Annual Report
Institute of Asian Research
January - December 1998

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I. Profile - A Brief History of the Institute

Asian studies at UBC are rooted in global controversies. WWII brought Dr. Inazo Nitobe, a Japanese internationalist, to UBC where he lectured on peace. The Communist uprisings in Asia after WWII were behind Bill Holland’s move to the Department of Asian Studies in 1961 after the Institute of Pacific Relations which he headed was closed during the McCarthy communist witch-hunts. Holland developed Asian studies into a major academic focus on campus. In “a typical academic compromise” in 1970, UBC established the Institute of Asian and Slavonic Research to accommodate the growing number of faculty studying Asia and the Far East. In 1977 the Chapman Committee under the dean of Graduate Studies and the Winter Committee under the dean of Arts determined that Asianists preferred the Institute to become exclusively concerned with Asia and to remain with Graduate Studies. Thus the Institute of Asian Research, sired by two consenting committees, was born.

The Interim Council appointed by Dean Larkin to oversee IAR affairs also served as the Search Committee for a director. The first IAR “Newsletter” issued by the Interim Council of the Institute in June 1977 was a memo to the members informing them about IAR-related activities. The generic newsletter was continued and renamed Asia Pacific Report with Vol. 8, No. 1, in January 1984, and is now on its 23rd volume.

The Institute became fully operational in September 1978 with the appointment of Terry McGee, a senior fellow in the Department of Human Geography, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, as director. His principal field of research was urbanization in Asia. Initially, McGee envisioned the Institute: 1) to coordinate UBC research projects on Asia and promote exchange of information among Asian researchers through seminars, lectures and publications; and 2) to develop research projects on Asia at UBC and provide an administrative umbrella for these activities.

In June 1981 the Institute moved to the Asian Centre and added to its functions the publication of the journal Pacific Affairs, Asia Pacific Report newsletter, and research monographs as well as the management of the Asian Centre facilities. A restructured Institute which included the Centres for Chinese, Japanese, Korean, South Asia and Southeast Asia Research was launched in 1992. The expansion was made possible by about $20 million in endowments and grants raised by the 1989 University’s World of Opportunity Campaign. Chairs and Executive Committees of the five Centres were elected in October 1993.

After 14 years at the helm, McGee stepped down as director in 1992. Mark Fruin was appointed director in July. Fruin came to UBC from INSEAD, the European Institute of Business Administration and was a visiting professor in policy and organization at UCLA. His policy research themes for the Institute included: 1) Human Values and Expression; 2) Culture, Learning and Behavior; 3) Political Economy and Organizational Innovation; 4) Globalism, Regionalism and Localism; 5) Science, Technology, Environment; and 6) Policy Futures and the Asia Pacific Region. The last four constituted the Institute’s Public Policy Program. Fruin also founded CAPRI (Canada Asia Pacific Research Initiatives), International Associates Forum and CAPRI Special Series...
publication to promote collaboration between Canadian and Asian researchers. Because of its affinity with the Asian community, the Institute organized an annual community outreach event held regularly since then.

The Institute’s first endowed chair was awarded in 1993 to Kyung-Ae Park as the Korea Foundation Chair in Korean Research. In 1994 Masao Nakamura, was appointed to the Konwakai Chair in Japanese Research. Nina Halpern was appointed to the Louis Cha Chair in Chinese Research in 1995. Fruin resigned as director in 1997 and McGee served as director again. In 1998 Sam P. S. Ho was named to the Taiwan-funded Chair in Chinese Research.

In October 1996 the C.K. Choi Bldg. for the Institute of Asian Research was inaugurated. In the same year, the Institute funded the Program for Intercultural Studies in Asia on a yearly basis, depending on availability of funds. In 1997, the Centre for Australian Studies was added to the CAPRI public policy program on an ad hoc basis since it has no regular source of funding. Pitman Potter, a professor of Law and former director of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies, was appointed in May to replace McGee from 1 January 1999.

II. Highlights

1. Samuel P. S. Ho, director of the Centre for Chinese Research, was appointed in January 1998 to the Endowed Chair in Chinese Research established in IAR through a gift of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (ROC).

2. Three books published by the Institute were launched on 5 January: The Silent Debate: Asian Immigration and Racism in Canada, composed of papers presented at a 1997 immigration policy conference, and edited by Eleanor Laquian, Aprodicio Laquian and Terry McGee; Pacific Encounters: The Production of Self and Other, edited by Eva-Marie Kroeller, Allan Smith, Joshua Mostow and Robert Kramer; and The Empowerment of Asia: Reshaping Global Society, consisting of papers from the Institute’s Inaugural Conference in October 1996.

3. Lunar New Year Festival on 28 January greeted the Year of the Tiger with Asian foods, art exhibits, computer technology demonstrations, publication display and sales, film showings and cultural presentations.

4. The Institute of Asian Research Graduate Students Network and Green College jointly sponsored the 3rd Graduate Symposium on Asia on 6-8 February titled “Instant Asia.”

5. Canada’s Year of the Asia Pacific (CYAP 1997) was evaluated in March at a conference attended by The Hon. Raymond Chan, Secretary of State, and John Bell, former Ambassador for Canada’s Year of the Asia Pacific.

6. In May, Pitman B. Potter, professor of Law, was appointed as the next director of the Institute of Asian Research effective 1 January 1999.

7. “The 4th Pacific and Asian Conference on Korean Studies” on 10-13 May focused on “Korea
Between Tradition and Modernity.” It was organized by the Centre for Korean Research and funded by the Korea Research Foundation.

8. Samuel P. S. Ho and Nina Halpern of the Centre for Chinese Research organized a two-day workshop in August on China-Taiwan interaction from the perspective of the Republic of China (ROC).

9. Paul T. K. Lin, who set up the China Program for Integrative Research and Development (CPIRD) at the Institute of Asian Research, was named to the Order of Canada for outstanding service at home and abroad.

10. The Centre for Chinese Research, UBC, and the Centre for Research on Transportation, University of Montréal, were awarded $1,770,000 for a five-year project on training and research in urban and regional transportation and communication systems in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Lanzhou.

11. The IAR Centre for Australian Studies and Asia Institute at Monash University in Melbourne, sponsored a conference comparing Canadian and Australian approaches to Asia in an era of unstable globalization.

12. The Centre for India and South Asia Research celebrated 50 years of India’s independence with an exhibition of political cartoons from India along with conferences and seminars.

III. Report of Activities

Hard times and belt-tightening for the rich and the poor alike marked 1998 in Asia. The ravages of the 1997 economic crisis worsened in Year 2. The yen continued to tumble. Investment banks crashed in Hong Kong. Malaysia imposed currency controls. Property markets collapsed even in Singapore. In many parts of Asia, sinking profits, rising unemployment, sliding recession, soaring prices and contracting GDP worsened the economy even in oil-rich Brunei. Shrinking paycheques caused violent protests in Thailand and Korea. Political turmoil intensified with the India-Pakistan nuclear faceoff, the fall of Suharto in Indonesia and the bloody crackdown of reformers in Malaysia. Corruption in high places in China, demands for reforms in Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and South Korea often ended in fatalities. Leadership changed in elections in Japan, India, a “flawed” poll in Cambodia and the election of a populist president in the Philippines. There was grumbling among ASEAN members and against APEC. Natural disasters brought thirst and famine in Southern Philippines and North Korea, floods and devastation in China, and brought down ferries and passengers in Indonesia and the Philippines to the bottom of the sea.

