



APAC News

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE
NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIA PACIFIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL
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<http://sipa.columbia.edu/REGIONAL/EAI/APACnews.html>

Moon Festival!

*A full moon hangs high in the chilly sky,
All say it's the same everywhere, round and bright.
But how can one be sure thousands of li away
Wind and perhaps rain may not be marring the night?*

The Mid-Autumn Moon
by Li Qiao



APAC & EAI members at the Moon Festival

On Monday, September 23, APAC hosted its annual Moon Festival. In China the Moon Festival (also sometimes translated as Mid-Autumn Festival) is held every year on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month. On the Western calendar it corresponds to the autumnal equinox.

The Moon Festival is traditionally a time for family and friends to gather and appreciate the full moon with food, drink, and mooncakes. The Moon Festival dates back 1,000 years to China's Song Dynasty. Legend has it that once a year, the moon goddess Chang-O is visited by her husband, which is why the moon is so full and bright on that night.

APAC's version of the Moon Festival gave about seventy-five revelers the chance to enjoy Chinese dinner and mooncakes. Thanks to Heather Carter Upadhyay and Craig Lipman for helping out, and to everyone who came for making it a great time!

APAC Up and Coming...

2002 World Cup Photo Exhibit

September 24 – October 4 • IAB, 4th Floor
Korea Focus and Nihonbenkyokai Japan Exchange Forum are co-sponsoring this display of photos featuring this year's World Cup games co-hosted by Korea and Japan. The exhibit emphasizes the world unity created by the games.

SEASI & Southeast Asian Fellows Reception

Tuesday, October 1, 5-7pm • IAB, Room 918
This reception is a welcome to SEASI and 12 Southeast Asian Fellows—experts in their fields of public health, HIV/AIDS, education, environment, women's rights, human rights, landmine awareness and rehabilitation—who will be with us all of October as part of a prestigious SIPA-led Southeast Asia Fellows Program. The Fellows are from Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Vietnam, and Thailand. There will be several brown bag lectures and events later this month. (See their bios starting on page 2.)

Japanese Language Table

Friday, October 4, 2-4pm • IAB, Room 918
Come meet new friends and practice your Japanese!

APAC Career Panel

Tuesday, October 8, 4-6 • IAB, Room 918
Come hear SIPA alumni speak about career options in East Asia. More details to follow!

Inside . . .

- SIPASA slashes APAC funding
- Philippine Secretary of Finance Speaks at EAI
- Southeast Asian Fellows
- Updated Brownbag schedule

SIPASA Slashes APAC Group Funding

Breaking with precedent, the SIPASA board did not allow student groups to defend their budget requests in person this semester. Student group leaders were emailed the night before meetings were supposed to take place to tell them they would not be given the opportunity to meet with Board members.

In an attempt to simplify the funding process, APAC decided to apply for funding on behalf of five groups: APAC, the Asian Americans Students Group, the East Asian Security Group, Taiwan Focus, and *Zhongwen Luntan*. For this simplification we were “awarded” with only 60% of the funding we requested.

As you know by now, APAC and the other student groups of the EAI are the most active at SIPA. Our goal is to provide the Columbia community not just with a social outlet, but also with educational opportunities to supplement the academic offerings.

We will make every effort to ensure that programmatic activities do not suffer for lack of funds, but we ask for your understanding as we try to find room in our diminished budget for the activities we have planned.

Philippine Secretary of Finance Outlines Fiscal Reform



Philippine Secretary of Finance Jose Isidro Comacho at the EAI

At an East Asian Institute Brownbag event on September 26, Philippine Secretary of Finance and Cabinet member Jose Isidro Camacho outlined the government’s economic program emphasizing three key components: fiscal discipline, continuous

market and structural reforms, and a commitment to good governance. Camacho said the government is still recovering from the Estrada administration which overshot the budget by 100% in 2000. In 2001 the Arroyo administration only exceeded the budget by 1.3%.

Camacho outlined reforms being taken to reform the judiciary, combat smuggling, and implement audit measures to catch tax-evaders. He said tax revenues were down in the first half of 2002, due in part to lower than expected rates of inflation. After the audit measures have a chance to take effect, Camacho predicted that preventing tax leakages would have a huge impact on government revenue.

The Secretary identified tourism, IT, and logistics (transportation, shipping, etc.) as main growth sectors in the economy. He also emphasized the government’s goal of job creation. In response to a question about the prevention of short-term capital flight, he discussed the need for foreign investment that creates jobs instead of just pumping money into the capital markets.

An audience member inquired about how the Philippines would be able to recover from its historical baggage of the Marcos rule. Camacho responded by saying that if he thought about all the reforms that need to be made at once, he would be paralyzed. The key, he said, is to make changes one step at a time. The Secretary also urged patience. He said that the country has only had 16 years to rebuild the financial and democratic institutions that were destroyed under Marcos.

Secretary Camacho stressed the value of the Philippines as strategically located, highly adaptable, and one of the largest English-speaking countries in the world. He presented a clear, concise summary of reforms undertaken and the challenges ahead.

The International Tourism Board has designated 2003 as “Visit the Philippines” year.

Southeast Asian Fellows

Mr. CHUM Thou Mine Risk and HIV/AIDS Education Program Manager, World Education – Cambodia

Mr. Chum Thou has been working in de-mining operations in Cambodia since 1991. He is now the manager of the Life Skills Program, a partnership between World Education Cambodia and the country’s Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The Program has two components: Mine Risk

Education For Children and the HIV/AIDS Education For Youth.

