Maritime Security

On April 3, 2010, the Chinese coal carrier Shen Neng 1 ran aground 70km east of Great Keppel Island, damaging corals and spilling oil in the waters of Australia’s Great Barrier Reef area. In the United States, the government has become involved in desperate attempts to control the damage caused by the explosion and subsequent sinking of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, 2010. Eleven workers were killed instantly in the event and the collapse of the rig unleashed a major oil spill. Weeks after the sinking, oil is still leaking into the ocean and is approaching the coasts of several US states, threatening the Gulf of Mexico’s ecosystems and economy.

Meanwhile off the Horn of Africa, war ships from countries around the world try to combat the world’s most blatant pirate attacks. In the past two years alone, more than 300 ships were attacked in this dangerous area. These attacks included more than 85 hijackings of merchant and fishing vessels, with the pirates receiving millions of US dollars in ransom money for kidnapped crew and hijacked ships. The scale of pirate attacks off the Horn of Africa is unprecedented with pirates for the first time hijacking large vessels such as super tankers.

On April 4, 2010, for example, the 320,000 tonne Korean owned super tanker Samho Dream, carrying a cargo of oil valued at 170 million dollars was hijacked on its way from Iraq to the USA. The perpetrators have issued a demand for 20 million US dollars in exchange for the tanker and the 24 crew members onboard and have threatened to blow up the vessel if their demands are not met. These examples are a reminder that what happens “out at sea” is of importance and is affecting our lives. Indeed, we often seem to forget just how dependent we are on the sea. One crucial example is maritime transport. As Stopford points out, “seaborne trade is, in a sense, at the apex of world economic activity”, with more than 90 per cent of world trade transported by ships.

The ocean also provides much needed energy resources and offers employment and livelihood for millions of people around the world. However, the examples above also illustrate the vulnerability of our activities at sea, with pirates, for instance, threatening shipping in certain water areas. Furthermore, they clearly demonstrate that our activities can pose a serious threat to the maritime environment, adversely affecting ecosystems, marine dependent economies and, more generally, overall quality of life. Given these vulnerabilities coupled with our dependence on the ocean, maritime security has increasingly received international attention.

Given its geographical features, Southeast Asia is one region where maritime security is of particular importance. The region is home to one of the busiest and strategically most important waterways in the world – the Malacca Straits – as well as major ports and sea-lanes. The safety of shipping and international maritime trade in this region is therefore of crucial importance to governments in and beyond Southeast Asia.

Continued on page 2
Editorial

Asia is the world’s most rapidly changing region, and developments in this region will exert the greatest set of influences on the rest of the globe for the coming decades. The abilities of the countries of Asia to manage the challenges they face, and the ways in which they channel their development and burgeoning influence, are pressing questions for the world, and for Australia. Understanding the sources, pace and direction of change in the Asia-Pacific is crucial for Australia’s future.

At the first GAI Advisory Council meeting in May 2010, Council members approved an updated strategy document outlining GAI’s priorities over the next five years. This is now available on the GAI web site.

GAI has five priority research programs: the China Policy Program, which is concerned with the political, security, economic, and social challenges attending China’s rise; the Asian Security Program, which focuses on traditional and non-traditional security issues in the region, from material and normative perspectives; the Asian Governance Program, which examines how regional states are responding to external and internal challenges through institutional, policy, and legislative reforms; the Asian Economies and Political Economy Program, which examines economic change in Asia from cross-disciplinary perspectives; and the Islam and Politics Program, which is concerned with the impact of trends in religious piety and fundamentalism, and broader regional and global ramifications.

