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BERITA



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Editor's Note

Let me begin with an apology to subscribers. In the past two or three years, *Berita* has not appeared as frequently and as close to deadline as in its first 23 or 24 years. A number of reasons can be offered for this lapse, including the editor's extremely heavy workload, the lack of editorial contributions from readers, and the uncertainty of *Berita*'s future as a printed periodical.

Some Malaysia / Singapore / Brunei Studies Group members have suggested that *Berita* be made into an online publication. I have had no problem with that, while hoping that the printed version also stands. But, if the only way *Berita* can survive is in electronic form alone, then I reluctantly go along with that decision.

The future of *Berita* will be discussed at the M/S/B Studies Group meeting when Association for Asian Studies convenes in Washington, D.C.

But no matter which version(s) survives, we need more materials from you in the form of news notes, essays, editorials, and articles. *Berita* was much livelier at a time when it featured such contact.

Every so often, it is very appropriate for me to thank those of you who have been supportive of M/S/B Studies Group and *Berita*, and always at the top of that list are Kent Mulliner and Lian The-Mulliner. Without their excellent bibliographies over the years, and their handling of the printing and distribution, *Berita*, would not have prospered.

John A. Lent

Periodicals

■ Articles of relevance from *Asiaweek* include:

Nov. 3, 2000 – “Make Way for the Merlion,” p. 18; Santha Oorjitham, “A New Type of Activism,” p. 32; Jacintha Stephens, “Singapore: Testing Political Limits,” p. 34; Alejandro Reyes, “The War Against Cronies,” pp. 36-48; Sabri Zain, “Questioning Our Feudal Loyalty: Malaysians Are a New People,” p. 44; “Cronyism in Asia: A Primer,” pp. 48-49; Arjuna Ranawana, “The \$1.3 – Billion Man,” p. 72.

Nov. 10 – Arjuna Ranawana, “Mixed Messages,” pp. 24-25; Roger Mitton, “For Richer or Poorer,”

pp. 32, 34, 36; Saifuddin Nasuton Ismail, “Malaysia into the eWorld?” p. 181.

Nov. 17 – Assif Shameen, “After the Crash,” pp. 34-35; Sangwon Suh, “Reformasi's Ongoing Fight,” p. 48; “Mahathir in Chat Mood,” p. 50.

Nov. 24 – “Brunei,” p. 19; “The Meaning of the MAS Deal,” p. 22; Santha Oorjitham, “The Play's the Thing...,” p. 31; Sonia Nayaham and Santha Oorjitham, “Mod and Muslim,” p. 42; Jacintha Stephens, “Pushing Back the Boundaries,” p. 46; Santha Oorjitham, “Watching for Wild life,” p. 50

Dec. 1 – “Brunei,” p. 14; Roger Mitton, “Singapore: Endangered Species,” pp. 46-47; Arjuna Ranawana, “Bonded by Money,” p. 64; “One Man and an Island,” p. 65.

Dec. 8 – Arjuna Ranawana, “A Proton in Ford’s Future?” p. 14; “Malaysia,” p. 18; Alejandro Reyes, “Keeping up with the Singaporeans,” p. 22.

Dec. 15 – Arjuna Ranawana, “Fingering Mahathir,” pp. 24-25; Alejandro Rocés, “The People Know Best,” pp. 40-41.

Dec. 22 – “Happy Together?” p. 6; “Happier under Britain,” p. 14; Maria Cheng, “The Day Books Become Quaint,” pp. 44-45.

Dec. 29, 2000-Jan. 5, 2001 – Arjuna Ranawana, “Bumps in Banking,” p. 16

Jan. 12 – Roger Mitton, “A Media Scuffle to the Death,” p. 8; “The ISA Has Had Its Day,” p. 14.

Jan. 19 – “New Path Gets Attention,” p. 7; Salil Tripathi, “Innocents Abroad,” p. 14.

Jan. 26 – Peter Cordingley, “Mahathir’s Dilemma,” pp. 22-25; “The Cost of Doing Business, K. L. – Style,” p. 24; Santha Oorjitham, “Forgotten Community: Many of Malaysia’s Poor Are Indians,” p. 25; “When You Are Old, You Face Reality,” pp. 26-27; Arjuna Ranawana, “Creeping Radicalism,” pp. 28-29.

Feb. 2 – Jacintha Stephens, “Turning Down the Heat,” p. 48.

Feb. 9 – “Mahathir,” pp. 6-7; “UMNO’s Elusive Online Star,” p. 12; “Singapore PM Speaks Out Sort Of,” p. 18.

Feb. 16 – “Malaysia,” p. 18; Jeremy Hansen and Assif Shameen, “Singtel Blues,” pp. 43-44.

Feb. 23 – “Getting It Right in Malaysia – on a Municipal Scale,” p. 14.

March 2 – “Saint Valentine’s Day Massacre –

Malaysian Style,” p. 9; “The Idiot Box Gets Wheels,” p. 14; Santha Oorjitham, “That’s Showbiz, Malaysian Style,” p. 52.

March 9 – “What’s in the Girls’ Name,” p. 47.

March 16 – “Said or Not Sedition?” p. 9; “Heresy from Within the Ranks?” p. 14.

March 23 – “Broadcast Noose,” p. 8; Arjuna Ranawana, “The Great Escapes,” pp. 26-28, 32-33.

March 30 - April 6 – “Lessons on Political Advancement,” p. 83.

April 13 – Arjuna Ranawana, “Malaysia’s Malingering Malaise,” p. 18; Assif Shameen, “A Question of Time (Sing Tel),” p. 30; Arjuna Ranawana, “(Un)Welcome to Malaysia,” p. 31.

April 20 – “None of That Philippines Nonsense Here, Thanks,” p. 16; “Layover,” p. 51.

May 4 – Daniel Gay, “A Very Singapore Protest,” p. 10; “Daim Takes a Break... on Doctor’s Advice,” p. 14; William Mellor, “Singapore: The Risks of Playing It Safe,” pp. 28-34; Daniel Gay, “The Neighborhood’s on Fire,” pp. 32-33; “Singapore Learns To Love Deregulation,” p. 34; Tan Siok Choo, “Singapore’s Mandarins,” p. 35; “Just Call Me Datuk,” p. 41; Ann Lee, “The Power of Challenge,” p. 40.

May 11 – “Mokhzani Mahathir: That’s My Boy!” p. 12.

May 18 – “The Deal,” p. 7; “Look Who’s Talking...,” p. 8; “Man Is a Political Animal...When You Play with His Dough,” p. 18; Alan Robles, “306,000,” p. 29; “Rethinking Singapore,” p. 53.

May 25 – Assif Shameen, “Time To Pull the Peg,”

p. 44.

