



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

**UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE  
ENGAGEMENT WITH ASIA**

**REPORT FROM MELBOURNE  
INSTITUTE OF ASIAN LANGUAGES  
& SOCIETIES 2004-5**

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## Executive Summary

The range of activities undertaken by MIALS academic staff in recent years shows a deep commitment by staff to their academic discipline and the community generally, but also to a broadening and strengthening of the University's engagement with the Asia-Pacific.

MIALS staff have received international recognition and funding for a range of projects, particularly in the fields of

- Radical Islam, Australian Security, New Democracies and Political Economy in the Asia-Pacific.
- Endangered Languages and Cultural Heritage of the Asia-Pacific region.
- Performance, New Media, Cross-cultural Communication, and Asian Language Pedagogies.
- Health, Disaster and Reconstruction in the Asia-Pacific.

Research projects funded by the ARC, Ford Foundation, UNESCO, the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project, the Taiwanese CCK Foundation, the Japanese government, the Japanese Foundation and the United States Department of Education National Endowment for the Humanities have brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars in research funding into MIALS in recent years.

MIALS staff contribute to Australia's intellectual life and knowledge of Asia in a range of activities such as continual demand for media appearances, the Muslim-Christian colloquium, consultancy work for professional associations, programs with schools, and language testing for the community.

MIALS staff actively assist the University's International Office in enabling institutional links with Asian universities, in carrying out translation work, meeting visiting delegations, offering advice on protocol, assisting with Asia-related pedagogies, and similar. Intra-University country forums provide an opportunity for academic staff within UM to conduct dialogue on a range of cross-disciplinary topics. The intensive research collaboration between MIALS staff and universities in the Asia-Pacific further consolidates the University's range of international links with the region.



(Prof) Michael Leigh, Director, MIALS

## 2. NEW MIALS INITIATIVES FOR 2005

### Asia Literacy Awards

As part of the University's engagement within the Asia-Pacific region, the Melbourne Institute of Asian Languages and Societies has set aside a total of thirty tuition-free places in its Asian language programs. The languages presently taught are Japanese, Chinese, Arabic and Indonesian.

Continuing staff of the University (academic and general) are eligible to apply. Application forms will be available from MIALS in August 2005, for the 2006 academic year.

Staff studying the language will not be formally enrolled, but will be assessed on their prior level of linguistic competence, attend all classes, complete assignments and the exams – and will receive a certificate from MIALS. Prior to commencement of study, their Head of Department will be asked to indicate that time will be allowed for class attendance and examinations.

Language acquisition is a means to enhance research capacities and Asia literacy.

### University Tsunami Response

In March 2005 MIALS Director Professor Michael Leigh carried out an analysis of the impact of the tsunami on education in Aceh, Indonesia. This work was supported by the Faculty of Arts and the University's Tsunami Task Force. Professor Leigh had earlier been stationed in Banda Aceh for two years and was responsible for the program for the development of the social sciences throughout Indonesian Universities, Islamic Institutes and Teachers' colleges.

Based upon a wide range of interviews with leaders of community groups, officials and the leaders of the local Universities and Islamic Institutes his report recommended the establishment of an Education Research and Training Institute to provide 'hands on' training of University teachers and researchers. The Myer Foundation has agreed to support this initiative, and AusAid are positively evaluating the project, as it is a co-operative venture by Australian Universities with particular expertise on the region.

The Institute will allow:

1. *En situ* training of lecturers and staff to teach, supervise and research, and result in the creation of a growing core of well-trained health workers, teachers, social workers, economists, entrepreneurs, ICT professionals, sociologists, engineers and scientists.
2. Building a teaching and research capacity in Banda Aceh, capable of understanding the social and cultural impact of the tsunami, formulating policy responses based upon hard evidence, and working with civil society groups enhancing the opportunities of conflict resolution and monitoring the process of development.
3. Creating a capacity that will draw scholars from outside the province, and thereby ensure that Acehnese have every incentive to return after overseas training.

Professor Leigh was invited to the round table on post-tsunami educational capacity building in Chicago and has delivered a series of presentations on 'Aceh, Indonesia post-tsunami' at Universities with a strong interest in Southeast Asia, including the

Universities of Washington, Wisconsin and British Columbia. The plans are developed in conjunction with Monash, Victoria, Sydney, ANU, UTS and UNSW, and staff from each of those universities will participate in program delivery.

The program addresses meeting key needs over the next five years especially those of the present generation of secondary school students and those already enrolled at University in Aceh, who are severely disadvantaged.

#### Centre for the Study of Contemporary Islam

The Centre for the Study of Contemporary Islam (CSCI) has been established as a joint centre located in both the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Arts (at the Melbourne Institute of Asian Languages and Societies (MIALS) at the University of Melbourne.

Given global events over the last few years, Islam and Islamic studies have received renewed attention. The Centre aims to facilitate and support Islam-related research and education projects across the University, particularly those related to contemporary Islamic thought. It also aims to improve Australian understandings of Islam, both within the University and throughout the wider community.

The CSCI has been established to:

- consolidate and support several strong, Islam-related research programs extant within the University; and
- develop expertise and research strengths in one of the most important global areas of interest: contemporary Islamic thought.

The Islam-related programs available at Melbourne are already recognised nationally and internationally (especially those in MIALS and Law). Their linkage under the auspices of a new Centre will enable the University to enhance its already strong presence in this area; and to develop them further in a more systematic way.

The Director of the Centre, Professor Abdullah Saeed, is the Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies and Head of Arabic and Islamic Studies at MIALS. The Deputy Director, Professor Tim Lindsey, is Professor of Asian Law and Director of the Asian Law Centre in the Faculty of Law.

The CSCI will organise regular activities, including an annual conference and public seminars. It will also regularly host visits by renowned international scholars. If you would like to be included in the Centre's mailing list, please contact [csci-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:csci-info@unimelb.edu.au)

### **3. MAJOR FUNDED AND/OR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS**

MIALS staff are undertaking significant projects in the Asia-Pacific region, many with the support of substantial external grants and involving national and international collaboration.