In This Issue

• EVENTS
• NEW RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS
• MEMBER NEWS
• PUBLICATIONS
• PhD STUDENTS
• DIARY DATES

Griffith Asia Institute newsletter

Griffith University
Nathan campus
Brisbane Qld 4111 Australia
www.griffith.edu.au/business/griffith-asia-institute/

If you would like your Asia-Pacific related activities to be featured in this newsletter, please contact the publisher:

Mrs Meegan Thorley, Manager
Telephone: 61 7 3735 7624
Facsimile: 61 7 3735 3731
Email: m.thorley@griffith.edu.au

or Professor Andrew O’Neil, Director
Telephone: 61 7 3735 5143
Facsimile: 61 7 3735 3731
Email: a.oneil@griffith.edu.au

Continued from page 1

The sea also provides food and a livelihood for millions of people in the region. Yet the oceans are also the source of conflict, with some maritime borders still disputed and ownership of certain water areas and islands contested. Furthermore, a wide range of non-traditional maritime security threats have come to the fore. For example, Southeast Asia has been identified as one of the most pirate-infested regions in the world, regional terrorists groups such as the Abu Sayyaf and JI are believed to have an interest in conducting maritime attacks, and illegal fishing as well as smuggling of drugs, oil and humans have become a serious concern.

GAI research fellow Carolin Liss’ work focuses on the root causes of piracy and other maritime-related violence in Asia and Africa. She is examining the question of who is best placed to address maritime security threats and their root causes. To answer this question, Carolin investigates the changing roles played by state and non-state actors, including private security companies, in providing maritime security.
Public Seminar

Guerrilla Diplomacy: Rethinking International Relations for the Globalization Age

Mr Daryl Copeland, Analyst, writer and educator in international policy, global issues, diplomacy and public management spoke about his book Guerrilla Diplomacy: Rethinking International Relations at the 30 March seminar.

Mr Copeland, a Canadian diplomat from 1981 through 2009 with postings in Thailand, Ethiopia, New Zealand and Malaysia sees the need for a new kind of diplomat, one that is in tune with the demands of today’s interconnected, technology driven world. This new kind of diplomat needs to be able to mix with a variety of new international actors, but is happier mixing with the population rather than mingling with colleagues inside embassy walls.

Copeland believes that diplomacy has been sidelined and is facing a crisis of relevance and effectiveness. This may be attributed in large part to its inability to adapt to the exigencies of globalization, that totalizing historical force which continues to condition, if not determine outcomes across a broad range of human activity.

A rising tide of violence, inequality, and unaddressed threats provides powerful testament not only to the socialization of globalization’s costs and the privatization of its benefits, but to the abject failure of diplomacy to engage remedially.

Copeland offers an alternative approach to understanding contemporary international relations, especially for anyone with a penchant for negotiation and compromise, and a general preference for talking over fighting and dialogue over diktat.

Perspectives: Asia

The Scale of Change: Mapping a New Atlas for Indian Art

At the 4 March seminar, guests listened to Mr Ranjit Hoskote, poet, cultural theorist and independent curator, provide his commentary on the evolution and direction of Indian art. Mr Hoskote particularly looked at three factors that have shaped Indian art. These include:

1. Contexts and vectors. This looks at the last 15 to 20 years as a backdrop in the cultural field in India and the politics involved in shaping the backdrop. Mr Hoskote provided some insight into the changing environment in India and how a booming market has increased global attention.

2. The transformation of the studio. This relates to how the art world has changed in response to new technologies and availabilities. According to Mr Hoskote, new technologies have amplified the scope of artistic production in India.

3. Co-producing the global contemporary. Increases in globalisation, travel and dialogue through residencies, conferences and collaborations have led to a cross-fertilisation of ideas and a shift in paradigms for a new generation of Indian artists who are now active participants in constructing the current global art scene.

Mr Hoskote concluded his seminar by showing and commenting on a number of artworks from Indian artists whose projects illustrate how the above factors have influenced their work.

Investigation of life: Ethnological turn in post-war Japanese art

Also in March, Mr Fumihiko Sumitomo, Independent curator / Arts Initiative Tokyo talked about the evolution of post-war Japanese art. In the late 19th Century Japan adopted a Western system of art. The post-war period ushered in a new period of artistic expression. Prominent artists advocated the ‘investigation of life’ in Japan beyond the traditional forms of art such as painting and sculpture.

