This is the first issue of the 2014/2015 edition covering news throughout the first semester of the 2014/2015 academic year. We hope you enjoy our FASS newsletter!

HIGHLIGHTS AND EVENTS

FASS – IAS trip to Japan

On 18th of August 2014, a delegation from UBD visited one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Japan, Kyoto University, to sign a historic Memorandum of Understanding. The delegation consisted of the Vice Chancellor, the AVC for Global Affairs, the Director and Deputy Director of IAS (Institute of Asian Studies), the Dean of FASS, and a representative from IHS.

Prior to the signing, the VC of UBD and the President of Kyoto University, Professor Hiroshi Matsumoto entered into a brief dialogue regarding collaborative research and academic efforts between the two universities.

After the signing, the delegation from FASS and IAS made courtesy calls to several universities in Japan, including Nagasaki University, Kyushu University and the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, among others.

FASS Eminent Speaker Series: Professor Hans Dieter-Ever

“Applied Sociology of Knowledge: Do Knowledge Clusters contribute to Regional Development?”

In their well-known book on “The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge” Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann built on German classical sociology of Alfred Schütz and Karl Mannheim and postulate that human society is created by social imagination and knowledge. This idea has gained new relevance, as countries attempt to achieve progress and economic development by building a knowledge-based society and economy by concentrating expertise and knowledge in “knowledge clusters”. This paper will draw on the results of our studies on knowledge clusters in Brunei, Malaysia, and Vietnam as well as the relevant current literature to ask the question, whether knowledge clusters really contribute to regional development. The paper will also draw on lessons learned from k-cluster initiatives in ASEAN, the EU and the USA and highlight policy options for knowledge cluster development as a new form of an applied sociology of knowledge.
Visiting Academic from National University of Singapore

Dr. Syed Muhd Khairudin Aljunied joins our History and International Studies Programme as Visiting Academic from January to March 2015. He is a rising star in History and Malay Studies at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He has seven books (three single-authored, one co-authored and three edited volumes) under his name.

His single-authored books include the *Radicals: Resistance and Mobilization in Colonial Malaya* (NIU Press, forthcoming in 2015), *Colonialism, Violence and Muslims in Southeast Asia: The Maria Hertogh Controversy and Its Aftermath* (Routledge, 2009), and *Rethinking Raffles: A Study of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles Discourse on Religions amongst Malays* (Cavendish, 2005). He has published almost three dozens of book chapters and articles in prestigious journals.

He was awarded the “FASS Researchers Excellence Award” 2013/14 by NUS and was also promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, likely among the youngest to have achieved this feat in recent years. While at UBD, he will conduct lectures on Comparative Historiography of Southeast Asia for the benefit of students doing MA in History and in Southeast Asian Studies. He will also deliver a number of seminars and will collaborate with Dr. Rommel A. Curaming on a book project on the history and memory of the Jabidah Massacre and will serve as mentor to young, local academics.

University of Michigan Fellowship clinched by FASS lecturer

Dr. Rommel A. Curaming, Programme Leader of History and International Studies Programme, has been awarded the competitive University of Michigan (UM) Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) and Special Collections Fellowship 2015. This fellowship allows one month of visit and use of special collection of the UM libraries, particularly the Bentley Historical Library. The fellowship provides airfare, accommodation, living allowance and modest research-related funds.

While at University of Michigan (2nd to 30th March 2015), Dr. Curaming will undertake an archival work on the Joseph Ralston Hayden Collection, Lloyd Millegan and Elizabeth Olivia Hayden Collections at the Bentley Historical Library for his research entitled “The Politics of Expertise: Joseph Ralston Hayden (1887-1945) as an Exemplar of Power/Knowledge?”. This research project seeks to examine the interplay between the ‘political’ life and academic persona of Joseph Ralston Hayden. By teasing out the details of how Hayden’s scholarly and political roles interacted and reinforced each other, and at times generated friction or conflict, Dr. Curaming hopes to contribute to the efforts to understand how and why the scholarly and the political can hardly be separated, but at the same time the appearance of their oppositional ties is sustained.

