



APAC News

FROM THE WEATHERHEAD EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE ASIA PACIFIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

April 10, 2007

Upcoming Events:

- 4/11 Rizal Sukma on Military Reform in Indonesia
- 4/11 APAC Social at Radio Perfecto
- 4/12-15 Festival of Independent Chinese Cinema
- 4/12 "Enchanting Taiwan" Reception
- 4/13 Chinese Language Table
- 4/16 Taiwan Focus Movie Night
- 4/19 APAC Panel on Media in East Asia
- 4/20 WEAI Annual China Symposium

Details and more events on page 4.

Inside this Issue

<i>Maoism in Latin America</i>	3
<i>Asia-Related Events on and Off Campus</i>	4
<i>Jobs and Internships</i>	4
<i>Taiwan Photos</i>	4

Japan's Ambassador to the UN Speaks on Reform

Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, gave a talk entitled "Japan's UN Diplomacy and Security Council Reform."

Beginning with his recollection of the excitement in Japan at the country's initial entry into the UN in 1956, Ambassador Oshima spoke of the importance that Japan places on the organization generally and on development, nuclear nonproliferation and peace-keeping.

Continued on page 3



Professor Gluck Joins Students at APAC Lunch

Professor of History Carol Gluck met joined students from different programs at an informal lunch hosted by APAC last Wednesday.

In October, Gluck received Japan's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Rising Sun, for her scholarship on Japanese history and her work to promote academic and cultural exchange between the United States and Japan.

With the students, Gluck herself asked many questions and shared her thoughts on the development of area studies at SIPA.



Photo courtesy of PBS.

Festival of New, Independent Chinese Cinema to be Held at Columbia

American theaters have recently been flooded with Chinese epics—big, colorful things, full of furrowed brows, martial arts and melancholy cello soundtracks.

A decade ago, the same directors who now give us the likes of "Hero" and "The Promise" were turning out different works.

Then, the emphasis was on a nearer past, that of pre-war Shanghai ("Shanghai Triad") or wartime struggle ("Red Sorghum"), the Great Leap Forward ("To Live") and, most of all, the Cultural Revolution ("Farewell My Concubine"). These films, too, played themselves out on a large scale—and enjoyed a large Western audience.

But a new group, less concerned with the sweep of history—whether near or distant—and more tuned to the smaller stories of China's contemporary society has begun to gain attention.

These directors, sometimes dubbed the "Sixth Generation", will be showing and discussing their films at Columbia

Continued on page 2

Chinese Directors at Columbia, contd.

Continued from Page 1

in a festival, “On the Edge: New Independent Cinema from China,” next weekend.

Most well-known of this rising group is Jia Zhangke.

Jia’s first films used amateur actors to chronicle the listless, lost, and *slow* lives of small-town pickpockets, performers and workers in his native Shanxi. His 2004 movie “The World” told the stories of actors at an amusement park in Beijing, which Epcot Center-like simulates different international tourist sites.

In 2006, Jia’s “Still Life” (*San Xia-Haoren*), which showed lives crossing on the Yangtze River, won the Golden Lion for Best Film at the Venice Film Festival.

Where Jia Zhangke shows an incredible compassion for his subjects—but never to the point of being patronizing and always mediated by an washed out openness of feeling, an emphasis on environment and constraints as much as individuals—his contemporary, Li Yang, aims for pitch black satire with brazen anti-heroes in the movie “Blind Shaft” (*Mang Jing*).

“Blind Shaft” follows two con men who play a brutal game: they lure naïve people in need of work down into Northern China’s deadly mines. There, they kill their recruits and, playing the victims’ relatives, demand compensation from unscrupulous mine bosses.

Jia Zhangke’s post-reform China seems to be trying to figure itself out. Li Yang’s is an outright dystopia, at least for its betrayed working class.

Another of the festival’s contributors, Han Jie, chose the same North



Above: Images from “Blind Shaft” (directed by Li Yang) and “The World” directed by Jia Zhangke)

China landscape for his “Walking on the Wild Side” (*Lai Xiaozi*), which concerns a youth gang in rural Shanxi.

But the festival’s other films take us to very different places. Wanma Caidan’s “The Silent Holy Stones” is about a young Tibetan lama enthralled by television. Chao Yang’s “Orphan of Anyang” happens in China’s old capital in Henan Province.

The films will be screened from Thursday, April 12 through Sunday, April 15. On Saturday, April 14, there will be a panel discussion with the directors on campus.

Don’t miss this chance to be a part of what is emerging as an important focal point in world cinema!

Conference on “Solidarities” Discusses Maoism’s Influence on Latin America

During a recent conference on global “Solidarities” at Columbia, Matthew Rothwell discussed his research on Latin American Maoists.

He painted a trajectory: from conservative communists who founded the Mexico-China Friendship Society in the aftermath of Krushchev’s de-Stalinization to the radical students of Mexico’s 1968 demonstrations, who formed a Maoist squatters’ collective outside of Mexico City.

Rothwell showed how Maoism, with its anti-elitism and agrarian focus, appealed to Mexican radicals, but also how it ultimately failed to adapt to Mexico’s conditions.

