

31 July 2009

Dear Colleague,

**Invitation to Global Asia Institute: Three “Minisymposia” –
21-22 August, the Nexus, Level 6, University Hall**

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the first event to be hosted by the Global Asia Institute (GAI). A program describing three consecutive, and related, “Minisymposia” is enclosed.

The purpose of this event is twofold. First, it will serve as a source of mutual education among us for a wide cross section of the talent within NUS, showing how this array of expertise can be brought to bear on issues critical to cities in 21st century Asia. Second, we would like participants to help define and organize the major initial thrusts of GAI. In particular, we wish to mobilize the full spectrum of talent available at NUS, so that GAI will be able to look holistically at the topics chosen for study.

I look forward to seeing you at the Minisymposia.

Yours sincerely,

Tan Chorh Chuan
President

*Please RSVP by 8 August: Loh Wen Zsa (uprloh wz@nus.edu.sg)
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Global Asia Institute

Three “Minisymposia”

21 – 22 August 2009
The Nexus, Level 6, University Hall

Program

Friday, August 21

- 1:00 p.m. Welcome
William R. Schowalter, Senior Advisor to the President
- 1:10 The GAI Concept
Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, President, NUS
- 2:00 Discussion

Session I. “Consequences of Economic Stress”

Panel A

Economic Stress and Capital Development

- 2:30 Introduction
Prof Bernard Yeung, Dean, NUS Business School
- 2:40 Economic Distress, Corporate Governance, and Institutional Development,
the Asian Experiences
Prof. Chang Sea Jin, Provost Chair Professor, NUS Business School
- 3:10 Discussion
- 3:25 The Impact of Economic Stress on Human Capital and Demographic
Dynamics
Prof Jean Yeung, Department of Sociology and Asia Research Institute
- 3:55 Discussion
- 4:10 Break (10 minutes)

Panel B

Economic Stress, Cities and Environmental Capital

- 4:20 Introduction
Prof Prasenjit Duara, Department of History and Director, Humanities and Social Sciences Research
- 4:30 Bridging Natural and Urban Ecologies
Prof Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University
- 5:00 Discussion
- 5:15 Urban Economy, Environment and Livelihoods: Closing the Loop**
A/P Shreekant Gupta, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
- 5:45 Discussion
- 6:00 Social Hour

Saturday, 22 August

Session II. “The Urban Environment of 21st Century Asia – Characteristics and Consequences”

- 8:30 a.m. Introductory Remarks
Prof Heng Chye Kiang, Dean, School of Design and Environment
- 8:45 Defining Urban Architecture for the New Asia
Prof Heng Chye Kiang, Dean, School of Design and Environment
- 9:15 Discussion
- 9:30 Health and High Density Living – An Asian Perspective
A/P Lim Meng Kin, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
- 10:00 Discussion
- 10:15 Tea Break
- 10:45 Asian Cities – Cultures in Motion
Prof Chua Beng Huat, Asia Research Institute
- 11:15 Final Discussion
- 11:45 Round-up and Closing
A/P Adeline Seow, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and
Prof Heng Chye Kiang, Dean, School of Design and Environment
- 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. Lunch

Session III. Allocation of Resources (Water, Energy, Food)

- 12:55 p.m. Introduction
Prof Seeram Ramakrishnan, Vice President (Research Strategy)
- 1:00 Asia 2010-2030:
Part 1. Resources and Environmental Sustainability
Part 2. Global Water Crisis: How It Could Affect Asian Cities
Prof Peter Rogers, Gordon McKay Professor of Environmental Engineering,
Harvard University
- 1:45 Discussion
- 2:00 Living Cities: Unleashing the Virtuous Nexus of Water, Urbanization and
Governance
Prof Seetharam Kallidaikurichi E, Director of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew
School of Public Policy
- 2:35 Discussion
- 2:50 Tea Break
- 3:15 Clean Energy Science and Innovation: Addressing the Climate Change
Imperative in Asia
A/P Jeffery Obbard, Division of Environmental Science and Engineering
- 3:50 Discussion
- 4:05 Food Security, Food Safety and Food Quality: Challenges and Opportunities
for Asia in a Globalized World
A/P Thomas Walczyk, Department of Chemistry
- 4:40 Discussion
- 5:00 Social Hour and Open Discussion of GAI Going Forward, led by
Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, President, NUS
- 6:00 Adjournment

About the Global Asia Institute

Transcending boundaries of geography and knowledge

As Asia continues to rise in importance in the global arena, there exists a need to identify and address the region's greatest challenges at a deeper level. To be established by 2010, the NUS Global Asia Institute aims to take the lead in research and scholarship directed at topics pivotal to Asia's future. Driven by the mission to provide in-depth insights to shape the nature of 21st Century Asia, the NUS Global Asia Institute will take a holistic approach to the fundamental issues confronting Asia and the world. By focusing on integrative studies, the work of the Institute will go beyond public policies and also deal with matters of technological importance. The Institute will complement existing NUS programmes that already have a significant Asian component.

The NUS Global Asia Institute, an initiative of NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, will bring together existing expertise from NUS and other universities, particularly those with expertise in India and China, in its quest for solutions that will solve the critical issues within Asia.

More information is available at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/research/globalasiainstitute/>.