



▶ A REPORT ON 2010 CONFERENCE HANOI, VIETNAM
1



▶ SEAGA IS ON FACEBOOK
5



○ ISSUE 6 | ○ FEB | ○ 2011

SEAGA *focus*

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN GEOGRAPHY ASSOCIATION

A report on the 2010 Southeast Asian Geography Association Conference

“Understanding the changing space, place and cultures of Asia”

Hanoi, Vietnam

23 to 26 November 2010

co-organised by
Hanoi National University of Education,
Hanoi University of Sciences
Vietnam Geography Association and
Southeast Asian Geography Association

Celebrating our 20th anniversary

The 10th SEAGA International Conference was successfully held in Hanoi, Vietnam from 23– 26 November 2010. This conference coincided with SEAGA’s 20th anniversary celebrations. The conference included multidimensional perspectives of the conference theme – chang-

ing space, place, and cultures of Asia - from scholars, policy makers and entrepreneurs as well as researchers and teachers. The aim of the conference was to advance the discourse on the issues of changing space, place and cultures in Asia, so as to inform citizens, enterprises and governments in their actions.

(Continued on page 2)



Contact Information

Email: seaga@nie.edu.sg
Website: <http://www.seaga.co.nr>



SEAGA

Southeast Asian Geography Association

(Continued from page 1)

The idea for hosting the conference here in Hanoi was seeded by our late past president, Professor Ooi Giok Ling when she first met Professor Do Thi Min Duc in Brisbane in 2006. This partnership was sealed in 2008, when we met in Quezon City, Philippines. The intention for hosting the international conference in different cities in Southeast Asia was to provide a platform for discussion among academics, educators, policy makers, activists and scholars who share a common interest on Southeast Asia.

SEAGA began as a series of international conferences first organized by Professor Goh Kim Chuan. It is remarkable that SEAGA has now become a strong network of scholars and educators. The conference hosted more than 230 delegates, indicating that SEAGA has now become a strong network of scholars and researchers. The conference included 130 international delegates from countries such as Australia, China, France, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Taiwan, United Kingdom and the United States. There were many delegates from ASEAN countries such as

Brunei, Indonesia, Cambodia, The Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore.

There were also more than 100 delegates from Vietnam alone.

The conference was also an excellent example of international collaboration among geographers and geography educators. The Hanoi National University of Education, our partners, Hanoi University of Sciences and Vietnam Association of Geographers, and the Institute of Geographers all played important organizing roles in this conference.

The conference provided a 4D experience. The conference has allowed participants to **dialogue**, **discuss**, **debate** and **discover** the differences and similarities in space, place and cultures across different countries and regions. The original intent was to have a theme that was general enough to include the diverse areas of geographical interest as well as to have a theme that was able to reflect the challenging issues of our times. The proceedings of the conference did full justice to the themes.

The keynote presentations were

(Continued on page 3)





very enlightening. Professor Phillip Hirsch challenged the conceptions of

equality and inequality, with his thought provoking lecture on considering inequality as a geographical concern. The lecture acknowledged the tacit but real differences in space, place and cultures within societies, within Southeast Asia, and beyond. Despite these differences, the region is experiencing changes that are contingent on common changing global forces. Dr. Low Pak Sum provided a visually rich engagement on how we should respond to a world challenged by global climate change, citing many examples to show us how we can consider these for our region. In the last keynote presentation by Professor Jonathan Rigg, the idea of changing space, place and cultures was exemplified through his thought-provoking discourse on transitioning between rural and urban. He asked “Is it possible to be urbane in the rural and do people make neat and unproblematic transitions from rural to urban?”

