Building peace in Southeast Asia’s conflict zones

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1. Take a seat at peacebuilding in Southeast Asia roundtable at noon Thursday
   NIU anthropologists and center associates Judy Ledgerwood, Andrea Katalin Molnar, and Susan Russell join NIU political scientist Chris Jones (Associate Vice Provost for University Honors Program) and two visiting Thai scholars from 8:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, Dec. 1, for a morning seminar and roundtable discussion on peacebuilding in conflict zones of Southeast Asia in 334 Graham Hall. The participating Thai scholars are NIU alumni Srisompob Jitpiromsri (Ph.D. political science, 1997), director of the Center for Conflict
Studies and Cultural Diversity at Prince of Songkla University, and Chandranuj Mahakanjana (Ph.D. political science, 2004), assistant professor of public administration at the National Institute for Development Administration. Opening remarks will be made by Kendal Thu (chair, anthropology) and Judith Hermanson, director of NIU’s Center for NGO Leadership and Development. Presentations will begin at 9 a.m. with the first session covering civil society engagement in peacebuilding in the southern Philippines and southern Thailand. The second session beginning at 10 a.m. will cover post-conflict issues and the maintenance of peace in East Timor and Cambodia. A roundtable discussion on peace and conflict studies curriculums and their role in peacebuilding will follow at 11 a.m. The seminar is a collaboration between the Department of Anthropology, the Center for NGO Leadership and Development (NGOLD), and CSEAS.

2. Apply for summer FLAS fellowship by Dec. 1
Thursday, Dec. 1, is the deadline to apply for a summer 2012 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship. For details and a list of accepted language schools, see the center website. This summer students now have the option to take Tagalog in the Philippines. Summer FLAS awards are funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Title VI Program of Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships and provide for the study of SEA languages at any educational institution, especially those in Southeast Asia, over the summer. Summer FLAS awards are expected to provide a stipend of $2,500; in addition, the program covers tuition at a Southeast Asia language program to $4,000. Qualified undergraduate or graduate students from any accredited U.S. higher education institution may apply, but must do so as a visiting student (undergraduate) or as a student-at-large (graduate) at NIU.

3. Alumni news: Catching up with Robert Dayley in Idaho
The center congratulates College of Idaho professor and NIU alum Robert Dayley (Ph.D. political science, 1997), who was named the 2011 Idaho Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The award recognizes the state’s top educator based on scholarly achievement, innovative teaching, community and professional service, and recommendations from colleagues, alumni and students. Dayley, a Southeast Asian specialist who teaches international political economy classes and topics courses at the private liberal arts college, was a FLAS fellow studying Thai during his time at NIU. Twice a recipient of Fulbright grants to Thailand, he is in his eleventh year at the College of Idaho. Dayley took four students to study the Thai tangerine industry this past summer funded by an ASIANetwork Freeman Student-Faculty Research Grant. While in Thailand, he met up with center associate John Hartmann (foreign languages and literatures) at the International Thai Studies Conference where Dayley’s
group made a presentation. (A video documenting the group’s findings is available on YouTube).

“I enjoy the relationship I get to have with my students,” Dayley said. “My job is to read books and talk about them with young people. I get to take my students with me to Asia and show them globalization in action. Helping students discover new interests is exciting and satisfying . . . I can’t believe I get paid to do this.”

Dayley said that his NIU experience fundamentally shaped the teacher he is today. “I was at NIU from 1992 to 1997, with one of those years spent in Thailand on a Ph.D. Fulbright. I cannot imagine a better graduate school experience,” Dayley said. “The whole environment in Southeast Asian studies was exceptional on every score: faculty, students (foreign and domestic), language study, library, multiple disciplines, Friday forums, conferences, and potlucks. The mentorship provided to me by Clark Neher, Ladd Thomas, John Hartmann, Dwight King, Bob Albritton and others was exceptional. So much of what I try to do as a professor today is modeled after them.”

