ASEFUAN’s Academic Conference and Annual General Meeting

Securing Public Health in a Globalized World
Amsterdam, The Netherlands, August 3-5 2011

People in Asia and Europe have benefited greatly from the increase in trade, tourism, and mobility between the two regions. This growing interdependence has given a positive impetus for development, yet at the same time public health is becoming more of a shared concern and responsibility. The conference will address public health issues related to Asia-Europe relations. It focuses on themes that play a role in both Asia and Europe, as well as topics that illustrate their interdependency and the need for interregional cooperation.

The event offers a platform for the exchange of research results, innovative healthcare solutions and best practices, with the aim of fostering closer cooperation between Asian and European partners involved in government, academic research, civil society and private sector. Topics include international cooperation and response systems for cross-border influenza epidemics, public-private initiatives on global health issues, healthcare in ageing societies, technological innovation in the healthcare sector, WTO and patenting issues related to medicines, and more.

- **Speakers:** The event features speakers from government, research institutes, academia, private sector and civil society, such as the Universities of Amsterdam, Leiden and Utrecht, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European External Action Service, the Dutch Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam Medical Centre, the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, the European Public Health Association, and more.
- **Venue:** The conference will be held in the Doelezaal at Singel 421 in central Amsterdam.
- **Partners:** Organizing partners are the Asia-Europe Foundation and its alumni network (ASEFUAN), the International Institute for Asian Studies and the University of Amsterdam, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and various public health organizations in Asia and Europe.

See www.asef.org/am2011 for more details, or contact the organizing committee at am2011@asef.org

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**IIAS Seminar Series**

**The State and Economic Development in Asia and Europe**

Report from the first seminar, held 17 February 2011

Financial crises – Regulation and government response in Asia and Europe

At the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century, a shift in the global economy is taking place. The centre of economic power is moving from the Atlantic to the Pacific region. This development will have considerable impact on the position of the European Union. The 2008 financial crisis and its consequences for the fiscal situation of member states constitute the background for all economic policy measures in the years to come. In the 1990s, Japan was confronted with a financial crisis and still has to find a solution to the economic and fiscal policy consequences that resulted from this crisis. Policy responses and experiences are of great value for discussions about the future of Europe and the European economy. The way in which China – as the largest emerging economy in Asia – was affected by the 2008 financial crisis in the U.S. and Europe will also have a considerable impact on the further development of the global economy. Therefore, the seminar's first session chose a comparative approach to discuss policy responses to the recent financial crises in Asia and Europe.

Xu Guangdong (Central University of Political Science and Law, Beijing) gave an overview of China’s economic policies. With its investment-friendly instruments, governments at central and local levels have been able to sustain economic growth, even after the financial crisis hit important foreign trading partners. The 2008 stimulus package was enacted quickly. These measures were crucial to stabilize the economy as additional government investments could make up for declining demand in some sectors of the economy. However, the instruments also reversed the recent trend of decreasing state influence on economic development. Hence, although China’s banking system was not affected by the 2008 financial crisis, recent policy measures will have important implications for the role of the state in China’s economy in the future.

Jan-Hein Christoffel (Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation) explained which causes led to the economic downturn in Japan in the 1990s. He placed special emphasis on the economic aftermath of the 1980s asset bubble that led to the Japanese banking crisis in the 1990s. He gave an overview of the government responses to the crisis, the political considerations behind these measures, and the fiscal consequences for Japan. Furthermore, he showed how Japan’s debt situation differs from that of some European countries as government debt is bought by domestic banks and as about 90% of Japanese institutional investors. The key question for Japan’s economic policymakers today is how to deal with an ageing population and the budgetary pressures from a rapidly increasing government expenditure. The tragedy of the earthquake and tsunami that befell Japan on 11 March 2011 and its still unknown human and economic costs will further complicate the response to these challenges.

Algur Don (Dutch National Bank) gave his perspective on the European financial crisis. He compared the forecasts of the crisis with the 1997 Asian crisis and explained how the initial banking crisis became a fiscal crisis for many governments in the Euro area. Obviously, this development will have considerable consequences for economic policies in Europe with respect to the state of the public finances and the place of decision-making, due to the further harmonisation of policies among EU member states.

