

# SOUTHEAST ASIA RESEARCH CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2003

The Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC) was a part of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the City University of Hong Kong. It was inaugurated in February 2001, and since then, Professor Kevin Hewison (Department of Applied Social Studies) has been Director of the Centre. Dr Vivienne Wee (Department of Applied Social Studies) is Associate Director.

The Centre has established a fine international reputation, produced a range of important publications, and enhanced academic debate at CityU through seminars and international symposia.

## MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

SEARC's **mission** is to develop and maintain a world-class research centre in Hong Kong for the study of contemporary Southeast Asia. The Centre's **aim** is to make new and valuable contributions to Southeast Asian studies, establishing CityU as an internationally recognised centre of excellence in this field.

The **objectives** of SEARC are:

- To develop an internationally significant research program on Southeast Asia
- To produce high quality academic publications on Southeast Asia
- To establish mutually beneficial links with international researchers and institutions studying Southeast Asia
- To promote and enhance the study of Southeast Asia in Hong Kong and to increase understanding of Southeast Asia within the CityU and among the general public in Hong Kong

## RESEARCH GRANTS

SEARC researchers have been successful in gaining external funds.

Kevin Hewison's application, with Catherine Chiu and Bill Taylor, for a Competitive Ear-marked Research Grant (CERG), was approved in 2003. The project, 'Hong Kong Investment and Labour Strategies in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam' received funding of HK\$711,000. In 2003, a further two CERG applications were submitted by SEARC core members. Both applications developed from SEARC's research programmes.

The collaborative project on labour and migration with CAPSTRANS (the Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies), Wollongong University (Australia) was completed in 2003. It resulted in two conferences and substantial publications, including a special issue of the SSCI-listed



*Journal of Contemporary Asia*, accepted for publication in 2004. Collaboration was funded by CAPSTRANS, SEARC and an Australian Research Council Linkage – International Award.

Vivienne Wee's successful application for HK\$120,070 to the Japan Foundation will support the project 'China and Southeast Asia: New Regional Configurations of Capital, Labour, Ethnicity, and Space'.

Work continued on five CityU-funded research projects related to the Centre's work. These included projects on labour, Southeast Asian political economy, Thailand and China-Southeast Asia relations.

## RESEARCH OUTPUT

The Centre's core academics and research staff continued their productivity in 2003, with a range of high quality publications and participation in important academic conferences. These outputs are detailed in this report's inserts.

The **RoutledgeCurzon/City University of Hong Kong Southeast Asia Series**, edited by Kevin Hewison and Vivienne Wee, has progressed well. The series has accepted five proposals, with two books now published. These are:

- Andrew Brown, *Labour, Politics and the State in Industrialising Thailand*.
- Kanishka Jayasuriya (ed.), *Asian Regional Governance: Crisis & Change*

Two works are in production, and another will be delivered shortly:

- Richard Robison and Vedi Hadiz, *Reorganising Oligarchy in Indonesia*
- Garry Rodan, *Transparency, Media & Authoritarianism: Singapore and Malaysia*
- Vivienne Wee (ed.), *Political Fragmentation in Southeast Asia*

### WORKING PAPERS

The Centre's Working Papers Series has been very successful. By December, 57 papers were available for free download, with more than 7,000 page hits in 2003.

### SEMINARS

In 2003 the Centre held 20 seminars (for details see <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc>). A number of these were in co-operation with CityU's Departments of Applied Social Studies and Public and Social Administration.

SEARC Research Outputs 2001-03	
Category	Number
Authored or co-authored book	1
Edited or co-edited book	3
Book chapter	27
Special issue of SSCI journal	3
Peer-reviewed journal article	20
Paper to conference, workshop, symposia, etc.	54
Other academic publications	50
Seminars held	58
Symposia, conferences organised/co-organised	8

### CONFERENCES

Four international symposia, conferences or workshops were arranged in 2003:

- 12-13 February 2003: International Workshop on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia Pacific, jointly organised by SEARC and CAPSTRANS (University of Wollongong) at CityU

- 11-12 August 2003: International Conference on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia Pacific, jointly organised by SEARC and CAPSTRANS at the University of Wollongong
- 15-16 August 2003: Conference on Globalisation, Conflict and Political Regimes in East and Southeast Asia, jointly organised by SEARC and the Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University
- 27-29 November 2003: Conference on Ethnicity in Multicultural Asia - Theory and Findings, jointly organised by SEARC, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Department of Applied Social Studies

### OUTREACH

The Centre has generated much local, regional and international publicity. Core members and research staff have been interviewed and quoted in the press on Southeast Asian affairs and issues. The range of outlets includes: *Asian Wall Street Journal*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *International Herald Tribune*, *The Financial Times*, *South China Morning Post*, Associated Press, Reuters, CNNi, BBC, Star TV, and Chinese-language and Southeast Asian-language newspapers and magazines.