June 1-8 – “Hadi Awang: The Urbane Face of Islam,” p. 46; Malaysiakini, *An Independent Voice*,” p. 54; “T. Ananda Krishnan,” p. 60; “Lee Kuan Yew,” p. 62; Mahathir Mohamad,” p. 68.

June 15 – “Stop Press: In Malaysia, You Wouldn’t Read All About It,” p. 16; Arjuna Ranawana, “On His Own,” p. 20; Alexandra A. Seno, “Matched Separates,” pp. 56-57; Arjuna Ranawana, “A Different Kind of Network,” p. 67.

June 22 – “Book Buzz,” p. 10; “Lilliputting Singapore on the Micro-Map,” p. 12; Arjuna Ranawana, “A Restructuring or a Reshuffling?” p. 37.

June 29 – “Daim Brought to Book,” p. 8; “Have a Drink at the Wheel in K.L.,” p. 12; Penny Crisp and Arjuna Ranawana, “Malaysia: Rebranding Mahathir,” pp. 18-19; Assif Shameen, “Malaysia: ‘We Are Not at War,’” p. 20; Arjuna Ranawana, “Daring To Rule,” p. 21; “Wei Out There,” p. 62.

July 6 – Arjuna Ranawana, “Malaysia: Defense Force,” pp. 28-29.

July 20 – “The Downturn,” p. 8; Assif Shameen, “A Delicate Balancing Act for Mahathir,” p. 10; “Asian B2C Is Alive and Clicking,” p. 37; Assif Shameen, “Diamonds in the Dust,” pp. 46-47.

Sept. 14 – Maria Cheng, “Putting a Price on Mahathirabilia,” p. 14; Joseph Dawes, “Beware the Alien Invasion,” p. 24.

Sept. 21 – Karim Raslan, “Political Endgame,” p. 20; Danel Gay, “A Place To Call Home (Tan Hwee Hwee),” pp. 50-51.

Sept. 28 – Jacintha Stephens, “The Art of Splice

and Dice,” pp. 46-47.

Oct. 5 – “The Crunch,” p. 12.

Oct. 19 – Assif Shameen, “Flextronics Stays Hungry,” pp. 56-57.

Oct. 26 – Karim Raslan, “Moderation Rules,” p. 19; Arjuna Ranawana, “The Malay Dilemma,” p. 23; “The Comback Man: Nik Mohamed Yaacob,” p. 33; Assif Shameen and Roger Mitton, “A Setback for Best-Laid Plans,” pp. 40-41.

Nov. 2 – Mahathir Mohamad, “The Truth Deficit,” p. 21.

Nov. 16 – “The Election: Singapore Voted, PAP Won — So What Else Is New?...,” p. 16; Zoher Abdoolcarim and Roger Mitton, “Face-Off,” pp. 24-28.

Nov. 23 – “Brunei’s Slippery Slope,” p. 10

Nov. 30 – Arjuna Ranawana, “This Is One Guy With No Fear of Flying,” p. 48.

Dec. 7 – Mala Punjabi, “A High-Tech Way To Spread the Word,” p. 15.

■ Articles of relevance from *Far Eastern Economic Review* include:

Nov. 16, 2000 – S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia: Too Soon To Go,” p. 20; Lorien Holland, “Malaysia: Weighing In,” p. 80.

Nov. 23 – S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia: Be the Judge,” p. 34; Lorien Holland, “Car Making: Moment of Truth,” pp. 64-66.

Nov. 30 – S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia: Renong Reinvented,” p. 88.

Dec. 7 – John McBeth, “Family Feud,” p. 15; S.

Jayasankaran, "Malaysia: A Nation Still Divided," pp. 26, 28; Alkman Granitsas, "Aviation: Coming Down to Earth," pp. 70, 72-74; "Interview: Tajudin Ramli," p. 71; Trish Saywell, "Going It Alone," p. 82; S. Jayasankaran, "Cyclical Play," p. 85.

Dec. 14 – "How To Win Votes," p. 8; S. Jayasankaran, "Malaysia: Rude Wake-up For Mahathir," pp. 16-18; "Interview: Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. Umno Suffering Isn't Over," p. 20; Trish Saywell, "Thinking Out of the Box," pp. 62, 64; S. Jayasankaran, "Malaysia: The Dark Horse," p. 84; David Plott "Provocative Political Fantasy," p. 98; David Plott, "Irreverent and Humorous," p. 99.

Dec. 21 – "Singapore's Lee Backs Security Ties," p. 10; Trish Saywell, "Singapore: The Young and the Restless," pp. 24-25; Trish Saywell, "Germ of an Idea," p. 54; James Irwin, "Have a Heart," p. 58; S. Jayasankaran, "A Question of Honour," pp. 60-62; S. Jayasankaran, "Malaysia: Fear of the Unknown," p. 71

Dec. 28, 2000-Jan. 4, 2001 – S. Jayasankaran, "Cruising to Long-Term Market Success," pp. 78-79; Trish Saywell, "Singapore Airlines Covers New Ground," pp. 84-85; Fay Khoo, "Malaysia: Old Styles, Fresh Tastes," pp. 122-123.

Jan. 11, 2001 – Michael Vatikiotis, "Mahathir: Declining Powers," p. 18; Trish Saywell, "Honey Pot," p. 33; Trish Saywell, "Singapore: Cloudier Prospects," p. 58.

Jan. 18 – S. Jayasankaran, "Bouncing Back," p. 37.

Jan. 25 – S. Jayasankaran, "Malaysia: Right To Inquire," p. 21; Trish Saywell, "Singapore's New India Play," pp. 49-50; S. Jayasankaran, "National Burden," pp. 53-54; Rodney Tasker, "Betting the Farm on Food," p. 55.

Feb. 1 – S. Jayasankaran, "Mahathir Reaches Out," p. 29; Trish Saywell, "Singapore: Upstart with Savvy," p. 44; S. Jayasankaran, "Malaysia: No Alarm Bells," p. 54; Trish Saywell, "Singapore: Trading Down," p. 54.

Feb. 8 – S. Jayasankaran, "Time dotComs Watershed IPO," pp. 46-47.

Feb. 15 – "Business Behind Malaysian Altruism," p. 12; "Lee Hsien Yang: Provider of Choice," p. 48; Trish Saywell, "Making House Calls," pp. 50-52.

Feb. 22 – S. Jayasankaran, "The Curious Tale of RHB Bank," pp. 51-53; John McBeth and Trish Saywell, "Gas Getaway," pp. 54-55; Trish Saywell, "Singapore: Ivy League Violinist," p. 72.

March 1 – Lorien Holland, "Malaysia: Shaking the Party Grip on Power," pp. 16-18, 20; S. Jayasankaran, "Not Much Fun," p. 36.

