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SEAGA *focus*

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN GEOGRAPHY ASSOCIATION

A report on the 2009 Southeast Asian Geography Association International Forum

International Forum on Cities and Climate Change – Society and Policy Responses

14 February 2009
Ministry of National Development Auditorium

CLC & SEAGA jointly organized this International Forum on an issue that is challenging national and local governments all over the world with the occurrence as well as ever more frequent recurrence of natural hazards that are destroying homes and lives of people practically everywhere.

Organised in response to popular demand by key members of the SEAGA net-

work, this forum brought together scholars, policy makers, entrepreneurs and concerned citizens to debate state and society responses to climate change and its implications particularly for populations living in cities.

In its continuing mission to provide a platform for researchers on various aspects of Southeast Asia, from within or outside the region to share their research and work in geography, the humanities, social sciences and

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SEAGA

Southeast Asian Geography Association

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related areas, the programme of the forum included discussion of adaptation and mitigation measures as well as governance and public policy in response to climate change.



Member of Parliament

- Dr Paul Barter, Lee Kuan School of Public Policy
- Mr Christophe Inglin, CEO of Phoenix Solar
- Mr Andrew Tan, Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Liveable Cities
- Dr Pak Sum Low, Adjunct Professor, Mirvac School of Sustainable Development, Bond University, Australia.



These issues are relevant to scholars and policy makers alike. The forum provided teachers, educators, professionals and practitioners opportunities to debate the 'ground-up' as well as policy responses to climate change.

Among the speakers who were present were

- Professor Euston Quah, Head of Economics, Nanyang Technological University
- Associate Professor Wong Poh Poh, IPCC Member, National University of Singapore
- Associate Professor Matthias Roth, National University of Singapore
- Mr Edwin Khew, Nominated

The feedback from the participants were positive and there were many requests for the materials used during the forum to be made available online. These resources are now available at <http://www.seaga.co.nr/international-forum-2009-i/>



Reported by
Chang Chew Hung
Secretary SEAGA Ex-Co

Organised by:



SEAGA
Southeast Asian Geography Association

CENTRE for
LiveableCities
SINGAPORE





A conversation on Challenges in Humanities Education – IB, IP and the Future

Reported by Dr. Chang Chew Hung, Secretary SEAGA

8 July (Wednesday 2009)
1430 – 1730

Venue: **Cyber Learning Center**
Raffles Girls' School



The inaugural Southeast Asian Geography Association (SEAGA) Education Forum was conducted on 8 July 2009 at Raffles Girls' School (RGS). This education forum on “A Conversation on Challenges in Humanities Education – IB, IP And The Future” was a result of an idea mooted between SEAGA and RGS in 2008.

The aim of the forum was to bring together IP and IB schools as well as other schools that are interested in the theme and effort at integration of the humanities at one school level as well as across all the levels for a forum to exchange experiences and views as they face current and future challenges. The forum provided a platform for in-depth discussions on the integration effort at

both one school level and across levels with the aim of determining the types of students and skills the IP or IB and related programmes that schools would like to see in the future.

....WELL ATTENDED BY 56 PARTICIPANTS FROM 13 INSTITUTIONS

The forum was supported by RGS and the Humanities and Social Studies Education (HSSE) Academic Group at the National Institute of Education (NIE). RGS played host to the event while HSSE provided coordination support. SEAGA intends for this forum to be an initial step towards activating education practitioners' enthusiasm and participation in an education symposium for the

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EDUCATION FORUM 2009



SEAGA Education Forum

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2010 Binennal Conference in Hanoi. The session on the 8 July was well attended by 56 participants from 13 institutions, ranging from government schools, independent schools to NIE.

The conversation was structured around 4 roundtable discussion sessions in which the following topics were tabled, “IB and IP and their im-

...OF THE HIGH LEVEL OF ENTHUSIASM AMONGST THE PARTICIPANTS IN ENSURING THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMANITIES ...

plications for the study of Humanities at the same level and across school levels”; “What are Integrated Humanities and the implications for the study of the Humanities? ; “Goals set for Integration of the Humanities – What kind of students do we wish to produce? “ and “Assessment issues in Humanities in IB & IP”.

These discussions considered the philosophical and disciplinary premises for integration of the humanities in different programmes - the IP, IB and also others that schools have introduced. Ideally, through the integrated programmes, we should be seeing students who are ‘global’ and open in their outlook regarding the challenges of working with the humanities and social sciences as well as natural sciences and prepared to

train on the job because they have been provided with the skills and re-

sources from their integrated programmes.

The discussions for these sessions were then summarized and presented at the closing session in which all participants were informed of the issues raised in all the discussions. The level and quality of discussion and questions raised is an indication of the high level of enthusiasm amongst the participants in ensuring the healthy development of the humanities in education. Generally, the forum provided substantive insights into knowledge creation and its application in the humanities as well as their contribution to education on the whole.

SEAGA would like to thank RGS & HSSE AG, NIE for their support. In particular, we would like to thank RAG for providing the refreshment at the event.

Visit <http://www.seaga.co.nr> for the summary of discussions.

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Editors:

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