

PREFACE

This proceedings volume contains the twelve papers presented by thirteen researchers at the fourth international conference of the Consortium for Asian and African Studies. The conference, entitled “Sustainable Cities,” was held on 28th to 30th of January 2013 at National University of Singapore.

The Consortium for Asian and African Studies (CAAS) was initiated in March 2007 by five higher educational institutions worldwide that lead Asian and African Studies, in order to strengthen collaboration in research and education activities. The original member institutions are Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO, France), Leiden University (Netherlands), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of National University of Singapore (FASS-NUS, Singapore), School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (SOAS, UK), and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS, Japan). Columbia University (USA) and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS, South Korea) joined the CAAS in 2010 and 2011 respectively.

One of the major objectives of the CAAS is to train researchers of the younger generation in the framework of international collaboration. To facilitate this objective, in conjunction with an annual symposium, a workshop for young researcher has been planned to give an opportunity to demonstrate their research activities, to enhance their academic skills, and to develop a fresh network of international researchers.

In the first CAAS conference held in Leiden University in 2009, the workshop for young researchers was organized separately from the symposium itself. In the second conference at INALCO in 2010 and the third conference at SOAS in 2012, presentations by young researchers were combined with those by senior researchers, providing a stimulating academic environment for the young researchers. The fourth CAAS conference was held in the same vein in January 2013 at NUS.

The conference, aptly entitled “Sustainable Cities,” consisted of six panels: A. Sustaining the Urban Economy, B. Languages, Cultures and/in the City, C. Environment, D. Planning, E. Cities and Disaster Management, and F. Migration. A total of twenty-eight papers were presented in this three-day conference. As a record of the conference, the program is attached at the end of this proceedings.

As were the previous conferences, TUFS is in charge of editing and publishing the proceedings of the symposium. This proceedings volume includes twelve papers by the thirteen researchers who submitted their papers. In this volume the papers are arranged in the order of presentation in the conference. The papers cover quite diverse topics. Two papers from panel A tackle social problems such as (1) social enterprise in South Korea, and (2)

the urban poor as perceived by the Malay-Indonesian intelligentsia. While two papers from panel B on (3) the national cemetery of South Korea and on (5) a Muslim community in a suburban new town in Malaysia handle the notion of nation and community, other papers focus on various cultural representations. Two papers discuss the role of music in Singapore both traditional and contemporary from (6) Chinese street opera to (8) street buskers, and the other two discuss cinema regarding represented images of (7) *Mingong* (migrant workers) in China and (9) Lahore, an old capital of Mughal Empire. One paper from panel C examines (4) a river landscape in Varanasi. The sustainability of urban neighborhoods is more directly dealt with by two papers about (10) social media neighborhoods in Kathmandu and (11) urban neighborhoods in a city in Chile (co-authored by two researchers). Finally one paper from panel E analyses (12) disaster management in relation to migrant and ethnic communities in Christchurch, New Zealand.

We regret the fact that no paper from panel F is represented in the proceedings. Nevertheless, this volume will certainly serve as a record of fascinating presentations in the conference, which as a whole constitute a valuable contribution to the discussion of “sustainable cities.”

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who have made this conference successful. I am particularly grateful to Associate Professor Ho Kong Chong from FASS-NUS for organizing the conference.

I also would like to congratulate all the young researchers who contributed to this conference with the fruits of their diligent research activities. In this regard, acknowledgement must be made for the sponsorship of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), whose generous support made some of the researches published in the proceedings possible, as indicated in the paper, through its Institutional Program for Young Researcher Overseas Visits and the International Training Program-Asia and Africa (ITP-AA).

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