Using examples of work by Japanese artists, Fumihiko explained some of these non-traditional approaches such as experimental workshops using slide projectors. Video of the seminar can be found on the GAI website.
New Research Appointments

Not only has GAI welcomed its new Director in 2010, to date five new staff have also joined the ranks. Dr Shumei Hou has been appointed as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Dr Juanita Elias, an ARC Future Fellow. In addition, Professor Alex Bellamy, Drs Carolin Liss and Luke Glanville have been jointly appointed with the Centre for Governance and Public Policy under the Asian Politics, Security and Development Research Program. This issue highlights some of the research currently being undertaken by these researchers. A further three joint appointments have also been made for new researchers coming on board later in the year under this research program which is one of the University’s areas of strategic investment.

Business Transparency Reform in China

China is Australia’s most significant economic partner, and an increasing number of Australian businesses want to enter or expand into China’s market. To flourish, international business needs a transparent regulatory environment. Barriers to transparency in China have been highlighted by the recent case of Rio Tinto executive Stern Hu, and they remain a day-to-day challenge for Australian corporations operating in China. The Chinese authorities are engaged in a new campaign to promote transparency as the necessary ‘sunshine’ to safeguard sustainable business against the spread of corruption, but significant challenges remain.

GAI researchers Dr Shumei Hou and Prof Ron Keith have teamed up with Prof Haig Patapan from the Centre of Governance and Public Policy at Griffith University to embark on a major research project to map the nature and scope of business transparency reform in China, to determine the extent to which this reform is grounded in rule of law principles, and to identify and recommend best regulatory practice as it concerns the protection of international business interests within the practical context of China’s developing legal system.

The project also aims to create training and networking opportunities for Australian legal, financial advisors and company executives who wish to understand China’s changing regulatory environment. Shumei and her colleagues are currently drafting an ARC Linkage Project grant application, and are keen to attract organisations from the business world and government as Partner Organisations.

The project’s terms of reference are a matter of keen personal interest. Dr Shumei Hou took her first law degree in Southwest University of Political Science and Law, China. She later became Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Administrative Law at the Henan University of Political Science and Law. Dr. Hou was a popular local media commentator and she published extensively in Chinese journals concerning the reform of administrative law. She was also heavily involved in the training of Chinese judges, lawyers and public security personnel, many of whom are now in senior positions. Dr Hou is a certified lawyer in China and has had considerable case experience concerning foreign business in China that includes representations made to the Chinese People’s Supreme Court. Before taking up her new position as Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Griffith Asia Institute, Dr. Shumei Hou was a legal advisor to a leading Chinese mining company in Australia.

For inquiries on the project, please contact GAI Director, Professor Andrew O’Neil. a.oneil@griffith.edu.au.

Gender and Economic Competitiveness in South East Asia

In recent years there has been a growing emphasis on the role that women’s labour can play in maintaining a state’s competitive advantage. This position is observable in much of the thinking on gender and development to have emanated from the major institutions of global governance. There are two key strands to this thinking. The first, focuses on the productive role of women as workers and is a perspective that has been widely criticised by feminist scholars as reflecting a broadly ‘instrumentalist’ approach to gender and development which ignores wider issues of gender justice or women’s human rights. The second element focuses on women’s reproductive roles within the household—highlighting the importance of ‘family strengthening’ to the maintenance of productivity and competitiveness.

Juanita Elias has recently commenced an ARC Future Fellowship at the Griffith Asia Institute and will seek to examine how this international policy consensus regarding gender and economic competitiveness takes shape and is also resisted in the specific context of Malaysia’s economic development.

The selection of Malaysia reflects two important factors: First, although Malaysia is one of the most successful developing economies in the world, in the face of continued dependence on low wage manufacturing industries and, increasingly, high levels of imported migrant labour, it has sought to place emphasis on building a competitive and knowledge-oriented economy. A notable feature of the government’s approach to promoting competitiveness is a highly instrumentalist focus on women’s labour with middle-class education women in particular (who have traditionally had very low levels of labour force participation) increasingly identified as a pool of under-utilised and potentially highly skilled labour. The desire to strengthen middle class women’s labour force participation, however, frequently depends on the expansion of the market for foreign domestic workers from neighbouring states such as Indonesia. Whilst the employment of foreign domestic workers is, in part, related to perceptions of class and status (the association with having a domestic worker with having attained a ‘middle-classness’), it also reflects the lack of social and welfare services available to middle-class educated women.

