

ASIANetwork EXCHANGE

Vol. XIV, No. 3 Spring 2007

Globalization and Asia

Hong Kong, Identity, and Economic Change

Editors' note - During the 14th Annual ASIANetwork Conference, held on April 21-23rd, 2006 in Lisle, Illinois, Professor **Wellington Chan** of Occidental College, chaired an important panel titled "New Opportunities and Challenges: The Other Side of Economic Growth in the Greater Pearl River Delta." In Professor Chan's words, "During the past quarter century, the Greater Pearl River Delta, including Hong Kong and Macao, has become one of the most dynamic economic regions of the world. . . The rapid transformation of the region and its rise as an economic powerhouse are now redefining its identity and power relations between Hong Kongers and mainlanders in the GPRD."

Table of Contents

Network News

<i>ASIANetwork Strategic Planning Process</i>	
Phyllis Larson	3,8
<i>ASIANetwork Surveys</i>	
Teddy Amoloza	4, 16
<i>Vietnam Visiting Scholars</i>	5-6
<i>Vietnam-ASIANetwork Faculty Exchange</i>	6-8
<i>2007 ASIANetwork Freeman Student-Faculty Fellows</i>	
Van Symons	9-11
<i>Consultancy Awards for the Asian Art</i>	16
<i>Asian Studies—from Behind the Administrator's Desk</i>	
Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker	25

Research of Note:

<i>Hong Kong, Identity and Economic Change..</i>	1
<i>The Politics of Culture and Identity Discourse</i>	
Robert Eng	12-16
<i>Delta or Desert?</i>	
Jih-Un Kim	17-18
<i>Labor Conditions and Indigenous NGOs in the Pearl River Delta</i>	
Marsha Smith and Zhang Hong	19-21
<i>The Spectre of History in "New India" ...</i>	22-24

New and Noteworthy

<i>Tribute to Retiring ASIANetwork Leaders</i>	26-28
<i>Membership News</i>	28-30

Issues involving the construction and preservation of identity have continuously characterized Hong Kong's growth and transformation from a British colony to a Special Autonomous Region within the People's Republic of China. Yet, while Hong Kong's economic ascendancy has been well chronicled, its economic, social, and political importance has been defined largely within the context of China's overall growth and development. A discussion of issues involving Hong Kong residents' efforts to construct and redefine their collective identity in the midst of rapid geopolitical and economic change has not received the degree of attention that this important and unique corner of the world deserves.

Professor **Robert Eng's** piece (p. 12) is one effort to rectify this imbalance. Professor Eng sensitively links a discussion of Hong Kong identity formation to an analysis of important Hong Kong films. His conclusions are both timely and prescient, and we believe that they will be of interest to all *ASIANetwork Exchange* readers.

Professor Eng's article also establishes two themes that are expanded upon by other contributors to this issue. The first of these themes is the current situation in Hong Kong and the region more broadly. The Pearl River Delta panel mentioned above produced two other studies that are included in this issue of *ASIANetwork Exchange*. Professor **Jih-Un Kim's** article (p. 17) addresses the serious question of water pollution and water shortage in the region and the impact for Hong Kong of upstream economic growth on this crucial resource. Professors **Marsha Smith** and **Zhang Hong** (p. 19) discuss migrant labor and the conditions of the region's working class.

The second theme is preservation of identity in the face of rapid economic and social change. Professor **Jyotsna Kapur** contributes to this discussion with an examination (p. 22) of the newly important role that history seems to be playing in contemporary Indian cinema as a critique of the current manifestation of globalization.

We hope these articles will spark further discussion, and we encourage readers' submissions to the newsletter on these and other issues.

Irv Epstein and Tom Lutze