The conference also dealt with issues as far-flung as Palestine and the Ukraine.

Have you noticed that APAC News has become rather Sino-centric? Well, except for that piece on the Japanese ambassador...

It’s because there aren’t a lot of people submitting stuff—except for the editor, who only knows about China!

**Send your articles to:
ime2106@columbia.edu**



You can always find information on jobs and internships at the **Weatherhead East Asia Institute’s** website:

www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/opportunities/index.html

Japanese Ambassador, contd.



Above: (from left) Hugh Patrick, Edward Luck, Ambassador Oshima and Robert Immerman during the talk last Wednesday.

Continued from page 1

Oshima outlined the different groupings in the UN on the issue of reform and discussed Japan’s prospects for receiving a permanent Security Council seat.

Professors Edward Luck, Robert Immerman and Hugh Patrick took turns asking the ambassador questions before turning questioning over to the audience.

Oshima fielded questions about the role of the G-8, whether Japan was buying votes in the UN with its aid money, and historical issues with China and Korea.

Unusual among guest speakers, the ambassador answered each question fully, dealing with every detail of the audience’s concerns.

He argued that nations support Japan’s bid for a Security Council seat not simply because Japan has given so much funding but because they recognize the country’s contributions to the organization more broadly and feel Japan should receive something in return.

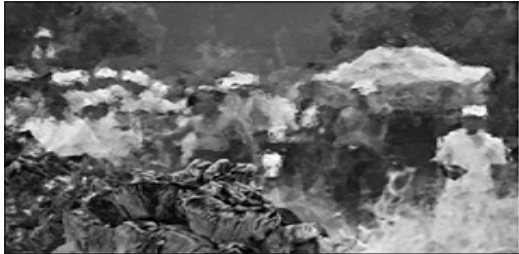
Oshima said that Japan would bring selflessness and balance to the Council. He also praised the new Secretary General Ban Ki-moon from South Korea.

On Thursday, April 26, WEAI will host Ambassador to South Korea Alexander Vershbow.

On April 20, a day will be spent on the annual China Symposium, whose theme this year is “Becoming a Stakeholder: China in International Affairs.”



**Photos from the “Enchanting Taiwan”
On the 4th Floor of IAB**



Asia-Related Events On- and Off-Campus

Wednesday April 11

Rizal Sukma: “Military Reform in Indonesia.” 403 Kent Hall, 12-1:30pm.

APAC Social. Radio Perfecto, 6-9pm.

Thursday, April 12-Sunday, April 15

On the Edge: New Independent Cinema from China. Various Locations, visit www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/china-independent-film.html for more information.

Multiculturalism for a Change Festival. Teachers College, 7pm.

“Enchanting Taiwan” Photo Exhibit Reception. 4th Floor IAB, 6:30-8:30pm.

Friday, April 13

Chinese Language Table. 918 IAB, 4-5:30pm.

Monday, April 16

Tawian Focus Movie Night: “Jump Boys.” 918 IAB, 6:30-8:30pm.

Stephen Harrell: “Rethinking 20th Century China in Ecosystem Terms.” 918 IAB, 2:30-4pm.

Thursday, April 19

APAC Panel on Media in East Asia. Tentatively 918 IAB, 4-5:30pm.

Friday, April 20

WEAI Annual China Symposium. Altschul Auditorium, 9am-5pm.

Jobs and Internships

Jobs

Columbia University Tutoring and Translating Agency (CUTTA) needs a Korean translator for a project as soon as possible. E-mail cutta@columbia.edu for more information.

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York is currently seeking a native speaker with an Asian studies background to fill a position in its Cultural Division. The position, Assistant to the Director, is a full-time position that would begin in April. The salary would be commensurate with the New York federal employee salary table GS-5, GS-8. If interested, send a resume to Mr. Ethan Kuo, Director of the Cultural Division at ethankuo@edutwny.org.

The U.S-China Economic Security Review Commission is seeking a Research

Coordinator. For more information, visit http://www.uscc.gov/job_opportunities/070223_researchcoord.php. Send resumes and the Optional Application for Federal Employment (OF-612) to Kay Michels at kmichels@uscc.gov. Do read the website for details, though—there are lots!

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations is seeking a Public Relations Coordinator. The position entails editing speeches, acting as a liaison with the media, coordinating conferences, updating databases, and sending out PR materials. Applicants should have a U.S. green card or U.S. citizenship, excellent communications skills, and preferably familiarity with Japanese language and culture. If interested, Please send a cover letter and resume by **March 30, 2007** to mission@un-japan.org with “PR Coordinator Position” in the subject line.

Internships

Council on Foreign Relations is offering internships through its Asian Studies Internship program. For more information, visit the website at: http://www.cfr.org/about/career_opportunities/internships.html#107.

Other

Columbia University's Center for Career Education is seeking a speaker who has had experience living/working in Hong Kong to speak to undergraduate students about his/her experience on Friday, April 20 from 6-7pm. contact Yuri Shane at the Center for Career Education if interested at ys157@columbia.edu or (212) 854-6305.