



## York Centre for Asian Research Update

### In this Issue...

- YCAR Members** \* Designers from Hong Kong, Taiwan and China will feature in Wendy Wong's upcoming exhibition
- Opportunities** \* YCAR Awards available to graduate students  
\* Deadline approaches for the Chiang Ching-Kuo Fellowship  
\* Grants on offer from the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
- Upcoming Events** \* YCAR Visiting Scholar Huang Ying will present talk on her research this Tuesday (Jan. 15)  
\* 2008 Development Month activities at York (Beginning Jan. 14)  
\* Jay Goulding presents 'Studies of the Dark' (Jan. 15)
- Call for Papers** \* First meeting of the Philippines Studies Group for Winter term (Jan. 18)  
\* East Timor: Six years after Independence (Jan. 18)  
\* Chiang Ching-kuo and Taiwan's Political Culture (Jan. 29)  
\* Celebrating the Year of the Rat: Chinese New Year at the Bata Shoe Museum (Jan. 30)  
\* YCAR members' publications featured at dual book launch (Jan. 31)  
\* Geography's Adam Lukaszewicz will present YCAR's first BrownBag graduate student seminar (Feb. 5)  
\* Chinese Design. Everyday (Opening Feb. 8)  
\* Commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canadian Anglican Bishop White's "Chinese Jews" (Feb. 25)
- York News** \* Schulich professor helps unveil the real face of Arab Women  
\* York Alumna wins CMHC award for study of immigrant settlement in GTA
- Call for Papers** \* Transformations: Researching Asia  
\* Foodscapes of Southeast Asia  
\* Empire and Rebellion: Postcolonial Perspectives

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### YCAR Members: Designers from Hong Kong, Taiwan and China will feature in Wendy Wong's upcoming exhibition

YCAR's Associate Director Wendy Wong recently returned from an extended research trip in East Asia. She interviewed designers from Hong Kong, Taiwan and China, and collected a significant amount of work, which will be included in her February exhibit at the Design Exchange in downtown Toronto. Venues visited include the Hong Kong Design Centre and Taiwan Design Centre. A special design project: '9707', organized by the Hong Kong Design Centre, will be included in her exhibition.

Wendy also presented papers in two design conferences, attended the Design Fair in Hong Kong and was invited as a guest respondent to an academic forum on graphic design in China in Shenzhen. She also met

with researchers and educators in design history and studies to discuss the possibility to formally establish a East Asian Design history and research studies network. For more details on Wendy's exhibit, please see the events section of this update or visit the YCAR website.

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### **Opportunity: YCAR Awards available to graduate students**

YCAR would like to remind Graduate Associates about three awards available to help fund students' fieldwork and language study.

The **YCAR Language Award** is open to graduate students enrolled at York and registered for the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS) administered by YCAR. It will provide up to two awards annually in an amount up to \$1,500 each to reimburse costs directly related to language study. The application deadline is **Thursday, 31 January 2008**.

The **Vivienne Poy Asian Research Award** will be awarded for the first time this year. It is open to York graduate students who are also graduate associates of YCAR. Priority will be given to students who apply to do research in fulfillment of the fieldwork requirement of the Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (GDAS). The deadline is **Thursday, 31 January 2008**.

For more information or to download application forms, please visit [www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/YCAR\\_Awards.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Awards/YCAR_Awards.html) or contact [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca).

### **Opportunity: Deadline approaches for the Chiang Ching-Kuo Fellowship**

The 1 February is the deadline for applications for the Chiang Ching-Kuo Fellowship. The Canadian Asian Studies Association (CASA) will be awarding up to two doctoral fellowships (\$10,000 Canadian each) and one post-doctoral fellowship (up to \$22,000 Canadian), subject to budgetary allowance and using funds provided by the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation.

CASA welcomes applications from junior scholars who are not in any regular tenure track positions. They can be from any discipline, as long as their projects focus on an aspect of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, or overseas Chinese communities. Applicants must also be members of CASA. Membership forms are located at: <http://canadianasianstudies.concordia.ca/html/membere.htm>. All guidelines and application forms can be found at: <http://canadianasianstudies.concordia.ca/html/ccke.htm>.

