



# APAC News

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE  
NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIA PACIFIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

November 25, 2002

<http://sipa.columbia.edu/REGIONAL/EAI/APACnews.html>

## Taste of Asia

On Thursday, November 21, APAC hosted its annual Taste of Asia event. Unfortunately, this event was not memorialized in pictures because the photographer was trying desperately to control the flood of people at the door. Approximately 120 people attended the \$2 all-you-can eat event.

Korean, Japanese, Chinese, and Southeast Asian foods were all represented. Although we ordered a vast quantity of food, it was all gone by about 8:00 PM. In the end, everyone (who got there early) enjoyed A LOT of food and had a great time.

## Hotpot and Bubble Tea!

On a rainy November day, *Zhongwen Luntan* members ventured out to the Chinatown in Flushing, Queens, to warm their bones with some steamy, spicy, hotpot. Afterwards, members explored the neighborhood, enjoyed bubble tea, and visited a supermarket to get all the vegetables that West Side Market just doesn't stock!



*Zhongwen Luntan* eats hotpot in Flushing!

More pictures on page 4!

## APAC Up and Coming...

### **Korea Focus Movie Night**

Monday, November 25, 6:30 PM • IAB 918

*Joint Security Area* (2000)

This movie took in one million admissions and went on to become the biggest box office draw in Korean history within two weeks of its release. We carefully chose this movie to help understanding of the current situation on the Korean peninsula from a Korean perspective.

### **The Effect of Popular Music on Cross-Strait Relations**

Wednesday, December 4, 8:00 PM • IAB 918

Co-sponsored by *Zhongwen Luntan* and Taiwan Focus. From Teresa Teng to F4, Taiwanese musicians have enjoyed popularity in the Mainland. Some would see these artists as cultural ambassadors, but when they become political advocates, they are strongly censored by both governments. Speakers will examine cross-strait relations through the prism of popular culture.

### **East Asian Institute Year-End Party**

Monday, December 9, 7-9 PM • IAB 918

Join the EAI on the last day of classes as we celebrate the end of a great year, and welcome in a new one.

## Inside . . .

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## **Bombing in Bali**



From L to R: Jack Bresnan and Dr. Sjahrir

On November 14, Dr. Sjahrir, economist and political activist, addressed the effect of the Bali bombing on Indonesia at an East Asian Institute Special Lecture. According to Dr. Sjahrir, before the bombing, many felt that Bali was not really part of Indonesia, but now people recognize that Bali itself could be the cause of unrest. The people of Bali, who are known for their tolerance, are being tested. The effects have been economic as well as psychological: the occupancy at the Bali Hilton has gone from 80% before the bombing to 6%.

Indonesia has had its own share of economic difficulties. In 1998 the economy contracted by 13.1%. However, the economy would have to grow by 6% every year just to absorb the 2 million people who enter the workforce every year.

According to Sjahrir, there is a significant gap between what the political leaders are debating and what the people want. Ostensibly to address this disparity, Dr. Sjahrir has formed a political party and plans to present himself as a candidate in the next presidential election. The party, PIB (New Indonesia Alliance Party), was formed “to attain justice, democracy, and pluralism.”

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## **Japanese PKO**

At the November 12 Brownbag, co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Human Rights, Visiting Scholar Hideaki Shinoda spoke about Japanese peace-keeping operations (PKO). According to Shinoda, Japan is not internationally associated with peace building because of its “one-country

pacifism.” Japanese scholars tend to talk about eliminating structural violence (e.g., poverty, etc.) but neglect issues of conflict prevention.

After the Gulf War, Japan passed the “Peace-keeping Operations Bill” which enabled Japan to participate in international PKO efforts. Since then, Japan has participated in eight PKO and 2 humanitarian relief (HR) missions. In addition to sending the Self Defense Forces (SDF), Japan has also sent police on such missions. And, it has sent election monitors overseas twenty-four times. Despite constitutional and societal restraint on military spending and use, 80% of Japanese approve of this participation, including the participation of the SDF.

In the context of Japanese domestic politics, Japan has changed substantially. So, is it becoming a more “normal” country? Shinoda pointed to five trends in Japan’s increasing international involvement. First is Japan’s continual avoidance of military measures. However, the government has begun to use this avoidance to positive ends: Japan has started to cast itself as an advocate of disarmament and demining.

The second trend is the Japanese government’s concentration on humanitarian efforts. The primary motivation is concern with Japan’s international image. Although Japan’s participation in PKO in Cambodia was very successful, there was quite a bit of criticism about Japan’s involvement in Bosnia. Shinoda attributed this to Japanese pacifism in the face of Balkan atrocities.

Thirdly, Japan persists in informal and ambiguous approaches. Shinoda says that mutual respect for sovereignty is typical in Asian societies. There is a prevalent feeling that the onus is on independent countries to re-build on their own.