How has this volatile year in Asia affected the activities of the Institute in 1998? With the IAR’s objectives to study the processes of change in the Asia Pacific region and to conduct contemporary, issue-oriented, interdisciplinary research that cuts across regional boundaries, has the Institute adequately covered the major developments in Asia in 1998? Has it provided a forum for people to address critical issues? Has it helped Canadians better understand Asia? Has it explained the profound changes that took place in the region? This report shows what the Institute and its centres
have done to meet their mandate.

A. Faculty and Chairs

**Terry McGee** completed his last year of the directorship on 31 December 1998. During the year he continued his research on the management of Mega-Urban regions in Asia attending the second meeting of the network of researchers from Asia, Australia, USA and Canada held in Taipei in April 1998. Another project with the UN University, Tokyo, on Urbanization Changes in Asia was completed in August of 1998 with the presentation of reports on Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo, Sydney, Vancouver, Jakarta and Bangkok at a conference hosted by the Institute of Asian Research at the C.K. Choi Building in August 1998. McGee also started a research project on "Social Safety Nets in an Era of Financial Crisis in Asia" with three field visits to Indonesia. This research is the basis of research application to the Hampton Fund and CIDA.

During the year, McGee served on the University Awards Committee, the Hampton Research Funds Committee and continued to chair the graduate committee of Deidre McKay (Geography), Jean-Francois Proulx (Geography), and Stephanie Scott (Geography). He also taught ASTU 202/Geog 284 on the Asia Pacific Region which is taken by Ritsumeikan University Exchange students and Canadian students. McGee worked closely with Faculty at Ritsumeikan University presenting a paper at the Fourth UBC-Ritsumeikan Research Symposium in Kyoto in November. He accepted an invitation to join the Academic Advisory Board of the new Asia Pacific campus of the Ritsumeikan University to be opened in April 2000.

In another Japan visit, McGee was the chair and keynote speaker of the conference on "Rethinking Regional Development in a Changing World" sponsored by the UN Centre for Regional Development in December 1998. He was appointed to the Steering Committee of the UN Global Forum on Regional Development for the next three years.


**Ilan Vertinsky** has continued his research on environmental responses of Chinese corporations. His paper with T. Ursacki *et al.* entitled “Can China be a Clean Tiger?” is to be published by Pacific Affairs. His work with Ursacki on “Pacific Market Integration” is to appear as a chapter in *Deepening Integration in the Pacific Economies: Corporate Alliances, Contestable Markets and Free Trade* edited by Rugman and Boyd, published by Edward Elgar Publishing in 1999. During 1998, he has published four other journal papers and four book chapters on forest policy and international trade. (See p. 25 of this Annual Report.) He joined Wilson, van Kooten, and Arthur to edit a book on *Forest Policies: International Comparison* which was published in December 1998 by CABI,
Oxford. Currently he is completing a study on environmental certification in Japan with M. Nakamura and Ph.D. student T. Takahashi. He is working on a Canadian study using similar methodologies with Ph.D. students C. Zietsma and O. Branzei. A paper entitled “Shades of Green” was presented in August 1997 in the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management.

Ilan helped in the development and launching of a new China-Hong Kong Network of Business Studies. The network was launched in Canada by UBC’s president with Chen Jinyu, Deputy Secretary General of the National Committee of the Chinese Peoples Political Consultative Conference, as guest. For this event, Ilan organized and chaired a panel of speakers on the Asian crisis including: Donald Tong, Director, Hong Kong Economic Trade Office, Liu Yunbia, Deputy Editor in chief International Business Daily and Annie Wu, a member of the CPPCC and founder of the first joint venture in China. Ilan participated in the launching of the network in Hong Kong in the presence of B.C. Premier Clark and Hong Kong government ministers. He participated in negotiating partnership agreements and will direct the research activities of the network. He will be in Hong Kong in 1999 to launch the first collaborative research project of the network on transition policies.

In addition, Ilan is a co-investigator of a new SSHRC major collaborative grant to study regional sustainable development and a member of the Forest Sustainable Management, NCE. He also received a four year NSERC grant and is completing his SSHRC and Hampton funded projects. He is a member of the National Round Table on climate change (forest-sector) and of the technical committee on criteria and indicators.

Samuel P.S. Ho, Endowed Chair in Chinese Research (ROC) and director of the Centre for Chinese Research, is currently involved in two major research projects. The first is “Grasp the Large, Release the Small: The Evolving Nature of Property Rights in Township Enterprises in China.” Since the mid-1980s China’s TEs have been responsible for a major proportion of China’s industrial growth and rural labor absorption. In the past most TEs operated as local government corporations, but in the past two to three years, there has been an increasing realization in China that changes in the assignment of property rights of TEs may be necessary and desirable if they are to continue to be a strong engine of rural growth. Since late 1997, many of China’s TEs have undergone significant organizational changes, which are likely to have far-reaching consequences for the distribution of well-being within the locality and the distribution of power within enterprises and within society.

The project, with field sites in Shandong and Jiangsu, seeks to: 1) identify the process and the main methods used to reassign property rights in TEs; 2) explore and analyze the reasons for the reassignment of property rights in TEs and why some forms of reform are preferred over others; and 3) examine the distributional consequences of property rights reform. The project is in collaboration with Paul Bowles and Fiona MacPhil of the University of Northern British Columbia, Xiaoyuan Dong of the University of Winnipeg, the Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, and the University of Shandong.

The second project is “Land Use Change in a Rapidly Urbanizing Chinese Countryside.” Since the mid-1980s, rapid social and economic changes in China’s countryside have caused land use patterns to alter in dramatic ways, particularly in those regions where development has been most rapid such as the coastal provinces. The project seeks to: 1) estimate (using information from landsat images and land cadastral surveys) changes in land use pattern in one south Jiangsu township from the mid-1980s to the late 1990s; 2) understand how land use planning and management are done at the
township and village levels; and 3) analyze how land use has been influenced by demographic, economic and institutional changes since the mid-1980s. The project is in collaboration with George C.S. Lin of the University of Hong Kong and the Nanjing Agricultural University. If additional funding is obtained, the project will be extended to study land use changes in other parts of China. Sites under consideration include the Pearl River Delta, the North China Plain, Shandong Peninsula and the Sichuan Basin.

In addition to these two research projects, Ho has submitted the following research applications:

1) to the International Development Research Centre for funds (i) to develop and maintain a collaborative research network of self-funded Asian and Canadian research teams that will work on aspects of rural change in China; (ii) to undertake a research project on the property rights reform in the township-village enterprise sector; and (iii) to undertake a pilot project on changes in land use patterns in south Jiangsu. Awarded $237,550 for the period July 1998 to June 2001.

2) to the Hong Kong Research Grant Council (jointly with George Lin of the University of Hong Kong) to fund a full scale project on changes in land use patterns in China. Application judged “fundable but not funded.” Application has since been revised and resubmitted.

3) to the CIDA Transport and Communication Project (jointly with George Lin of the University of Hong Kong) to fund a project on transportation and land use transformation in south Jiangsu. Pending.

His other activities include the following collaborative work:

1) with Alison Bailey, James Caswell, Glen Peterson, and Catherine Swatek to organize an interdisciplinary conference entitled “Memory, Modernity, and Millennium in Post-Mao Culture” to be held at UBC on 9-10 April 1999.

2) with scholars in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore to develop research projects on rural change (as part of his duty as Project Director of the IDRC-funded Rural Change Project).

In 1998, Ho finished the manuscript for Sustainable Economic Development in South China (with Y. Y. Kueh) which has been accepted by Macmillan. The publication is forthcoming.