March 8 – "Singapore-U.S. Trade Pact on Track," p. 10; S. Jayasankaran, "Malaysia: In Bad Company," p. 50; S. Jayasankaran, "Stock Watch: Embarrassment of Riches," p. 52.

March 15 – Lorien Holland, "Malaysia's Next Big Thing," p. 61.

March 22 – S. Jayasankaran, "Malaysia: Pressure Point," p. 19; S. Jayasankaran, "Malaysia: The Bakun Behemoth," p. 56; Chai Kim Wah, "Books: Political Climate Control on High," pp. 68-69.

March 29 – Lorien Holland, "Malaysia: Negative Spiral," p. 56.

April 5 – S. Jayasankaran, "Singapore: Model Company," p. 21; Michael Vatikiotis, "Malaysia: Under Siege In a Phoney War," pp. 22, 24.

April 12 – “U.S. Mission’s Zeal on Press Freedom,” p. 8; “Singapore Builds Up Naval Strength,” p. 10; Lorien Holland, “Malaysia: Prevention Is Better Than Cure,” pp. 44-46; Lorien Holland, “Penang Sees the Light,” pp. 46, 48-49.

April 19 – S. Jayasankaran, “Singapore: Clobbered!” p. 52; S. Jayasankaran, “Cushioning the Blow,” p. 56.

April 26 – S. Jayasankaran and Sadanand Dhume, “Malaysia: Betting the Farm,” pp. 45-46.

May 3 – “UMNO Loses Support Among Malays,” p. 8; “Snags for Singapore Bank Reform,” p. 10; S. Jayasankaran, “Daim’s Holiday,” pp. 18-20; Charu Lata Joshi, “Marketing: Blooming Again,” p. 40; Lorien Holland, “Malaysia: Whose Heritage?” pp. 56-58.

May 10 – “Daim To Unwind in America,” p. 12; Suh-Kyung Yoon, “Prophet Warning,” p. 37; S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia: A Fragile Balance,” p. 56; Lorien Holland, “Malaysia: Birth of a City,” pp. 61-62.

May 17 – “‘Places Not Bases’ Puts Singapore on the Line,” p. 21; S. Jayasankaran “Malaysia: Come Back!” p. 56.

May 24 – “Tweaks? Malaysia’s Companies May Peg Too Much on Competitive Devaluation,” p. 10; S. Jayasankaran, “Rebels Together,” p. 17; Lorien Holland, “Anwar’s Children,” p. 34; Tan Siok Choo, “Wooing Malaysia’s Chinese,” p. 35; Lorien Holland, “Property Suite: Malaysia Eases Up, but No Takers,” p. 56.

May 31 – “Vajpayee Gets No Joy In Malaysia,” p. 12; S. Jayasankaran, “Fire-Fighting,” p. 52.

June 7 – “Singapore Welcomes Chinese Guests,” p. 12; Trish Saywell, “Beacon Bows Out,” p. 15; Lorien Holland, “A Lesson in Race Relations,” pp. 28-29; S. Jayasankaran, “Post-Mortem,” p. 54; Lorien Holland, “Proton’s Positive Sin,” p. 55.

June 14 – Lorien Holland, “Islam’s New Look,” p. 17; S. Jayasankaran, “Final Sacrifice: Daim Bows Out,” pp. 24, 26; Lorien Holland, “Not Such a Good Deal,” p. 26; Anne M. Ruff, “From the Jungle to the Clinic,” pp. 42-43.

June 21 – S. Jayasankaran, “Value in Medium-Caps,” p. 62; Fay Khoo, “E & Ohhh...,” p. 81; Trish Saywell, “Lion City Lures Top Expats,” p. 85.

June 28 – Lorien Holland, “Malaysia: Party of Islam? Well, Sort of,” pp. 26-27; S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia: Bench Brawl,” p. 28.

July 5 – S. Jayasankaran, “One-Man Show,” p. 15, Terence Gomez, “Why Mahathir Axed Daim,” pp. 50-51; S. Jayasankaran, “Prison Didn’t Shut Him Up,” p. 65.

July 12 – Trish Saywell, “Spec’s Social Safety Net,” p. 58.

July 26 – “Mahathir Eyes the White House,” p. 10; Lorien Holland, “A Portrait in Mixed Media,” p. 53; S. Jayasankaran, “A Sense of Malaise,” p. 54.

Aug. 2 – “Rights Groups on Singapore Case,” p. 9; “U.S. Admonishes Malaysia,” p. 8; Darryl Carlton, “Ever-Elusive Net Gains,” p. 37.

Aug. 9 – “Azizah’s American Welcome,” p. 9; Trish Saywell, “Singapore: Even the Best Are Helpless,” pp. 12-15; Karim Raslan, “Justice in Malaysia,” p. 24; Trish Saywell, “Suffer the Children,” p. 31; S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia:

Debts, Daim and Downturn,” pp. 42-43; Lorien Holland, “Steady as She Goes,” p. 45.

Aug. 16 – S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia’s Corporate Survivor,” pp. 39-40; Trish Saywell, “Building Fundamentals,” p. 45.

Aug. 23 – S. Jayasankaran, “Mahathir to the Rescue,” pp. 19-20; Charles Bickers, “Medicine Man Returns,” pp. 30-33.

Aug. 30 – Lorien Holland, “Tea for Two in a Pewter Pot,” pp. 36-37.

Sept. 6 – “Mahathir’s in No Hurry To Quit,” p. 10; Trish Saywell, “The Best-Laid Plans” (Singapore), p. 62; S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia: A Receding Bottom Line,” p. 62.

Sept. 13 – Trish Saywell, “Singapore: In Contraction,” p. 62; Trish Saywell, “Handling the Media,” p. 74.

Sept. 20 – S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia and Singapore: Moving on,” p. 29; Trish Saywell, “Singapore: Nothing Left To Lose,” pp. 32-33; “Singapore: Arts for Business’s Sake,” p. 77; Jane Camens, “Singapore Swing,” p. 81.

Sept. 27 – Lorien Holland, “Malays Study in Pakistan,” p. 22; S. Jayasankaran, “A Great Way To Go,” p. 48; S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia: Raising a Stink,” p. 49.

Oct. 4 – “Mahathir Revisits Skeletal Pact,” p. 10.

Oct. 11 – S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia: Profiting from Fear,” pp. 32, 34-35; Lorien Holland, “Does Oil Palm Hold a Cancer Cure?” p. 56.

Oct. 18 – Lorien Holland, “A Catalyst for Change,” pp. 68-69; “Azman Yahya: Malaysia’s Debt Buster,” pp. 81, 84; S. Jayasankaran,

“Pernas’ Payback,” p. 85.