Secondly, Malaysia is one of the few successful developing states with a majority Islamic population. This social context enables a very interesting analysis of the processes through which reforms are both accommodated and resisted (especially given the upsurge in Muslim religious observance in Malaysia and the possible impact on women’s roles). For example, an increased emphasis on women’s role as productive knowledge workers potentially conflicts with government policies that emphasise wives’ and mothers’ responsibilities in supporting productive and morally upstanding (and, increasingly, Islamic) citizens. The context for this are socio-political debates over the role that Islamic values can or cannot play in enhancing economic competitiveness.
Linked to these debates are on-going politically-charged discussions over the special status of the Malay population within ethnically diverse Malaysia and whether economic incentives and quotas for this population may be at odds with on-going processes of liberal reform focussed on enhancing competitiveness (Henderson & Phillips 2007). The research will investigate the extent to which Malay Muslim women have come to play an important symbolic role in these debates.

The Responsibility to Protect

At the United Nations World Summit in 2005, member states unanimously declared that they each have the responsibility to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. They further proclaimed that the international community bears a responsibility to use diplomatic, humanitarian, and other peaceful means to help protect populations from these crimes and that they are prepared to take collective action through the Security Council in instances where states are failing to carry out their own responsibilities.

The responsibility to protect, or R2P as it is commonly known, emerged as a response to the dilemmas of humanitarian intervention confronted in the 1990s where, on the one hand, the world failed to act in response to genocide in Rwanda and, on the other, a coalition of states intervened in Kosovo to put an end to ethnic cleansing but without the authorisation of the Security Council. R2P seeks to impress upon states their responsibilities for the protection of their own people; to persuade the international community to assist states to protect their people, and to encourage the international community to take up the burden of protection itself, through military intervention if necessary, in instances where host states are unwilling or unable to do so.

R2P remains a matter of much debate, not least in Asia. In recent years, the concept has been controversially invoked by activists and leaders of sovereign states, China has displayed willingness in recent years to apply diplomatic pressure to persuade states, such as Sudan and more recently Burma, to consent to international involvement in their internal affairs.

However, there has been increasing acceptance within the region over the last decade that grave violations of human rights within states are a legitimate matter of international concern. And while it continues to oppose non-consensual military intervention in the affairs of sovereign states, China has displayed willingness in recent years to apply diplomatic pressure to persuade states, such as Sudan and more recently Burma, to consent to international involvement in their internal affairs.

Time will tell whether such gradual shifts in state positions and policies translate into an enduring commitment to protect populations from mass atrocities.

The responsibility to protect is currently being examined by GAI research fellow Luke Glanville. Luke is exploring the historical antecedents of the notion that sovereigns are answerable for the protection of their populations, tracing these ideas even as far back as Ancient China where Confucian scholars claimed that rulers enjoyed the ‘Mandate of Heaven’ only so long as they acted for the benefit of their people. He is also investigating the meaning and implications of the idea that the international community bears not merely the right but the obligation to act to protect populations when host states fail to do so, asking who in particular bears this obligation and what steps can be taken to ensure that it is carried out.

Luke co-edits a peer-reviewed quarterly journal, Global Responsibility to Protect, with fellow GAI members Sara Davies and Alex Bellamy. A recent issue of this journal focused on Asian perspectives on the responsibility to protect (vol. 1, iss. 2, 2009).

The selected cases displayed considerable variation in terms of socio-economic development, rule of law, vertical accountability, horizontal accountability, responsiveness, freedom and equality and thus provided the perfect setting for assessing whether, and to what extent, variations to the functioning of democratic regimes is affected by differences in each of these dimensions.

This project generates new insights into why some Asia-Pacific democracies are more successful than others. This information will be employed in wider cross-regional comparative analyses.

Workshops

“The Quality of Democracy in the Asia-Pacific”

The Griffith Asia Institute and the Centre for Governance and Public Policy recently hosted the “The Quality of Democracy in the Asia-Pacific” workshop.