3. And gamelan makes four: Spring course list up on website

You’ll find three new courses and the return of center associate Jui-Ching Wang’s gamelan class spring on the Southeast Asian Studies course list now posted on the center website. NIU art historian and Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond will be teaching on music, dance and theatre as visualized in Southeast Asian art in ARTH 494/701 from 2 to 4:40 p.m. Mondays in Room 202 of the Jack Arends Art Building. Assistant history professor and CSEAS Assistant Director Trude Jacobsen will be delving into the history of Buddhist Southeast Asia in HIST 442/552 from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in 446 DuSable. Political science Ph.D. candidate Dan Pojar will be teaching about contemporary foreign policy in Southeast Asia in POLS 384, which meets from noon to 12:50 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in 246 DuSable. Assistant music professor Jui-Ching Wang offers an introduction into the mysteries of playing gamelan music (no audition required) in MUSC 398-1/698-1, which will be held 5 to 7 p.m. Mondays in Room 102 of the Music Building. The spring course list includes only those courses that can be used to fulfill the Southeast Asian Studies graduate concentration or undergraduate minor/contract major.

5. Start thinking about summer study abroad: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand

NIU is offering three opportunities to study abroad in Southeast Asia next summer with NIU faculty members. CSEAS associate Eric Jones (history) will take students to Malaysia for the seventh time; CSEAS 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. As NIU programs, all offer undergraduate and graduate course credit. 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 workshop 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 a 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, Indonesia conducted by assistant public health professor Tomoyuki Shibata in cooperation with Hasanuddin University. For more details, email Shibata at tshibata@niu.edu.

- **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, power relations between dominant and minority groups, and practical implications of these relations in everyday Thai life. **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.**

### 6. Save the dates:

- **Dec. 17:** Deadline to submit presentation proposals for Graduate Student Research Association (GSRA)'s third annual Research and Artistry Conference set for March 31 in the Holmes Student Center. Students who want to present research, artistry or performance must provide detailed description of proposed activity. See application on GSRA website. Acceptance notification Feb. 1. For details, email gsra@niu.edu.

- **Jan. 27:** First Friday lecture in CSEAS spring seminar series. Speaker will be assistant professor Trude Jacobsen (history), noon, Room 110 (Honors), Campus Life. Series schedule posted on center website.

### 7. Get your paper on:

The Southeast Asia Club invites papers for its 2012 spring student conference. The conference theme and emphasis of the keynote address will be “Western Influence in Southeast Asia.” Papers may be submitted on any topic pertaining to Southeast Asia. Abstracts accepted through Feb. 24. They should be no more than 400 words and submitted as Word documents. Paper due dates will be sent after abstracts are received and approved. Best paper awards will be given for both undergraduate and graduate papers. Send abstracts to conference organizer Robert Kollas at rkollas@niu.edu.
8. Assistant professor openings: Burmese language; anthropology/NGOLD

- CSEAS and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures announce that applications are being accepted for a tenure-track position to teach Burmese at all levels beginning in fall 2012. Native or near-native fluency in Burmese and English and a Ph.D. in Burmese or relevant field by 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 due Dec. 1.** Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, and dossier including three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Katharina Barbe, Chair, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, NIU, DeKalb, IL 60115. For complete job description, see [NIU Human Resources website](http://www.niu.edu/hr/jobs/).

- The Department of Anthropology and the Center for NGO Leadership & Development announce an Aug. 2012 appointment for a tenure-track anthropology position to teach courses in anthropology and in community leadership at undergraduate and graduate levels. A Ph.D. in anthropology or closely related field, and active research program is required, along with experience working with local and transnational NGOs or underserved communities. Preference will be given to candidates with Southeast Asia experience. **Applications due Jan. 1.** For complete job description, see [NIU Human Resources website](http://www.niu.edu/hr/jobs/).

9. Relief efforts underway to aid flood victims in Thailand, Cambodia

Catastrophic recent flooding in mainland Southeast Asia, particularly in Thailand and Cambodia, is the worst in fifty years, according to published reports. The monsoon and tropical storm floodwaters have displaced millions of people and put many others at risk of disease, injury and hardship as waters ebb. Rebuilding efforts and disaster relief will be ongoing for months in Thailand and Cambodia, as well as Laos and Vietnam, with an estimated three million hectares of rice fields in the region flooded out. “Even though the water is receding in many provinces and factories are re-opening,” said Chicago’s Thai Consul General Narong Sasitorn at an International Education Week event at NIU last week, “there are still challenges now and ahead of us.” The U.S. embassies in both countries are providing aid and funds, coordinating with humanitarian assistance teams from the U.S. military and routing millions of dollars in U.S. assistance funds. The United Nations, through UNICEF, is distributing insecticide-treated mosquito nets and other assistance. In Cambodia, the embassy is working
through the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, which is sending aid and donations to local relief organizations, Save the Children, and World Vision. The Thailand and Cambodia chapters of the International Red Cross are also distributing aid and accepting funds for relief efforts. CSEAS extends its sympathy to all affected by this crisis and has compiled a contact list of entities offering assistance:

- **International Red Cross**: Both the [Cambodian Red Cross](#) and [Thai Red Cross](#) are accepting donations for relief efforts though their respective websites.