Kyung-Ae Park, Korea Foundation Chair for Korean Research since 1993, received a 1997-98 UBC-HSS Research Grant to continue her ongoing research on “North Korea’s Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era” and “The U.S. and North Korea: Rapprochement Emerging?” She also received a small grant from the Centre for Korean Research to prepare two research proposals: “North Korea’s Foreign Policy in the 1990s” to analyze how domestic political imperatives motivate North Korean’s foreign policy behavior in the post-Cold War Era and “When and Why North Korea will Cooperate: Implications for U.S. Policy” to discern why North Korea exhibited cooperative behavior toward the U.S. and South Korea in the 1990s and what would induce cooperative policy initiatives from North Korea.

Her publication in 1998 was “South Korean Women in Politics,” resubmitted with revision to Journal of Asian Studies.

Park was also invited to attend and deliver papers in the following lectures: Invited participant, “Roundtable on North Korea,” with the Canadian Foreign Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, The Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 22 May. Invited speaker, “Impact of Unification on North Korean Society,” The Central Intelligence Agency of the USA, Arlington, Virginia, 10 March. “Changes in U.S.-North Korea Relations,” Centre for Korean Research, UBC, 27 February. Invited discussant, “Comprehensive Security and Multilateralism in Post-Cold War East Asia,” The Korean Association of International Studies, Seoul, Korea, 13-14 November. Park contributed her service to the UBC community by serving in the IAR Director Search Committee, participating as a member of the Institute of Asian Research Advisory Council and as a member of the Management Committee, Center for Korean Research. Her service to the scholarly community included serving in the following positions in 1998: Vice President, The Association of Korean/American Christian Scholars in North America; Member at Large, The Comparative Interdisciplinary Studies Section, International Studies Association, 1998-2000; Editorial Advisory Board, Korea Observer and Korea Forum; Regional Conference Director, Korean-American University Professors Association; Governing Board member, The Association of Korean/American Christian Scholars in North America; and General Secretary, Research Council on Korean Reunification.


Masao Nakamura, Konwakai Chair in Japanese Research, continued his research in the areas of Japanese technology management, and Japanese business and economic behavior. These topics constitute the integral parts of the courses on new product development and international business he regularly teaches in the Faculty of Applied Science and Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration. He presented invited papers in a seminar at Kobe University Research Institute for Economics and Business Administration in March, in the Asia Pacific Meeting of the Japanese Association of Canadian Studies in April and in an International Conference on Displaced Workers which was sponsored by the Upjohn Research Institute and held at McMaster University in September.

His papers which were published in 1998 are the following: “Adoption of Just-in-Time

Nakamura has also received the following research grants: “Foreign Direct Investment, Ownership Structure, and Dynamic Performance: Applications to Japan’s Inward and Outward FDI in Manufacturing,” Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada ($42,500 for 1998-2001); and “Internationalization of the Japanese Business System, Any Lessons for Asia?” The Japan Foundation ($24,200 for 1998-99). He also serves on the editorial boards of the following journals: Managerial and Decision Economics (Advisory Editor, May 1988-date) and Scottish Journal of Political Economy (Editorial Advisory Board, December 1998-date).

B. Research Centres

Centre for Chinese Research
Director: Dr. Samuel P.S. Ho

Of the five IAR constituent centres, CCR has the largest following on campus with more than a hundred members among the faculty and students. In 1998 it sponsored 11 seminars and five conferences/workshops. The highlight of the year was the international Workshop on Cross-Strait Relations. It attracted some of the best scholars working on the topic from both sides of the Pacific, drew a large and appreciative audience, and was the first conference on cross-strait relations held in Canada. The Centre sponsored one workshop outside Vancouver—the IDRC project workshop that was held on 12-14 November in Prince George in connection with the IDRC rural transformation project.

Centre Seminars, Workshops, Conferences

The dominant themes of the CCR seminars throughout the year focused on transitional politics in Hong Kong, political liberalization in the PRC and Taiwan, China’s role in the Asian financial crisis, city planning in the rapidly urbanizing mainland, and cross-straits relations between the mainland
and Taiwan. The seminar and conference speakers included the following: David Zweig (University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong) started the spring term with a talk “Will China Liberalize?” In contrast to popular opinion that economic liberalization will inevitably lead to political liberalization, Zweig argued that the industrial policies China is pursuing preclude the development of the political element—a large and politically viable middle class—required to link market reform and democratization. As long as the political and economic elite continue to obstruct the shift toward free-market capitalism, the fledgling Chinese middle class would remain a small and unlikely force for political liberalization.

Mike Yang (Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society) gave a talk on Taiwanese politics “The End of KMT Hegemony? The Political Outlook in post-election Taiwan.”

UBC’s Institute of International Relations and Faculty of Law along with the Canada and Hong Kong Project (Toronto) sponsored the Hong Kong Workshop (20-21 February), bringing together journalists and scholars from both sides of the Pacific to review developments in Hong Kong since the June 1997 HK hand-over to the PRC. In a similar vein, Po-Keung Ip (Dean and Professor, School of Arts and Social Sciences, The Open University of Hong Kong) addressed the growth of civil society in Hong Kong.

China’s growing importance and potential influence in the global economy was even more evident during the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Fan Gang (National Economic Research Institute, China Reform Foundation, Beijing) discussed China’s relative immunity from the Asian contagion, whether the Chinese currency would be devalued, the short- and long-term impacts of the crisis on China’s growth and prospects for reform and continued growth in 1998. The legal aspects of economic reform were covered by Xia Zhenfa (Central Prosecutors’ College of China in Beijing) and Vincent Yang (International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy in Vancouver) in a talk about issues of anti-corruption in Chinese economic reforms.

Adding a political perspective, David Hsieh (staff correspondent, Asiaweek, China) spoke on developments in Chinese politics since 1997 and China’s adjustment to changes in East and Southeast Asia after the recent financial and currency crisis.

The strategic concerns of the region were addressed during the Workshop on Cross-Strait Relations held 21-22 August at UBC. It brought together scholars (and some government officials in a non-official capacity) from Canada, the People’s Republic of China, Taiwan, and the United States. While the strategic aspects of cross-strait relations and media coverage of the issue dominated much of the discussions, participants also explored a number of other issues such as the perspective of Taiwan and Beijing and its impact on cross-strait relations, the effect of the Hong Kong transition on these relations and the implications of cross-strait relations on U.S. and Canadian policies.

Other talks and seminars sponsored by the CCR examined issues regarding culture, sociology, and the environment. Yuan-Ming Chang (Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society) traced the evolution of Taiwanese folk songs and popular music. Lanyan Chen (Dept. of Sociology, University of Victoria) spoke on ways credit cooperatives can improve gender relations in China.

Daniel Abramson (Killam Postdoctoral, School of Community and Regional Planning) examined Chinese urban redevelopment and neighborhood change. Similarly, Jiang Xu (Ph.D. candidate, Centre of Urban Planning & Environmental Management, University of Hong Kong) discussed land use planning mechanisms in China after 1978.
**Centre Publications**


Samuel P.S. Ho, see Endowed Chair for Chinese Research report on pp.8-9.

**Visiting Scholars**
Te-mei Wu, Sun Yat-Sen Graduate Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, National Chengchi University.
Liang-Kung Yen, Department of Public Administration, National Chengchi University.
George C.S. Lin, Department of Geography & Geology, University of Hong Kong.
Xianlin Song, School of Humanities, Murdoch University.

