

Globalisation, Culture and Inequalities

Kuala Lumpur, 19. – 21. August 2002

The Centre for Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), National University of Malaysia, organized an international conference on "Globalisation, Culture and Inequalities" in honour of its late director, Prof. Dr. Ishak Shari from 19 to 21 August 2002. After several papers on the general topic of globalisation by Diana Wong (IKMAS), Yoshihara Kunio and others, the conference turned to more specific issues in Southeast Asia. To name but a few of the topics: The impact of FDI (foreign direct investment) on income inequalities were discussed by Rajah Rasiah, Hal Hill provided a wider view on possible new industrialisation policies in ASEAN, Norani Othman presented a remarkable paper on Islamic resurgence and 'uneven' modernities, Suresh Narayanan showed that SMEs (small and medium industries) are particularly threatened by the intended further liberalisation of Asian trade, Hans-Dieter Evers showed that the knowledge gap between Malaysia and other Asian countries is widening and Prof. Shamsul AB (director of ATMA, UKM) challenged the view that ICT (information and communication technology) is critical for knowledge production. The conference, which was very ably designed and directed by Prof. Dr. Rahman Embong (IKMAS/UKM), demonstrated the growing importance of IKMAS as a foremost regional research centre. In its research programme the institute takes a critical look at Malaysia's path towards a post-industrial knowledge society in an international context. The publications of the institute's permanent staff and visiting fellows should be taken note of by all scholars working on the region (visit <http://www.ikmas.ukm.my/>).

Hans-Dieter Evers

The Role of Intellectuals in Social Development in China

Beijing University, PR China, 25. – 27.1.2002

This international conference was organized by the department of international politics under Prof. Zhao Baoxu and Prof. Shen Mingming, and convened in the new conference building on the Beida campus. The participants were scholars from various disciplines and foreign countries (Australia, Denmark, Singapore, USA), but also former high-level politicians and old cadres, prominent writers and journalists. The majority of participants came from China or were overseas Chinese.