Radical Islam, Australian Security, New Democracies & Political Economy in the Asia-Pacific

Professor Arief Budiman of MIALS has been awarded \$160,000 from the ARC for a two year project, “**Radical Islam in Indonesia: Latent External Threats for Australia**”. This project seeks to investigate the national and regional dynamics of radical Islam in Indonesia, which has re-emerged following the collapse of the authoritarian New Order regime in 1998. The main aim of the research is to examine the events and ideas that have contributed to the radicalisation of Islam in Indonesia, and the factors (domestic and international) that have triggered its most recent manifestation.

Professor Abdullah Saeed is engaged in his ARC grant funded project, “**Reconfiguration of Islam by Muslims in Australia**”. His project will examine how - and whether - Muslims who have grown up in a secular Western democracy, in this case Australia, reconfigure normative Islam so as to facilitate active membership in the wider society. He will focus on how Islam and Muslim identities are re-configured by long-term Muslim residents and local converts, in contrast to those whose Muslim identity was largely shaped outside of Australia. Understanding how Muslims reconcile Islamic identity with active membership in the wider society has important implications for the future of Australia as one of the most successful multicultural democracies.

Professor Michael Leigh is engaged in research on “**The Political Economy of Malaysia and Indonesia: how the regions impact upon the Centre**”. His research centres upon resource politics in the east Malaysian state of Sarawak and the 'state' of Aceh Darussalam in Indonesia. The study covers the past thirty-five years, the period of massive resource exploitation in the region, and focuses upon the interplay of political and economic sources of power. Authoritarian rule is one theme that unites the two states, but that follows very different formats. Both states source nationally-strategic LNG exports, and their timber resources have been largely appropriated for private benefit. Sarawak provides the commercial dynamo and entrepreneurship to shape the global tropical timber trade and that resultant wealth is manifest in many ways, including local ownership of the global overseas Chinese language newspaper network.

Dr Ariel Heryanto of MIALS, together with Vedi Hadiz of the National University of Singapore, are collaborating on a project, “**Social Movements in Post-Authoritarian Conditions: The Case of Indonesia**”, with the assistance of an International Collaborative Research Grant. This project aims to assess the post-authoritarian situation in Indonesia in the light of the experiences of Thailand and the Philippines, two societies in which the unravelling of authoritarianism has also been followed by the rise of formal electoral politics. An outcome of the project will be published in the journal *Critical Asian Studies* (Routledge) Vol. 37, No. 2 (June), 2005.

His new book *State-Terrorism and Identity Politics in Indonesia: Fatally Belonging*, published by Routledge (2005) will be launched in October 2005.

Dr. Siapno's current research projects includes “**Dance, Movements, and Visual Symbolism in East Timor**”, funded by UNESCO (2004-5), and a six-volume *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, published by Brill in Leiden. Her work

as Associate Editor is supported by Ford Foundation Grants (US\$65,000, 1999-2006). In 2004, she co-edited a book with Masako Ishii on “Between Knowledge and Commitment: Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Peace Building in Regional Contexts” (Osaka: Japan Center for Area Studies), comparing post conflict reconstruction in East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq. She has also conducted extensive research as a consultant on capacity building in the public sector for UNDP, on women and rural development for Oxfam and Concern Worldwide, and on women and political ethics for UNIFEM.

The Miegunyah Fellowship for 2005 focused on a theme highly relevant to the research of MIALS staff. Professor Azumardi Azra, the Rector of Universitas Islam Indonesia accepted a Miegunyah Fellowship for March-April 2005. He presented on the subject of “Islam, Secularism and Terror in Southeast Asia”.

#### Endangered languages & Cultural Heritage of the Asia-Pacific Region

Many MIALS staff members are engaged in major long-term projects investigating endangered languages in the Asian region and the cultural heritage of the region. Current projects include architecture, religious practices, rituals, oral culture and belief systems, many of which are threatened by the approach of modernity or are a crucial part of the cultural inheritance of the region. The projects have received funding from the ARC, international bodies, and the University.

Professor William Coaldrake is engaged in a long-standing research on the Taitokuin Mausoleum of shogun Tokugawa Hidetada and work on the restoration of its 1/10th scale model in the British Royal Collection, now in storage at Windsor Castle. The model was made in 1910 for display at the Japan-British Exhibition. It is a large scale structure in its own right, lavishly decorated and now the definitive source for the original mausoleum, which was destroyed during the fire-bombing of Tokyo in 1945. He is completing the draft of a major book on **the history of Japanese art and architecture** from earliest times to the present day, commissioned by Phaidon Press in London as part of the prestigious 'Art and Ideas' Series. During the 2005-6 academic year he will hold the post of Edwin O. Reischauer Visiting Professor of Japanese Studies at Harvard University where he will teach a graduate course 'Monumentality and Modernism in Japanese Architecture' in the fall and an undergraduate course 'Dynamics of Japanese Architecture' in the spring. Harvard will host an international symposium on his research on the architectonics of Japanese art early in 2006.

Dr Michael Ewing, (with Margaret Florey, Simon Musgrave, Betty Litamahuputty, & Nikolaus Himmelmann) “**Endangered Moluccan Languages: Eastern Indonesia and the Dutch Diaspora**”. This project aims to document five previously undescribed languages: Allang (Ambon Island), Haruku ( Haruku Island), the language spoken in the villages of Amahei, Makariki, Ruta, and Soahuku ( Seram Island), Nusalaut (Nusalaut Island), and the language spoken in the villages of Tenga-Tenga, Tial, Tulehu, Liang and Waai ( Ambon Island). This project is supported by an ARC Grant and the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project.

A/Prof Sander Adelaar and Dr Michael Ewing are engaged in a project, “**Dialect variation in Javanese: an integrated historical-linguistic and typological**

**analysis**". This project is the first systematic investigation of dialect diversity in Javanese, the language with the most native-speakers in Southeast Asia. The goal is to examine phonological, lexical, and grammatical variation in Javanese dialects, make a genetic classification, and reconstruct pre-Javanese. This study will shed new light on the typological evolution of Javanese, the honorific speech registers, the socio-historical relationships between Javanese regions, and the mechanisms behind language contact in Indonesia.