**Postdoctoral Fellow: Shi Chen**
c) Reviewed the manuscript “The Fifteenth Congress of the Chinese Communist Party” for *Pacific Affairs*.
d) Prepared a research proposal entitled “Striving for an International Transportation Centre: The Leadership of Party Technocrats, Market-oriented Reform, and Transportation Planning in Shanghai” for the CIDA project on Transportation in China.
e) Worked on a research proposal on the relationship between local governments and Township-Village Enterprises (incomplete).
f) Attended two conferences (on cross-strait relations and on Australian and Canadian approaches to Asia) and a series of seminars called “Urban China in Transition.”

**Visiting Graduate Students**
Lisa R. Mar, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, University of Toronto.
Jiang Xu, Ph.D. Candidate, Centre of Urban Planning & Environmental Management, University of Hong Kong.
The Centre for Japanese Research has had an active year in promoting disciplinary and interdisciplinary academic research on Japan by UBC faculty members, graduate students and visiting scholars. Specific research projects and seminars that have taken place at CJR are listed below. One of our new outreach programs was a CJR Saturday Forum in February to which government and business policy makers were invited. The Forum included seminars on the deregulation of electric power and the currency crisis in Asia by two well-known academics. (See below for details.) The CJR was also fortunate to have been chosen by Mr. Junzo Yamazaki, a noted Kicho (traditional silk screen) artist from Kyoto, Japan, to be the depository site for two of his Kicho pieces. These Kicho screens, which are commercially valuable also, will decorate CJR and will be loaned out to various UBC cultural events. The CJR has also been selected to host the Japan Studies Association of Canada Annual Meeting in the year 2000.

Research projects
The research projects being supported by CJR this year are the following: the Nikkei population in Canada (M.Creighton); Japanese foreign direct investment in Pacific Rim (D.Edgington); Asian Library Japanese archives (T.Gonnami); comparison of elderly care in Canada and Japan (B.Lee); Namban art (M.Matsumoto); Columbia University Press modern East Asian literature project (J.Mostow, S.Orbaugh); corporate shareholding in Japan (Ph.D.thesis,K.Nakano); Japanese overseas production and the domestic labor markets (J.Ries); elderly Nikkei immigrants in Canada (Ph.D. thesis, Y.Shibata); environment and firm management (Ph.D. thesis, T.Takahashi); Ainu in Japan (Ph.D. thesis, S.Tanaka); ecological footprints of Japan (Ph.D.thesis,Y.Wada); NYK’s participation in global trading networks (W.Wray). In addition CJR supports collaborative research on the Bean map collection at UBC (Mostow, Matsumoto, Edgington, Hur, Gonnami, Orbaugh and others) and business/economic history project (Ries, Nakamura, Wray and others). Additional long-term research topics are under consideration. A CJR team has received a research grant from the Japan Foundation on “Internationalization of the Japanese Business System, Any Lessons for Asia?” ($24,200 for 1998-99) (M.Nakamura (project director), D.Edgington, M.Kohno, J.Ries, W.Wray and collaborators in Japan). M.Nakamura also received a research grant to study Japanese foreign direct investment from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Seminars
The CJR organized the following seminars and workshops in 1998 to which the public was invited.

14 January. “Growth and Transformation in a North Pacific Resource Regime: Japan’s International Fisheries,” Roger D.Smith, Department of History and CJR, UBC.
28 January. “The Ainu and New I: Rethinking Tsuruga,” Sherry Tanaka, Faculty of Graduate Studies and CJR, UBC.
31 January. CJR Saturday Forum. The seminars presented were: “Deregulation of Electric Power: North America and Japan,” Takahide Niimura, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering,
UBC; “Post Currency Crisis in Asia: Long Run View and What Needs to be Done,” Bernard Yeung, University of Michigan Business School.


7 August. “Political Participants of Japanese Women in Local Politics,” Sumiko Yazawa, Professor of Sociology, Tokyo Woman’s Christian University (Tokyo Joshi Daigaku).

4 September. “Canada-Japan Relations and Japanese Canadians in the Post-War Canadian Society,” (a seminar jointly supported by the Japan Foundation and the Consulate General of Japan), Masako Iino, Professor of American History, Tsuda College (Tsudajuku Daigaku), Tokyo.

16 September. “The Mysterious Case of the Vanishing Conservative Hegemony under High Economic Growth in Japan: Is Japan an Exception?” (A joint seminar with the Department of Political Science), Masaru Kohno, Political Science and CJR, UBC, and Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo.


6 November. “Science and Sexology in Edogawa Ranpo’s Kotou no Oni,” James Reichert, Stanford University.


20 November. “Keiretsu and Relationship-Specific Investment: A Barrier to Trade?” (Faculty of Commerce Policy Seminar, Henry Angus Penthouse), Barbara Spencer, Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration.

Publications


M. Nakamura: See his publication list on pp.11-12 of this Annual Report.


Academic Visitors
In 1998 the CJR was host to these visitors from Japan: Takashi Toyoda (Hosei University), Shinsuke Ikeda (Osaka University), Katsuzi Tanaka (Okayama University of Commerce), Kunitoshi Suenaga (Doshishya University), H. Chinen (University of Ryukyu) and Kazuko Aso (Tohoku Sensyu University).

Centre for Korean Research
Director: Dr. Yunshik Chang

On 10-12 May the Centre for Korean Research hosted the 4th Pacific and Asian Conference on Korean Studies. Funded by a U.S. $100,000 grant from the Korean Research Foundation in Seoul, this conference brought together 95 scholars from nine countries to discuss “Korea Between Tradition and Modernity.” This is the fourth time this international Korean studies conference has been held but only the first time in North America (previous meetings were in Hawaii, U.S.A. in 1992, Tokyo, Japan in 1994, and Sydney, Australia in 1996). Moreover, it was the largest gathering of Korean studies scholars ever held in North America. Scholars from Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, China, England, and Kazakhstan, as well as Canada and the United States, presented papers on Korean history, literature, religion, politics, sociology, linguistics, economy, demography and education. A collection of the most outstanding papers presented at this conference will be edited by the Centre for Korean Research and published in time for the 5th Pacific and Asian Conference on Korean Studies to be held in Beijing in the year 2000.
Grants:
CKR allocated $15,000 out of the 1997-1998 budget for supplemental support of UBC Koreanists’ projects. The following faculty members and graduate students and their research topics are the recipients of this year’s grants:

(Faculty)

(Graduate Students)

Guest Speaker Series:
Yong Sun Kim, Advisor, LG Academy, Seoul, Korea, and Executive-in-Residence, Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration, UBC, “The Cultural Crisis Behind the Current Economic Crisis,” 20 February.
Doo-Sub Kim, Prof. of Sociology and Demography, Hanyang University, and Visiting Scholar, Dept of Anthropology and Sociology, UBC, “Son Preference of Koreans and the Regional Differences in the Sex Ratio at Birth,” 23 April.
Saehyang P. Chung, Associate Professor of Fine Arts History, “New Findings on Kim Hong-do’s Genre Painting,” (Korean Culture Program Lecture Series sponsored by the Korea Foundation), 22 October.
The Hon. Sung Hoon Kim, Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Korea, “The Role of Korea and Canada in the Northeast Asian Economy,” 28 October.
Kwangyul Peck, Economic Adviser to the Minister of Finance of Canada and Member of Board of Directors at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, “Asian Economic Crisis, Its Cause, and Future Impact on the Political Economic of Korea,” 6 November.

Faculty Seminar Series:


Tae Oum, Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration, “Korea’s Strategy for Liberalization of the East Asian Air Transport Market and the U.S. Open Skies Initiatives,” 24 March.