### APPLIED WORK

Stephen Frost was involved in projects evaluating NGO labour activities and training in China, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Vivienne Wee continued her work in gender training for the Hong Kong Government.

### COLLABORATION

The Centre has a number of productive collaborative activities with other institutions. These include: Murdoch University, Griffith University and the University of Wollongong (Australia), The Institute of Social Studies (Netherlands), Universiti Sains Malaysia and University of Malaya, the National University of Singapore, Xiamen University (China), Chulalongkorn University (Thailand) and Universitas Sam Ratulange (Indonesia).

Highlights of this collaboration included:

- Joint workshops/conferences with Murdoch University's Asia Research Centre and the Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies at Wollongong

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University, both of which will result in significant journal publications in 2004-05.

- The second volume in the Translation Series on Southeast Asian Studies, with Xiamen University's Centre for Southeast Asian Studies. This was 當代東南亞政治研究指南 (*Dictionary of the Modern Politics of Southeast Asia*), by the late Michael Leifer.
- A visit to CityU by the Dean of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at Universitas Sam Ratulangi, with ten other academics.



## EVALUATION

The performance of the Centre has been internationally competitive. A benchmarking exercise indicated that SEARC's eight core researchers produced 26 peer-reviewed publications (books, book chapters and papers in refereed journals) in 2002. This was a superior performance when compared with the two international research institutions (one in Asian and the other in Europe) chosen for comparison with SEARC, despite the fact that both included only full-time researchers, whereas SEARC includes five researchers with full teaching duties.

2003 research outputs are not as numerous as in 2002, but have been high quality. The reduction in quantity is due to the combined impacts of reduced funding, the SARS outbreak and the beginning of a new cycle of research that will yield outputs from 2004. By any measure, SEARC continues to make an impressive contribution to CityU's international and research profiles.

In 2004, the Centre will continue its research in the following broad areas:

- Labour, Migration, Regionalisation and Globalisation
- Faultlines in Southeast Asia: Religion, Ethnicity and Conflict
- Post-Asian Crisis Political Economy: Wealth and Conflict

## ORGANISATION

### Core members

Professor Kevin Hewison (Director)

Professor Joseph Cheng (Department of Public and Social Administration)

Dr Graeme Lang (Department of Applied Social Studies)

Dr Vivienne Wee (Associate Director)

Dr Xiaowei Zang (Department of Applied Social Studies)

### Steering Committee

Professor Matthew Chen, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Chair)

Professor Kevin Hewison (Convenor)

Professor Ian Holliday, Head, Department of Public and Social Administration

Professor Ng Sik Hung, Head, Department of Applied Social Studies

Professor Martin Painter, Department of Public and Social Administration

Dr Vivienne Wee

### International Advisory Committee

Professor Wang Gungwu, Director, East Asia Institute, Singapore

Professor Richard Higgott, Director, Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, The University of Warwick

Professor Pasuk Phongpaichit, Professor of Economics, Chulalongkorn University,

Professor Zhuang Guotu, Director, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Xiamen University

Professor Richard Robison, Professor of Political Economy, The Institute of Social Studies, The Hague

Professor H.H. Michael Hsiao, Director, Asia-Pacific Research Program, Academia Sinica, Taipei

Professor Garry Rodan, Director, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University

Professor V.T. King, Professor of Southeast Asian Studies University of Hull

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**Research Associates**

Dr Raymond K.H. Chan, Department of Applied Social Studies

Dr Catherine C.H. Chiu, Department of Applied Social Studies

Dr Bill Taylor, Department of Public and Social Administration

**Research Affiliates**

Dr Andrew Brown, Department of Political and Social Change, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University

Dr Vedi Hadiz, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore

Dr Kanishka Jayasuriya, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University, Australia

Dr Michael Jacobsen, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Denmark

**Research Fellows**

Dr Michael Jacobsen, a Research Fellow from September 2001 to November 2003.