Supported by an ARC Discovery Grant, Professor David Holm is engaged in several research projects involving the Zhuang people of south China. The Zhuang are a Tai-speaking people and the most populous of China's minority peoples. He is currently engaged in the following projects: "**Zhuang Ritual Texts: Spirit Mediumship and Taoism in South China**", "The Old Zhuang Script: a Vernacular Character Script from Southern China" and "The Language of Song Markets in Guangxi, Southern China". A major aim is to provide the wherewithal for a decipherment of the old Zhuang character script, to present evidence for the age of the script, and to describe the social and political conditions that gave it birth and influenced its development. The project on Taoist spirit mediumship aims to document the textual and performance traditions of four kinds of religious practitioner in a single locality, and to trace patterns of interconnection and mutual influence through a close study of oral and written texts.

Dr Anne McLaren is investigating "**Oral Performance, Textuality and Marriage in Shanghai counties and Beyond**", as part of a CCK Foundation project in the popular culture of late imperial China. Many of the traditions of this highly modernised region of China are in rapid decline or have been transformed by the needs of the new commercial and tourist economy. Anne McLaren has been collaborating with scholars at Shanghai universities since the early 1990s on such topics as the bridal laments of Nanhui and surrounding areas, marriage by abduction, levirate marriage in the delta in pre-modern times, and the narrative songs of the Wuxi area.

The languages and cultures of south China, particularly their little known links with the S.E.Asian region and their role in the evolution of Chinese languages generally, is the focus of three MIALS research projects. Luo Yongxian has been conducting ARC funded research into "**The Sino-Tai connection from a historical-comparative perspective**". His project involves long-term collaborative research with Professor Li Jinfang of the Central University for Nationalities in Beijing on a language known as Buyang in southwest China.

Dr Wu Yunji is engaged in another project in the languages and dialects of south China. Her project, "**The Waxiang language in western Hunan: a linguistic window on Archaic Chinese and the evolution of Sinitic languages**" investigates a dying language spoken in a remote mountainous area in western Hunan, China. The objective is to find out what the grammar and cultural history of Waxiang can reveal about the evolution of the Chinese language, to precisely identify its Archaic Chinese strata, and in this way to advance our understanding of the evolution of Sinitic languages.

Dr Du Liping is investigating a project, "**Traditional Medicines and Medicine Markets in China**" with assistance from the CCK Foundation. He will carry out

fieldwork investigations of medicine markets in China, with particular reference to the Jingxi medicine market in Guangxi province, south China. This market was one of the few of its kind in traditional Guangxi, and is the only one still in existence. An important goal is to explore the nexus between local, indigenous medical traditions and the wider national system of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

Dr Justin Tighe is a MIALS staff member with strong interests in north China, especially the contentious northern border region. He is researching “**The politics of territorial and spatial representation within Chinese nationalism**” with a focus on the history of Inner Mongolia and the Chinese Northwest. Related interests are regional Chinese studies; ethnicity and “minority nationalities” in the Chinese context; memory, oral history and Chinese revolutionary historiography; and modern state formation and nationalism in China and Inner Asia. He has just completed a book on the Inner Mongolian province of Suiyuan during the Republican era published in the prestigious Brill Sinica Leidensia series (2005).

Performance, new media, cross cultural communication & Asian language pedagogies

Dr Carolyn Stevens is under contract with Routledge to write a book entitled *Japanese Popular Music*. The book will explore Japanese identity through music, consumption and fan organization, the structure of the industry, the role of technology, and how language is used in pop music. Dr Stevens has made a recent presentation at the Japan Anthropology Workshop conference in Hong Kong on translation in Japanese pop music. She is also convening a panel at the Japanese Studies Association of Australia in July, 2005, on “Reconciling Language and Culture”, co-presenting with Dr Mariko Kubota. MIALS staff Dr Sayuki Machida, Dr. Jun Ohashi and Atsushi Takagi are also presenting

Dr Sayuki Machida is conducting research into an area of practical application for students of Japanese. Her project, “**Reading comprehension of Japanese Texts: Role of vocabulary in text comprehension**” has received support from the Japanese Government Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research. This project explores the relationships between vocabulary knowledge and text comprehension in a case of Japanese as a second/foreign language. A second project, “Integrating collaboration into tertiary education – A case of a Beginner’s Japanese language course” examines the introduction of collaborative learning into a beginner’s Japanese language course through students’ satisfaction (perceived achievement) and teacher’s assessment (their course achievement).

With the support of a Japan Foundation Fellowship, Dr Jun Ohashi is investigating “**Comparative pragmatic study of Japanese and Australian speech act of thanking**”. Cross-cultural research on communicative acts of thanking has been given too little attention. Thanking appropriately in a certain situation in a given culture requires profound knowledge about relevant linguistic expressions, social norms and convention, and how situational factors are interpreted in a given situation. This project will investigate what language practices are considered as thanking in Japanese and Australian society.

Sachiyo Sekiguchi is interested in the use of new media to provide online learning experience in language learning. Her project, “**Virtual Babel: an online community for second language learning**”, has received \$15,000 from the University ITMM.

The purpose of the “Virtual Babel” project is to create an online community for second language learning purposes. The community will occupy space in virtual reality (VR) designed and developed with Adobe Atmosphere, a Web-authoring tool for creating 3D environments. As the project matures, the web-based 3D community will be joined by learners, native speakers, and experts in other parts of the world. The goal is to create opportunities for target language immersion, as language learners and other members of the community collaborate to accomplish naturalistic tasks requiring communication and negotiation.

Atsushi Takagi is another MIALS staff member with well-established research in methodologies of online teaching. As part of his doctoral research, he has had preliminary discussions with three Japanese universities with a view to establishing student-to-student online. The intention is to make **computer-mediated communication** (CMC) become an established part of the Japanese language program.

Diane Manwaring is engaged in a long-term project with Assoc. Prof. Cathie Elder of the Faculty of Education at Monash University, “**Metalinguistic knowledge amongst undergraduate students of Chinese**”. The intention is to investigate the relationship between grammatical knowledge in both English and Chinese and proficiency in the Chinese language. The most recent publication from this project deals with the development of a validated test to determine the knowledge of Chinese grammar amongst UM students of Chinese. This study appeared in the UK scholarly journal, *Language Awareness* in 2004.

