Scenes from the field: Cambodian woman throws fertilizer in a rice field in Kandal province. (Photo / Judy Ledgerwood)

Imagining Cambodia: 2012 conference call for papers

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**SEA FYI**
The economy of the ten-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the United States’ third-largest Asian trading partner after China and Japan, is valued at $1.5 trillion and is the biggest destination of U.S. investment in Asia.

*Source: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, and the East-West Center, Washington, D.C.*
1. **This week’s lecture: James Wilson on public health and GIS in South Sulawesi**

   Assistant geography professor James Wilson will present “A Public Health Geographic Information System for a City in South Sulawesi” at this week’s CSEAS lecture at noon Friday, **Oct. 14**, Room 110 (Honors), Campus Life Building. Wilson is the principal investigator in a collaborative project between Hasanuddin University (UNHAS) in Makassar, Indonesia, and NIU to develop a prototype Geographic Information System (GIS) for evaluating public health interventions in Makassar. Wilson’s project is part of a broader project monitoring childhood health in the region, led by NIU assistant professor Tomoyuki Shibata (nursing and health studies). Wilson and Shibata spent a month over the summer in Makassar working on their projects, with funding from NIU research and artistry grants. “A Geographic Information System integrates a wide range of disparate thematic data that can be analyzed and visualized in the form of maps and graphs,” Wilson says. “This functionality is important for researchers and decision-makers alike. How do we know if public health interventions are working or where do we begin in developing a program aimed at reducing and even eliminating disease? These are the underlying questions a GIS designed to manage and analyze public health events can help answer.” *Bring your lunch and feed your mind.*

2. **Call for papers: Imagining Cambodia**

   NIU’s new Cambodia Studies Working Group and the center are collaborating with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ohio University, University of Massachusetts-Lowell, and the Center for Khmer Studies in Cambodia on an international Cambodia Studies Conference to be held **Sept. 13–16, 2012**, at NIU. Conference organizers invite the submission of 250-word abstracts and panel proposals by **March 15**; the deadline for papers is **June 15**. “The theme of the conference is “Imagining Cambodia,” which opens the possibility for presentations in the arts as well as social sciences and humanities, encourages multimedia/interdisciplinary project and promotes creative work on both future possibilities and re-imagined versions of the past, according to center associate Judy Ledgerwood (anthropology), a member of the Cambodia Studies Working Group. Papers on Cambodian diaspora communities are also welcome. In addition to regular academic panels, the conference will feature special themed panels for which papers will be circulated in advance to all registered participants for in-depth discussions on particular topics. The conference will also include a musical performance and a field trip to the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial in Chicago.

3. **Register free for Oct. 29 symposium on mainland SEA heritage sites, museums**

   Increasing global tourism, the desire for economic development, and ethnic or political conflicts—all are putting pressure on cultural heritage sites in mainland Southeast Asia. How are art historians, anthropologists, archeologists, and museum curators addressing these competing interests? CSEAS and the Center for Burma Studies are hosting a fall symposium, Mainland Southeast Asia: Museums and Heritage Sites, Saturday, **Oct. 29**, at the Holmes
Student Center, co-sponsored by the Collaborative for Cultural Heritage and Museum Practices (CHAMP) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Speaking will be center associates Catherine Raymond, art historian and director of the Center for Burma Studies, and Judy Ledgerwood, anthropologist; Helaine Silverman, anthropologist and director of CHAMP; U Nyunt Han, Regional Center for Archeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA), Bangkok; Rungsima Lertjanyarak, Vongchavalitkul University, Thailand; and Suprapa Somnuxpong, Kamphaeng Phet, Thailand. Students, faculty, and teachers are invited to attend. The symposium is free. For details and to register, see the center website.

4. On the road: Networking with SEA language teachers in Madison
On the eve of the Saturday, Oct. 1, Nebraska-Wisconsin game, CSEAS Director Jim Collins made his way through Madison’s streets and sidewalk bars teeming with football fans to accept an invitation to meet teachers of Southeast, South and West Asian languages at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The opportunity to share information about language teaching with teachers in the field was held at the home of UW faculty associate Erlin Barnard in a session called “Meet the Mentor’s Mentor.” Barnard, who worked closely with Collins when he managed the Indonesian language program at the University of Hawai‘i, now supervises and mentors all teachers of Asian and African languages at UW. In addition to exchanging information with these language specialists, Collins also met language professor Ellen Rafferty and discussed her upcoming center lecture next spring as well as the impact of federal budget cuts on an Indonesian language materials project Rafferty directs and Collins consults for. While in Madison, Collins also met up with Anthony Medrano, former assistant director at the University of Ohio’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies and now a history PhD student at UW focusing on the interface between Sabah (Malaysia) and the Philippines and Indonesia.