### **Opportunity: Grants on offer from the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada**

The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada is accepting proposals for its Policy Research Grants program for 2008-2009, and the Post-Graduate Research Fellowships program for 2008-2009. The deadline for Stage One applications for Policy Research Grants is 31 January 2008. The deadline for Post-Graduate Research Fellowship applications is 15 February 2008. For full competition details, including application requirements, please visit [www.asiapacificresearch.ca/grants/2008\\_09/index.cfm](http://www.asiapacificresearch.ca/grants/2008_09/index.cfm).

#### ***Previously-posted Opportunities:***

\* **Language training program for Southeast Asian scholars (15 February 2007)**

For more information: [www.seassi.wisc.edu](http://www.seassi.wisc.edu) or [seassi@intl-institute.wisc.edu](mailto:seassi@intl-institute.wisc.edu)

\* **Summer Internship Opportunity for graduate students (28 February 2008)**

For more information: [www.researchimpact.ca](http://www.researchimpact.ca) or Krista Jensen ([kejensen@yorku.ca](mailto:kejensen@yorku.ca))

\* **Scholarships for international students in Taiwan (14 March 2008)**

For more information: [www.dpu.org.tw/](http://www.dpu.org.tw/) or [intstudent@ntu.edu.tw](mailto:intstudent@ntu.edu.tw)

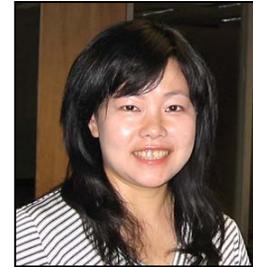
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### **Upcoming Events: YCAR Visiting Scholar Huang Ying will present talk on her research this Tuesday**

*Tuesday, 15 January 2008 \* noon \* 270 York Lanes, Room B \* York University*

Hung Ying is a Visiting Scholar at YCAR for the 2007-08 academic year. Her concentration is world economic relations and regional cooperation in East Asia. Her talk, 'Japan's regional policy and its role in East Asia' will focus on the surging regionalism in East Asia. Japan, as the world's second largest economy and a regional power, has the ambition to be regional leader. However, its aspiration is pinned down by a number of factors. The presentation will examine the three phases of the regional cooperation, Japan's role in each of them and the factors that hindered Japan from exercising leadership.

Huang Ying has held the position of associate research fellow at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR). She is also a co-author of the book *Guide to the World States: Philippines* (Social Sciences Academic Press, 2007). Her other publications include *Emergence of Bilateralism in Asia and Japan's EPA strategy* (International Data Information, 2006) and *Major Islamic Extremist Groups in Southeast Asia* (International Data Information, 2005).



Everyone is welcome.

### **Upcoming Event: 2008 Development Month activities at York**

*14 January to 7 February 2008 \* York University*

The International Development Studies Students' Association is presenting the 2008 Development Month starting Monday and running until 7 February 2008. Events include a lecture series on displacement, intervention and human rights, an Arts Night, a panel discussion on international education as well as the Development Month Film Festival each Monday evening during the month.

They are also seeking volunteers to organize and participate in events. For more information, email [yorkida@gmail.com](mailto:yorkida@gmail.com) or check out their group on Facebook.

### **Upcoming Events: Jay Goulding presents 'Studies of the Dark'**

*Tuesday, 15 January 2008 \* noon to 1:30pm \* Crow Room \* Atkinson Building*



'Studies of the Dark: Wang Bi's Commentary on Laozi's Daodejing' is the topic of YCAR Faculty Associate Jay Goulding's talk on Tuesday, 15 January 2008.

The School of Social Sciences research seminar series talk will run from noon to 1:30pm in the Crow Room, Atkinson Building, York University.