Dr. Ariel Heryanto is invited to convene a panel “**New Media, Pop Cultures, In(ter) Asia**”, in the Conference “Southeast Asia, A Global Crossroads”, hosted by SEASREP, 8-9 December 2005, at Imperial Mae Ping Hotel Chiang Mai, Thailand. The panel seeks to make a comparative analysis of the recent outburst of pop cultures in Asia, and raise theoretical and methodological questions that may inspire new ways of investigating this new territory. Dr. Heryanto is also invited to screen and to give a background briefing of the Indonesian film *Pachinko* (directed by Harry Suharyadi, set entirely in Japan with the dialogues entirely in Japanese) to The Japanese Studies Association of Australia Conference, at The University of Adelaide from 3-6 July 2005.

#### Health, disaster and reconstruction in Asia

Dr Andrea Whittaker, joint staff member of MIALS and the Key Centre for Women’s Health, has won ARC funding for a project, “**Infertility, IVF and Reproductive Tourism in Thailand and the Region**”. The goal is to understand the experience of infertility and assisted conception in Thai society through case studies of rural and urban couples experiencing infertility, a study of private IVF clinics, and an examination of ‘reproductive tourism’ for fertility treatment. The current proposal continues Dr Whittaker’s ongoing interest in the social and moral meanings of women’s bodies and reproductive health.

Dr Charles Schencking, joint staff member of MIALS and the History Department, has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship to conduct a research project entitled “**Rebuilding the Capital, Reconstructing the Nation: The 1923 Kantô Daishinsai and the Political and Ideological Use of**

**Catastrophe in Japan**’. This project examines the 1923 Tokyo earthquake and subsequent reconstruction process as an arena of political, ideological and cultural opportunity and contestation. It will document how individuals and organizations attempted to use the reconstruction process to not only influence the rebuilding of Tokyo but to shape, in a much more significant sense, national reconstruction. The findings will form a cornerstone of a revolutionary new approach in disaster studies that will illustrate how state actors and individuals use catastrophes for political and ideological purposes.

In 2005, Dr Charles Schencking and three Melbourne University Postgraduates (Janet Borland, Caroline Spencer and Chris Mullis) have been invited to attend a International Workshop at the National University of Singapore on **Disasters in Asian History, Culture, and Memory** which is being supported by the Asia Research Institute (ARI) of the National University of Singapore and will result in an edited volume entitled ‘States of Emergency: Disasters in Asian History, Culture, and Memory’.

#### **4. INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES**

##### Australia Indonesia Muslim Exchange

In 2002, in partnership with the ANU, MIALS initiated and undertook to manage on behalf of the Australia Indonesia Institute an exchange program for young Indonesian and Australian Muslim leaders. Funding has been renewed for 2005/6 (\$143.820).

Under the program young Muslim leaders from Indonesia and Australia visit each others’ countries for approximately two weeks to meet both Muslims and non-Muslims to exchange views and share experiences. The purpose of the program is to raise the level of informed opinion about Islam and Muslims in both countries, to increase awareness about the diversity of cultures and faiths in Australia and Indonesia, to show how these various groups communicate and cooperate with each other, and to encourage the development of links between Australian and Indonesian Muslims.

Since the Program’s inception in 2002 thirty-five young Indonesian Muslim leaders have visited Australia and two groups of Australian Muslims have travelled to Indonesia. As a result of their visits to Melbourne, a number of Indonesian participants have expressed interest in pursuing postgraduate studies at MIALS.

MIALS has been a strong supporter of the project, which has established itself as the Australia Indonesia Institute’s flagship program, since its inception.

Discussions in MIALS are an important feature of the program for both Indonesian and Australian participants and MIALS provides substantial, core administrative support for the planning and management of all visits under the program.

##### Partnership in Education and Training of Regional Islamic Institutions

This project is designed to upgrade the qualification of selected teaching staff at Islamic educational institutions (IAIN/STAIN) outside Java, and thus improve the quality of Islamic education in Indonesia.

The program is funded by DFAT [\$246,000] and jointly coordinated by MIALS and the Faculty of Asian Studies, ANU. The objective is to provide an opportunity for bright young Indonesian masters' degree graduates from Islamic Institutes to visit Australia for one year, to experience first-hand Australian postgraduate training, and to familiarize themselves with day-to-day living in an Australian context. This project promotes cultural awareness and serves to enhance Indonesian/Australian relations, as well as to build future educational exchanges and programs.

From 2004 to 2005, Indonesian postgraduates sent to Melbourne within this program have been working with Professor Arief Budiman and Professor Michael Leigh from MIALS, together with Professor Tim Lindsey (Law) and Associate Professor Howard Dick (Economics and Commerce) to extend their home-country Masters theses and to explore how to place their research projects within a comparative perspective. The participants have also been assigned student mentors from MIALS' Indonesian PhD candidates in order to assure a well-rounded educational and 'student life' experience, as well as to create a support network and environment. The next intake of students is in August 2005.

#### Collaboration in the Consolidation of Contemporary Asian Studies in Asia

Since 2002, Dr. Heryanto has served a member of the Executive Committee in the Board of Director of a Bangkok-based Asian Scholarship Foundation. With sponsorship from the Ford Foundation, this Asian Scholarship Foundation has provided research grants to hundreds of Asian scholars to study another Asian country, and hosted annual comparative Asian studies conferences in Asia.

#### Human Rights in Asia

In late 2003 Dr. Ariel Heryanto was a visiting professor at the Office of Human Rights Studies and Social Development, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand. Students in two classes that he taught came from several countries, mainly of Asia

#### Setting up pathways for MU research with China

The University of Melbourne has entered a formal agreement with leading research institutions in China to promote collaborative research in the humanities and social sciences. Professor David Holm, on behalf of the University, undertook extensive negotiations with Peking University and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in October 2004 leading to the signing of an MOU setting out a framework for collaborative research, the exchange of research information and materials, and visits by graduate students and research management staff. There are more than 130 minority languages in China, with several in danger of disappearing. MIALS staff member, Dr Luo Yongxian, together with Assoc. Professor John Hajek (Linguistics Department), received an initial funding of A\$10,000 from the University's institutional links with China program to work with the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in the field of minority languages in China.