The theme was also continually reiterated through the panel presentations on the physical environment, political geographies, sustainability and management and changing cultures. The conference

had over 100 paper presentations in the English language and a numerous Vietnamese paper sessions. The issues discussed included:

- Geographies of inequality in South-east Asia
- Changing Spaces of Asia
- Population and Settlement
- Political Geographies
- Geography of Tourism
- Housing the Lower-Income Groups in Asian Cities
- Changing Resource Use in Asia
- GIS & Remote Sensing
- Becoming urban, staying rural in Southeast Asia
- Geography of Rural Transition
- Changing communities in SE Asia
- Geography of Food
- Design For A Sustainable Future
- Changing Environment and landscapes
- Living with Global Environmental Change
- Living with Rivers
- Understanding Changing Coasts
- Who owns the Carbon?
- Conservation and the changing physical environment of SE Asia
- Resource use and management
- Geography Education

The SEAGA meetings helped provide a platform for discussions and questions

on these issues that are particularly relevant to scholars and policy makers, educators, professionals and practitioners.

For the first time, SEAGA created two awards as part of our outreach to graduate students and young scholars in developing economies. The awards were given to help these scholars augment the cost of attending and presenting a paper at the conference. One of the awards was the Ooi Giok Ling paper award, in memory of our late and immediate past president, Professor Ooi Giok Ling. "Living along the margins: the largely ignored informal settlements of the fourth district of Quezon City, Philippines" by Marco Stefan B. Lagman received the SEAGA paper award while "The effect of scales in the analysis of agricultural land-use fragmentation based on satellite images of Semarang area, Indonesia" by Projo Danoedoro, Iswari Nur Hidayati, & Prima Widayani received the Ooi Giok Ling paper award.

SEAGA also initiated the first Ooi Giok Ling Lecture. The late Professor Ooi Giok Ling was the President of the Southeast Asian Geography Association from 2005 to 2009. Despite her short tenure as president, she managed to raise the profile of SEAGA by organizing 2 international conferences and 3 forums, starting the SEAGA eNewsletter, and seeding many publication ideas that resulted in papers

presented at these meetings being published as books, book chapters, special issues in journals and journal articles.

Her work has inspired many and SEAGA plans to feature a Ooi Giok Ling keynote lecture in our future biennial conferences. To start this series, we had Professor Philip Hirsch, who has worked closely with Professor Ooi to deliver this keynote lecture. Professor Hirsch also helms the IGU Regional Network for Southeast Asia, Australasia and the Southwest Pacific (SEAASWP) to which SEAGA is affiliated.

Amidst the many achievements of the 2010 SEAGA Conference, I would like to close this report with a personal reflection. As a young academic, working for SEAGA has helped me meet and befriend like-minded colleagues in the fields of Geography and Geography education. This journey has truly inspired me and has refueled my belief that SEAGA can indeed be an important avenue through which Geographers and Social Scientists can make a difference to the world we live in.

We, at SEAGA will continue to provide



the platform for discussion and we will endeavour to bring more interested people together, whether they are academics, students, educators, policy makers, activists or just concerned global citizens.

The online proceedings of the conference are now available at <http://www.seaga.info/>

Reported by
Chang Chew Hung & Ho Li-Ching
SEAGA Ex-Co



SEAGA is on FACEBOOK!

facebook

Search

SEAGA
Southeast Asian Geography Association

Southeast Asian Geography Association

Wall Info Photos Discussions +

Share: Status Photo Link Video

Write something...

Southeast Asian Geography Association + others

Just Southeast Asian Geography Association Just others Spam Settings

SEAGA
COMMUNITY

Southeast Asian Geography Association Increased storm activity and its impact on human activity.

Potholes Increase After Winter Storms
www.myfox8.com
The snow and ice from December's winter storms are finally gone, but in their place are plenty of potholes on area roads.

121 Impressions · 0% feedback
04 January at 20:16 · Like · Comment · Share

Information

Location:
c/o HSSE AG, NIE/NTU, 1 Nanyang Walk
Singapore, Singapore, 637616

You can find us on FACEBOOK as “Southeast Asian Geography Association”.

1 Like our page today!

SEAGA
focus

Editors:
As/Prof Chang Chew Hung—NIE/NTU
As/Prof Ho Li-Ching—NIE/NTU