FASS students win oratory competition

Muhd Raziq Raziqin bin Abdullah and ‘Izztul Abidah binti Hj Mohd Gani, both undergraduate students from FASS have emerged as champions (male category and female category respectively) in the final rounds of the Oratory Competition for Higher Learning Institute 2014. This competition, jointly organised by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and the Centre for Promotion of Knowledge and Language Learning (CPKL), Universiti Islam Sharif Ali (UNISSA), saw participation from various higher institutions around the country.
De La Salle University - Manila, the Philippines

De La Salle University, which lies in the heart of Manila is always ranked as one of the top three universities in the Philippines and FASS student Suhaida binti Abdullah was fortunate to have experienced being a student there. Some of the things that impressed her about the university were its security system (which made one feel really safe on-campus), its cleanliness and maintenance as well as the discipline of the students there. Suhaida shared classes with other international students from France, Korea and Japan. She took modules under the college of Education, one of which was 'Introduction to Arts' which made her appreciate Filipino history, culture, tradition, arts and films. During her time there, typhoon Yolanda hit the Philippines. Fortunately, students had been warned well in advance about the typhoon via text-messages and emails. Once the typhoon was over, our student volunteered her assistance when the university provided aid to victims under their relief operation. This was an invaluable experience for Suhaida as it opened up her eyes to the problems faced by a country after a natural disaster.

Akita International University - Akita, Japan

FASS student Nurul Radhiah binti Mohd Mussadik went to Akita International University in Japan under the Study Abroad Programme during her Discovery Year. The university is located in a rural but beautiful part of Japan and one can travel there easily via a domestic flight from Tokyo. Prior to arriving there, the university made good contact with her and even asked about any religious and dietary requirements she might have. Radhiah truly enjoyed her experience there - the people were all helpful and friendly. You can easily shop for halal food from online stores and the university even provides halal food for Muslim students. Our student took some liberal arts modules and one module she studied was 'History of Music' which introduced her to the beginning of various types of Music, for instance African-American Music, the histories of Music and the socio-cultural aspect of Music. She enjoyed different learning set-ups like sitting outside having group discussions with her lecturer and peers and she especially liked the open-book exams, which removed the onus of memorising facts! Radhiah interacted well with the local and international students and also participated during the university's 'International Festival'. Radhiah highly recommends Akita International University for students in their Discovery Year.
A date with Wu Chun: Living a life of endless possibilities

The faculty held a chat session with famous personality Wu Chun at the Institute for Learning, Innovation and Advancement (ILIA) Universiti Brunei Darussalam on 6th November, 2014. Wu Chun is owner of numerous businesses in Brunei and abroad. He has produced albums all over Asia and has done a world concert tour in thirteen Asian countries. He is the Brand Ambassador for some of the biggest international and fashion brands in the world. He has graced the covers of international fashion magazines. He is involved in a lot of charity work both in Brunei and in the region. During the chat session, Wu Chun inspired us with his achievements, challenges and experiences in the world of entertainment as well as the film and business industry. He also shared his love for doing charitable work and his hope of being a role model for younger Bruneians.

Community Outreach Programme: The Human Library Project

Our students were involved in the Human Library Project which aimed to help children from the Kg. Amo ‘B’ longhouse in the Temburong district. Children were taught by our students to learn outside the school environment in a fun and creative way using the given curriculum. The project ran for 3 months (from September 2014) and the facilitator in charge was FASS lecturer Siti Badriyah Hj Mohd Yusof. The classes were open to children from preschool to year 8 and the subjects offered were English, Malay, Maths, Science, Social studies. Our students taught the children weekly, from Monday to Thursday. Another major aim of the project was to help inculcate the importance of reading by having reading sessions every week in the longhouse library - built and funded by UBD under this very project. The students also organised a fundraising event at UBD from 10th to 15th November and was able to raise BND2500, most of which was used to buy more equipment and books for the longhouse library as well as fund fieldtrips for the children. The fieldtrips organised by the Human Library Project included a trip to the Marine Biodiversity Centre at Meragang and the children discovered how they can protect endangered marine life, in particular the sea turtles in Brunei waters.