The workshop applied Leonardo Morlino’s framework to the study of the quality of democracy in the Asia-Pacific. Professor Morlino, Professor at the Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane and President of the International Political Science Association, argues that democracy is a multidimensional phenomenon, that its quality depends on how countries perform in each of the constitutive dimensions, and that countries’ performance on such dimensions is either hindered or facilitated by a constellation of factors such as norms and institutions, the role of the elites and political culture.

Consolidated democracies, unstable democracies, newly established democracies both in developing and in highly developed societies were analysed.

Asia is often said to be the part of the world that is most reluctant to embrace the R2P concept. Numerous states in the region remain wary of any attempts to weaken their sovereign right to freedom from interference in their internal affairs, and in the last few years China has obstructed the authorisation of international responses to the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan and vetoed Security Council resolutions condemning human rights violations in Burma and Zimbabwe, charging that these measures represented illegitimate breaches of sovereignty and international law.

Conference participants including organiser, Dr Riccardo Pelizzo (second from right front row) and guest Professor Morlino (far right, front row).
Member News

Talking about Asia Pacific Art

The Queensland Art Gallery’s weekly lecture series, held during February and March 2010 and developed in conjunction with major exhibitions, introduces and extends the ideas and themes explored in the Sixth Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art. Focused talks explore the work of artists from specific geographical areas, while in-conversation talks highlight the experience of curators and scholars in the field, providing insights into cultural and historical contexts. GAI member Associate Professor Julia Howell presented on 20 March 2010 at the in-conversation lecture where the focus was on West Asia, along with Mark Pennings.

India’s Rise

In the past twenty years India has been transformed. The country’s acquisition of nuclear weapons has shifted the Asian strategic balance, while India’s diplomats have found a place at the top tables of international relations, notably in the G20. Economic liberalization has accelerated India’s GDP growth to the hitherto unprecedented levels of 6-7% a year, raising millions out of poverty and providing the means for ambitious education, health and infrastructure projects.

Understanding the aims and the direction of India’s foreign policy is thus imperative for states in the Asia-Pacific, including Australia. But while most observers acknowledge that India’s foreign policy is changing, few agree on exactly how and why. Some argue that India is in the process of abandoning the approach to international relations it inherited from its first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, one of nonalignment and moral leadership. Others think India is rapidly acquiring a more hard-headed, ‘realist’ or power political foreign policy.

To better understand these changes, Dr Ian Hall, Senior Lecturer in International Relations in the Department of International Business and Asian Studies, and Academic Member of GAI, travelled to New Delhi in January to interview academics at India’s biggest university department of international relations, at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and researchers at one of its most prominent think-tanks, the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA). In the second stage of the project, planned for early 2011, Ian will return to India to speak to politicians and government officials in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) about their roadmaps for the future course of India’s foreign relations.

The project is funded by a Griffith Business School Internal Research Grant. Early findings will be presented in “Does India Matter?”, a paper for the Oceanic Conference on International Studies in Auckland in July 2010, and more will be published later this year in ‘The Other Exception: India as a Rising Power’, an article in the Australian Journal of International Affairs.
Dr Michael Clarke

Dr T Conley

Dr Larry Crump

Dr Bjoern Dressel
- ‘Contested Notions of Legitimacy: The Case of Thailand’ (forthcoming, Politics and Policy, June 2010)

Dr Juanita Elias

Dr Luke Glanville

Associate Professor Martin Griffiths

Professor Ross Guest

Dr Ian Hall
- ‘The Other Exception? India as a rising power’, Australian Journal of International Affairs (forthcoming 2010).

Dr Michael Heazle

Dr Shumei Hou

Professor Ron Keith
Dr Caroline Liss

Professor Andrew O’Neil

Dr Andrew Selth

Cathy Moloney
After completing her Bachelor of International Relations at Griffith University in 2006 and gaining a Masters of International Politics from the University of Melbourne in 2008, Cathy was awarded an Australian Postgraduate Industry Award in 2009, as part of an ARC Linkage Project, “Australia’s Nuclear Choices.” She commenced her PhD at Flinders University under Andrew O’Neil. When Andrew took up the position of Director of the Griffith Asia Institute and a Professorship at Griffith University, Cathy also decided to leave Adelaide and take up her PhD studies in Brisbane.