Oct. 25 – S. Jayasankaran, “The Islamic Party’s Malay Dilemma,” p. 17; Trish Saywell, “Street Car You Desire,” p. 48; S. Jayasankaran, “The Gold in Garbage,” p. 58.

Nov. 1 – Lorien Holland, “Brunei’s Costly Hangover,” pp. 52-53; Trish Saywell, “Singapore Survivors,” p. 59.

Nov. 8 – Trish Saywell, “A Sure Thing,” p. 13; S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia: A Sea of Troubles,” p. 58.

Nov. 15 – “Powder Panic on Singapore Flight,” p. 12; Trish Saywell, “Singapore: Token Contest,” p. 20; Trish Saywell, “Medicine for the Economy,” pp. 40-42, 44-46, 48; “Andrew Witty: Discovering Drugs in Singapore,” p. 49; S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia: Tajudin Thwarted,” p. 56.

Nov. 22 – “Malaysian Academics Avoid Politics,” p. 10; “Malaysians Bid for Games Contracts,” p. 12; Trish Saywell, “Breaking Ranks: James Gomez,” p. 72; S. Jayasankaran, “The Debtbuster: Azman Yahya,” p. 87; Lorien Holland, “Sharp Eye: Ho Kay Tat,” p. 89.

Nov. 29 – “Malaysia To Host ASEAN University,” p. 11; S. Jayasankaran, “A Swift Rise,” p. 13; Trish Saywell, “Waiting To Soak Up Liquidity,” pp. 54-56; Trish Saywell, “How To Hedge Your Bets,” pp. 57-58.

Dec. 6 – S. Jayasankaran, “Malaysia: A Problem To Settle,” pp. 26-27; Trish Saywell, “Property: Global Player,” p. 70; K. Das, “The Tunku Tapes,” pp. 76-79.

Dec. 20 – S. Jayasankaran and Trish Saywell, “Heading for a Collision,” pp. 46-48.

Dec. 27-Jan. 3, 2002 – S. Jayasankaran, “One-Man Show,” pp. 72-73; Trish Saywell, “High Flier,” pp. 76-77; S. Jayasankaran, “Small Plantations Pay Big,” p. 103.

Jan. 10 – Trish Saywell, “Money: Singapore: Seeking a New Path,” pp. 54-55; S. Jayasankaran, “Priming the Pump Again,” pp. 54-55.

Jan. 17 – “Singapore Joins Bid for BCA,” p. 8; “Singapore Media Under Fire,” pp. 8-9; “Unusual Suspects,” p. 11; Trish Saywell, “Nerves of Steel,” p. 44.

Jan. 24 – Leslie Lopez, “Malaysia: Secret Anwar Deal? Well...,” pp. 18-19; Trish Saywell, “Singapore: Common Ground,” pp. 20, 22.

Jan. 31 – Trish Saywell, “Singapore: Back to the Black?” p. 56.

Feb. 7 – “Bush-Mahathir Meet a No-Go,” p. 9.

Feb. 14 – S. Jayasankaran, “Mahathir’s New Model,” pp. 44-45.

Feb. 21 – S. Jayasankaran. “A Great Divide,” p. 18.

Feb. 28 – S. Jayasankaran, “Media: His Master’s Voice,” pp. 44-45.

March 7 – “Johor Building Proposals Submitted,” p. 9; S. Jayasankaran, “A Driving Force,” p. 38.

March 14 – S. Jayasankaran, “Mahathir’s Troubleshooter,” pp. 42-44.

March 21 – S. Jayasankaran, “Lost Ground,” p. 19.

■ In *Asian Mass Communications Bulletin*, Jan.–Feb. 2001 were the following:

“S’pore Tops in Asia in Online Chatting,” p. 4; “Malaysia Won’t Censor Web,” p. 5; “Copyright Tribunal Revised,” p. 6; “Ezy Way To Buy Online Without a Credit Card,” p. 13.

■ *IIAS Newsletter*, No. 23, Oct. 2000, has the following articles: Khoo Salma Nasution, “George Town at a Historic Crossroads,” p. 25; Yuri Sadoi, “Malaysia: Skill Formation in the Auto Parts Industry,” p. 25.

■ Abdur-Razzaq Lubis. “The Indonesians in Penang, 1786-2000.” *IIAS Newsletter*. February 2001, p. 24.

■ Asmah Haji Omar. “Managing Languages in Conflict Situation: A Special Reference to the Implementation of the Policy of Malay and English in Malaysia.” *Journal of Asian Pacific Communication*. 10:2 (2000), pp. 239-254.

■ Datuin, Flaudette May V. “Text and Subtext” (Singapore exhibition review). *Art Asia Pacific*. No. 29, 2000, pp. 40-41.

■ Lim Cheng Tju. “‘Sister Art’: A Short History of Chinese Cartoons and Woodcuts in Singapore.” *International Journal of Comic Art*. Spring 2001, pp. 59-76.

■ Mandal, Sumit. “Valuing Asia: Wong Hoy Cheong’s Quest for a Postcolonial Visual Vocabulary.” *Art Asia Pacific*. No. 29, 2000, pp. 72-77.

■ Syed Ahmad Jamal. “Malaysia.” *Art Asia Pacific*. No. 30, 2001, p. 93.

■ Yap, Sonny. “Mamma Mia! Don’t Turn Singapore into Little Italy.” *Persimmon*. Spring 2001, p. 14.

■ Lenzi, Iola. “12 ASEAN Artists.” [Exhibition Review. Malaysia]. *Art Asia Pacific*.

No. 31, 2001, pp. 28-30.

■ Tan Shzr Ee. “‘Authentic’ Fakesong: The Sing Singapore Campaign.” *IIAS Newsletter*. Nov. 2001. pp.16-17.

■ Douw, Leo. “Transnational Management: China & Singapore.” *IIAS Newsletter*. Nov. 2001, p. 42.

■ Recent articles in *Asian Cinema* are:
11:2 (Fall / Winter 2000): Michael Lee, “Dead Man Gazing: Posthumous Voyeurism in *12 Storeys*, or ‘Splicing’ Singapore’s Official and Unofficial Discourses?” pp. 99-131. 12:1 (Spring / Summer 2001): William van der Heide, “*Semerach Padi*: A Proposal for a New Nation,” pp. 3-13.

■ The conglomerates have done it again. *New York Times* (Dec. 3, 2001, p. C8) reports that AOL Time Warner closed *Asiaweek*, dismissing most of the magazine’s 85 employees. And, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, in the clutches of Dow Jones for years, has merged the *Review*’s editorial Staff with that of *The Asian Wall Street Journal*.