Individual Activities:


Nam Lin Hur

Ross King
Eunkyu Lee
Served as a member of organizing committee and a session chair for the 4th Pacific and Asian Conference on Korean Studies held at UBC on 10-13 May.

Insun Lee
Taught Korean Language at Harvard University, June-August. Taught a cross-cultural communication training course for businessmen at Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre (David Lam Centre for International Communication), September-December. Development of training material for businessmen is in progress. Currently engaged in a research project on the significance of cross-cultural/linguistic influences in second language acquisition.

Steven Lee

Outreach Program
CKR invited Mr. Kwang-il Kim, the director-designate of the Artist’s Village (near Taejon) and a renowned artist of the tanso, to perform traditional Korean Music on 20 March at Asian Centre Auditorium.

Others
President Martha Piper presented at the opening ceremony of the 4th Pacific and Asian Conference on Korean Studies a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Sah Myung Hong, Director-General, the Korea Research Foundation, in recognition of his contribution to the promotion of Korean Studies overseas.

Centre for India and South Asia Research
Director: Dr. John R. Wood

During 1998 the Centre for India and South Asia Research continued to actively promote research and teaching on South Asia, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. CISAR
encourages and gives financial support to individual UBC faculty and graduate student South Asianists and also organizes seminars, workshops and conferences that involve scholars from other Canadian as well as foreign universities. The Centre also provides the link between UBC academics and scholarly institutions in Canada such as the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and the South Asia Council of the Canadian Asian Studies Association. CISAR further maintains close ties with governmental agencies of both Canada and India, with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in South Asia and with the Indo-Canadian communities of Vancouver and the B.C. Lower Mainland.

**The South Asia Seminar**

CISAR’s bi-weekly South Asia Seminar features presentations by UBC and visiting scholars on a wide range of topics. In the Spring term, Rina Mitra, a visiting scholar with considerable experience in the Indian Police Service, spoke on efforts to contain the Naxalite movement in eastern India. Vinay Gidwani, a post-doctoral student in Economics presented a paper on “The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Development: A Case from Beed District, Maharashtra.” Prof. Minoti Chakravarty-Kaul of the University of Delhi spoke on “Customary Law and Common Property Resources.” Prof. Gurharpal Singh from De Montfort University presented a paper entitled “Rethinking Conventional Wisdom: Ethnicity, Ethnic Conflict and India as an Ethnic Democracy.” Finally, Fr. Dominic George, Rector of Loyola University, Trivandrum, presented a paper on “Slum Women Gaining Respect and Claiming Resources in the Cities of Kerala.”

We began the fall term with our traditional South Asian Luncheon meeting, attended by over fifty CISAR faculty, research and graduate associates and other interested persons. We were privileged to have the Consul General of India in Vancouver, Shri Atish Sinha join us, as well as a former Consul General, Shri Jagdish Sharma, recently India’s Ambassador to Hanoi, who presented his new book on Hindu Temples of Vietnam.

In the fall, the South Asian Seminar featured a number of distinguished speakers, including Dr. Pam Rajput of Punjab University, Chandigarh, who spoke on “Mobilizing and Empowering Women at the Grassroots in India.” Vasant Saberwal, a Research Associate at the Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, presented a film and talk on “Pastoral Politics,” a study of land use practices by the Gaddi community of Himachal Pradesh. Dr. Susantha Goonatilake of the New School of Social Research, New York, gave a seminar on “Tedious Fiction: The Anthropology of Sri Lanka Amidst Global Civilizational Shifts.” Dr. Susheela Kaushik, the Shastri Institute Distinguished Speaker for 1998 spoke on “Enhancing Women’s Participation in Indian Politics.” Balraj Puri, the well-known human rights activist and journalist from Jammu, gave a talk on “The Future of Kashmir in Post-Nuclearized South Asia.”

**Conferences and Workshops**

The first workshop of the year entitled “Communities in Transition: The South Asian Diaspora in British Columbia,” was jointly hosted in February by CISAR and the Progressive Inter-Cultural Community Services Society. The workshop was organized by Dr. Tony Beck along with research associates of CISAR.

A conference entitled “Fluid and Contested: Tradition in South Asia” was organized in March by Drs. Mandakranta Bose, Katherine Hacker and Laurence Preston. Exploring continuity and change in the intellectual and imaginative traditions of South Asia from a variety of theoretical and empirical perspectives, the conference included papers by James Gough (Philosophy, Red Deer
Various members of CISAR attended the Spring meeting of the South Asia Colloquium of the Pacific Northwest (SACPAN) at the University of Washington, Seattle in February. CISAR carried on the bi-annual tradition with a Fall meeting of SACPAN at UBC in October. It featured Dr. Denise Nuttall of Anthropology, UBC, speaking on “Touching Feet: On Becoming a Disciple in India,” Dr. Divya McMillan of Communications, University of Washington (Tacoma) speaking on “Television and National Identity in India,” Dr. Stacy Pigg of Anthropology, Simon Fraser University, speaking on “Sex as a Development Problem: Radio Sex Education and AIDS Prevention in Nepal,” and Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar, Director of the Multiple Action Research Group, New Delhi, speaking on “Public Interest Litigation in India: the Case of the Bhils of Khandesh, Maharashtra.”

In December CISAR associates participated in the annual Vancouver forum of South Asia Partnership Canada on “The New Alliance: Local Government and Community Activism in Canada and South Asia” and hosted a reception for the participants at the C.K. Choi Building.

Ongoing Research Projects
During 1998 CISAR’s roster of associates included 17 faculty associates (of whom 7 were emeriti) and 8 post-doctoral research associates. From among our 23 graduate student associates, two new Ph.D.s were graduated (Haider Nizamani, Political Science and Denise Nuttall, Anthropology and Sociology) and three M.A.s (Carole Bullen, School of Community and Regional Planning, and Michael Dodson and Sukhi Hothi (Asian Studies).

In co-operation with the School of Community and Regional Planning, some members of CISAR, led by Dr. Barrie Morrison, are assisting with the formation of post-graduate training programs in community planning in three Sri Lankan universities. The five-year project is administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and is supported by a CIDA grant.

In co-operation with the Sustainable Development Research Institute, some members of CISAR, led by Dr. Gisèle Yasmeen, are participating in the Sustainable Cities Project, which features comparative urban environmental research in five countries: India, China, Mexico, South Africa and Canada. The India research is located in Bangalore, where UBC scholars will be partnered with researchers from the Institute of Social and Economic Change, the Tata Energy Research Institute and TIDE, a Bangalore NGO. A CIDA grant has enabled one project workshop to be held at UBC in October, to be followed by another in Bangalore in February.

Awards
During 1998 three CISAR associates (Evelyn Nodwell, Denise Nuttall and John R. Wood) won Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute fellowships enabling field work in India. Drs. Mandakranta Bose and Barrie Morrison held Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada fellowships. Amongst our graduates, Michael Dodson has won a Cambridge University fellowship which will support his Ph.D. studies in History at Cambridge.

Publications

**Directors’ Activities**

During the period 1 September 1997 to 31 August 1998, CISAR Director Prof. John R. Wood was on sabbatical leave in India and Dr. Mandakranta Bose was Acting Director. Dr. Bose was extremely busy during the first eight months of 1998, especially with the work of organizing the “Fluid and Contested: Tradition in South Asia” conference. For the Institute of Asian Research, Dr. Bose published The World My Mother Gave Me: Asian Women’s Perspectives and Perceptions in Literature, which includes essays on literary texts from China, Japan, Korea, Indonesia and India. In addition to carrying out her own teaching, research and publication—which included four articles in 1998—she created a new program for the Institute of Asian Research called the Program in Intercultural Studies in Asia (PICS).