Cathy has come to love the collegiate nature of the Institute and the enormous benefit that the Griffith Asia Institute has offered her, not only for furthering her career opportunities but for the outstanding support that the institute offers for her PhD studies. Cathy’s research focuses on a comparative study of the nuclear export policies of Australia and Canada and how both states reconcile their commercial role as exporters of nuclear material with their political and strategic interests in maintaining and strengthening the global non-proliferation system.

Cathy is the post- graduate representative for the Association of Canadian Studies for Australia and New Zealand (ACSANZ) and represented the Association in Japan 2009 for the Pacific Asian Network of Canadian Studies (PANCS), where she was awarded the best post-graduate paper of the conference. She has also accepted the opportunity to represent ACSANZ again in 2010 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel in June.

Cathy looks forward to a long association and is the post- graduate representative for the Association of Canadian Studies for Australia and New Zealand (ACSANZ) and represented the Association in Japan 2009 for the Pacific Asian Network of Canadian Studies (PANCS), where she was awarded the best post-graduate paper of the conference. She has also accepted the opportunity to represent ACSANZ again in 2010 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel in June.

Cathy has come to love the collegiate nature of the Institute and the enormous benefit that the Griffith Asia Institute has offered her, not only for furthering her career opportunities but for the outstanding support that the institute offers for her PhD studies.

Professor Jason Sharman

Dr Frank Smith

Professor Xu Yi-Chong
- ‘To be but not to be seen: exploring the impact of international civil servants’, Public Administration, (forthcoming).


RHD Students
Cathy Moloney
- Australia China Futures Dialogues
  - 21 June
  - Annual Leader’s Lecture, Chinese Executive Leadership Academy (CELAP), Pudong, Shanghai
- 12 August
  - Second Track Dialogue, Achieving Sustainable Economic Development in the Asia Pacific, Australian Pavilion, Shanghai World Expo

- 27–30 September
  - Emerging Leaders’ Dialogue – Brisbane
  - China’s Rise: Understanding the implications for Asia

- Perspectives: Asia
  - 29 July
  - Dr Michael Wesley, Executive Director, Lowy Institute for International Policy, Adjunct Professor Griffith University, Gallery of Modern Art
  - 2 September
  - Mr Rizal Sukma, Executive Director, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia, Islam and Indonesia’s Foreign Policy, Gallery of Modern Art

- Research Workshops
  - 21–23 July
  - Collaboration and Governance in the Asia Pacific, Brisbane
  - 7–8 December
  - International Political Economy, Brisbane

- Research Seminars
  - 28 July
  - Professor Colin Mackerras, Department of International Business and Asian Studies, Implications for China’s International Relations from the Disturbances in the Tibetan Areas and Urumqi, 2008–2009, Griffith University, Nathan campus
  - 4 August
  - Dr Vlado Vivoda, University of South Australia, Energy Security in the Asia Pacific, N72 – 1.18, Griffith University, Nathan campus
  - 18 August
  - Dr Michael Clarke, Research Fellow, Griffith Asia Institute N54, 2.02, Griffith University, Nathan campus
  - 25 August
  - Professor Jason Sharman, Centre for Governance and Public Policy, China, Tax Havens and Development: The Caribbean Roots of the Chinese Economic Miracle, Griffith University, Nathan campus

- 1 September
  - Mr Rizal Sukma, Executive Director, Centre for Strategic and International Studies Griffith University, Nathan campus

- 8 September
  - Dr Ian Hall, Senior Lecturer, Department of International Business and Asian Studies, Does India Matter?, Griffith University, Nathan campus

- 15 September
  - Mrs Jo Gilbert, PhD Candidate, Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University, Nathan campus

- 13 October
  - Dr La-Ha Chan, Centre for Social & Cultural Change in China Investment, University of Technology, Sydney

- 27 October
  - Dr Juanita Elias, Research Fellow, Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University, Nathan campus

For up to date information on events, podcasts and news, please visit www.griffith.edu.au/business/griffith-asia-institute/news-and-events