The fourth trend is Asian regionalism. Japan’s interests lie in Asia and efforts outside the region get little media coverage in Asia.

Finally, Shinoda pointed to the lack of a value-oriented approach to Japan’s PKO. Universal human rights and international values are seldom mentioned as justification for Japan’s involvement.

Shinoda advocated that Japan consider peace building as more than just a post-conflict effort. There should be more discussion about Japan’s involvement in conflict prevention.

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## Kato Leaves Columbia



Koichi Kato lecturing at SIPA

On Wednesday, November 20, Koichi Kato, former Secretary General of Japan's ruling party—the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)—and would-be prime minister, taught the last of six classes on “Japanese Political Change.” The course, co-taught by Columbia Professor Gerald Curtis, was consistently well-attended with people routinely sitting on the floor or standing in the back for the two-hour class.

Kato, who has a Master's Degree from Harvard University, spoke eloquently about Japan's need to find a “dream” in order to galvanize support for domestic reform and international engagement. During the course, Kato's seat in the Diet as representative of rural Yamagata Prefecture was recently won by a Ph.D. candidate from Yale.

The last class was followed by a wine and cheese party at EAI. Mr. Kato was unfailingly generous with his time during his stay, and the students who had the opportunity to learn from him greatly appreciate his generosity. Thank you Kato-sensei!

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## Brownbag Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, Brownbag Lectures are held from 12:00 noon to 1:30 in IAB 918.

### **The Demise of the Yamatake-Honeywell Joint Venture: Are There Lessons for American Investment in Japan?**

Joseph Grimes, *Former Executive Vice President, Yamatake Honeywell*

**Monday, November 25**

### **North Korea: The Politics of Unconventional Wisdom**

Han S. Park, *Professor of Political Science, University of Georgia*

**Monday, December 2**

### **Envisioning the Emergence of the Early Modern Japanese City: The Evidence from Paintings of the 16th and 17th Centuries**

Tetsuo Tamai, *Professor of Engineering, Department of Design and Architecture, Chiba University*

**Tuesday, December 3**

### **One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?**

#### **Assessing the Japanese Financial Reforms**

Jennifer Amyx, *Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania*

**Wednesday, December 4**

### **Analysis of China's Social Classes and Predictions of Future Trends**

Qinglian He, *Economist and Journalist*

This talk will be in Chinese with consecutive translation.

**Wednesday, December 4, 4:00-5:30 PM**

### **Governing China in the Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Provincial Perspective**

Zhiyue Bo, *Assistant Professor and Chair, Department of International Studies, St. John Fisher College*

**Thursday, December 5**

### **Exemplary Women and the Uses of History in Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century China**

Joan Judge, *Visiting Scholar, School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study; Assistant Professor of History, University of California, Santa Barbara*

**Monday, December 9**

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## Events @ Columbia

### **HIV/AIDS in Asia: Forging a Collective Response**

Co-sponsored by The American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) and Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. For more information and to RSVP, visit <http://www.amfar.org>.

**Tuesday, December 3, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**  
**School of Journalism, Columbia University**

**Workshop: Buddhist Literature and Emaki**  
Organized by Professor Shunsho Manabe, *President & Professor of Esoteric Buddhist Art, Hosen Gakuen College; Visiting Fellow, Donald Keene Center, Columbia University*  
**Friday, December 6, 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM**  
**403 Kent Hall • RSVP required to [donald-keene-center@columbia.edu](mailto:donald-keene-center@columbia.edu) or call 212-854-5036.**

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## **Zhongwen Luntan (cont'd)**

Zhongwen Luntan enjoying hotpot.....



.....and bubble tea!



## **Other Events in NYC**

**Native Born: Contemporary Aboriginal Art**  
Art Exhibit  
**September 19, 2002-January 5, 2003 • Asia Society**

*Hiroba: Dogs and Demons from the Dark Side of Japan*  
Alex Kerr, *author*  
**Monday, November 25, 6:30 • Japan Society**

**Meet the Author: *Vestiges of War: The Philippine-American War and the Aftermath of an Imperial Dream, 1899-1999***  
**Tuesday, December 3, 6:00-8:00 • Asia Society**

*Before the Deluge: The Vanishing World of the Yangtze's Three Gorges*  
Deirdre Chetham, *author and Executive Director, Harvard University Asia Center*  
**Tuesday, December 3, 6:30-8:00 • Asia Society**

*Himatsuri*  
This film is part of the Matsuri: Festivals in Japanese Cinema series.  
**Tuesday, December 3, 6:30 • Japan Society**

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## **Announcements**

The East Asian Institute will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday and December 24, and 25 as well as December 31 and January 1.

Good luck on exams and have a great winter break!

**Problems, Questions,  
Comments, Submissions?**  
*Send these to one of the three EAI PA's!*

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