Professor Holm also took part in the joint three day workshop held in October 2004, 'New Perspectives of Australia and China: Globalisation and Multiculturalism', hosted

by the Australian Centre at Peking University and the Australian Centre at the University Melbourne. Professor Holm chaired a session on future collaboration between Australia and China in the area of Australian Studies and action to be taken following the workshop.

#### Community-based Language Maintenance Training

The Endangered Maluku Languages research team, including MIALS staff member Dr Michael Ewing, together with Dr Margaret Florey and Dr Simon Musgrave of Monash University and Mw Drs Betty Litamahuputty of the Max Plank Institute, conducted a one week intensive workshop in Maluku, Indonesia in February 2005. Organised in cooperation with Pattimura University, Ambon, this workshop brought together professionals from Pattimura University and the Ambon National Library, older members of village communities who retain indigenous knowledge and younger community members with an interest in language and cultural maintenance. Training provided by the Australia-based research team covered topics of language documentation, understanding language diversity and change, and developing proposals for community-based language projects. Plans for further workshops in 2006 are under way.

#### Collaborative Research with Saga University.

Dr Mariko Kubota together with Prof. Takako Asaoka at Saga University Jun Yano at Monash University has won a Japanese government grant for a research project, "Training undergraduate students who can contribute to internationalization of Japan-through a short term study in Australia". The grant is worth 3.2 million yen (about \$40,000) for 2005, 1.52 million yen (\$20,000) for 2006, and 1.1 million yen (\$15,000) for 2007. Dr Kubota gave a seminar entitled, "International students learning at the University of Melbourne" at Saga University on 24 th of January, 2005.

#### International Collaborative Grant with Cambridge University

In 2004 Dr Charles Schencking and Dr Stephen S. Large (Cambridge University) received a University of Melbourne International Collaborative Research Grant to run from 1 August 2004 to 31 July 2005. The title of their collaborative research project is **Radical Right Wing Ideologies and Visions of National Reconstruction following the Grant Kantô Earthquake of 1923**. In December 2004 Charles Schencking conducted research at the Tokyo Institute for Municipal Research, the Tokyo Metropolitan Archives, and at Waseda University. Charles Schencking has a forthcoming article based on his research in the journal *Modern Asian Studies* entitled 'Catastrophe, Opportunity, Contestation: The Fractured Politics of Reconstructing Tokyo Following the Great Kantô Earthquake of 1923'.

#### Collaborative research in E-learning with Keio University, Japan

MIALS staff member Sachiyo Sekiguchi has been conducting collaborative research activities using video conferencing system and computer mediated communication technology, including 3D virtual reality technology, with Keio University in Japan since 2003. Professor N. Yuji Suzuki, Professor of Language and Linguistics at Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University, SFC, was invited to conduct two seminars, "E-Language in Action - Language, Communication", and "Next Generation Media: Theory and its Application to Language Education" at the University of Melbourne on 18 March 2005. University academics and Japanese language teachers at school level took part. Further seminars have been organised by

Sachiyo Sekiguchi at post graduate level for CALL programs at the University's Horwood language centre. The first interactive lecture via video conferencing system will be held on 14 November 2005. A/Prof Robert Debski of the University's Horwood Language Centre will address Keio University students.

Other 'spin-off' activities from this research project include the participation of Australian schools in the learning of Japanese via video conferencing. In November 2004, Sachiyo Sekiguchi organised a seminar for language teachers in Melbourne and Japanese schools via a video conference system. More than 40 teachers of languages from Australia and Japan participated in discussions through video conference system. The event was a great success; the participating schools continued their correspondence activities in 2005.

#### Collaborative project in IT learning with Nagoya & Kobe Universities

MIALS Japanese program staff member, Etsuko Toyoda, conducted IT collaborative projects with Nagoya Uni and Kobe Uni. Her students had real-time chat sessions on various topics with Nagoya Uni students using a 3-D virtual learning environment, which was developed by Nagoya University. The project with Kobe was similar to the above, but this time, BBS (bulletin board systems) were used. In this project, students from the two universities compared Australian and Japanese advertisements and discussed similarities and differences in real time.

Etsuko Toyoda is also serving as invited consultant in a large-scale project titled 'Japanese language teaching and technology', which is funded by the Ministry of Japan. The intention is to investigate the use of technology for Japanese teaching and learning in the Pacific region.

#### Graduate Students from Waseda University, Japan

The Japanese program hosts graduate students from Waseda University almost every year for a week in March. Waseda University is one of the most prestigious universities in Japan. This arrangement was made by personal connection between Prof. Satoshi Miyazaki and MIALS staff member, Dr Mariko Kubota.

## **5. INTRA-UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES**

#### New -Board for Asian Studies Interdisciplinary Major

The University's undergraduate offerings include a cross-Faculty inter-disciplinary major in Asian Studies, which is administered by staff in MIALS. The Asian Studies offerings at the University have long been noted as amongst the largest in the Australian university sector (the Ingleson Report). The Asian Studies major comprises units with substantial Asian content drawn from the Faculties of Arts, Economics and Commerce, and Law. In order to promote Asian Studies more broadly within the University, MIALS has set up an Asian Studies Board with representatives drawn from relevant areas. The Board met for the first time on 20 August 2004. Thirteen representatives attended.

The meeting discussed the problem of tracking a coherent major in Asian Studies, the problem of complex subject prerequisites in different disciplines, the relative lack of appropriate subjects at first year level, and how to better promote the study of Asia

within the University generally. The Board will work with the new Asia-Pacific website under development by the Faculty of Arts. The promotion of Asian Studies and languages throughout the University was also on the agenda of the recent round of MIALS-Asialink visits to Deans of all Faculties carried out in 2005.

MIALS staff will also participate in the Faculty of Arts new MA in International Studies. Dr Carolyn Stevens and Dr Anne McLaren will be presenting a seminar, "Globalised cultures, indigenisation & the nation state", within the first subject of the new MA: "Theories in International Studies".

#### Promoting Postgraduate Studies of Asia at the University

MIALS staff regularly provide assistance for postgraduate forums in Asian regional studies within and beyond the University.

