New Zealand Asia Institute

Previous research 2005

Detailed below is information on the Institute's research projects during 2005.

English in Asia

Description

English is the lingua franca of globalisation, promoted by the inheritance of the British empire, the pre-eminence of the United States, and the development of e-communication. In Asia, this "world language" has roles and values which seem to have exceeded its practical instrumentalities. The high instrumental and normative values of English commonly esteemed in Asia have fuelled the ever-growing English education market in and outside the region. Yet this enormous English language market has also presented challenges to educational suppliers in countries like New Zealand.

One challenge facing language schools is how to help Asian students, within a limited time, attain the required test scores and meanwhile prepare them for ensuing degree studies. Likewise, a challenge facing universities is to continue the "relay" and help these students, who often still have insufficient language and/or "cultural capital", assume confidence in their journeys through the often confusing and "mysterious" discourses of academic disciplines, and meet the expectations of their respective academic programmes.

This project focuses on issues and activities related to the English language in the context of Asian students attempting degree studies. Its objectives are to build on the research momentum initiated by New Zealand Asia Institute's 2004 research on International Students in New Zealand: Policies and Prospects, and help enable Asian students to garner value for their money and time spent on receiving a tertiary education in New Zealand.

Organiser

- New Zealand Asia Institute
- Siebold University of Nagasaki, Japan

Sponsors

- The University of Auckland
- Siebold University of Nagasaki, Japan
- Dezhou University, China

Publication

Fred Anderson, Yingxin Ma and Nicholas Tarling (eds), *The English Language and the Asian Student: New Zealand and East Asian Perspectives*, Shandong University Press (forthcoming)

Participants

- Professor Nicholas Tarling, The University of Auckland
Ethnicity, equity and the nation: The state, development and identity in multi-ethnic societies

Description

Research has indicated that contact between ethnic communities inevitably leads to an assertion of difference. It is here that the role of the state in formulating policies to manage the difference rather than accommodate it becomes crucial. The term "accommodating" suggests that one community is in a dominant position in relation to another. This assumption of superiority has been the reason for many conflicts between communities within a country.

In most cases, the issue of concern among communities is not that of citizenship but whether they are accorded rights in an equitable manner and whether cultural homogeneity is insisted upon by the majority or indigenous community.

The participants of the project intend to examine the impact of governance on ethnic enmity and its resolution in multi-ethnic, multi-religious countries in Asia through the study of (1) the structure of the state to determine if policies have been formulated to ensure equity in development; (2) the structure of capital, especially that owned by ethnic communities, to determine if common ethnicity drives enterprise development and contributes to wealth concentration; and (3) the form of identity transformations and whether these changes contribute to ethnic difference.

Organisers

- New Zealand Asia Institute
- Malaysian Social Science Association

Sponsors

- Japan Foundation
- NZ Good Governance Fund
- The University of Auckland
Publication

Nicholas Tarling and Terence Gomez (eds), *Ethnicity, Equity and the Nation: The State, Development and Identity in Multi-Ethnic Societies*, Routledge, 2008

Participants

- Professor Nicholas Tarling, The University of Auckland
- Professor Terence Gomez, University of Malaya
- Dr Xin Chen, The University of Auckland
- Professor Alfred Oehlers, Auckland University of Technology
- Dr Nicole Tarulevicz, University of Melbourne
- Dr Danny Keenan, Victoria University of Wellington
- Professor Teresita Ang-See, Kaisa-Angelo King Heritage Centre, Philippines
- Professor S.T. Hettige, University of Colombo
- Dr Kendra Clegg, Lembaga Survei, Indonesia
- Professor Rebecca Kim, Pepperdine University
- Professor Emile Yeo, University of Malaya
- Professor Donald L. Horowitz, Duke University