While on sabbatical, Prof. Wood conducted field research on the politics of water resource development in Gujarat, India on a Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute research fellowship. The research included studies in thirteen villages in both the arid and the water-abundant parts of the state and intensive investigation of the Government of India’s watershed development and participatory irrigation management programs. A paper based on this research was presented at the Co-operative Management of Water Resources Conference and will be published soon.

For the last four months of his sabbatical Prof. Wood moved to Almora in the Himalayan foothills and wrote seven chapters of a manuscript tentatively entitled: “Narmada: The Politics of Water Resource Development in India.” During 1998 Prof. Wood also edited with Prof. Hugh Johnston Managing Change in the 21st Century: Indian and Canadian Perspectives, the proceedings of a Shastri Institute conference held in conjunction with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien’s 1996 “Team Canada” visit to India. In addition, a paper on Canada-India relations presented by Prof. Wood at the conference on the 50th Anniversary of Indian and Pakistani Independence was published both in Canada and in India during 1998.

**Fund-Raising**

No funds were raised for CISAR’s endowment during 1997-98 and Prof. Wood is currently working with Sharlene Hertz and a new committee formed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies to try to close the gap of approximately $150,000 remaining in CISAR’s $1 million campaign. When the $1 million target is reached it will be matched by the university and CISAR will be able to fill the Asa and Kashmir Johal Chair in Indian Research. The remainder of the endowment will generate funds to cover our administrative and activities expenses. Currently, most of the interest generated by the existing endowment is being re-capitalized, while some is used for CISAR running expenses.
A dominant theme in the seminars sponsored by the Centre for Southeast Asia Research in 1998 has been the environmental impact of rapid industrialization. While the rates of economic growth in the region have been stunning, the financial crisis has split open societal and political cleavages that had been under increasing pressure due to an unequitable distribution of political and economic power. While some of the talks have focused on these problems, others have addressed the alternate forms of creating and understanding a national identity that is not merely predicated on formal legal or economic definitions.

Ian Townsend-Gault (director, Centre for Asian Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, UBC) examined advances in law-making and governance in Vietnam since the adoption of the policy of doi moi, illustrated by reference to key sectors, including issues arising from the protection of the environment, and the roles played therein by different levels of Vietnamese government and society and the donor community. Chris Bennett (Forestry Policy Analyst, Consultant to Harvard Institute for International Development) presented a talk on community forestry in Indonesia from whose experience lessons could be drawn for other Southeast Asian countries.

Do Thi Binh (director, Vietnam’s Centre for Family and Women Studies) used a gender perspective to analyze the various causes, impacts and policy recommendations emerging from the poverty situation in Vietnam.

In March, CSEAR and Dept. of Agricultural Economics co-sponsored a panel discussion entitled “The Current Economic Crises in Indonesia” that addressed exchange rates, financial sector, agriculture, forestry and trade policy issues. Participants included David Bond, adjunct professor, Commerce and Business Administration, Terry McGee, director, Institute of Asian Research, Maurice Levi, professor, Commerce and Business Administration, Rick Barichello, associate professor, Agricultural Economics, Chris Bennett, Indonesian Forestry Project consultant and Geoff Hainsworth, director, CSEAR.

An associate professor of Asian literature at UC Berkeley, Sylvia Tiwon presented a seminar entitled “A Crisis in the National Imagination of Indonesia: A Discourse on Nation and Gender” in which she explored the construction of gender and cultural resistance in Indonesia.

As in all developing countries, changing land-use in rural areas is an important economic, environmental, social and political issue. Takaaki Niren (Dept. of Environmental Planning, School of Environmental Science, University of Shiga Prefecture, Japan) analyzed trends and the meaning of transformations in Thailand’s rice production sector.

Mubariq Ahmad (executive director, Indonesian Ecolabelling Institute) discussed developments within Indonesia’s dawning “Era Reformasi” after the end of Suharto’s 32-year presidency, during the economic crisis and political uncertainty. He considered the prospects for meaningful and fundamental policy reform in forestry and agriculture.

Meth Kusumahadi (director of SATUNAMA—an autonomous, independent NGO), a specialist in small enterprise projects and cooperative and community incentive programs, also spoke on the crisis in Indonesia. He concentrated on localized strategies for alleviating impoverishment and discussed future prospects and options.

Soak Koon Wong (professor at the Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang) analyzed feminist politics from a Malaysian perspective, rejecting the tendency of Western feminism to over-generalize and...
apply ethnocentric concepts that do not necessarily apply in a non-Western context. She highlighted some strategies used by women in ASEAN countries to empower themselves and re-examined some value-loaded terms like “silence,” “patriarchy” and “veiling” using examples from current literary works by Malaysian writers.

Hank Lim (National University of Singapore) outlined the impact of the financial and banking collapse in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia and concluded that because of Singapore’s proximity to these countries, their economic revival and political stability are vital to Singapore.

Publications


Research grants
The first Hampton Grant to CSEAR, 1996-98, “Upland Resource Management for Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction in Vietnam” ($74,000), was terminated and the end-of-project report was submitted 31 March. An end-of-project report was also submitted the same day to the Canada-ASEAN Centre for its Operational Grant to extend CSEAR institutional linkages with partner institutions in Southeast Asia ($45,000). CSEAR submitted an application for a Hampton Grant in October to launch a new interdisciplinary research project entitled “Surviving the Southeast Asia Crisis” ($80,000). Activities and Projects
CSEAR sponsored the initial liaison and negotiations to launch a Philippine Studies Program, the first of its kind in Canada. CSEAR also collaborated with the Centre for Human Settlements in drafting the proposal and launching the new CIDA project “Localized Poverty Reduction in Vietnam: Capacity Building.” Also completed in 1998 was a year-long project “Teaching Program in Agricultural Policy using the Policy Analysis Matrix” with Departemen Pertanian Indonesia/Stanford University/USAID. The project leader was Scott R. Pearson from Stanford University.
Future Directions in 1999
CSEAR will host a major international conference, 22-24 October, on “Emerging Southeast Asian Identities in an Era of Volatile Globalization.” This will be a joint conference of the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies (CCSEAS) and the Northwest Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies (NWRCSEAS). CSEAR will also launch a broad interdisciplinary research project on “Surviving the Southeast Asian Crisis: Regional, National and Localized Impacts, Responses, and Coping Mechanisms.” This will use the October 1999 conference to bring together a group of current and recently graduated students with CSEAR faculty associates and colleagues in Southeast Asia to form an interdisciplinary research team who will submit a five-year major grant application to funding agencies in 1999. CSEAR will formally inaugurate its new Philippine Studies Program with faculty and student exchange invitations to participate in the October conference and to plan further exchange and collaborative research activities.

CSEAR faculty and student associates will actively participate, in association with the Centre for Human Settlements, in implementing the new CIDA-funded technical assistance project in Viet Nam on “Localized Poverty Reduction in Viet Nam: Building Capacity for Policy Assessment and Project Planning.” Additional CSEAR-sponsored research will be undertaken on Poverty Reduction in Viet Nam, building on the foundations laid by the field research completed under the Hampton Grant (1997), and the subsequent research involved in drafting the UN Human Development Report (1998). This project will involve faculty and student associates in collaborative field research with colleagues in Vietnam, to be funded by further contracts with the UN and other donor agencies.