A joint ANU/UM Postgraduate Workshop on Islam and Indonesia has been held each year since 2001. This year it will be held at the University of Melbourne and will be organised by the new Centre for the Study of Contemporary Islam. A Melbourne based Postgraduate Roundtable was held on two occasions in 2004. Keynote speakers included Professor Arief Budiman. The meetings attracted 30 participants from numerous universities in Victoria.

The Chinese Study Postgraduate Research Group is holding a forum specifically for postgraduates in conjunction with the Chinese Studies Association of Australia (CSAA) Biennial Conference. As CSAA Secretary, Dr Anne McLaren of MIALS has facilitated liaison between the Association and the Forum committee. MIALS staff with China interests will participate in this forum, which is to be held in late June 2005. Professor Ellen Widmer, (Wesleyan College, US), a specialist in Chinese history of the late imperial period, will be visiting MIALS in late June, 2005, and will be a guest of the Postgraduate Forum.

Dr Charles Schencking organised a panel for the **International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS4)** in Shanghai, with three University of Melbourne postgraduate students (Janet Borland, Caroline Spencer and Chris Mullis). Each will present work on their respective prospective projects associated with 'The Great Kantô Earthquake of 1923: Epicentre, Periphery, and Empire'.

#### Melbourne Asia Policy Papers

The Melbourne Asia Policy Papers aim to strengthen Australia's engagement with Asia through the publication and dissemination of a series of non-partisan policy options papers. Four times a year, leading international scholars and experts are invited to present a workshop examining different aspects of Australia's current relations with the Asia Pacific region.

At these workshops business, academic and government specialists debate a series of draft policy options prepared beforehand for discussion. Following the workshop the invited author produces a concise, 15-page policy paper for publication and distribution among leading government, media, academic and business officials in the region.

The Melbourne Asia Policy Papers is a joint initiative of the Melbourne Institute of Asian Languages and Societies, The Asialink Centre, The Asian Law Centre, The Asian Economics Centre and the Australian Centre for International Business at the University of Melbourne. The most recent papers are **The US, Taiwan and the PRC** by Professor Hugh White, **Trade in Services** by Professor Christopher Findlay and **Asian Languages in Australian Schools**: by Professor Joseph Lo Bianco

#### Research groups within the University of Melbourne

##### Indonesia Forum

The Indonesian Forum is an informal network of academics and administrative staff of the University who share a common interest and professional involvement with Indonesia. The Forum hosts major functions, which have brought together the wider Melbourne Indonesian and Indonesia-interested community of campus. MIALS staff have played significant roles in the leadership of the Forum. Dr Michael Ewing was convenor in 2002 and the current convenor is Prof. Sander Adelaar.

A major activity of the forum is to convene an annual postgraduate roundtable for students studying in Indonesia-related fields. The Forum also plays a policy advisory role on Indonesia-related issues within the University. It also maintains close links with the Indonesian Discussion Group, the Indonesian Postgraduate Students Association, University students from Indonesia and domestic students studying in Indonesia-related areas. The Forum receives support in its activities from Asialink.

Professor Arief Budiman runs a popular weekly Melbourne Discussion Group in Bahasa Indonesia. Invited speakers in 2004 included Dr Faisal Basri, chairperson of Indonesian Corruption Watch, and Mr Rafendi Djamin from the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute in Jakarta. The Forum maintains an email bulletin to keep members up-to-date with Indonesia-related events on campus and elsewhere, including Indonesia. Dr Michael Ewing is responsible for creating the new forum website, which provides Indonesia-related information to staff and colleagues from other institutions and prospective students.

Fuller reports can be viewed at:

<http://www.indonesiaforum.unimelb.edu.au/>

MIALS facilitated a number of Indonesian Forum seminars in 2004:

8 November: MIALS, with Asialink and the Department of Political Science:  
Ms. Felicidade Guterres, (Board Member, Uma Fukun Cultural Centre, East Timor;  
Senior Program Officer, Access to Justice Program, Asia Foundation): "Articulating Women's Voices in East Timorese Culture and the Arts"

8 November: MIALS, with Asialink and the Department of Political Science:  
Ms. Maria Gabriela Carrascalao, (Head of Radio and Television, Head of Public Information Office (UNTAET and UNMISSET), and Executive Producer, Portuguese Section, SBS): "Women's Roles in the Media in East Timor"

##### Vietnam Research Group

MIALS Principal Fellow, Adam Fforde, has helped to establish a Vietnam Research Group to bring together 35 scholars and postgraduate students in the Melbourne region engaged in research concerning Vietnam. Ten of the members are from diverse

areas within the University of Melbourne, including the Asian Law Centre, Economics, Anthropology and Architecture. The Group holds seminar and social occasions. In the past two years, MIALS and Asialink have hosted delegations from Vietnam, including in 2005, a delegation from the Vietnam Ministry of Finance. The Melbourne Law School ran a conference on Law and Governance: Socialist Transforming of Vietnam” in June 2003.

#### News item-Japanese Forum

The Japanese Forum is to be reinvigorated on the initiative of Dr Mariko Kubota and Dr Sayuki Machida. The first meeting, organized by Dr. Sayuki Machida, will be held in July 2005. The Forum comprises a network of scholars across faculties who are engaged in Japan-related teaching and research. Dr Machida can be contacted at sayuki@unimelb.edu.au.

#### Melbourne University Japanese History Seminar Series.

In conjunction with Asialink, Charles Schencking organized the inaugural Melbourne University Japanese History Seminar Series around the theme State, Society, and the Japanese Nation. Drawing on historians of Japan (both academic staff and postgraduate students) from the University of Melbourne and from around Australia, including Murdoch University, Sydney University, The Australian Defence Force Academy of the University of New South Wales, and Newcastle, this series has provided a unique and focused scholarly forum on Japanese history. The series will continue in 2006 with a further ten presentations organized around the theme Japan: Centre, Periphery, and Empire.