5. Center associates update: Debating the Khmer Rouge tribunals
*The Khmer Rouge tribunals underway in Cambodia were the subject of an academic face-off between two of the center’s Cambodia specialists Oct. 6. Anthropology professor Judy
Ledgerwood (anthropology) invited assistant history professor and CSEAS Assistant Director Trude Jacobsen to her afternoon graduate seminar on Cambodia, ANTH 690, to debate the merits of the U.N.-sanctioned tribunal, which convicted its first member of the Khmer Rouge leadership in July 2010. Ledgerwood represented the view favoring the work of the tribunals while Jacobsen took the opposite tack. Going back and forth, the two assessed the tribunals’ impact on all levels of Cambodian society, starting with the courts’ stated goals: promoting the rule of law and democracy, providing justice to victims, and fostering reconciliation. The ongoing tribunal process has not accomplished all that it set out to, Ledgerwood said, but it presents an opportunity to construct an historical record of the events of the era to be used for teaching about the Khmer Rouge period. It also offers some measure of justice to victims because individuals can point to a perpetrator in court and say they had been wronged, as was the case with the recently convicted head of the notorious Tuol Sleng prison, Ledgerwood said. The tribunals are ineffective, Jacobsen argued, because they don’t conform to Cambodian cultural practices nor are likely to advance the reconciliation process in the country. “The rule of law is weak because of the nature of power in Cambodia. People have no faith in the legal system and justice as an institutional process,” noting later that Cambodia’s primarily Buddhist culture does not assign blame in the traditional western sense. If according to the Buddhist idea of karma, “perpetrators would get it in the next life,” Ledgerwood asked Jacobsen, “Are the tribunals unnecessary then?” Jacobsen recounted asking Cambodians from all walks of life, during a trip she made to the country before the tribunals started, what they thought about the process. “Everyone had someone who had died [during the Khmer Rouge period, 1975–79],” she said. “The main reason people wanted the tribunals was because of the resulting business opportunities, not the opportunity for justice.” And so it went back and forth, with students’ questions in between, until the two professors agreed to disagree at the end of the two-hour seminar.

6. Share the experience: Be a host family for fall SEAYLP
As previous families will attest, ten days of hosting a Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) participant equals one unforgettable experience. A few families have already signed up, but the center is looking for ten more households to act as hosts Oct. 30–Nov. 10 for twenty-five high school students and six adult leaders from Brunei, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam participating in the fall SEAYLP session. Students are placed in pairs and adults may be placed as singles.
Host families provide a bed for each participant, breakfast each day and most dinners, all meals during one free weekend (Nov. 5–6), and transportation to and from class sessions at NIU. SEAYLP is a U.S. State Department-funded program managed by CSEAS. For details, contact NIU host family coordinator (and veteran host herself) Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 or e-mail lshive@niu.edu.

7. NIU opens the field for tenure-track Burmese language position
CSEAS and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures announce that applications are now being accepted for a tenure-track position to teach Burmese language at all levels at NIU beginning in fall 2012. Native or near-native fluency in Burmese and English and a Ph.D. in Burmese or a relevant field by the time of appointment are required. As an assistant professor, the successful candidate will mentor students, liaise with the centers for Southeast Asian Studies and Burma Studies, and participate in local, national, and international committees in addition to teaching. Complete applications are due Dec. 1. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, and dossier including three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Katharine Barbe, Chair, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. For a complete job description, see the NIU Human Resources website.

8. Summer study abroad with NIU: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand
NIU is offering three opportunities to study abroad in Southeast Asia next summer with NIU faculty members. Center associate Eric Jones (history) will take students to Malaysia for the seventh time; center associate Andrea Katalin Molnar (anthropology) is reprising her 2011 Culture and Diversity in Thailand program; and center adjunct Tomoyuki Shibata (nursing and health studies/public health) is conducting his first study abroad program to Indonesia. All are NIU study abroad programs offering course credit for both graduate and undergraduate students. For details on programs, financial aid, travel grants, scholarships, and applications, contact the NIU Study Abroad Office, 417 Williston Hall; or e-mail niuabroad@niu.edu. Study Abroad 101, a workshop on the ins and outs of studying abroad, meets at 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in 417 Williston.