Dr Stephen Frost, Research Fellow, since September 2002.

**Research assistants**

Ms Jill Chung, until September 2003

Ms Joanna Tam, since August 2003

Mr Brian Ho, since September 2003

Ms Suraiya Kamaruzzaman, part time, June-July 2003

**Clerical Officer**

Ms Angel Ho, since February 2002

SEARC Visitors in 2003	
10-14 February 2003	Professor Ken Young and a team of 5 from CAPSTRANS (University of Wollongong, Australia)
4-21 February 2003	Dr Nicola Piper (Australian National University)
23-26 February 2003	Dr Vedi Hadiz (Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore)
10-28 February 2003	Dr Kathleen Weekley (Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies, University of Wollongong)
5-6 March 2003	Prof Dr Ir J Paruntu (Universiti Sam Ratulangi, North Sulawesi, Indonesia)
7 March-4 April 2003	Professor Yuan Ding (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and the Department of History, Zhongshan University, Guangzhou, China)
1 January-19 November 2003	Ms Huei-ying Kuo (Department of Sociology, State University of New York at Binghamton/Visiting PhD Fellow)
30 April-1 May 2003	Dr Allen Chun (Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan)
29 September-3 October 2003	Professor Garry Rodan (Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University, Australia)
8 October-31 November 2003	Ms Leah Briones (PhD Student, Centre for Development Studies, Flinders University of South Australia/Visiting PhD Fellow)
10-18 November 2003	Professor Ken Young, (CAPSTRANS, University of Wollongong)
24-27 November 2003	Dr Wu Xiao An (Department of History, Peking University)



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## RESEARCH OUTPUTS

### (RELATED TO SEARC ACTIVITIES)

#### EDITED BOOKS

**Stephen Frost**, O. George and E. Shepherd (eds.), *Asia-Pacific Labour Law Review: Workers' Rights for the New Century*, Hong Kong: Asia Monitor Resource Center, 2003.

#### CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

**J.Y.S. Cheng**, 'ASEAN's Role in the Chinese Foreign Policy Framework', in Sharon Siddique and Sree Kumar (eds.), *The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Reader*, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2003, pp. 430-435.

**Stephen Frost**, 'Introduction', in S Frost, O. George and E. Shepherd (eds.), *Asia-Pacific Labour Law Review: Workers' Rights for the New Century*, Hong Kong: Asia Monitor Resource Center, 2003, pp 7-13.

**Stephen Frost** and M. Falkus, 'Labour Law and Workers' Rights in Cambodia', in S. Frost, O. George and E. Shepherd (eds.), *Asia-Pacific Labour Law Review: Workers' Rights for the New Century*, Hong Kong: Asia Monitor Resource Center, 2003, pp 91-103.

**Stephen Frost** and C.C.H. Chiu, 'Labour Law and Workers' Rights in Singapore', in S Frost, O. George and E. Shepherd (eds.), *Asia-Pacific Labour Law Review: Workers' Rights for the New Century*, Hong Kong: Asia Monitor Resource Center, 2003, pp 301-311.

**Kevin Hewison**, 'Pathways to Recovery: Bankers, Business, and Nationalism in Thailand', in E.T. Gomez and Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao (eds.), *Chinese Enterprise, Transnationalism, and Identity*, London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003, pp. 232-277.

**Kevin Hewison**, 'Crafting a New Social Contract: Domestic Capitalist Responses to the Challenge of Neo-liberalism', in Ji Giles Ungpakorn (ed.), *Radicalising Thailand. New Political Perspectives*, Bangkok: Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, 2003, pp. 120-151.

**Graeme Lang** and **Vivienne Wee**, 'Fundamentalist ideology, institutions, and the state: a formal analysis', in Santosh Saha (ed.), *Religious Fundamentalism in the Contemporary World: Critical Social and Political Issues*, Lanham: Lexington Books, 2003, pp. 47-70.

#### REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Stephen Frost**, 'Labour law, trade unions, and IT-enabled work in Asia and the Pacific,' *Research and Practice in Human Resource Management*, 11, 1, 2003, pp. 37-54.

**Stephen Frost**, 'Rules and regulations in Chinese factories,' *International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health*, 9, 4, 2003, pp. 317-319.

**Stephen Frost** and T. Pringle, 'The absence of rigor and the failure of implementation: Occupational health and safety in China,' *International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health*, 9, 4, 2003, pp. 309-316.