#### MIALS Staff-Student Research seminars 2004-mid 2005

18 March: Dr. Anne McLaren (MIALS) & Professor William Coaldrake (MIALS)  
“Academic supervision from a supervisor and postgraduate perspective”

30 April: MIALS Seminar Series: Dr. Adam Fforde, (MIALS) “Towards a South East Asian Notion of Development policy?”

14 May: Professor J. Bruce Jacobs, Monash University, “Democratisation in Taiwan”

28 May: Mr Abdurrahman Asroglu, (MIALS) “Reshaping identities: religion, ethnicity and culture among second generation Turkish-Australians”.

30 July: Mr Mark Crosbie, (MIALS) “Buddhist biography in Imperial China: Paradise postponed for the welfare of others?”

13 August: Mr Anthony Garnaut, (ANU) “Tomb networks, one pillar of Islamic community in Northwest China during the Republican period (1911-1949)”

8 October: Dr Carolyn Stevens, (MIALS) “Marketing a Pop Music Canon in Contemporary Japan”.

22 October: Dr Muhammad Kamal, (MIALS) “Mulla Sudra and the doctrine of trans-substantial change”.

29 October: MIALS Seminar Series: Dr. Ariel Heryanto: “Ethnic Diasporas as Cosmopolitans? Indonesian Chineseness, Citizenship, and Pop Cultures”

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11 March: Jin Yi (MIALS) “The Development of Chinese New Opera”.

18 March: Dr Chusnul Mari'yah, Director of IT, Member of the Indonesian General Election Commission (KPU) “Dynamics of Democratisation in Indonesia”.

18 March Yuji Suzuki (Professor of Language and Linguistics, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University) “E-Language in Action - Language, Communication and next Generation Media: Theory and its Application to Language Education”.

24 March: Lewis Mayo (MIALS / Leiden University) “Illness, threat and systems of authority in Dunhuang”.

29 April: Prof Satoshi Miyazaki (Graduate School of Japanese Applied Linguistics, Director of Institute of Australian Studies, Waseda University, Tokyo Japan)  
“A Close Look at Japanese Language Acquisition: *Why do Foreign Sumo Wrestlers (gaikokujin rikishi) Speak Fluent Japanese?*”

29 April: Professor Michael Leigh (MIALS) “Aceh, Indonesia: post-Tsunami”.

27 May: Ji Zhang (MIALS/Philosophy) “One and Many: A Comparative study between the Greek philosophy of Plato and Chinese Daoism represented by Ge Hong”.

#### Assisting the University’s international sector

MIALS members have long provided assistance to University sectors to internationalize promotion and curriculum material. In 2004-5 Professor Holm and other MIALS members have been engaged in such tasks as back-translating the Chinese-language version of the Universitas 21 Global website, translating materials relating to international research management issues for Roger Peacock, Vice-Principal (University Development) and bilingual versions of memorandums of understanding. In addition, MIALS Chinese program staff have assisted in the visits of a large number of delegations from China, including a visit by the President of one of China’s top universities, Tsinghua University, and delegations from Nankai University and Sichuan Nationalities University. Staff have also been in attendance at the meeting of the Vice-Chancellor with the Chinese ambassador.

#### Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence (Faculty of Arts)

In 2005, Charles Schencking was awarded the Arts Faculty Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence. His submission entitled 'Passion, Learning Processes, and the International Teaching and Learning Environment' focused on Charles' holistic, skills oriented, and process-based approach to teaching and supplemented his outstanding QOT survey scores that have exceeded the averages achieved by the History Department, MIALS, and the Faculty of Arts in every result (questions 1 through 5 and 9) in every subject he has taught since joining the university in 2000.

## **6. COMMUNITY & SCHOOLS**

### Muslim-Christian Colloquium

From 11-13 February 2004, nearly seventy leading community, religious and academic leaders from Australia, the Asia-Pacific region and the Commonwealth of Nations gathered at the University of Melbourne to discuss the evolving nature of Muslim-Christian relations in the new climate of international terrorism and to formulate a series of educational policy options to promote interfaith harmony. The event was organised by Asialink with assistance from MIALS. Professor Abdullah Saeed, together with Archbishop Peter Carnley AO gave the opening lecture at the conference, “Beyond the Headlines: Muslim-Christian Relations in the New Global Environment”.

The Indonesian Program runs an annual Indonesian Language Award for High School students in Melbourne. The students have to participate in an essay competition written in Indonesian. Ten winners are selected every year, 3 winners from each Level: Level 12, 11, and 10. Then one winner is chosen as the best amongst the 9 finalists.

### Fund Raising for Tsunami Relief

In March 2005 the Indonesian Program, together with Asia Link, the Indonesian Consulate General and the Victoria School of Languages organized a fund raising campaign for the tsunami victims. Secondary students (around 400) from Melbourne were invited to come to the University of Melbourne. Everyone paid \$10 to see an Indonesian art performances and enjoyed a boxed lunch. All performances were contributed from the Melbourne Indonesian community and the food was donated by Indonesian restaurants and supermarkets in Melbourne). The money raised (around \$4000) has been donated to the Indonesian government via the Indonesian Consulate General.

In 2005, Dr Charles Schencking worked with Professor Kate Darian-Smith and Melanie Siedel (Arts Faculty International Office) in establishing a international mentor and exchange programme with the Hwa Chong Institute of Singapore. Under this new programme in 2005, Charles Schencking has supervised two Hwa Chong high school students in with independent research projects related to East Asia and the Second World War.

### Online Learning for Schools

Etsuko Toyoda served as a subject matter expert in the Learning Federation (TLF) project which aimed to develop online interactive curriculum content specifically for Australian and New Zealand schools. The Learning Federation developed online learning materials for the learning of Chinese and Japanese characters. Etsuko Toyoda provided feedback at various stages of the development and also contributed as an editor.

### Language Competitions

MIALS Japanese program staff members regularly assist with Asian language competitions and testing for schools and the community.

A Chinese proficiency test known as HSK is conducted by the Chinese Ministry of Education. The MIALS Chinese program is involved in organizing the HSK examination held at Melbourne on an annual basis. Every year students win HSK scholarships to go to China to pursue their language study. Zsofia Szabo, Honours student in Chinese, has recently won a HSK scholarship. It will allow her to study in China for six months from late 2005-6.