FASS students involved in marine environmental awareness programme in Brunei waters

Two FASS students – Dk Siti Syuhaidah binti Pg Hj Baharuddin and Hajah Nuradilah binti Haji Mohd Affendy Agus – were among the volunteers involved in the Coral Propagation programme sponsored by HSBC (Brunei) and done collaboratively between an NGO, SCOT (Society for Community Outreach & Training) and a local diving company, Poni Divers. The aim of the programme was to plant coral reefs in Pulau Pelong, which once housed a thriving coral reef ecosystem. Our students, with other volunteers, worked really hard by diving to the island weekly to plant coral fragments on the sea bed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The 18th English in Southeast Asia (ESEA-18) conference to be hosted by UBD

UBD is proud to be hosting the 18th English in Southeast Asia (ESEA-18) conference from 16 to 17 November 2015. The theme of the conference will be related to the notion of “Interactions of English and other languages in Southeast Asia”. The ESEA conference series began in 1996 as a collaboration between NIE, NTU (Singapore), Universiti Malaya and UBD. The ESEA conferences have expanded significantly since its inception and are attended by an international group of scholars from ASEAN countries, the USA, Europe, Japan, Australia and elsewhere.
“Misunderstandings in English as a Lingua Franca: An Analysis of ELF Interactions in South-East Asia” by Prof. David Deterding

As we all know, many speakers in South-East Asia make no difference between *three* and *tree*, because the sound at the start of *three* is often pronounced as [t]. But does this matter? Did you know that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in the UK actually specifies that the words *three* and *thousand* should be said with an initial [t]? So they believe that these words are most intelligible if they are pronounced with [t] at the start.

So, you might ask, which sounds do matter? Clearly not all speech is equally intelligible, and some people are quite hard to understand.

A new book by Professor David Deterding, from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at UBD, investigates this issue. It analyses the recordings of nine speakers to find out what caused misunderstandings to occur. The book is entitled *Misunderstandings in English as a Lingua Franca: An Analysis of ELF Interactions in South-East Asia*, and it is published by De Gruyter.

The main findings are that failing to distinguish between sounds such as [n] and [l] or between [l] and [r] can be a problem, and also the loss of the second consonant at the start of words such as *plant* or *phrase*. But use of [t] at the start of *three*, absence of [t] at the end of words such as *act*, and shifts in word stress rarely cause problems.

“Negotiating Difference: The Trope of “Anak Derhaka” and Ideological Endings in Bruneian Writing” by Dr. Grace V.S. and Dr Kathrina Hj Mohd (2014) in *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*

In a quantitative analysis of themes explored in the creative writing classes at Universiti Brunei Darussalam, it was found that over 60 per cent of all writings dealt with the parent–child relationship, with many dealing specifically with the trope of the *anak derhaka*, or unfilial child. A closer look at the *anak derhaka* texts showed that their endings almost invariably showcased a formulaic trajectory that punished the unfilial child and restored family order. This article examines the significance of this recurring trope and its inevitable ending in the context of Brunei Darussalam’s tripartite state ideology and discourse, Malay Islamic Monarchy, consisting of race, religion and political identity. By preserving the continuity of traditional Malay–Muslim worldview, this recurring trope underscores an innate desire, or anxiety, to maintain local identity and cultural values amid the chaos of external, global pressures and events. At the same time, the texts reveal a fascination with difference, or Otherness. This paper will consider how these instances of difference are negotiated, for they reveal moments of tension and ambivalence which appear to undermine the state discourse even as the texts move toward the “correct”, closed endings.