**Stephen Frost** and T. Pringle, 'Cracks in the system: Why safety problems continue to plague Chinese workplaces,' *China STAFF: The Human Resources Journal for China and Hong Kong*, 9, 10, 2003, pp. 13-17.

**Kevin Hewison**, 'Thailand: Boom, Bust, and Recovery', *Perspectives on Global Development and Technology*, 1, 3/4 (2002), pp. 225-250 (not reported in 2002 as publication was in 2003).

#### ARTICLES IN PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS

**Vivienne Wee**, 'The Quest for an "Islamic State" as a Response to the Secular State', *Ex/Change*, No 7, June 2003, pp 10-16.

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## PAPERS FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & SYMPOSIA

**Stephen Frost**, 'Working in Hong Kong: Nepalese Labourers in the Construction Sector', a paper presented to the SEARC-CAPSTRANS Workshop on International Workshop on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia Pacific, City University of Hong Kong, 12-13 February 2003.

**Stephen Frost**, 'Managing Workplace Practices in Global Supply Chains: The Southeast Asian Experience', a paper presented at the symposium The Future of Work Symposium, Michigan, 25 June 2003.

**Stephen Frost**, 'Building Hong Kong: Nepalese labour in the construction sector', a paper presented to the SEARC-CAPSTRANS Conference on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia-Pacific, Wollongong University, 11-12 August 2003.

**Kevin Hewison**, 'A Preliminary Analysis of Thai Workers in Hong Kong: Survey Results', a paper presented to the SEARC-CAPSTRANS Workshop on International Workshop on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia Pacific, City University of Hong Kong, 12-13 February 2003.

**Kevin Hewison**, 'Thai Workers in Hong Kong', a paper presented to the SEARC-CAPSTRANS Conference on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia-Pacific, Wollongong University, 11-12 August 2003.

**Kevin Hewison**, 'Neo-Liberalism and Domestic Capital: The Political Outcomes of the Economic Crisis in Thailand', a paper presented to the SEARC-Asia Research Centre Conference on Globalisation, Conflict and Political Regimes in East and Southeast Asia, Fremantle, Australia, 15-16 August 2003.

**Kevin Hewison**, 'Domestic Capitalism and the Crafting of a New Social Contract in Thailand', a paper presented to the Workshop on Globalisation and Economic Security in East Asia: Governance and Institutions, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 11-12 September 2003.

**Kevin Hewison**, 'Working in Hong Kong: The experience of Thai migrant workers', a paper presented to the International Conference Migrant Labour in Southeast Asia: Needed, Not Wanted, University of New England, Armidale, 1-3 December 2003.

**Michael Jacobsen**, 'Disentangling the Indonesian State and Nation: On Emerging Social and Political Fault-Lines in Outer Indonesia', a paper presented to the SEARC-Asia Research Centre Conference on Globalisation, Conflict and Political Regimes in East and Southeast Asia, Fremantle, Australia, 15-16 August 2003.

**Michael Jacobsen**, 'Islam and Processes of Minorisation among Ethnic Chinese in Indonesia: Oscillating between Faith and Political Economic Expediency', a paper presented at the conference *Ethnicity in Multicultural Asia: Theory and Findings*, City University of Hong Kong, 27-29 November 2003.

**Graeme Lang**, 'Challenges for the Sociology of Religion in Asia', a paper presented at the Meetings of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion, Turin, Italy, 21-25 July 2003.

**Vivienne Wee**, 'Transnational Labour Networks in Female Labour Migration: Mediating between Southeast Asian Women Workers and International Labour Markets', a paper presented to the SEARC-CAPSTRANS Workshop on International Workshop on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia Pacific, City University of Hong Kong, 12-13 February 2003.

**Vivienne Wee**, A. Sim, and C. Lim, 'Class, gender and agency: the employment and abuse of migrant domestic workers in East and Southeast Asia', a paper presented to the SEARC-CAPSTRANS Conference on Migration, Ethnicity and Workforce Segmentation in the Asia-Pacific, Wollongong University, 11-12 August 2003.

**Vivienne Wee**, 'Globalisation after 9/11 and the Iraq: implications for the Asia-Pacific', a paper presented to the SEARC-Asia Research Centre Conference on Globalisation, Conflict and Political Regimes in East and Southeast Asia, Fremantle, Australia, 15-16 August 2003.