The MIALS Japanese program administers a prestigious international test in the Japanese language to members of the Australian community on an annual basis. MIALS has a contract with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) to administer the JETRO Business Proficiency test. It is designed to measure and evaluate the Japanese language ability of non-native speakers in a variety of situations and circumstances and is run annually in 25 cities worldwide. The JETRO Test is primarily targeted at students of the Japanese language or people engaged in business. MIALS Japanese program staff are responsible for advertising, the JETRO test, registration, execution, and reporting of the test results.

The Chinese Bridge Competition is a prestigious international competition that has been run by the Chinese Ministry of Education annually since 2002. The MIALS Chinese program assists in organizing the local competitions from which candidates are selected for the international event held in China. MIALS Chinese program students have performed well in the Chinese Bridge Competition, and have represented the Melbourne area in the category 2 event in 2003 and category 3 in 2004. The fourth local competition will be held at the University of Melbourne on 28 May 2005. The Chinese Bridge Competition for 2005 was held on 28th May (2.00 pm) at the University of Melbourne. Four MIALS students participated and achieved success. One student was awarded second prize and two students won the third prize.

Japanese program staff members, Dr Jun Ohashi and Dr Mariko Kubota, have both served on the steering committee for the Victorian Japanese speech contest for schools in recent years and MIALS provided "Encouragement prizes" to high school contestants who missed out on major prizes.

#### Translation work

When Melbourne Robotics scientist, Ms Kirsty Boyle, successfully gained entry in the Karakuri 2005 competition, she urgently required scientific information from the Toyota National College of Technology to be translated into English. MIALS staff member, Mr Atsushi Takagi assisted her with this translation and expects to do further translation for Robotic Science publications in future.

## **7. WORK FOR PROFESSIONAL AND SCHOLARLY ORGANISATIONS**

#### Tracking Asian language enrolments in Australian higher education

MIALS staff are also active in professional associations in the field of Asian Studies in Australia. MIALS staff member, Dr Anne McLaren, has been involved in an ASAA (Australian Association of Asian Studies) project to track Asian language enrolments in Australian higher education. Each year since 2001, the ASAA has compiled statistics of enrolments in Asian languages in Australian universities. As

China Councillor of the Association, Dr McLaren supervised the 2003 and 2004 data compilations.

The recently completed 2004 exercise revealed a strong growth in national enrolments in Chinese, the maintenance of high enrolments in Japanese, and a decline in enrolments in certain other Asian languages. It also demonstrates that the University of Melbourne is one of the largest national providers of university language programs in Japanese, Chinese, and Indonesian, and is one of only five national providers of Arabic. In 2004, UM enrolments in Chinese were the second largest in the national university sector. In the same year, Indonesian program enrolments at UM ran second only to the Australian Defence Forces Academy. The UM Japanese program is the fourth largest in the country.

A particular strength of the MIALS offerings is the ability to combine an Asian language with in depth study of political and social aspects of the region through complementary studies in Asian, Chinese, Indonesian, Islamic, Japanese and Middle Eastern Studies. The Asian Studies Cross-Faculty and Interdisciplinary major, together with the establishment of diplomas in Asian languages (Diploma Modern Languages) or in Asian Studies (Diploma in Arts-Asian Studies) are important University initiatives that have provided multiple pathways for UM students to study Asian languages and Asian Studies.

**ASAA Survey:** Enrolments in Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian & Arabic in Australian higher education; availability and student numbers, 2004.

<i>Language</i>	<i>Number of institutions reporting</i>	<i>Number of individual students (estimated)</i>	<i>EFTSU</i>
Chinese	25	5700	1616
Japanese	25	7800	2236
Indonesian	30	1800	506
Arabic	4	350	95

Fuller discussion of the findings of the survey can be found in *The Age*, Education Supplement, 14 March, 2005.

Anne McLaren is additionally Secretary of the Chinese Studies Association of Australia (CSAA). She is serving as programs manager for the 2005 conference, which will be held in Bendigo in July 2005. This year the conference will have a special focus on the history of the Chinese in Australia and of diasporic Chinese in Asia and North America.

## 8. THE PERFORMING ARTS AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

MIALS staff member, Dr Rio Otomo, is a specialist in the famous Japanese novelist, Yukio Mishima. Her expertise is being tapped by Melbourne play director and actor, Mark Hennessy, in his theatrical performance featuring Yukio Mishima and his concept of the body. Dr Otomo also has supported and advised the Melbourne based theatre group, Liminal Theatre, in their performance entitled, *Mishima in the City: Duets of Desire* in 2004. This innovatory play is a culmination of cultural fusion between Indonesian dancer, Sardono Kusumo's dance movement and Yukio Mishima's adaptation of classical Japanese Noh plays. Both performances aim at a new form of theatre that plays upon space, sound and the human body.

### Media Appearances

MIALS staff regularly serve as media commentators on issues of current interest, especially, Indonesian affairs, Islam, Chinese Falungong, and similar. The report below is only one of a number of media appearances by MIALS staff.

### UM students work on Japanese language website for ABC Radio National

A partnership has been formed between ABC Radio and MIALS staff member, Atsushi Takagi, to create work experience opportunities for UM students with advanced Japanese language skills. Australian students will be able to put to the test both their high level-bilingual skills and their technological literacy. The task is to construct a Japanese-language version of key components of the ABC Radio website, particularly the 'Understanding Australia' series on the 'Go Asia Pacific' site. Currently, ABC Radio Australia does not have a Japanese language service. The addition of an online site in Japanese will enhance Australia's relations with Japanese speaking communities within the region.

### "Secret Women's Business"

The world's only gender-specific has been discovered in Hunan province, in southern China. This intriguing script, used only by women and known locally as "Women's Script", has baffled scholars since the find came to international attention in the early 1990s. Dr Anne McLaren has been researching women's stories and narratives composed in Women's Script with a particular focus on marriage grievances. Her work on this topic has been published in leading journals and extracted in the *Columbia History of Chinese Literature* (2001). The death of the last traditional practitioner of Women's Script in 2004 led to another burst of international interest. Anne McLaren was interviewed on the subject in ABC National Radio Phillip Adams Late Night Live 19 October 2004 and Lingua Franca, 12 June 2004.

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