

Contents #37

- 1&4 Does culture matter? / Ravni Thakur
3 Letters

China's new pride

- 5 Will China's rise be peaceful? / Willem van Kemenade
6 Power and energy supply security / Mehdi Parvizi Amineh
6-7 Yearnings / Shi Yong
7 The new Chineseness: great leap forward or backward? / Yue Tao
8 China in the world economy / Wang Ping
9 Environmentalism and civil society / Peter Ho & Richard Louis Edmonds
10 State vs. market: media in transition / Sigrun Abels

Research

- 11 A bird's eye view of the Bird's Head Peninsula / Ger Reesink & Jelle Miedema, interview by Flip van Helden
12 Cleavages, electoral systems and the politicization of Islam in Indonesia and Malaysia / Andreas Ufen
13 Whose nation? The illusion of national unity in the Philippines / Iben Trino-Molenkamp
14 Technologies of feeling and being: medicines in contemporary Indonesia / Margot L. Lyon
15 Particles and intonation: the expression of information structure in Manado Malay / Ruben Stoel
16 Nouns, imperative and irrealis in Old Javanese / Alexander K. Ogloblin
17 Script and identity in Southeast Asia / Kees van Dijk
18 Linguistic strategies of de-Islamization and colonial science: Indo-Muslim physicians and the *yūnānī* denomination / Fabrizio Speziale
19 'For us Joyce is a nightmare': a conversation with Hindi poet Vishnu Khare / Jeroen van Nieuwland
20 Shah Datta - a Hindu god in Muslim garb / Dušan Déak
21 Dravidian Studies in the Netherlands part 3 (1980-present): the rise and fall of a discipline / Luba Zubkova
22 Isidore van Kinsbergen: photographs of Java and Bali, 1855-1880 / Gerda Theuns-de Boer
23 Gender, myth and mythmaking / Thera Giezen

Publications

- 24 New developments in Chinese and Asian environmental history / Kenneth J. Hammond
25 Nation-centric academic communities / Kurt Radtke
26 Contesting Malayness: the quest for the elusive Melayu / Md. Salleh Yaapar
27 Toward an eclectic peasant historiography / Manish K. Thakur
28 Books received

IIAS / Announcements

- 29 IIAS fellows
30 Southeast Asia: ancient centre of urbanization? / John Miksic
31 IIAS research
32 Port cities / Peter Nas
33 European Alliance for Asian Studies
33-35 Announcements
36-37 International conference agenda
38-39 Arts agenda / Carol Brash

Off-shoring Asian Studies?

Director's note

The revamped Far Eastern Economic Review in its new monthly format has several advantages: its articles have become even better, and now that it is a monthly, we can keep up. Robyn Meredith's article 'The Next Wave of Offshoring' in the March 2005 issue drives home a message most people in the West turn a deaf ear to. In the near future this may no longer be possible as the message reads: you are fired!

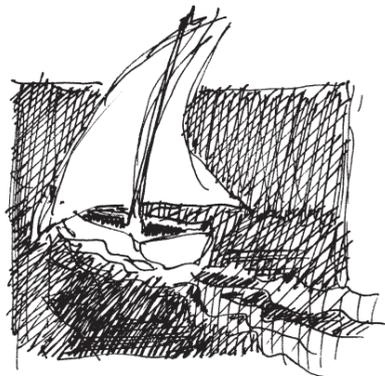
Off-shoring is the substitution of foreign for domestic labour and is one of the main effects of globalisation. Why would a company hire a \$100,000-a-year computer programmer while the same work can be done by a programmer in India or China who is equally educated, more motivated, and earns \$10,000? Off-shoring or outsourcing is by no means a new phenomenon - blue collar work has been outsourced since the 1970s. But now that it is hitting the middle class, it is attracting attention and debate.

The Lisbon goals of the European Community stating that Europe should be the world's most competitive knowledge economy by 2010 is losing momentum. One reason is that this goal remains thwarted by national research agendas. Science is inherently universal in nature; until well into the eighteenth century, only natural barriers stood in the way of cooperation. From the beginning of the nineteenth century, nationalism together with imperialism cast the humanities and social sciences into national straightjackets (the hard sciences partly escaped the nationalist encroachment due to their abstract language, which eluded the bureaucracy and thus censorship). It gave birth to national research traditions, which were increasingly embedded in conservative research institutions using the national language, a trajectory that has clearly run its course.

This is largely due to diminishing research budgets at the national level. The time when any single country, no matter its size, could support full-fledged research in all scientific domains is long past. If we look at developments in Asian studies over the past decade, we see the gradual development of institutionalised cooperation in the European Alliance for Asian Studies. But regional European Asian studies associations have remained largely unchanged: no debate has developed on the future of Asian studies in a European context, let alone at the global level. There is thus no vision - and where there is no vision, crisis lurks, a crisis which could become the midwife of change.

Instead of sitting back to watch the withering away of Asian studies in Europe, we might begin to see the development of Asian studies in a global context. Europe could tender out research to centres in India, China and other Asian countries, retaining several flexible and agile centres of excellence as their counterparts. The cost of living in many Asian countries remains relatively inexpensive; wages could be a third of what they are in Europe. Off-shoring's biggest advantage, however, would lie in the greater number of (PhD) students and scholars pursuing their studies in an Asian environment. They would bring 'home' the knowledge of Asia that Europe needs to remain competitive in the twenty-first century. <

Wim Stokhof
Director, IIAS



IIAS Newsletter

The *IIAS Newsletter* is a forum for authors from around the world to share commentary and opinion; short research essays; book, journal, film and website reviews; fiction and artwork; and announcements of events, projects and conferences with colleagues in academia and beyond. As the gap grows between specialist knowledge and the public discourse, we hope this newsletter can fill a science journalism niche within Asian studies. We welcome contributions from our readers. Please send your copy to the editors at: iiasnews@let.leidenuniv.nl

Become one of our 24,000 readers worldwide and have the *IIAS Newsletter* arrive in your mailbox, four times a year, free of charge: iias.subscribe@let.leidenuniv.nl

To advertise in this newsletter: attn. Natasja Kershof, iiasnews@let.leidenuniv.nl

Our guideline for contributors, advertisement specifications, upcoming deadlines, and current and previous issues can be seen at: www.iias.nl

www.iias.nl



The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) is a post-doctoral research centre based in Leiden and Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Our main objective is to encourage the interdisciplinary and comparative study of Asia and to promote national and international cooperation in the field. The institute focuses on the humanities and social sciences and their interaction with other sciences.

IIAS values dynamism and versatility in its research programmes. Post-doctoral research fellows are temporarily employed by or affiliated to IIAS, either within the framework of a collaborative research programme or on an individual basis. In its aim to disseminate broad, in-depth knowledge of Asia, the institute organizes seminars, workshops and conferences, and publishes the *IIAS Newsletter* with a circulation of 24,000.

IIAS runs a database for Asian Studies with information on researchers and research-related institutes worldwide. As an international mediator and a clearing-house for knowledge and information, IIAS is active in creating international networks and launching international cooperative projects and research programmes. In this way, the institute functions as a window on Europe for non-European scholars and contributes to the cultural rapprochement between Asia and Europe.

IIAS also administers the secretariat of the European Alliance for Asian Studies (Asia Alliance: www.asia-alliance.org) and the Secretariat General of the International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS: www.icassecretariat.org). Updates on the activities of the Asia Alliance and ICAS are published in the *IIAS Newsletter*. <