

Restaurant Dattler with a dinner speech by The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Germany, his Excellency Dr. Eddy Pratomo. On Friday morning, a third parallel session offered seven panels with more than thirty individual presentations ranging from topics of “Decentralization and Local Elites” to “Culture and Media.” A late morning Round Table discussion, “Past Experiences and the Future of Democratization and Decentralization in Indonesia” prompted a provocative debate from panelists Jörg-Werner Haas (GIZ Indonesia), Heru Subiyantoro (Indonesian Ministry of Finance), William Wallace (World Bank), and Andy Yentriyani (Commission on Violence against Women, Indonesia). A conference closing speech by Judith Schlehe highlighted the value of an interdisciplinary approach and area studies focus when exploring decentralization from a grounded perspective linked to social practices of democratization. As conference organizers asserted, “the outcome of this renegotiation of governance structures, economic patterns and cultural identifications is by no means clear.” Nevertheless, this transnational gathering of academics and practitioners generated timely analysis and created much-needed debate charting developments in decentralized and democratic processes within the context of an unpredictable Southeast Asian future.

Eric J. Haanstad

SASE Mini Conference

Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, 23. Juni 2011

Research into the “Diversity of capitalism” originally focussed on the theoretical and empirical examination of the European and U.S. experiences. The mini-conference took place within the SASE conference in Madrid on June 23rd, and brought Asia into the forefront of the theoretical and empirical discussion of the ‘Diversity of capitalism’ approach and propose the very existence of Asian models of capitalism. Panel 1 on the Asia in the diversity of capitalism aimed at a better understanding of the diversity of Asian capitalism and addressed conceptual questions. Speakers were Barbara Krug (Rotterdam School of Management), Hideaki Miyajima (WIAS), and Michael Witt (INSEAD). Panel 2 on innovation and institutions in Asia brought together scholars engaged in studying national innovation systems as well as the diversity of capitalism approaches. Papers were presented by Cornelia Storz (University of Frankfurt) and by Nahee Kang (University of Manchester). Panel 3 on institutional change in Japan and other Asian countries analysed exogenous factors inducing institutional change, and focussed especially on the impact of neo-liberal policies. Papers were presented by Harald Conrad (University of Sheffield), Shimada Takaharu (Keio University), and Sebastien Lechevalier (EHESP). The papers were discussed by Bruno Amable (University Paris 1), and Gregory Jackson (Free University Berlin). For further information please see <http://www.sase.org>.

Cornelia Storz, Sebastien Lechevalier