- Public Health and Health Programs in Indonesia, June 4–22: Three-week program open to wide academic audience, including students of public health, nursing, pre-med, nutrition, geography, environmental studies, and Southeast Asian studies. Program builds on summer 2011 research project in Makassar conducted by assistant public health professor Tomoyuki Shibata (tshibata@niu.edu) in

Jones makes a new acquaintance on one of his previous Malaysia study abroad programs.

Shibata, left, tests water samples in Makassar in summer 2011.
cooperation with Hasanuddin University. **Deadline to apply: TBA.**

- **Cultural Diversity in Thailand, June 15–July 14:** Four-week program focuses on cultural diversity in Thailand and the relationship between the dominant majority and minorities of the country. The course introduces students to diversity of cultural groups in Thailand, existing power relations between dominant and minority groups, and practical implications of these relations in everyday Thai life. Program includes lectures, briefings, field trips in and around Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Hat Yai and Phuket. On field visits, NIU students will be paired with Thai students as often as possible. **Deadline to apply: March 1.**

- **Study Abroad Malaysia: History and Culture of Southeast Asia, July 22–Aug. 10:** Three-week program will be of interest to students interested in history of Southeast Asia, globalization, comparative religion, colonial and post-colonial culture and incorporates significant time in Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Penang, the jungles of Sarawak and Borneo, and the agricultural Cameron Highlands. **Deadline to apply: March 15.**

10. **Save the dates:** Southeast Asia culture night, fall symposium, essay deadline

- **Oct. 20:** Next Southeast Asia Club meeting at 5:30 p.m. in 456 DuSable (last two fall meetings, Nov. 3 and Nov. 17). The club is seeking volunteers to prepare Southeast Asian dishes, and performers to take the stage, for Southeast Asia Culture Night, 6 to 8 p.m., **Oct. 28,** Wirtz Hall auditorium. Free. For information on club activities, email niuseaclub@gmail.com or find the club on Facebook ([Southeast Asia Club at NIU](#)).
Oct. 29: Fall symposium at NIU on cultural heritage sites and museums in mainland Southeast Asia, co-sponsored by CSEAS, the Center for Burma Studies, and University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Free.

Through Oct. 30: “Echoing Balance,” exhibit of pieces inspired by Wayang Kulit shadow puppetry and created by center FLAS fellow Siew Lian Lim at DeKalb Area Women’s Center gallery, 1021 State Street. Gallery open Friday evenings and by appointment; call 815-758-1351.

Oct. 31: Last day to submit essay in Indonesian or English on the subject, “Indonesia: Its Beauty, Diversity and Challenges,” in national writing contest sponsored by the Indonesian embassy and the University of Michigan. Winners receive a free week’s vacation in Indonesia. See details on embassy website.

11. State Department offers youth programs for U.S. students, educators
The U.S. State Department, which funds the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program, offers several scholarship programs for American high school students to study abroad, including Southeast Asia, for short-term and academic-year programs. Applications are due in fall. For details, see websites listed for these programs.

- The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad Program offers scholarships to American high school students to spend a semester or an academic year in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Oman, Thailand, and Turkey. This post 9/11 program focuses on increasing understanding between people in the U.S. and countries with significant Muslim populations. Application deadline: Jan. 11. For details, see the YES Program’s website.

- The American Youth Leadership Program offers opportunities for American high students and educators to travel abroad on a three- to four-week-long exchange program to gain first-hand knowledge of foreign cultures and to collaborate on solving global issues. Several different organizations implement this program, and each has organized an educational exchange focused on dialogue and debate, leadership development, and community service, including one program in Indonesia and two in Cambodia. Recruitment areas and application deadlines vary; see the American Youth Leadership Program website for details.

12. Conferences and calls for papers

- Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Oct. 28–30, St. Paul, MN. Annual conference at Macalester College. For details, see conference website.