Having been a subscriber of the *Review* for more than 30 years and of *Asiaweek* from its beginnings, I have noticed that both had mellowed on political issues and dropped reporting of much of what constitutes Asia not related to high tech. Both read like new information technology pro-trade periodicals.

The demise of *Asiaweek* and beating-down of the *Review* are serious blows to the region, as Mark Landler states in his *New York Times* article, reprinted here:

English-language journalism in Asia has taken a body blow in the last month, with the closing of one Hong Kong-based regional news magazine and a drastic retrenchment at another.

AOL Time Warner said on Thursday that it would stop publishing *Asiaweek*, which it has

owned since 1985, because of the collapse of the advertising market here. Most of its 85 employees will lose their jobs.

Dow Jones & Company, which publishes *Far Eastern Economic Review*, recently combined the editorial staffs of that magazine and *The Asian Wall Street Journal* – a move that cut 36 jobs, most at the *Review*.

The cutbacks mean more than despondent people at the bar of Hong Kong’s Foreign Correspondents’ Club. They signal the waning of a tradition of lively, independent magazines that cover Asia with the familiarity of a native but the critical distance of an outsider.

“There’s been a deterioration in the diversity of opinions, and analysis of political and business events, in the region,” said Philip Bowring, a former editor of the review and columnist for *The International Herald Tribune*, which is published by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

“People in Southeast Asian countries, which have large English-speaking populations, want alternative voices to their local media,” Mr. Bowring said. “Often the local media is controlled by the government.”

Mr. Bowring said both magazines had strayed from their original focus on regional politics to a heavy emphasis on business and technology. The new formats, he said, were ill-timed: most Asian economies are lagging and the dot-com crash was every bit as crushing here as in the United States.

Executives at AOL Time Warner and Dow Jones insist their decisions were based on economic, not editorial, considerations.

“We had a plan, and the plan was working up until the middle of this year,” said Peter Brack, president of *Asiaweek*. “Then we got struck by lightning. Nobody could have predicted the severity of this downturn.”

Dorinda Elliott, *Asiaweek*’s editor, said subscribers and advertisers liked its focus on business. Time Inc., however, was not willing to

endure years of losses while the magazine found its financial footing.

“Unfortunately, every time I found ways to cut some costs, the market dropped even further,” Ms. Elliott said. “When the market collapses, it makes the road to profitability all that much longer.”

Like *Asiaweek*, *Far Eastern Economic Review* is losing money. It, too, insists that its shift in editorial focus has been successful – at least with readers. Circulation rose 2.8 percent in the first half of 2001, to 99,120 copies.

“There are no dot-coms to write about any more, but there are a lot of other areas of innovation,” said Philip Revzin, the publisher of the review and *The Asian Wall Street Journal*. “There’s nothing to be ashamed of in writing about gadgets. I like gadgets. We’ll do more on them.”

There has been no gloating at the review over *Asiaweek*’s demise. The magazines are linked by history: *Asiaweek* was founded in 1975 by Michael O’Neill, a New Zealander, and T.J.S. George, an Indian, who had worked together at the review but had grown disenchanted with what they considered its ponderous style.

The review, founded in 1946, made its name with feisty, if occasionally long-winded, reporting. Soon after Dow Jones acquired majority control of the magazine in 1987, it was banned in Singapore for a few years when its coverage ran afoul of the city-state’s leader, Lee Kuan Yew.

These days, the review’s journalists are worried by the prospect of writing for both a weekly magazine and a daily paper. Reporters at *The Asian Wall Street Journal* said there had been already turf battles over where articles were published.

Mr. Revzin would not say how much combining the editorial staffs would save. But he said he hoped the layoffs would be the last. To critics who say Dow Jones is reducing its support of the review, Mr. Revzin said the

revamping was a commitment to the magazine’s future. “If we had wanted to shut it down, we would have shut it down,” he said. “We’re not shutting it down.”

Some media critics noted that with the emergence of competent English-language newspapers in Bangkok; Jakarta, Indonesia; and other Asian cities, regional magazines were less important than during the heyday of the review.

Mr. Revzin, not surprisingly, disagrees. “Asia needs a newsmagazine,” he said. “Regrettably we’re now alone in this niche. We obviously would welcome advertisers who don’t have a place to go.”

■ Articles in *Art Asia Pacific*, Issue 33 (2002), include: Iola Lenzi, “Wang Guangyi: Singapore,” pp. 89-90; Laura Fan, “Nadiyah Bamadhaj: Malaysia,” p. 92; David Birch, “*Focas*: Singapore,” p. 96.

■ Ong, Adeline. “Singapore.” *Persimmon*. Spring 2002, p. 10.

■ “S’pore Media To Get Competition Framework and Code of Conduct.” *Asian Mass Communications Bulletin*. Nov-Dec. 2001, p. 9.

■ Tan, Kenneth Paul Andrew Sze-Sian. “Civic Society and the New Economy in Patriarchal Singapore: Emasculating the Political, Feminizing the Public.” *Crossroads*. 15:2 (2001), pp. 95-122.

Books

■ *Animation in Asia and the Pacific*, edited by John A. Lent and published by John Libbey & Co. (2001), includes chapters on Malaysia (two,

one by Lat [Mohd. Nor Khalid], the other by Mulyadi Mahamood) and Singapore (Lilian Soon).

■ Sarkissian, Margaret. *D'Albuquerque's Children: Performing Tradition in Malaysia's Portuguese Settlement*. Chicago, London: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

■ Lee Kuan Yew. *The Singapore Story: 1965-2000*. New York: Harper Collins, 2000. 729 pp. \$35. See review by Nicholas D. Kristof in *New York Times Book Review*, Nov. 5, 2000, p. 35.

■ From Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (30 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Pasir Panjang, Singapore 119614) come:

Regional Outlook, Southeast Asia 2001-2002 (2001, 94 pp., US\$19.90, 981-230-114-3).

Nakamura Mitsuo, Sharon Siddique, and Omar Farouk Bajunid, eds. *Islam and Civil Society in Southeast Asia* (2001, ca. 200 pp., US\$29.90, 981-230-111-9).

Yao Souchou, ed. *House of Glass: Culture, Modernity, and the State in Southeast Asia* (2001, ca. 360 pp., US\$36.90, 981-230-075-9).

Mya Than and Carolyn L. Gates, eds. *ASEAN Enlargement: Impacts and Implications* (2000, 368 pp., US\$32.90, 981-230-081-3).

Mya Than, ed. *ASEAN Beyond the Regional Crisis: Challenges and Initiatives* (2000, 320 pp., US\$32.90, 981-230-099-6).

