> Projects and events

ICAS Book Prize
ICAS Lifetime Asian Studies Award

The secretariat of ICAS, the International Convention of Asian Scholars, is pleased to announce the ICAS book prize. Through this global competition we aim to create an international focus for publications on Asia while increasing their worldwide visibility.

All scientific books published in 2003 and 2004 on Asian topics are eligible. Three prizes will be awarded: (1) best study in the humanities; (2) best study in the social sciences; and (3) best PhD dissertation. The prize consists of €1500 for each of the books while the best PhD dissertation will be published. Winners will be announced during ICAS 4 (20-24 August 2005) in Shanghai.

Five copies of the book must be sent to the ICAS secretariat (for guidelines please see www.icassecretariat.org). The deadline for submissions is 31 December 2004. The ICAS website will update lists of received books, by author, publisher and field of study. Reading committees are in the process of being formed and will consist of at least three renowned Asian scholars. The short list of competing books will be made public during the AAS Annual Meeting (31 March-03 April 2005) in Chicago.

ICAS is also pleased to announce the ICAS Lifetime Asian Studies Award. Nominations should consist of a letter outlining the importance of the candidate to Asian Studies and should be sent to the ICAS Secretariat no later than 31 December 2004. The winner will be announced during ICAS 4.

For more information: ICAS Secretariat, P.O. Box 9315, 2500 RA Leiden, The Netherlands, Tel: +31-71-5732227, Fax: +31-71-5732762, icas@let.leidenuniv.nl, www.icassecretariat.org

Chinese Storytelling on-line
www.shuoshu.org

The website of Chinese storytelling (shuoshu), has expanded into a web publication. Since February 2004 the site presents information in English, Chinese and Danish, with illustrations, photos, audio and video clips from live performances. Special focus is on the rich tradition of Yangzhou storytelling (tengzhoushuyinghua). The following areas are treated in detail:

- Oral and written literature: storytelling as performance and text
- Professional storytelling: performed narrative arts
- History and milieu: origins of storytelling, places and audiences
- Masters and disciples: transmission and training
- Elements of performance: linguistic and performing techniques
- Sagas of storytelling: schools and reputations

The website contains information about projects on Chinese storytelling at the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) and elsewhere. It contains a bibliography of studies on Chinese performance arts (shuochang) — storytelling and other prosimetric genres involving chant and/or narration and information on publications, conference information, and the Yangzhou Club.

The Norwegian Research Council, Cultural Program 2004-2007, supports the ongoing development of a research database on Chinese storytelling, which will soon be accessible on www.shuoshu.org. This is part of the research project: Traditional Oral Culture in the Modern Media World of Asia — The Case of Chinese Storytelling.

For further information contact Vibeke Berdahl at vibeke@nias.ku.dk

Endangered Languages Public Event
28 August 2004, The Hague, the Netherlands

The Endangered Languages event, organised by the NWO Research Council for the Humanities, is aimed at a non-specialised public interested in the preservation and recording of endangered languages and cultures. The results of research on endangered languages will be presented in workshops and demonstrations.

Interactive workshops will allow visitors to explore endangered languages including the West Papuan language, Mpur and the click language Sandawe, spoken in central Tanzania. Researchers will present their projects using posters, films, videos or audio fragments at the information and demonstration market.

UNESCO’s decision to declare the oral and graphic expressions of the Wajapi Indians as a ‘Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity’ will also be spotlighted. A member of the Wajapi group and an external expert on Wajapi culture have been invited to attend. They will explain the cultural, mythological and social significance of the Wajapi painting tradition, which includes body painting. Researchers are invited to participate in this event on endangered languages by presenting their research at the demonstration market. Further ideas for the programme are welcome. Researchers are also invited to submit narratives, tales, myths or sagas that originate from an endangered language. NWO will publish a selection of these stories.