C. Programs of the IAR

1. CAPRI (Canada Asia Pacific Research Initiatives) is the Institute’s public policy program which focuses on research on contemporary issues affecting the Asia Pacific region. Established in 1993, it publishes an occasional paper series and hosts the International Associates Forum which promotes mutual understanding between Canada and Asia through long-term visits to UBC of Asian government officials, corporate leaders and academic researchers. This year, it distributed “Canada, the Asia Pacific Region and the New Regionalism” a paper by Xavier Furtado of the Yuchengco Center for East Asia at De La Salle University, Philippines. It was host to Mitsuhiro Kawamoto, a senior researcher at Takugin Research Institute, Co. Ltd. of Sapporo, one of the largest think-tanks in Japan doing economic and social development research.

2. CPIRD (China Program for Integrative Research and Development) is the Institute’s program that deals with interdisciplinary studies on the transformation of China into a modern society. It is funded by proceeds from an endowment grant. This year it presented three seminars, jointly with the Centre for Chinese Research: “The Asian Financial Crisis and its Impact on China” by Fan Gang of the National Economic Research Institute, China Reform Foundation, Beijing; “Issues of Anti-Corruption in On-going Economic Reform in China” by Xia Zhenfa of the Central Prosecutors College of China in Beijing, with Vincent Yang of the International Centre for Criminal Law in Vancouver; and “Comparative Institutional Advantage: Hong Kong vis-à-vis Shanghai and Singapore” by Yiu-Kwan Fan, dean of School of Business, Hong Kong Baptist University.

3. CAS (Centre for Australian Studies) established in 1997 under the IAR’s public policy program, is not in the same category as the five constituent centres of the restructured IAR. CAS is a special APEC legacy project following a bilateral agreement between Canadian Prime Minister Jean
Chrétien and Australian Prime Minister John Howard. The project focuses on environmental and sustainable development issues affecting Canada, Australia and the Asia Pacific region. It has no permanent source of funding and operates on an ad hoc basis. The project is coordinated by Terry McGee. This year CAS sponsored a conference jointly funded by Monash University and UBC on “Canadian and Australian Approaches to Asia in an Era of Unstable Globalization.” It also presented two seminars on land use planning by Jean Hillier of Curtin University, Perth and on Australian Film Education by Annabelle Sheehan of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School.

4. PICSA (Program in Intercultural Studies in Asia) was first established in 1996 in the IAR as the Cross-Cultural Literary Studies Group directed by Mandakranta Bose. It was renamed PICSA in 1998 and Bose continued to be its coordinator. This year it published the proceedings of its 1996 Conference on “The World My Mother Gave Me” about mother-daughter relationships and Asian women’s perspective of the world. Its other activities included a seminar series on story-telling cultures of Asia, an Asian film festival, a writer-in-residence program and an international conference on traditions in South Asia. PICSA is primarily funded from the operating account of the IAR on a year-to-year basis. It focuses on cultural studies in Asian literature and humanities.

5. AMRC (Asia Multimedia Resource Centre) has been the Institute’s physical hub of digital activity since its inauguration in 1996. In this computer lab members of the Institute work on theses, do internet research, e-mail in Chinese, Japanese or Korean and surf the Net. AMRC staff Lisa Kwan and David Floren ensure the smooth application of technology to the AMRC’s objectives of research, networking, publishing and information dissemination. This year they redesigned the IAR web-site making it easier and faster to see the major links. They also upgraded the publishing capabilities of the Mac computers to enable the IAR to do most of its pre-press publishing in-house. They designed and built an electronic bulletin board for coming events such as seminars and conferences as well as major headlines of the day in Asian news.

6. Publications - The Institute of Asian Research has signed an agreement with UBC Press making UBC Press the exclusive distributor of all IAR publications starting 1 June 1998. IAR publications are now listed in the UBC Press Catalogue as well as in the IAR web site (www.iar.ubc.ca) with an order form which can be completed online and sent directly to UBC Press.

New Books - Joseph Ejercito “Erap” Estrada: The Centennial President by Aprodicio and Eleanor Laquian is a personal behind-the-scenes account of the 1998 campaign that elected Estrada as the 13th President of the Philippines. The authors served as personal advisers to presidential candidate Estrada while on leave from the IAR. The book was published jointly by the Institute of Asian Research of UBC and the College of Public Administration of the University of the Philippines. It is available through UBC Press in Canada and at major bookstores in Manila. See also new publications by Mandakranta Bose on pp. 36 and 43, and by Geoff Hainsworth on p. 40.

Acting Philippine Consul General Bayani Mercado donated a set of Filipiniana books to the IAR. Other book donations were from former Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Heeney and Letty Shea, author of of the book Muji Tiannan—View of the Southern Skies: The Lingnam School of Painting.

8. Community Outreach - Each year the Institute celebrates an Asian festival as its main socio-cultural event and community outreach activity for the year. In 1998 the Institute held a Lunar New Year Festival to greet the Year of the Tiger on 28 January with more than 250 people participating from on and off campus. The day-long festivities featured Asian foods catered by Asian restaurants in Vancouver, cultural presentations by UBC students and Asian community performers, Asian art works and handicrafts from the Asian community artists, origami demonstrations, Asian films on the big screen, photo exhibit and book sale. A day-long computer technology demonstration on how to research Asia on the Net was conducted by Lisa Kwan and David Floren.

9. Student Links - The Pacific Rim Club of UBC with its multi-ethnic Canadian members has been linked with the Institute of Asian Research since the club’s founding in the early 1980s. It has an office in the C.K. Choi Bldg. and assists the Institute with its conference and other special events by providing enthusiastic volunteers to help with logistical arrangements. Pacific Rim Club also prepares a listing of scholarships, travel and fellowship opportunities as announced by donor agencies and publishes the list in the IAR web page.

The Graduate Students Network, established in 1996, also has an office in the Choi Bldg. It provides the Institute with a pool of graduate students doing research on Asia. It holds an annual two-day conference where the members present papers and exchange information on their various projects and countries of interest. In 1998, the conference was titled “Instant Asia: Constructing New Identities in an Era of Globalization” and was funded from the Institute’s operating account.

10. Exhibits - A custom-built hanging system for up to 24 framed paintings has been installed in the main lobby of the C.K. Choi Bldg. The basic display unit is made up of three different components which can be adjusted in height and width to accommodate different sizes of artwork frames. The steel rod hangers are attached to the wood beams in the ceiling and are removable after use. Also installed in the lobby are two accordion-type display modules, one with five and the other with four frames for posters, flyers and photo exhibits. Both hanging system and display modules were designed and developed by George Yu. The Institute is now able to sponsor painting exhibitions and other art displays in the lobby of the C.K. Choi Bldg. Asian artists are encouraged to exhibit their works here to promote Asian culture in B.C.

D. Administration and Budget

The Institute has the overall responsibility for the management of personnel and budget of the IAR and its centres and the administration of its various programs listed above. Each of the centres is
administered by an executive committee in charge of formulating the Centre’s own policies and programs.