Peter Boomgaard and Ian Brown, eds. *Weathering the Storm: The Economies of Southeast Asia in the 1930s Depression* (2001, 220 pp., US\$29.90, 981-230-079-1).

Derek da Cunha, ed. *Southeast Asian Perspectives on Security* (2000, 208 pp., US\$45.90, 981-230-098-8).

Derek da Cunha, ed. *Singapore in the New Millennium: Challenges Facing the City-State* (2002, 300pp., \$29.90, 981-230-130-5).

Chia Siow Yue, Nick J. Freeman, R. Venkatesan, and S. V. Malvea. *Growth and Development of the IT Industry in Bangalore and Singapore: A Comparative Study* (2001, 88 pp., \$19.90, 981-230-142-9).

Hans-Dieter Evers and Rüdiger Korff. *Southeast Asian Urbanism: The Meaning and Power of Social Space* (2000, 28pp., \$25.90, 981-230-101-1).

■ Clark D. Neher. *Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World* (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University, Southeast Asia Publications, 2001, \$14.95, 1-891134-06-X).

■ Robert W. Hefner, ed. *The Politics of Multiculturalism: Pluralism and Citizenship in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia* (Honolulu: University Press of Hawaii, 2001, ca. 410 pp., \$27.95, 0-8248-2487-3).

■ Nathalie Means and Paul B. Means (edited by Gordon P. Means). *Sengoi-English, English-Sengoi Dictionary* (Toronto: The Joint Centre on Modern East Asia, University of Toronto, York University, 1986, 191 pp.).

■ Nathalie Means (edited by Gordon P. Means). *Temiar-English, English-Temiar Dictionary* (St. Paul, Minnesota: Hamline University Press, 1998, 175 pp., \$19.95, 0-9633686-7-2).

■ From Cornell University Southeast Asia Program (607-255-8038):

Beng-Lan Goh. *Modern Dreams: An Inquiry into Power, Cultural Production, and the Cityscape in Contemporary Urban Penang, Malaysia* (forthcoming).

Alistair Morrison. *Fair Land Sarawak: Some Recollections of an Expatriate Officer* (\$16).

Cheah Boon Kheng. *From PKI to the Comintern, 1924-1941: The Apprenticeship of the Malayan Communist Party* (\$14).

Elisabeth Uphoff. *Intellectual Property and US Relations with Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand* (\$8).

■ New from Curzon Press (15 The Quadrant, Richmond, Surrey TW91BP, England):

Ross Worthington. *Governance in Singapore* (2001, 288 pp., £45, 0-7007-1474-X).

Kumar Ramakrishna. *Emergency Propaganda: The Winning of Malayan Hearts and Minds 1948-1958* (2001, 304 pp., £45, 0-7007-1510-X).

William Atkins. *The Politics of Southeast Asia's New Media* (2001, 272 pp., £45, 0-7007-1516-9).

John A. Lent, ed. *Illustrating Asia: Comics, Humour Magazines and Picture Books* (2001, 288 pp., £35, 0-7007-1188-0). (Chapter on Malaysian humor magazines by Ronald Provencher).

Signe Howell and Stephen Sparkes, eds. *The House in Southeast Asia* (2001, 288 pp., £46, 0-7007-1157-0).

M. Jocelyn Armstrong, R. Warwick Armstrong, and Kent Mulliner, eds. *Chinese Populations in*

Contemporary Southeast Asian Societies (2001, 376 pp., £45, 0-7007-1398-0).

Lenore Manderson and Pranee Liamputtong Rice. *Coming of Age in South and Southeast Asia: Youth, Courtship and Sexuality* (2001, 320 pp., £16.99, 0-7007-1400-6).

Paul Kratoska, ed. *Southeast Asian Minorities in the Wartime Japanese Empire* (2001, 256 pp., £45, 0-7007-1488-X).

Mona Abaza. *Debates on Islam and Knowledge in Malaysia and Egypt* (2001, 336 pp., £45, 0-7007-1505-3).

Tony Shome. *Malay Political Leadership: Democracy or Less* (Dec. 2001, 288 pp., £45, 0-7007-1629-7).

Rob Havers. *The Changi Prisoner of War Camp: From Myth to History* (Jan. 2002, 272 pp., £40, 0-7007-1657-2).

Gretchen Liu. *Singapore: A Pictorial History 1819-2000* (2001, 400 pp., £30, 0-7007-1584-3).

Hew Cheng Sim. *Women Workers, Migration and Family in Sarawak* (2002, £45, 0-7007-1744-7).

Robert W. Hefner, ed. *The Politics of Multiculturalism: Pluralism and Citizenship in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia* (2001, 336 pp., £19.99, 0-8248-2487-3).

Meredith Weiss and Saliha Hassan, eds. *Social Movements in Malaysia: From Moral Communities to NGOs* (2002, 256pp., £45, 0-7007-1646-7).

Graham Saunders. *A History of Brunei* (2002, 228pp., £45, 0-7007-1698-X).

Anthony Reid, ed. *Sojourners and Settlers: Histories of Southeast Asia and the Chinese* (2001, 248pp., £15.99, 0-8248-2446-6).

■ Routledge (29 W. 35th St., NY, NY10001) offerings include:

Chua Beng Huat, ed. *Consumption in Asia* (2000, 272 pp., \$23.99, 0-415-23244-9). (Case studies of Malaysia, Singapore).

Michael Leifer. *Singapore's Foreign Policy* (2000, 192 pp., \$18.39, 0-415-23353-4).

Paul Kratoska, ed. *South East Asia: Colonial History* (2001, 2400 pp., \$824, 0-415-21539-0)

■ Oxford (198 Madison Ave., NY, NY10016) has:

Alice Yen Ho. *Old Kuching* (1999, 112 pp., \$16, 983-56-0050-3).

Barbara Leigh. *The Changing Face of Malaysian Crafts, Identity, Industry, and Ingenuity* (2001, 208 pp., \$44, 983-56-0060-0).

Lily Zubaidah Rahim. *The Singapore Dilemma: The Political and Educational Marginality of the Malay Community* (1999, 304 pp., \$40, 983-56-0032-5).

Ole Johan Dale. *Urban Planning in Singapore* (1999, 320 pp., \$38, 967-65-3064-6).

Lee Kam Hing and Tan Chee Beng, eds. *The Chinese in Malaysia* (2000, 448 pp., \$36, 983-56-0056-2).

■ University of Michigan Press (PO Box 1104, Ann Arbor, MI48106) titles of relevance are:

Louise Edwards and Mina Roces, eds. *Women*

in Asia: Tradition, Modernity and Globalisation (2000, 344 pp., \$14.36, 0-472-08751-7). (Includes Malaysia, Singapore).

