

Call for papers

Languages, Cultures and Education in South East Asia: Identity and Diversity

Royal University of Phnom Penh, October 16th-19th 2019

For China and Japan, Southeast Asia is regarded as a unique group of countries sharing many common characteristics (*Southern Seas, Nanyang, Nampo*)³. For India, the group is known as “Golden Territory” or *Suvarnabhumi* or *Suvarnadvipa*⁴. After the WWII, the concept has been further reinforced, particularly among North American.

With common cultural, artistic, religious and even linguistic features, which are products of partially shared histories and trajectories, the uniqueness of local experiences is still real, despite apparent disruptions caused by colonial histories, struggles for influence among superpowers and globalization.

Along these lines, the conference theme is “Languages, Cultures and Education in Southeast Asia: Identity and Diversity.” The conference coincides with the Institute of Research for Development’s (IRD, France) 75th anniversary and marks the ending of the GERESH-Cam project as well as the launching of the “Center for Human and Social Sciences” in Cambodia.

This international conference examines the uniqueness of linguistic and cultural practices and ways of knowledge transmission from past to present. It also shines light on diversity and proximity of Southeast Asian contexts in ancient time as well as the present.

In the field of education, the conference intends to promote a discussion on various forms of knowledge transmission, including traditional models, either esoteric or exoteric systems of the ancient structures in stateless societies or those knowledge structures influenced by India, China or Islam. Contemporary formal and informal education systems will also be parts of the discussion. Specifically, the conference will explore cultural transmission through languages and norms at different levels (family, school, religion and social group) and how such transmission is ensured. The conference intends to understand how schools are trying to implement state policies of linguistic and cultural homogenization while at the same time trying to address the issues of linguistic and cultural diversity in their curricula.

As for the field of language and culture, the conference will discuss issues of uniqueness and diversity among individuals, ethno-cultural and national experiences, and the specific conception of the world as seen through those lenses. Language – be it the language of a minority or a national community, oral or written – is both the means by which cultural transmission is performed and a part of the cultural complex itself. In other words, language is the foremost manifestation of cultural complexity. Issues such as colonial legacies and relations between local and globalized languages and cultures as well as the description of languages will also be examined in this conference.

The conference aims to showcase various national and regional case studies for comparisons among different contexts in Southeast Asia. **We welcome papers and presentations in the form of case studies as well those dealing with methodological or theoretical issues related to languages, cultures and education. The following disciplines are especially encouraged: languages and linguistics, education and cultural studies, sociology and anthropology, geography, history and archeology.**

³ A. Raid, “Completing the Circle : Southeast Asian Studies in Southeast Asia”, ARI Working Paper, No. 12, September 2003, www.ari.nus.edu.sg/pub/wps.htm.

⁴ *Op.cit.*

Please note that an edited book will follow the conference.

Submissions types:

- Individual presentations: 25 minutes papers plus 5 minutes discussion are welcome.
- Posters presentations.

Papers may be submitted in Khmer, English or French; although a simultaneous translation will be available, speakers will make the most of the conference if they understand at least 2 of the 3 languages. Proposals of no more than 500 words should be sent to div.sea.symposium@gmail.com before March 5.

Students and researchers whose papers/presentations are accepted may receive financial support for their travel and conference costs in Cambodia. Financial support will be allocated depending on financial availabilities and proposal quality with priority given to students and scholars from Southeast Asia.

Important Dates

- Call for papers: January 21
- Papers proposal: March 5
- Notification of acceptance: May 24
- Registration deadline: June 28
- Program: July 5
- International Conference: October 16-19

Co-Organized by: Institute of Research for Development (IRD, France), National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations studies (INALCO, France), Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP, Cambodia), Royal University of Fines Arts (RUFA, Cambodia), National Institute of Education (NIE, Cambodia) and the Mixt Research Unit, SeDyL (IRD, INALCO, CNRS).



With support from: French Embassy to Cambodia and l'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF).



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