ICAS is a meeting place for academics from all over the world to discuss new insights in Asia Studies in a multidisciplinary context. Members of other spheres of civil society are challenged to partake in the debates. A special feature of ICAS is its focus on young leaders through panels, roundtables and signature events. ICAS has grown into the largest biennial Asia studies event outside the US covering all subjects of Asia studies. Thus ICAS is the only major, regular Asia studies event to take place in Asia. On average the number of participants is fifteen hundred.

The ICAS Book Prize (IBP) is a global competition which provides an international focus for publications on Asia while at the same time increasing their visibility worldwide. The book prizes are awarded for: (1) best study in the humanities; (2) best study in the social sciences. Furthermore there is a prize for the most outstanding PhD dissertation in the field of Asia Studies. So far we have received from more than 50 publications 80 publications (46 Humanities and 34 Social Sciences) and 10 PhD theses. Long lists will be announced at the AAS Annual Meeting 2007 in Boston. A new feature of the IBP is the Colleagues Choice Award. This award has been established following numerous requests to give the academic community the opportunity to voice their choice.

So visit our virtual polling station at www.icassecretariat.org from 22 March until 15 July 2007 and vote!

Paul van der Velde & Josine Stremmelaar

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The Selection Committee of ICAS 5 met in Kuala Lumpur in November 2006 to evaluate the individual abstracts and almost all of them have been placed in panels. That was done in line with the border and disciplinary transcending spirit of ICAS. The Committee is most pleased to report that more than 1200 submissions have been received. The wide variety of themes, disciplines and regions covered promises an intellectually challenging Convention. In addition many organized and institutional panels have been submitted and were evaluated when this Newsletter went to print. In all these panels a cross-disciplinary border transcending approach is stressed which enhances a fruitful dialogue among the participants who originate from more than 55 countries in Asia, Europe and America. They represent more than 6000 institutions. A provisional list of panels and its participants is now online at www.icas5kl.com.

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