- **Royal Thai Embassy**: Donations to flood victims in Thailand are being accepted through the embassy. Send checks or money orders (payable to Royal Thai Embassy) to Consular Affairs Section, Royal Thai Embassy, 1024 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20007. See the embassy’s Facebook page (Royal Thai Embassy, Washington, D.C.) for donation updates or call the embassy’s First Secretary Nipatsorn Kampa at 202-285-1547.

- **Save the Children**: International aid organization is accepting donations for flood relief in Thailand through its Thailand Floods Children in Emergency Fund. See the [Save the Children](#) website.

- **Royal Embassy of Cambodia**: Contact the embassy at 4530 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20011; phone 202-726-7742.

- **World Vision Cambodia**: International aid group is distributing rice to affected communities where rice fields and other food sources have been compromised by flooding. See the [Save the Children Cambodia](#) website.

### 10. Job opportunities and internships

**Cornell University**

- **Assistant professor**: Humanities specialist in literature and/or religion and/or culture of one or more SEA countries wanted for Department of Asian Studies to begin July 2012. Ph.D. required. Scholars with strong record in research and publishing, in addition to interdisciplinary and comparative work, encouraged to apply. Submit cover letter, statement of research and teaching, CV, a writing sample and three letters of recommendation [online](#).

**University of Cincinnati**

- **Assistant professor**: Historian trained in either the history of Southeast Asia or East Asia (preferably Japan, but not excluding Korea or pre-20th century China) wanted for tenure-track position. Candidate should expect to participate in teaching regional surveys as well as upper-division undergraduate and graduate courses in his/her specialty. Ph.D. by July 2012 required. Submit cover letter, CV, and brief writing sample (approximately article length) [online](#). Three letters of recommendation should be sent directly to Chair, East Asia/SE Asia Search Committee, Department of History, University of Cincinnati, 360 McMicken Hall, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0373. Review to begin Nov. 21. For details, email hope.earls@uc.edu.

**Idealist.org**

- Privately funded website offers searchable database of nonprofit international jobs and volunteer opportunities. For details, see the [Idealist website](#).
U.S. State Department

- Area studies can lead to a career in the diplomatic corps. Check out job opportunities and career paths at State Department website.

11. Conferences and calls for papers

- **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.

- **Southeast Asia: Between the Lines**, Dec. 9–10, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. An interdisciplinary graduate student conference. For details, call 734-764-5261.

- **Third SEE-SEA International Conference**, Feb. 10–12, 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.” Details posted on center website.

- **Cornell Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Conference**, March 2–4, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Graduate student papers welcome on any aspect of Southeast Asia for this annual spring symposium. Deadline for submission: Dec. 10. Limited number of travel subventions available. Email abstracts to seapgradconference@gmail.com. For details, see symposium website.

- **Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference**, March 15–18, Toronto, Canada. Registration open. For details, see conference website.


- **Ninth International Conference on the Philippines**, Oct. 28–30, 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.

- **International Cambodia Studies Conference 2012: Imagining Cambodia**, Sept. 14–16, 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 center website.

12. Money for study

*David L. Boren awards*

- Fellowships and scholarships: Opportunity for graduates and undergraduates to study abroad for one year and hone language skills. Grants range from up to $20,000 for undergraduates to $30,000 for graduate students. To apply for the 2012–13 programs, see the Boren website. Boren awards are administered by the Institute of International Education. Fellowship deadline to apply: Jan. 31. Scholarship deadline: Feb. 9.
East-West Center

- **Graduate degree fellowships**: Funding for graduate students to participate in residential, educational and research programs at East-West Center while pursuing degree at University of Hawai‘i.

13. **Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities**

- “Remembering the Killing Fields” exhibit at the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, 2831 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. The [Cambodian Association of Illinois](#) also holds free Cambodian music and dance lessons Sundays.
- The [Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute](#) 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](#).

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 reply to this e-mail with a request to remove your name. Thank you.