Ms. NGUON Sokunthea
Farmer Life School Project Coordinator, Srer Khmer Organization, Cambodia

Ms. Sokunthea is currently administering the Farmer Life School Project with Community Integrated Pest Management, which was set up by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to strengthen farmers' awareness of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Arun SOTHEA
Executive Director, Cambodian Volunteers for Community Development

Mr. Sothea has been with the Cambodian Volunteers for Community Development since 1992, when it was founded to help with the restoration of post-civil war Cambodia. He has worked extensively with the education of homeless children on HIV/AIDS, sanitation, personal hygiene and literacy. He was voted Executive Director of the Cambodian Volunteers for Community Development in 1998, and now supervises 16 full-time staffers and 20 part-time volunteers.

Ms. Viengxong CHITAYONG
Project Officer, Oxfam Solidarity (Belgium), Laos

Ms. Viengxong has worked with Oxfam Solidarity (Belgium) in Laos since 1995, and is responsible for advising, monitoring and developing projects with its partners in the Laotian government in rural development. Among other responsibilities, she trains government representatives on project management, gender issues, participatory rural appraisal, micro-finance.

Ms. Ny LUANGKOT
Freelance Consultant/Trainer in Community Development, Laos

Since 1995, Ms. Luangkhot has worked with the World Bank as a consultant for the supply of rural water and sanitation in Laos. She has also worked with an array of non-governmental organizations, providing training on community participation, gender issues, participatory rural appraisal, planning methodologies, and project evaluations.

Mr. Viengprasith THIPHASOUDA
Deputy Director, Handicap International Laos

Mr. Viengprasith has been with Handicap International since 1996. As the Coordinator of its Community-Based Rehabilitation Project, Mr. Viengprasith has worked extensively in assisting the rehabilitation of disabled persons and their communities across Laos.

Dr. Hla Myo KYAW
Project Officer, Population Services International, Myanmar

A project officer with Population Services International Myanmar since 1996, Dr. Kyaw is in charge of the social marketing of condoms for HIV/AIDS prevention in Myanmar. He has worked closely with the Myanmar commercial sector in the distribution of condoms, and also provides HIV/AIDS awareness training to target groups.

Dr. Myint Myint WIN
Reproductive Health Project Officer, Population Services International, Myanmar

Since joining Population Services International Myanmar in 2000, Dr. Win has worked as a medical officer with the local ethnic groups in various townships in Kayin State. Trained in pathology and anatomy, Dr. Win has also worked with dockyard workers in disseminating health tips and birth spacing methods among rural people.

Ms. Naw Nilar WIN SHWE
Reproductive Health Program Project Officer, Save The Children-USA, Myanmar

Ms. Naw Nilar Win Shwe is the Project Officer for Reproductive Health Project of Save The Children-USA, Myanmar. As a Project Officer, Ms. Win Shwe is responsible for planning a program designed to test and evaluate a replicable model for improving reproductive health at the community level in under-served populations of Myanmar.

Ms. Mani KHASANASAMATHI
Director, Sapawa, Thailand

In 2001, Ms. Mani founded Sapawa, a local environmental organization, to protect and preserve the environment and human rights for people of the Shan state. During her stint with Earth Rights International from 2000 to 2001, she coordinated fact-finding missions on forced labor and systematic racism, which led to media coverage by

the British Broadcasting Corporation and the New York-based Radio Free Asia.

Mr. Phalehcher KOMONJAROON
Coordinator, All Karen Development Association, Thailand

Mr. Phalehcher has been managing development projects for the All Karen Development Association in Thailand for five years. Mr. Phalehcher has worked on adoption projects for Karen children inside and outside refugee camps, setting up an orphanage boarding school, instituting a Karen youth leadership and management training program, and providing assistance for higher education programs, as well as networking and information exchange with other Karen organizations.

Ms. NGUYEN Thu Ba
Founding Partner and Trainer, Labor Development Center, Vietnam

As a trainer in Vietnam since 2000, Ms. Nguyen is in charge of designing, developing and delivering training materials to non-governmental organizations in Vietnam on community development, project planning, and managing consultants. She also holds several consultancy positions with non-governmental organizations in Hanoi.

Brownbag Lectures

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

War/Genocide in Cambodia and East Timor
Ben Kiernan, Director, Genocide Studies Program, Yale University
Monday, September 30

Assessing Prime Minister Koizumi's trip to North Korea

Charles Armstrong, Associate Professor of History
Gerald Curtis, Burgess Professor of Political Science
Rüdiger Frank, Visiting Lecturer
Robert Immerman, Senior Research Associate
All four speakers are affiliated with the EAI (Co-sponsored by the Center on Japanese Economy and Business)

Monday, September 30, 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Political Logic of Fiscal Transfer In China

Shaoguang Wang, Professor of Political Science, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Wednesday, October 2, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Is China's Economic Decentralization a Political Failure?

Pierre-François Landry, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Yale University
Thursday, October 10

Beyond Bilateralism: US-Japan Relations in the New Asia Pacific

Ellis Krauss, Professor, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, University of California, San Diego
Monday, October 14

Other Events at Columbia

Practicing Law in Vietnam - American Lawyers and the Reform Process

Mr. Frederick Burke, Managing Partner, Baker & McKenzie Vietnam Office
Room 104 William & June Warren Hall, Columbia Law School
Monday, September 30th, 12:15 to 1:25

Workshop: New Perspectives in the Study of Shinto

Coordinated by Professor Ryuichi Abe, Kao Associate Professor of Religion & Department Chair, Columbia University
403 Kent Hall

Thursday, October 3: 2:00 PM~6:00 PM;

Friday, October 4: 9:00 AM~5:30 PM

(RSVP donald-keene-center@columbia.edu by September 30th if you plan to attend.)

Problems, Questions, Comments, Submissions?

Send these to one of the three EAI PA's!

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