### **Upcoming Event: First meeting of the Philippines Studies Group for Winter term**

*Friday, 18 January 2008 \* 3:30pm \* Ross North 432 \* York University*

The Philippine Studies Group, based at York University and including Philippines scholars from across the province, will be meeting on Friday, 18 January 2008 at 3:30pm in Ross North 432.

The group will also be organizing an event in March that will feature Dominique Caouette (Political Science, Université de Montréal).

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact YCAR at [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca) for more information.

### Upcoming Event: East Timor: Six years after Independence

Friday, 18 January 18 2008 \* Downtown Toronto



Constancio Pinto, Senior Diplomatic Representative of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (East Timor) will be speaking in Toronto next week. His talk will focus on the independence movements' activities since 2002 and the international community's ongoing responsibilities to East Timor.

He will speak from 10am until noon at the Munk Centre for International Studies, 108N-Seminar Room, North House at 1 Devonshire Place and then at 7pm at the St Thomas's Anglican Church, 383 Huron St, Toronto. Both events are free.

Mr Pinto is based in Washington, DC, where he is currently chargé d'affaires. He has dedicated his life and energy to the freedom and self-determination of East Timor. He spent three years in the jungle and many years in the underground movement before being jailed and tortured by the Indonesian army. He has been a Timorese diplomat since his country gained independence.

Mr. Pinto is the author of *East Timor's Unfinished Struggle: Inside the Timorese Resistance* (1996); and wrote a chapter for the book *East Timor: Testimony* (2000). He has an MA from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and a BA in Development Studies from Brown University. (*motherjones.com photograph*)

### Upcoming Event: Chiang Ching-kuo and Taiwan's Political Culture

Tuesday, 29 January 2008 \* 3 to 5:30pm \* 390 York Lanes \* York University

This afternoon symposium will consider CCK's legacy and its expression in Taiwan's contemporary politics. The 13 January 2008, the day after Taiwan's Legislative election, is also the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Chiang Ching-kuo (1910-1983). His legacy in Taiwan - and his personal merits or demerits, are currently the subject of much debate in Taiwan. The lines of the debate not surprisingly fall along the "Green/Blue" political divide. For the rest of us "CCK" is a rather overlooked and underestimated figure, but his importance in Taiwan's history cannot be underestimated.

The program is as follows:

- 1) Chiang Ching-kuo and his legacy in Taiwan, an introductory talk by YCAR Research Associate Michael Stainton
- 2) 2008's elections in perspective, a reflection by University of Toronto Asian Institute Director Joe Wong
- 3) What is at stake in the 2008 Presidential Election, commentary from representatives of Toronto "Green" and "Blue" camps
- 4) General Discussion

Both academic and Taiwanese community members are invited to share on this event. This event is co-sponsored by the ATOT (Association of Taiwanese Organizations in Toronto)

## Upcoming Event: Celebrating the Year of the Rat: Chinese New Year at the Bata Shoe Museum

Wednesday, 30 January 2008 \* 6 to 8 pm \* The Bata Shoe Museum, 327 Bloor Street West

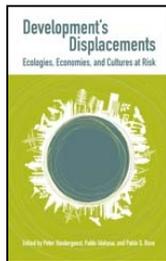
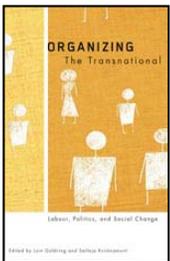
YCAR Associate Director Wendy Wong will be the keynote speaker at the Bata Shoe Museum's Chinese New Year Event on 30 January. Other special guests include Sonja Bata and Canadian Senator Vivienne Poy.

Dim Sum and tea will follow the event, which also includes a special presentation of Chinese artifacts highlighting the rat motif (on loan from Glenn Robert). Tickets are \$15 per person; \$10 for students and free for members from 416.979.7799x225 or by emailing [tickets@batashoemuseum.ca](mailto:tickets@batashoemuseum.ca).

For more information, please visit [www.batashoemuseum.ca/](http://www.batashoemuseum.ca/).

## Upcoming Event: YCAR members' publications featured at dual book launch

Thursday, 31 January 2008 \* 3 to 5pm \* Founders College



Please join YCAR and CERLAC on January 31 for the launch of two publications edited by York professors and graduate students.