Kathleen M. Adams and Sara Dickey, eds. *Home and Hegemony: Domestic Service and Identity Politics in South and Southeast Asia* (2000, 320 pp., \$39.60, 0-472-11106-X).

■ From Palgrave (175 Fifth Ave., NY, NY10010):

Jomo K. Sundaram. *The Malaysian Eclipse: Understanding the 1997-1998 Economic Crises* (2001, 320 pp., \$75, 1-84277-022-5).

Annabelle Gambe. *Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurship and Capitalist Development in Southeast Asia* (2000, 192 pp., \$55, 0-312-23496-1).

Hans-Dieter Evers and Rüdiger Korff. *Southeast Asian Urbanism* (2000, 271 pp., \$65, 0-312-23628-X).

John H. Drabble. *The Economic History of Malaysia, C. 1800-1990: The Transition to Modern Economic Growth* (2000, 400 pp., \$75, 0-312-23077-X).

M. Ramesh and Mukul G. Asher. *Welfare Capitalism in Southeast Asia: Social Security, Health and Education Policies* (2000, 240 pp., \$65, 0-312-23016-8).

Junko Tomaru. *The Postwar Rapprochement of Malaya and Japan, 1945-1961: The Roles of Britain and Japan in South-East Asia* (2000, 272 pp., \$65, 0-312-22777-9).

■ Paul & Company (814 N. Franklin St., Chicago, Il 60610), a publishers consortium, offers:

Raj Vasil. *Governing Singapore: A History of National Development and Democracy* (Allen & Unwin, 280 pp., \$35, 1-86508-211-2).

Tim Huxley. *Defending the Lion City: The Armed Forces of Singapore* (Allen & Unwin, 360 pp., \$35, 1-86508-118-3).

Mason C. Hoadley, ed. *Southeast Asian-Centered Economies or Economics* (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 160 pp., \$19.95, 87-87062-74-7).

Asian Development Bank. *Corporate Governance and Finance in East Asia: A Study of Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, Volume One* (Asian Development Bank, 93 pp., \$10, 971-561-295-4).

■ Grace Loh and Lee Su Yin. *Beyond Silken Robes: Profiles of Selected Chinese Entrepreneurs in Singapore* (Singapore: Times Academic Press, 1998, iii, 97 pp. \$25 (cloth)).

■ Eva Maria Kershaw. *A Study of Brunei Dusun Religion: Ethnic Priesthood on a Frontier of Islam* (Borneo Research Council Monograph, no. 4. Phillips, Maine: Borneo Research Council, 2000. x, 287 pp. \$38.50 (cloth)).

Conferences

■ Papers presented at the New York Conference on Asian Studies, Cornell University, October 26-27:

Mohd. Noor Mat Yazid (University of Coventry), "Idiosyncratic Domestic and Systemic Factors in Indonesia-Malaysia Relations 1961-1967."

Noore Alam Siddiquee (International Islamic University Malaysia), "Pursuit for Excellence: Recent Changes and Reforms in Public Administration in Malaysia."

Quan Vu Le (California State University – Long Beach), "Governance, Democracy, and Social Classes in Asia: Comparative Study of South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore."

Benglan Goh (National University of Singapore), "City, Nation, and Modernity: Some Reflections on the Shaping Power of Culture in Postcolonial Malaysia."

Prospectus

Berita is to serve as a forum and bulletin board for scholars on Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei studies. *Berita* is published three times yearly, appearing approximately in January, May and September. From its beginnings in 1975 until 2002, it has appeared in printed form. All editorial correspondence should be addressed to Dr. John A. Lent, 669 Ferne Boulevard, Drexel Hill, PA 19026 USA. *Berita* is printed at Ohio University through the generous cooperation of K. and Lian The-Mulliner.

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Minutes, Annual Business Meeting
**MALAYSIA/ SINGAPORE / BRUNEI
STUDIES GROUP ASSOCIATION FOR
ASIAN STUDIES**

March 23, 2001, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Chicago

Present: David Camroux, Sharon Carstens, Jay Crain, Greg Felker, Jeffrey Ferrier, Charles

Hirschman, Gaik Cheng Khoo, Michael Leigh, John Little, Craig Lockard, Patricia Martinez, Kent Mulliner, Lian-The Mulliner, Judith Nagata, Shuichi Nagata, Don Nonini (Chair), Michael Peletz, Ron Provencher, W. Tuch Rello, Kamal Sadiq, Eric Thompson. Bridget Welsh, Tsing Yuan

The meeting was called to order slightly after 7:00 p.m. The meeting was chaired by Don Nonini, Chair of the Group. Those attending introduced themselves. The minutes from last year's meeting of the Group were approved.

Announcements were made by people from the floor, including for the upcoming MSSA meeting in August.

Old Business

Don reported on the finances of the Group. The Group has a positive balance of about \$2,000, after the miscellaneous expenses for the production of the recent issues of the Group's newsletter, *Berita*, mentioned by Kent are deducted. It was pointed out that the sole source of income for the Group's finances are *Berita* subscriptions, and the sole expenses usually incurred are in connection with its production.

Don reported on the SEAC meeting on Thursday afternoon which he attended as representative of the Group:

He mentioned that the Border Crossing initiative from last year will continue this coming year. Not only does this include the special "Border Crossing" panels that cross disciplinary or areal boundaries, but also the special funding from the AAS for bringing panel presenters from Southeast Asia (assuming that they are confirmed participants on panels or roundtables that are accepted for the Meeting Program).

SEAC passed a resolution which it will forward to the Officers of the AAS urging that the AAS provide web space on its server for web-based versions of the newsletters of each country group, including space for archiving past electronic volumes and issues of these newsletters. This will come up for consideration by the AAS Board in October of this year. Don expressed his confidence that this motion will pass and go into effect in the next year. This would be in addition to the current commitment by AAS to link its own web site to those of the country groups and their newsletters. Don said that his sense was that this seemed to be a larger trend by the AAS to seek to make available the web-based newsletters of country groups to all AAS members free of charge, thus allowing a more easy transmission of information regarding activities within each country group to the members of other groups, who would no longer have to subscribe to another group's newsletter to be informed.

David Chandler, the historian of Cambodia, is the incoming Chair of SEAC; Belinda Aquino was the outgoing Chair. Chandler is therefore the representative of SEAC our group's officers should contact over this next year.

Development Grants to a maximum of \$20,000 will be awarded by the AAS again this year through the area councils, in our case SEAC. Constituent groups of SEAC may propose a new development grant initiative, but it must go through SEAC. Raymond Lum from CORMOSEA reported on the uses of the one Development grant (out of three applied for by SEAC) which was funded. Interestingly, this grant is to be used to digitize references to research in the vernacular literatures of Southeast Asia, beginning with the bibliography in Malay given in our very own *Berita*, due to the ease of digitizing the roman script of Malay. After that,

CORMOSEA will begin digitizing the Thai script using the Unicode system. Mention of *Berita's* significant collection of Malay language research literature references over the now 27 years of its production, Don said, is tribute to the important and significant contribution to Malaysian studies in the U.S. made by its founding and sole editor, John Lent and by Kent Mulliner who has overseen the production of the hard copy version for many years.

