

1. Project Title, Research Site, Name

Project Title: Religion as Humansphere: The Religion of Chinese Indonesians in a “Secular” Islamic State

Research Site: Indonesia

Name: Kitamura Yumi

2. Objectives of the Study

Religion is a social humansphere that is deeply connected to the core elements of our lives. The objective of this research is to clarify the relations between religion, state and ethnicity, by focusing on the situation of non-Muslim Chinese Indonesians, who mainly practice Christianity, Buddhism and Confucianism in the country where 90% of the population is Muslim with the great influence in national policymaking.

3. Contents of the Study and Findings

The applicant has conducted previous studies mainly on the political character of religious activities of Chinese Indonesians, particularly looking at Confucianism, which was re-recognized as a “religion” by the Indonesian government till the administrative level in 2006. For the current study, the applicants conducted interviews as a follow-up survey concerning Confucianism in Indonesia and collected basic research materials on other religions such as Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, as well as inter-religious dialogs amongst.

4. Publicization of the Results

The results of this study were presented, along with previous results, as a paper entitled “Negotiation Succeeded: Re-recognition of Confucianism as a ‘Religion’” at the CSEAS-Netherlands Institute for War Documentation Joint International Workshop on “Chinese Identities and Inter-Ethnic Coexistence and Cooperation in Southeast Asia,” which was held on July 4-5, 2008 at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS). It is scheduled to be published in the collection of presentations from the workshop.

Caption: Inside a temple in Solo, a center of organized Confucianism in Indonesia

Inside a Chinese Temple in Surabaya. Lao Tzu, the Buddha, and Confucius are worshipped equally.