Chair: Hans Kloosterman, the discussion also touched upon the duration of debt restructuring. Undoubtedly, the political battle in Europe to overcome this crisis will further emerge in the coming years when hard choices will have been made and their social consequences will lead to public debate and discontent. Thus, the aftermath of the financial crisis has become Europe’s starting position for facing the challenges that come with major shifts in the global economy in the coming decades. Researchers and policymakers will have to find answers to pressing issues such as the supply of natural resources and the political implications of poverty in other parts of the world. These issues were discussed in the second and third seminars of the series. The final seminar on 17 May 2011 drew conclusions from the experiences of the international and EU Asian economies into the global economy and Europe’s response.

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**The Europe China Research and Advice Network (ECRAN)**

The Europe China Research and Advice Network (ECRAN) is a new project funded by the European Union. It was launched in January 2011 and aims to provide policy briefs to EU policymakers, experts, and other EU External Action Service. The goal of ECRAN is to enhance understanding and expertise in Europe on developments taking place in China, notably on the political, economic and social levels. It will pursue this goal by:
- establishing a network of experts and institutions across Europe who share a common interest in contemporary China, providing briefings, publications, seminars, academic conventions, and maintaining a website (www.eseuropa.eu, forthcoming)
- developing an EU-China strategy to be accessible through these activities, ECRAN will create a stronger sense of ownership among China interested groups in Europe.

ECRAN has nearly 150 experts in its network, but is looking to expand. We would like to hear from experts interested in joining our network, who would like the opportunity to provide research and EU policy advice. If you are interested in joining ECRAN, please submit your CV to ecranci@gmail.com

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**Report from the international Workshop on History of Logic in China**

Organized by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), the Scaliger Institute, the Needham Research Institute, NOW and the Institute for Logic, Language and Information (RLC), the workshop took place in Amsterdam from 24 to 26 November 2010.

The convenors were Prof. Johan van Veenhuis (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Dr. Jeremy Seligman (Auckland University, New Zealand) and Dr. Fengrong Liu (Tsinghua University, Beijing, China).

The speakers of the workshop were the following:
- Chris Fraser (University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong), Chien-shan Chiu (Fudan Catholic University, Taiwan), Karel van der Leuwe (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Thierry Lucian (Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium), Jiecheng Zhu (Nankai University, China), Jer-sham Lee (Yunlin Science and Technology University, Taiwan), Christoph Hartmaner (University of Oslo, Norway), Chad Hansen (National University of Singapore, Singapore), Wujin Yang (Renmin University, China), Fengrong Liu (Tsinghua University, China), Jeremy Seligman (Auckland University, New Zealand), Johan van Bentheim (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Paul van En (Leiden University, The Netherlands), Wei-Chang Lee (Soochow University, Taiwan), Zhaozhi Zeng (Sun Yat-sen University, China), Yan Xie (Sun Yat-sen University, China).

In addition, to promote the interaction between historians and modern logicians, ten commentators were invited from various institutions of logic in the Netherlands to react at the workshop and this turned out to be very successful.

The workshop was preceded by a public lecture evening on 24 November. The event was opened by the President of the University of Amsterdam, Prof. Karel van der Toorn, and then followed by two public lectures by Dr. Fengrong Liu on Chinese Logic and Philosophy: Reconstruction or Integration and Prof. Ron Boas on Towards a World History of the Humanities: The Impact of China.

The workshop brought together experts in Chinese logic and Western logic to compare logic and its development taught by these two traditions in detail. While focusing on the School of Mohism in the Pre-Qin period, the workshop also studied logical contributions by other schools, for instance Confucianism. Basic concepts and reasoning patterns were extensively explored at the workshop, as were links with modern logical notions and theories. We discussed how ancient Chinese logic developed, even into the 20th century, and studied how this affects current ways of thinking. While the main emphasis of the event was scholarly, it also touched on major scientific and cultural issues today. As was remarked by Prof. Johan van Bentheim in his concluding speech “The most interesting project for today is not to start separating logic traditions and improving them in resplendent cultural uniqueness. The real test of congruity between logical, and indeed between cultural, traditions on this planet is like in the animal kingdom: can they produce viable new offspring?” The workshop participants believe that there will be many instances of this sort of mixing in the future.

An article related to the workshop, Chinese logic and related philosophy: Becoming a point of attraction? by Fengrong Liu and Jeremy Seligman will appear in the autumn edition of this newsletter. It will explore the problems and historical richness of making connections between building bridges between the Western tradition of logic in philosophy and related ideas in the Chinese tradition. A special issue of the journal Studies in Logic containing some of the papers presented at the workshop is planned for later in 2011.

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