- Third International Graduate Student Conference on Indonesia 2011, Nov. 8–9, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Theme: “Indonesian Urban Cultures and Societies.” For details, see conference website.
- **International Seminar: Twenty Years of Greater Mekong Sub-region**, Dec. 8–9, Chiang Mai University, Thailand. Conference examining impact and future of creation of the sub-region followed by two days of field studies. **Deadline for submission: Oct. 31.**

- **Southeast Asia: Between the Lines**, Dec. 9–10, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. An interdisciplinary graduate student conference. Submit 500-word abstract by **Oct. 28** to Kate Wright at UM Center for Southeast Asian Studies at katemw@umich.edu. If accepted, graduate students will receive modest travel subvention and meals. For details, call 734-764-5261.

- **Third SEE-SEA International Conference**, Feb. 10–12, 2012, University of Chicago. Co-convened by CSEAS and the UC Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies. Theme: “From the Adriatic to the Sulu Sea: Islam and Identity in Southeast Europe and Southeast Asia.” Call for papers. **Deadline for abstracts: Nov. 11.** Details posted on the [center website](#).

- **Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference**, March 15–18, 2012, Toronto, Canada. Registration open. For details, see the [conference website](#).

- **Ninth International Conference on the Philippines**, Oct. 28–30, 2012, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI. **Deadline for proposals and abstracts: March 1.** Send to ICOPHIL Committee, Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1035. For details, contact [asiansc@msu.edu](mailto:asiansc@msu.edu).

- **International Cambodia Studies Conference 2012: Imagining Cambodia**, Sept. 14–16, 2012, Northern Illinois University. Individual papers and suggestions for panel speakers and themes are invited. **Deadline for abstracts: March 15; deadline for papers: June 15.** See details on [center website](#).


### 13. Money for study

*National Science Foundation / Asia and Pacific*

- **International fellowships**: Eight-week [research fellowships](#) for U.S. science and engineering students in host laboratories in Singapore, Australia, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and Taiwan. Stipends, round-trip airfare, and living expenses. **Deadline to apply: Nov. 9.** For details, email [eapsi@nsfsi.org](mailto:eapsi@nsfsi.org) or call 866-501-2922. **NEW**

### 14. Job opportunities and internships

*Idealist.org*

- Privately funded website offers searchable database of nonprofit international jobs and volunteer opportunities. Current listings include [Cambodia fellow](#) for the World Faiths Development Dialogue, [Vietnam researcher](#) for Human Rights Watch, [Indonesia country representative](#) for The Asia Foundation, and [English language teacher](#) at Burma University Foundation School in Yangon. For details, see the [Idealist website](#).
Ohio University
- Tenure-track opening for assistant professor in Political Science Department in area of human security with regional specialization (Southeast Asia, Latin America, or Middle East preferred). **Apply by Oct. 15.** See position description at [university website](http://example.com).

U.S. State Department
- Area studies can lead to a career in the diplomatic corps. Check out job opportunities and career paths at the [State Department](http://www.state.gov) website.

15. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities
- **Gamelan Open House:** 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, **Oct. 11,** [Hyde Park Union Church](http://www.hydeparkunionchurch.org). Evening of music, refreshments, and introductory lesson variety of gamelan instruments. Free introductory class begins one week later, Tuesday, **Oct. 18,** and runs through **Nov. 22.** Graduates of the class invited to perform in annual spring gamelan concert on **May 6, 2012.** For details, email [info@chicagogamelan.org](mailto:info@chicagogamelan.org).
- **“Remembering the Killing Fields”** exhibit now open at the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, 2831 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. The [Cambodian Association of Illinois](http://www.cambodianassociationillinois.org) also holds free traditional Cambodian music and dance lessons Sundays.
- The [Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute](http://www.thaitraining.org) is a non-profit group dedicated to the education, preservation, and promotion of Thai culture and fine arts in the Chicago area. For details, call 312-725-0640 or write Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute, 1960 Oak Knoll Drive, Lake Forest, IL 60045.
- The Indonesian Consulate General in Chicago offers free Balinese and Javanese dance and gamelan classes on weekends. For details, see consulate [website](http://www.indonconsulatechicago.org).

**Persons with a disability who may need assistance at any CSEAS event may contact office manager Nancy Schuneman at 815-753-1771 or nschunem@niu.edu. To no longer receive this bulletin, please e-mail us with a request to remove your name. Thank you.**

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