*Development's Displacements: Economies, Ecologies and Cultures at Risk* was released in July and is edited by outgoing YCAR Director Peter Vandergeest, Social Science Professor Pablo Idahosa and former York graduate student Pablo Bose, who is now doing postdoctoral studies at the University of Vermont.

The second publication, *Organizing the Transnational: Labour, Politics and Social Change*, is edited by Associate Professor of Sociology Luin Goldring and Social and Political Thought doctoral student Sailaja Krishnamurti. Both books are published by UBC Press.

For more information on the event, please contact YCAR at [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca).

## Upcoming Event: Geography's Adam Lukasiewicz will present YCAR's first BrownBag graduate student seminar

Tuesday, 5 February 2008 \* 1pm \* 270 York Lanes, Room B



Everyone is welcome to join us for the first graduate student seminar of the Winter 2008 term on 5 February at 1pm. Geography doctoral student Adam Lukasiewicz will speak on Situating migration, gender, and class in the agrarian transition of the Philippines.

Future presenters include Carolyn Hibbs, Doris Sung, Sean Starrs, Shannon Arnold, Nand Bardouille and Laura Tan-Starling.

If you are interested in sharing your research in a BrownBag seminar, please contact Alicia at [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca).

## Upcoming Event: Chinese Design. Everyday

8 February 2008 to 13 April 2008 \* Design Exchange \* 234 Bay Street

'Chinese Design. Everyday' is the title of YCAR Associate Director Wendy Wong's February exhibit at Toronto's Design Exchange, which will run from 8 February to 13 April.

Contemporary Chinese culture is a fascinating mix of diverse influences, combining the millennia-old Chinese cultural heritage with the most current Western and international trends. This show defines "Chinese Design" in terms of Style, Locale and Ethnicity. It provides a foundation for understanding contemporary Chinese culture and everyday life through design artifacts with a focus on graphic design.

On display will be a selection of design work from the Chinese-speaking region: China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, and from designers of Chinese ancestry residing in North America.

The Opening will be held on 8 February 2008 with a reception sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Toronto. The Curatorial lecture will be held on 15 February 2008 at 5pm, also at the Design Exchange.



### Upcoming Event: Commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canadian Anglican Bishop White's "Chinese Jews"

Monday, February 25, 2008 \* 280 York Lanes \* York University

YCAR and the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University are pleased to announce *Bishop White's "Chinese Jews,"* an event to be held on Monday, February 25 to commemorate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of Bishop White's book on Chinese Jews.

Speakers for the half-day event will include Dr Andrew Plaks, Professor of East Asian Studies and Comparative Literature at Princeton University, Missions Historian Dr Alvyn Austin and Sara Irwin, the Asia curator for the Royal Ontario Museum.

For more information, please contact Michael Stainton at [michaels@yorku.ca](mailto:michaels@yorku.ca). To confirm your attendance, please email [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca).

All are welcome.

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### York News: Schulich professor helps unveil the real face of Arab Women



How Qatari male(s) and female(s) are occupying their personal space in their homes is the focus of a new gender study being launched by an expert at Qatar University [with the help of a York University marketing expert], wrote *The Peninsula* (Qatar), an English-language daily, in its online edition Jan. 9. Rana Sobh, who is credited with a series of internationally acclaimed behavioural studies, told *The Peninsula* that her latest venture is part of her mission to present a more accurate, normal and human face for Arab Muslim women.

YCAR Faculty Associate, Professor **Russell Belk**, a highly reputable academic from York University's Schulich School of Business in Toronto, is her research partner, said the newspaper. "I held several discussions with my co-researcher. We wanted to do something original that fosters a better international understanding of Arab Muslim culture and stimulate beneficial research streams about home, identity, culture, consumption and gender. Finally, we were zeroing in on this topic," Sobh said.

