagement of this kind, especially during difficult time.

Most recently, Japanese Ministry of Foreign affairs appointed Mr. Yohei Sasakawa as Goodwill Ambassador for the Welfare of the National Races in Myanmar. Under the ambassadorship, Mr. Sasakawa and the Nippon Foundation initiated assistance in education, public health and agriculture in eleven groups in the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), based in Chiang Mai, Thailand to contribute for peace and national reconciliation process in Myanmar. Mr. Sasakawa is touring areas of national races in Myanmar since his appointment as Goodwill Ambassador late last year, and he is committed to complete his tasks in bringing peace and stability to this strategically vital country in Asia.

The progress in Myanmar and in Mekong countries are just one facet of bigger dynamism facing Asia today. Southeast Asia will be experiencing changing political/ economic power balance and demography in the coming decade. With this changing environment, API will further evolve to stay relevant as for the past years. Following us the preliminary work done by the Strategic Planning Team, a new team has already been established to discuss and conceptualize the program framework under the guidance of Fr Jose M. Cruz, SJ, Vice President for University and Global Relations, Ateneo de Manila University. The team will be spending next few months discussing overall strategic planning and transformation process, which will later be submitted to the foundation. 2013 will be the year to compile new strategic plan for the future of API. I wish all API fellows to feed us with your wisdom in our effort to transform API for the next era.

Masato Seko

MESSAGE FROM THE NIPPON FOUNDATION

Inter-connectedness and Action Together

Over time, key challenges that transcend national boundaries in Asia have been requiring more collaboration from public intellectuals who can articulate common concerns and propose creative solutions. To further meet the needs of the time, the API Fellowships Program in recent years has expanded its program to Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar (CLVM).

API’s collaboration with regional public intellectuals has given us unique learning experiences. For instance, Dr. Somphath Somphone, 2005 Magsaysay awardee for Community Leadership and founder of the Participatory Development Training Center (PADECT), has reminded us of the importance of creative thinking. One of the most respected senior development workers and intellectuals in Laos, Dr. Somphath has been a keen promoter of the “inter-connectedness” concept which posits that each one relates to everyone/everything else and, together, they could make a difference in the betterment of societies. While Dr. Somphath has, for many years, primarily played a crucial role in implementing several community development projects in Laos, his ideas and devotion to service have inspired many individuals beyond his country. In API, we are fortunate to have engaged with him in two notable events—a regional workshop in 2011 and the regional project culminating event in June 2012. In both these events, he was invited to be the keynote speaker in which capacity he shared APIs aspirations to serve the public and recognize the potential of public intellectuals to contribute to societies.

For this issue, we were very grateful that Dr. Somphath had consented to grace our newly launched “Interview Column” where he shared with us insightful and thought-provoking information and ideas on how acclaimed public intellectuals could engage throughout Asia and beyond.

Sadly, however, on December 16, 2012, we received shocking news that Dr. Somphath had disappeared on December 15. Henceforth, in coordination with the civil society network in Thailand which had quickly responded to this emergency, our office collected signatures of members of the API Community and their colleagues for a letter appealing for the assistance of the Government of

Michiko Yoshida and Chadapan Malipan

From the Editorial Desk
API FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

Public intellectuals - academics, researchers, media professionals, artists, creative writers, NGO activists, social workers, public servants and others with moral authority - are those who are committed to working for the betterment of society by applying their professional knowledge, wisdom and experience. The Nippon Foundation fellowships for Asian Public Intellectuals (API Fellowships Program) are designed to stimulate the creation of a new pool of intellectuals in the region. They aim to promote mutual learning among Asian public intellectuals, and to contribute to the growth of public spaces in which effective responses to regional needs could be generated.

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