

THE FUTURE OF STUDENT EXCHANGE
RICHARD WOOD, EARLHAM COLLEGE
1996 ASIANetwork CONFERENCE ADDRESS

"We need more study abroad, not less. The Pacific Century is here. We must not be blinded as though we were deer with headlights in our eyes," Richard Wood challenged the ASIANetwork Conference attendees at the April 27, 1996 lunch. Wood, President, Earlham College; Chair, U.S.-Japan Friendship Committee and U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON), has accepted a position as Dean of the Divinity School, Yale University, effective July 1, 1996.

Wood cited Richard Jackson of the Foreign Service Institute who observed the qualities of successful foreign service officers. Wood suggested that Jackson's conclusions are also characteristic of students whose study-abroad experiences are the most enriching.

Excellent study-abroad experiences

Such students 1) know enough or take the time to learn enough language to engage in cross-cultural communications; 2) know something of

the history, culture, and politics of the host country; 3) are interested in what is going on in the world outside of the university; 4) frequently travel away from the university site and city to the country and small towns; 5) develop personal contacts outside their official links; 6) are skilled in active listening, using both their eyes and their ears.

Erasmus model

"American study abroad programs must be rethought," Wood urged. We should move away from the junior year abroad concept, and consider the European Erasmus model whereby students receive their degrees from more than one institution.

Wood underscored the centrality of language study in the study-abroad experience. Language is fundamental to competence in communication and is the basis of establishing genuine exchange.

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GENDER AND CHANGE IN ASIAN SOCIETIES
1996 ASIANetwork CONFERENCE PANEL SYNOPSIS

Rita Kipp, Panel Chair
Anthropology, Kenyon College

Following the charge to examine what has changed and what has not changed in women's lives or gender relations over recent decades, four panelists reported on the countries or regions of Asia they knew best.

Panelists included *Sandhya Kiran*, Biology, Lady Doak College (Madurai, India), 1995-1996 United Board visiting scholar at Presbyterian College, on India; *Nirmala Salgado*, Sociology, Augustana College (639 38th St., Rock Island, IL 61201), on Sri Lanka; *Rita Kipp*, Anthropology, Kenyon College (kipp@kenyon.edu), on Southeast Asia;

and *Suzanne Barnett*, History, University of Puget Sound (sbarnett@ups.edu), on China and Japan.

Kiran addressed the impact of Hinduism on images of women and noted where the Indian government is attempting to ameliorate gender inequality. Salgado and Kipp both focused on changing work roles for women, especially in industry and as international migrant laborers. Barnett looked at women both in relation to the socialist revolution that remade China and to the Japanese reformation since the Meiji era. Her remarks suggested the difficulty of translating "feminism" across different times and cultures.