"There is a lot of prejudice and misunderstandings of Middle Eastern women in the West. Middle Eastern

women are depicted in the Western media as oppressed and ignorant. We rarely see normal Arab women at home with their families, in the office or workplace, or occupying professional positions as professors, engineers, or doctors," Sobh explained.

The original story appeared in the 10 January 2008 issue of Y-File. ([www.jrconsumer.com](http://www.jrconsumer.com) photograph)

### York News: York Alumna wins CMHC award for study of immigrant settlement in GTA

A self-described "insider" of the GTA's South Asian community, York alumna Sutama Ghosh (PhD '06) has won a Housing Studies Achievement Award from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for her thesis, *We Are Not All the Same*.

Ghosh, who taught in York's Urban Studies Program after completing her graduate studies in York's Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, wrote a thesis on the migration and settlement patterns of Indian Bengalis and Bangladeshis, under supervising Professors Robert Murdie, Valerie Preston and Brian Massam. Using her knowledge of differences between the two immigrant groups, normally grouped together in the data as South Asian, Ghosh used census and landed immigrant data – and the phone book – to track where each group has settled in the GTA and why.



The original story appeared in the 3 January 2008 of Y-File. (*York University* photograph)

### Call for Papers: Transformations: Researching Asia



What does it mean to "research Asia?" This is the theme of the first YCAR Graduate Student Conference, which will be held from 26 to 28 September 2008.

Asian Studies is a growing field within and, we hope, beyond Area Studies. Recent developments in Asian research reflect modern and contemporary events across a wide range of disciplines. As the body of research on Asia grows, questions concerning the production and mediation of "Asia" become more pressing. The critical and fundamental questions "What is Asia?" and "How to study Asia?" remain unresolved and contested. As a field, moreover, Asian Studies remains driven by disciplinary divides; interdisciplinary intersections remain disappointingly rare.

With this conference, we seek to address the epistemology and methodology of researching Asia within and beyond the geographical and disciplinary constraints traditionally associated with Area Studies. We invite papers from graduate students engaged in interdisciplinary research in Asian Studies focusing on the modern and contemporary periods.

Possible paper topics could address (but are not limited to) these sub-themes: Epistemology of Asian Studies; Methodology and Practices in Asian Studies; Orientalism and Re-Orientalism; Knowledge/Power; Time and Temporality; Modernity; North/South Divide; Globalization; Race and Ethnicity; Migration and Diaspora; Race, Gender, and Class; Positioning and Subjectivity; Body and Representation; Sexuality; Media and Technology; Environmental Challenges; Art and Visual Culture; Music and Performing Arts

Interested participants should submit a paper title, abstract (250 words maximum) and brief biographical information by **1 April 2008**. Selected participants must submit completed papers by 1 August 2008. Please email submissions to the conference organizers at: [transformationsasiaconference@gmail.com](mailto:transformationsasiaconference@gmail.com). More information about the conference can be found on the conference website: [www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/graduate\\_conference.html](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/graduate_conference.html).

### **Call for Papers: Foodscapes of Southeast Asia**

YCAR and Founder's College will host 'Foodscapes of Southeast Asia' on Friday, February 29, 2008.

This event will explore the relation between food consumption and food production in Southeast Asia. The afternoon consists of two panels of academic papers from different disciplinary perspectives with ample time for discussion. Currently, we expect to have presentations on the natural food revolution in Thailand, street foods of Hanoi, steamed rice cakes as representations of local identities in the Philippines, Women entrepreneurs in the food industry in Southeast Asia and the use of seaweed in the Philippines.

Attention will also be drawn to the multi-sensorial aspects of food. While the academic discourse on food is often text-based, knowledge about food is also coded in taste and vision; and our personal experiences with food reflect the integration of these different approaches to knowledge production. We will have at least one multimedia presentation entitled "Doing Lunch in Salaya."

The afternoon ends with a presentation by photographers and cookbook writers, Jeff Alford and Naomi Dagnid, best-selling authors of *Seductions of Rice*, *Hot Sour Salty Sweet*, and *Mangoes and Curry Leaves*. They will present "Hot Sour Salty Sweet: A Culinary Journey along the Mekong River," followed by a special Southeast Asian meal.