For information and enquiries contact Marloes Telle (Communications Officer at NWO Research Council for the Humanities) at telle@nwo.nl. Website: www.nwo.nl/bedreigdetalen/publicatiesovereenement

The Violins of Genghis Khan
September 16 2004, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Composer and president of the Mongolian Composers Union, Altankhuyag Guadian, will visit the Netherlands from August 22 to September 12 2004. Invited by NIAS, the Dutch association for contemporary music, he will give a series of workshops in the Netherlands by composers from many cultural backgrounds and musical affinities. The Alar Khan folk ensemble specializes in overtone singing, horse fiddling and the West Mongolian repertoire. Together they will form a unique orchestra of ‘Western’ and ‘Mongolian’ instruments combining European fiddles, Mongolian horse fiddles and overtone singing.
**Southeast Asia: A Historical Encyclopedia from Ankor Wat to East Timor**

Book launch: 11 November 2004, Amsterdam

Southeast Asia: A Historical Encyclopedia covers the historical development of Southeast Asia from its prehistoric period to the early years of the 21st century, and caters to users of high school, public, and university libraries. The three-volumes, including archaeology and prehistory, major historical periods and eras, cultural heritage, ethno-history, wars and conflicts, notable personalities, religions and popular beliefs. Themes focus on political developments, economic and social transformation, constitutional developments and legislation, historical geography and the environment.

**The Living Memory Project**

Finance is sought for The Living Memory Project to create a video archive of testimony from East Timor’s former political prisoners. An estimated 10,000 people living in East Timor today were imprisoned under the Indonesian military occupation, many suffering torture. The project will collect, preserve and catalogue testimony as part of East Timor’s national heritage. Interviews will build a database on the experience of ex-prisoners’ health.

In 2003 UNESCO officials praised the idea and encouraged its expansion to a two-year, US$30,000 project, training and employing over a dozen ex-prisoners. Early this year UNESCO unexpectedly withdrew, citing lack of funds. $30,000USD is now sought for film, edit and present a pilot sample of interviews, working over three months with a five-person staff. If fifteen institutions could provide $2000 each, work could begin. Budget and staff details are available on request from thegndjill@yahoo.com or Living Memory Project, P.O. Box 3525, Darwin, NT, 0801 Australia.

The end product would be an archival sample of interviews with background material, available to libraries, human rights organisations, schools, universities and the media in various formats, presentable as a small exhibition.

The author is journalist and writer Jill Jolliffe, supported by the Association of Ex-Political Prisoners of East Timor (Associação dos ex-Prisioneiros Políticos do Timor-Leste, ASEPPO).

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**Himalaya Film Festival**

6-1 November 2004, Cultural Centre of the Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Organized by the Himalayan Archive Foundation in Akhmair, the Netherlands, the second Himalayan Film Festival at will feature documentary cinema, films and videos on the Himalayan region. The festival will screen approximately 46 films in two parallel programmes, grouped by subject and cinematographic approach. More information can be found at www.himalayafilmfestival.nl

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**Stichting Chinese Radio Amsterdam**

Postbus 15209
1010 NH Amsterdam

Monday to Friday, 9 pm to 10 pm frequency: FM 95.4 or Cable: FM 104.6

Hotline: 002 628866 (call during the program)

E-mail: chineseradioatdamsterdam@mn.com

FM 99.4 ether (FM 104.6 kabel)

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**European Association of Southeast Asian Studies (EUROSEAS)**

1-9 September 2004, Paris, France

The European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EUROSEAS) is an association of European scholars who wish to integrate their work with that of other European Southeast Asia specialists. Members of EUROSEAS meet regularly to share expertise, publications and source materials.

The fourth EUROSEAS conference will take place 1-4 September 2004 in Paris. To view the complete list of 36 panel topics and/or register for the conference, please see the website www.afrase.org/euroseas2004/indexe.php. This website can also be reached through the EUROSEAS website www.kitlv/nl/euroseas.

Information: Marion Chauvejoie
E-mail: euroseas@khttv.nl

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**Southeast Asian Review: Asymmetry, Leadership and Normalcy**

In conjunction with the official launch in Amsterdam, a round-table seminar on Southeast Asian Studies in the next decades.

Southeast Asia: A Historical Encyclopedia, from Ankor Wat to East Timor 3 Vols., Ooi Keat Gin, Editor

Published by: ABC-Clio, Santa Barbara, California; Denver, Colorado; Oxford, England. Date of publication: September 2004

encouraged cassettes made for European princes and collectors, miniature paintings, lacquer, silks, wallpapers and cashmere. It will include objects from the V&A’s collections and those of individuals and museums worldwide, the Royal Collection, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Japanese Imperial Collection. Many of these objects have never before been exhibited in Britain.

For enquiries contact: 044 20 7562 2000 or visit the website www.vam.ac.uk

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Published Quarterly:

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