The new editor of the *Journal of Asian Studies* is Ann Waltner, and the new Southeast Asian book editor is Roger Bresnahan. The Southeast Asian manuscripts editor continues to be the Indonesianist, Laurie Sears. Don went through the number of Southeast Asian submissions to *JAS* this last year, and the numbers accepted outright, asked to revise and resubmit, and rejected outright: 25 submitted, 4 asked to revise and resubmit, 2 accepted outright, 15 rejected outright, and 4 pending. We then briefly compared the acceptance rate to that of other areas.

Thongchai Winachakul was again the SEAC Program Chair for this year's meeting in Chicago, and although he was not present at the SEAC meeting, he sent a written report. The following are the number of panels submitted by each country group, and the number accepted and appearing on the Program:

SEA as a whole – topical and/or comparative,
more than one country in SEA, or SEA
as a region: 10 submitted, 7 accepted
Indochina: 2 submitted, 2 accepted – Vietnam/
Cambodia/Laos combinations
Burma: 1 submitted, 1 accepted
Cambodia: 1 submitted, 1 accepted
Indonesia: 2 submitted, 2 accepted
Malay/Sing: 1 submitted, 0 accepted
Philippines: 1 submitted, 1 accepted
Thailand: 1 submitted, 1 accepted

Vietnam: 4 submitted, 4 accepted
Total: 23 submitted, 19 accepted

Don observed that the lack of accepted panels, and the small number of submitted panels by our members constitutes an “image problem” for our Group at SEAC, and this issue was discussed. Don argued for the possibility of group members submitting more interareal, theme-based panels which have partial, but not complete MSB content, in addition to submitting more panels related solely to Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. Both strategies combined will enhance our reputation and draw in new members, which we badly need at this time.

Update from the Chair on a web site for the Group: Don reported that little progress has as yet been made on the Group's web site, in part because it has been unclear where its home (its permanent server location) would be. Now, with this probably being decided in favor of making the AAS web page the home for country group web sites, this issue appears close to resolution.

New Business

1. Don brought up two items raised via email from Elliot Parker, the listmaster of MSB Forum. One is the promotion of both MSB Forum and SEASIA-L list serves by members of the Group. The other had to do with building an archive for papers related to Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, which Elliot offered to help on. There was little discussion of these items.
2. Building a new web site for the Group. Don indicated the need to proceed with constructing a web site for the Group, irrespective for the moment of the disposition of *Berita*. Bridget Walsh has offered to be web-person for the Group for a two-year period, and currently (between

now and May) has access to student assistance in designing and putting up a web site for the Group. Don and Bridget brought up the many immediate uses to which a Group web site could be put, e.g.:

— announcements of meetings, conferences, fellowships and grants to apply to, panels being organized, calls for papers, etc. with URL links to web sites making these announcements and giving particulars

— news from members: grants received, new research projects undertaken, books and articles published, etc. with links, as appropriate to publishers' web pages

— links to web sites of other MSB-related associations, e.g. PSSM/MSSA in Malaysia, the Australian Malaysian Studies Assn., etc.

— links to publications carrying news on Malaysia, e.g. *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *Malaysiakini*, *Asian Wall Street Journal*

— links to on-line Malaysian publications, e.g. *Utusan Melayu*, *Nanyang Shangbao*, *The Star*, *Straits Times of Singapore*, *Kwong-wah Jit Poh*, etc. carrying current news on Malaysia and Singapore

— links to official Malaysian government web sites, e.g. the Prime Minister's Office

— links to Malaysian, Singaporean and Brunei universities web pages, e.g. National University of Singapore, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

— links to library collections and indices on Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, e.g. the Australian National University Library collections

— links to Malaysian NGOs, e.g. Aliran, Suara

— links to political parties in Malaysia and Singapore

— contact information (email addresses, personal web sites) for Group officers

— links to international NGOs covering our countries, e.g. Human Rights Asia

— a section on the logistics of conducting fieldwork or other in-site research in Malaysia and Singapore – with a list of member who might

be willing to correspond with others about this. — photos, pictures, graphics, cartoons, on/of Malaysia – especially those produced by members of the Group where there are no copyright problems

There was brief discussion of these possibilities. Bridget offered to serve in her capacity as the Group's web-person to receive and put together any email information sent her by members giving web site URL addresses to include in the new Group site. Bridget said that it will be possible given the circumstances to have our Group web site up and functioning by May, and requested that all such items be sent to her no later than April 15 (tax time).

3. *Berita*: The issues of both the future editorship of *Berita* and its format (hardcopy vs electronic) came up. Those present expressed great admiration and respect for John Lent for the many long years (26) over which has edited *Berita*, and thereby contributed greatly to the field of study of Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei. At the same time, several persons indicated their sense from having talked with John that he would now be interested in passing over these duties to another colleague as long as the editorship of *Berita* passed to a scholar who would continue the high standards that John had brought to the journal and maintained from its inception. There was some discussion about the responsibilities entailed, and inquiries as to who might be most appropriate and interested. When Ron Provencher volunteered to take over the editorship as long as John felt comfortable with this, there was a widespread sense that Ron would be an ideal successor to John. With the proviso of John's agreement and satisfaction over the terms of the transition, it was decided that Ron would work with John, Michael, and Don as needed on transition plans.

As to the format of *Berita*, there was

widespread but not unanimous agreement that it was now time to convert *Berita* to an electronic internet format to reduce its distribution costs and to bring the Group's journal in line with the journals of other area studies groups in Southeast Asian Studies which have already shifted to electronic format. It was agreed that Michael, Ron, and Don would consult together to explore options for where the web home (server) for *Berita* might be (the AAS being ideal), discuss whether there remained a need for some copies to be published in hard copy form, and, with John, to start to think of the process of transition from printed to electronic format. There was no clear agreement as to whether *Berita* should be part of, or separate from, the Group's own web site being designed by Bridget.

4. A related item of business consisted of plans to honor John Lent next year at the AAS in Washington for his many contributions and years of service to MSB Studies Group and to Asian Studies as a whole by virtue of his editing of *Berita*. There was some discussion of what the options might be, and Michael, Don, and others undertook to work together to plan a fitting tribute to John.

The meeting was adjourned slight before 9:00 p.m., and many of those present then left for dinner together.

Don Nonini, Scribe

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