

**First Joint International Workshop of the JSPS Asian Core Program**  
**“Asian Connections: Southeast Asian Model for Co-Existence in the 21st Century”**  
**Co-sponsored by the GCOE Program.**

**February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Inamori Memorial Building, Kyoto University**

The Asian Core program is an international exchange program among four counterpart institutions, CSEAS Kyoto University (Japan), Thammasat University (Thailand), LIPI (Indonesia) and CAPAS Academia Sinica (Taiwan).

Being the first workshop of the program, members of the three current joint projects under the program came together. There were two parallel sessions,

(1) *Writing Radically Different Southeast Asia: from Non-State-Centered Perspectives*, convened by Dr. Noboru Ishikawa

The central question was whether or how far Southeast Asia can be reconceptualized, researched, and rewritten, taking a non-state-centered perspective. The geo-ecological juxtaposition between *hills* and *plains*, for instance, has laid the basis for a societal model reinforcing the stark differences between the two niches in terms of their political and economic status, agricultural mode, social mobility, the civilization's worldview, religion, and kinship system. The aim of the workshop is, therefore, to correct the distortion imposed upon the past and present by: 1) rereading history of “people without history” by critically examining state-centered historiography and 2) examining ethnographic work on such “non-state space” as borderland and maritime frontier. This workshop is a preparatory brain storming session for the upcoming international conference with confirmed participation of Dr. James Scott (Yale University).

After an introduction by Dr. Ishikawa, “How to Take the State Back Out: Centering the Periphery of Southeast Asia”, Dr. Hjørleifur Jonsson was invited to give a keynote speech, “Zomia and the ethnographic challenge of/for Southeast Asian Diversity”. Then, fifteen participants each talked about their own research in relation to the questions raised, each followed by active discussion.

(2) *Reconsidering the East Asian Growth Model* convened by Dr. Kosuke Mizuno.

After an introduction by Dr. Mizuno, there were seven sessions with twenty papers: “The World Financial Crisis and Bubble”, “Response in Southeast Asian Countries”, “Response of Northeast Asian Countries”, “Alternative Development”, “Finances and Network”, “Demand Side Change”, and, “Trade and Employment Change”. The overall aim was to trace the effects of the world financial crisis in East Asia, considering how the respective countries fared and then in the second part to consider what kinds of alternative development can be and are sought in the region. The sessions wrapped up discussion from

previous Core University Program project, and is expected to yield a publication.

Besides the sessions, the coordinators from each institution participated in a meeting to discuss the program, and an extra session was held towards beginning a new project led by Dr. Masaaki Okamoto.

Participants: Approximately 80 participants

Proceedings: (in preparation)