**Vivienne Wee**, 'Whose problem is it anyway and why does it matter? Structured vulnerabilities and innovative alliances among migrant women workers in East and Southeast Asia', a paper pre-

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sented at the *Third International Convention of Asia Scholars*, organised by the National University of Singapore, in association with the Association for Asian Studies, the International Institute for Asia Studies and the Asian Studies Association of Australia, Singapore, 19-22 August 2003.

**Vivienne Wee**, 'Contested world-views: Islam, jihadism and globalising capitalism', a paper presented at the symposium on *Clash of civilisations?*, Department of Religion and Philosophy, Hong Kong Baptist University, 22 September 2003.

**Vivienne Wee**, 'Re-assessing globalisation and gender: issues, gaps and possible alternatives for policy, action and research', paper presented at the Conference on *Globalisation and Gender: The Implications of Global Restructuring for Women in East and Southeast Asia*, Hong Kong, organised by the Gender Research Centre, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 24-29 November 2003.

**Vivienne Wee**, 'Lao women's economic empowerment in the silk textile industry', a paper presented at the *Workshop on Women's Economic Empowerment in Asia and the Pacific*, Vientiane, Laos, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Lao Handicraft Group, 10-11 December 2003.

**Zang Xiaowei**, 'Hui-Han Perceptions on Intermarriage', a paper presented at the conference *Ethnicity in Multicultural Asia: Theory and Findings*, City University of Hong Kong, 27-29 November 2003.

## INVITED LECTURES

**Stephen Frost**, 'Labour standards in China,' a paper presented to the Hong Kong Sustainable Development Forum, 29 April 2003.

**Stephen Frost**, 'Labour Standards in China: The business and investment challenge,' A paper presented to the Hong Kong Forum, 30 May 2003.

**Kevin Hewison**, 'Neo-Liberalism and Domestic Capital: The Political Outcomes of the Economic Crisis in Thailand', a seminar presentation for CAPSTRANS, Wollongong University, 7 August 2003.

**Michael Jacobsen** and **Vivienne Wee**, 'De-linking the Chinese Diaspora. On Chinese Entrepreneurship in Manado, North Sulawesi', a research seminar series at the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Xiamen, China, Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong and the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Xiamen, China, 17 November 2003.

## PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**Stephen Frost**, Member, Advisory Board, Asia Monitor Resource Centre, Hong Kong.

**Stephen Frost**, Member, Steering Committee, Emergence Project, The Institute for Employment Studies, University of Sussex, UK.

**Kevin Hewison**, Research Associate, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University.

**Kevin Hewison**, Member, International Advisory Panel, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University.

**Kevin Hewison**, Associate Editor, *Asian Journal of Social Science*.

**Kevin Hewison**, Member, Editorial Board, *The Pacific Review*.

**Kevin Hewison**, Member, Editorial Board, *The Journal of Comparative Asian Development*.

**Kevin Hewison**, Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*.

**Kevin Hewison**, Member, International Advisory Board, *Politics, Administration and Change*.

**Kevin Hewison**, Member, International Advisory Board, *Labour and Management in Development*.

**Kevin Hewison**, Member, Editorial Advisory Board, *Policy, Organisation and Society*.

**Kevin Hewison**, Member, International Advisory Committee, *Taiwan Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*.



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**Kevin Hewison**, Member, International Editorial Advisory Board, *Kasarinlan: Philippine Journal of Third World Studies*.

**Kevin Hewison**, Member, Editorial Committee, Asian Studies Association of Australia Southeast Asia Publications Series.

**Kevin Hewison**, Editor, Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong, *Working Paper Series*.

**Kevin Hewison**, Member, Editorial Committee, Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong and Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Xiamen University, Translation Series of Southeast Asian Studies.

**Kevin Hewison**, Co-Editor, RoutledgeCurzon/City University of Hong Kong Southeast Asia Series, London, Routledge.

**Vivienne Wee**, Co-Editor, RoutledgeCurzon/City University of Hong Kong Southeast Asia Series, London, UK, Routledge.

**Vivienne Wee**, Member, Editorial Committee, Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong and Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Xiamen University, Translation Series of Southeast Asian Studies.

**Southeast Asia Research Centre**

The City University of Hong Kong  
83 Tat Chee Avenue  
Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong SAR  
Tel: (852) 2194 2352  
Fax: (852) 2194 2353  
<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/searc>  
email: [searc@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:searc@cityu.edu.hk)