1. Personnel - a number of personnel changes occurred in 1998.

a) Nina Halpern, holder of the Louis Cha Chair in Chinese Research, resigned from UBC effective 1 July 1998 to pursue a career outside academia. The search for a new holder of the chair will be initiated in January 1999 by the incoming IAR director, Pitman Potter.

b) Graham Johnson was appointed IAR faculty associate so he could continue to run his China Transportation Project in the IAR. The project proposal was submitted while Johnson was still director of the CCR.

c) The advocates of gender equity in the Centre for Southeast Asia Research got a boost with the July appointment of Leonora Angeles to the School of Community and Regional Planning as assistant professor of gender analysis in international development. She is helping CSEAR with the 1999 NWRCSEAS Conference and its research proposal for Hampton funds.

d) A recent Ph.D. graduate from the University of Toronto, Shi Chen, was appointed as a visiting postdoctoral fellow in the CCR from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. Chen’s research interest are contemporary Chinese politics and society. While at the IAR, he will continue his research on “State and Civil Society: The Making of ‘Civilized Communities’ in Shanghai, 1985-1995.”

e) Pierre Fallavier, who with Lisa Kwan served as guardian of the AMRC (Asia Multimedia Resource Centre) since 1996, graduated from SCARP and was replaced by David Floren. Users of the AMRC were glad that Lisa decided to pursue graduate studies at UBC so they can still avail of her services as computer technician, trouble shooter, patient tutor to computer illiterates and expert adviser on Powerpoint, Pagemaker, Photoshop and other applications.

f) Three work-study students were hired by the IAR: Su Yun Myong for the newsletter; Carolyn Ng for special events and Derek Bideshi as caretaker.

g) The year of El Niño and La Niña was a children’s year of sorts for the IAR as well. Geoff Hainsworth’s daughter Susie made him a grandfather for the first time with the birth of Sean. Eleanor Laquian also became a first-time grandmother with the birth in June of Ellie Flagg to her daughter Helen. Eleanor’s eldest son George also got married this year making the Laquian home an empty nest. Another empty nest belongs to the McGees. Terry McGee’s eldest son Tyler got married this year; his daughter Katrina almost flew the coop as well by opting for her own apartment while attending UBC. The apartment is in the basement of Terry’s house! Dulce Amba, a student assistant, gave birth to a baby boy (Vino) and Natalia MacArthur, a former research assistant, gave birth to a baby girl (Ann) also this summer. You Tien Hsing of the CCR management committee had her first baby, Tingting, in April. After a string of grandsons, Ed Wickberg was delighted to have his first granddaughter this year.

2. Budget - The Institute had an operating budget of $549,085 in 1998 of which $416,143 were for salaries of faculty and staff and $132,942 for supplies, equipment, communication and other operating expenses. In addition, it received $380,457 in research grants and contracts for 1998 out of a total award of $1,353,121 in grants for projects ongoing for three years. It also received $388,857
in endowment income for its five constituent centres and $78,500 from external sources for conference sponsorships. Total funds available to the Institute in 1998 were $1,396,899.

3. Building Management - The multi-function rooms on the ground floor of the Choi Bldg. received 196 bookings during the year and earned $3,022 of which $912 paid for caretakers and technicians. The total room rental, including rent of audio visual equipment, left for the Institute was $2,110. This money was used to publish and distribute the Asia Pacific Report newsletter and to fund the Institute’s annual community outreach event, the Lunar New Year festival.

IV. Future Activities and Research

On Building a Research Culture
by Terry McGee
(Reprinted from the Asia Pacific Report, Vol.22, No.2 Fall 1998)

These are uncomfortable times for universities as they enter the 21st century. Many of the comfortable assumptions that have dominated the processes of education and research are being questioned as universities reevaluate their roles in the face of fiscal cutbacks, demands for increasing relevance and the need to retool an increasingly aging faculty in time when new recruitment is limited. For some critics universities are seen as increasingly outmoded institutions in which the new tools of the virtual knowledge network can replace the face-to-face interaction of teacher and student or groups of researchers. In this situation the idea of a university as a place becomes increasingly replaced by the idea of the university as part of a network of exchanges and pooled knowledge. This perception is fueled by the ideas of globalization and internationalization which demand that some form of new research culture be created.

For someone like myself who has spent the last 45 years in universities located in various parts of the Asia Pacific region, it has not always been easy to grasp how this new research culture will reshape the 21st century university. I had been brought up with the idea that research culture needed time to develop in situ and rested upon the acquisition of knowledge in close association with teachers and the subjects about which you acquired knowledge. This was particularly the case with the acquisition of knowledge about places other than your own. As I proceeded through my university life this acquiring knowledge about ‘other places’ became dominated by the paradigm of ‘area studies’ which spawned Departments of Asian Studies and courses on, for example, Chinese civilization. Central to the pursuit of Asian studies was the acquisition of language skills and cultural understanding often based upon long periods of residence in the area of expertise. In most cases this approach necessitated interdisciplinarity or at least the interaction of faculty and students based in disciplines.

When I came to UBC twenty years ago to the Institute of Asian Research, the paradigm that dominated the research culture of the study of Asia was essentially that of area studies. UBC was one of the top universities in the English-speaking world in the study of Asia (still is) and was particularly well known because it was the home of one of the top journals dealing with the Asia Pacific region—Pacific Affairs in which UBC Asianists were frequent contributors. I knew the names and work of Wickberg, Woodside, Ho and many others long before I decided to come to

UBC in 1978. Essentially, the UBC researchers and their students operated in area clusters and this tradition has continued greatly strengthened by the addition of faculty and library resources and the wonderful Asian Studies library. It has been formally embodied in the Institute’s Centres which today carry out an active program of research, seminars, publication and interaction with the wider public. Their activities are listed in the IAR’s website and can be easily consulted. This is an important part of the Institute’s research culture and gives it remarkable strength.

But in the period from 1980 onwards, the intellectual paradigm for the study of other places based on ‘area studies’ has come increasingly under attack. For some critics, it is seen as ‘colonial’ to study other places from outside. For others, the time taken to become an ‘area studies expert’ is too long. Far quicker results can be obtained by obtaining information from researchers in ‘other places.’ Finally, the growth of globalization and internationalization shifts emphasis to interaction between societies in trade and investment, information transfer and the movement of peoples. This involves both a ‘problem’ and a systematic approach. Over the years, the IAR has developed a strong thrust of research in these areas emphasizing trade and investment, cross-cultural studies in literature, urbanization, Canada-Asia relations and various facets of development. This research has involved a mix of systematic specialists and area studies experts within the University. It has drawn a great deal of its impetus from the booming economies of much of the Asian region over the last two decades.

The ‘fiscal meltdown’ in certain Asian countries which is now threatening global stability has added another dimension to these intellectual paradigms which suggests the emergence of ‘multimodernism’ and polycentred global order in which the collaboration of ‘area studies’ researchers, indigenous and foreign, will be an essential part of acquiring knowledge. Asia, with 60 percent of the world’s population, is undergoing change in an era of extraordinary global volatility and the need to understand these developments will not go away. The need to learn about, interpret, understand and inform about this region will be a fundamental element of the knowledge that is needed in the 21st century.

This returns me to my original point about the uncomfortable times for universities. Faced with the emergence of a ‘polycentred world’ it may be tempting for universities to dismiss the ‘global regions’ that are experiencing economic downturn and place greater emphasis upon other regions. Indeed one sees this at UBC with the emergence of a new Institute for European Studies and arguments for greater content on curriculum in the United States. While I see these developments as intellectually and pragmatically justified, there is certainly a need to engage the emergence of ‘global polycentrism’ in relation to the universities’ existing resources and strengths. This means continuing a focus on Asia which has been developed over the last 40 years.

I leave the directorship of the Institute convinced that we have created the institutional framework and have the human resources to play an important role in research on Asia in the 21st century. I am grateful to the University administration and three deans of the Faculty of Graduate Studies for their support. I thank the faculty and students involved in the Institute, the totally dedicated and highly professional staff of the Institute and the many donors to the Institute particularly the C.K. Choi family. I know that the new director, Pitman Potter, will build upon these foundations and continue to enrich the research culture that has been developed.