If you would like to present a paper, please send a title and short abstract to [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca) by January 18, 2008. Works in progress by graduate students are particularly welcome.

For information about the program, please contact Professor Penny Van Esterik at [esterik@yorku.ca](mailto:esterik@yorku.ca). If you are interested in attending, please email [ycar@yorku.ca](mailto:ycar@yorku.ca) for more details. The event website is: For more information: [www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/YCAR Events/Foodscapes\\_of\\_Southeast\\_Asia\\_29Feb2008.pdf](http://www.yorku.ca/ycar/Events/YCAR%20Events/Foodscapes_of_Southeast_Asia_29Feb2008.pdf)

### **Call for Papers: Empire and Rebellion: Postcolonial Perspectives**

Over the past few decades, the ideas and notions or the cultural wherewithal that accompanied colonial conquest have been studied extensively. Attention has also been focused on the cultural forms in which anti-colonial resistance was articulated. The focus for this conference will be more specifically on responses to rebellions, to large-scale, more or less organized and violent acts by the colonized to overthrow colonial rule. How are rebellions represented? What kinds of questions do they raise about colonial rule and colonial policies? In what way does the experience of military suppression of rebellions feed into the strategies developed for future wars, in Europe and elsewhere? How are these rebellions seen in post-colonial times?

The conference is a follow-up to a conference held in October 2007 on European Responses to the 1857 Rebellion in India. It will bring together interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives to explore responses to anti-colonial rebellions in fictional and non-fictional texts as well as in film and other art forms.

The deadline for the Call for Papers is 30 January 2008. The conference will be held from 6 to 8 March 2008 at Delhi University, India. For more information, contact Shaswati Mazumdar at [grs.du.in@gmail.com](mailto:grs.du.in@gmail.com).

#### ***Previously-posted Call for Papers:***

\* **Talking Across Borders Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, University of Washington (18 January 2008)**

For more information: [TalkingAcrossBorders@gmail.com](mailto:TalkingAcrossBorders@gmail.com)

\* **The Media and Human Rights in Asia (25 January 2008)**

For more information: [mccull67@msu.edu](mailto:mccull67@msu.edu)

\* **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Conference, Cornell University (31 January 2008)**

For more information: [seapgradconference@gmail.com](mailto:seapgradconference@gmail.com)

\* Ten Years After: Reformasi and New Social Movements in Indonesia, 1998-2008, University of California, Berkeley and Los Angeles (1 February 2008)

For more information: <http://ias.berkeley.edu/cseas> or [cseas@berkeley.edu](mailto:cseas@berkeley.edu).

\* Fourth Annual Loyola University Chicago History Graduate Student Conference (15 February 2008)

For more information: [www.luc.edu/orgs/hgsa/](http://www.luc.edu/orgs/hgsa/) or [sress@luc.edu](mailto:sress@luc.edu)

\* The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations (ISCSC) 47th ISCSC World Conference, University of New Brunswick (1 March 2008)

For more information: [www.ISCSC.net](http://www.ISCSC.net) or [ISCSCabstracts@yahoo.com](mailto:ISCSCabstracts@yahoo.com) or [rduchesn@unbsj.ca](mailto:rduchesn@unbsj.ca)

\* Still the Asian Century? (31 March 2008)

For more information: [D.Norman@Asiacentury.net](mailto:D.Norman@Asiacentury.net).

\*ASPAC 2008 - Crossing Boundaries in the Asia-Pacific: Regional and Disciplinary Intersections, Victoria BC (15 April 2008)

For more information: <http://capiconf.uvic.ca/index.php?cf=3>

\*Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (1 May 2008)

For more information: [www.Colorado.EDU/CAS/WCAAS.html](http://www.Colorado.EDU/CAS/WCAAS.html).

\* Third Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asia, National University of Singapore (16 May 2007)

For more information: [valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg](mailto:valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg) or

[www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events\\_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=747](http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=747)