

General information on the study group South Asia can be found at [www.geographie-suedasiens.de](http://www.geographie-suedasiens.de). The publication series of the study group is accessible online in the CrossAsia-Repository (University of Heidelberg). Scholars interested in membership can contact Carsten Butsch ([butschc@uni-koeln.de](mailto:butschc@uni-koeln.de)). The next annual conference takes place in Augsburg on 27 and 28 January 2017.

*Carsten Butsch / Julia Poerting*

**Recent Spatial Dynamics in Southeast Asia**  
**Annual Conference of the Study Group Southeast Asia**  
**of the German Geographical Society (DGfG)**

Cologne, 2–3 July 2016

The scientific research group on Southeast Asia, set up in 1996, celebrated its 20th anniversary in early July 2016 at its annual conference held this time in the Institute of Geography, University of Cologne. Among the 48 participants from Germany and Austria there were numerous colleagues, PhD and masters' students from various academic fields. In all, they presented 15 contributions from their current research on Southeast Asia. It was very pleasing once again to see the high proportion of participants from Southeast Asia at the conference.

With regard to Thailand, Patrick Sakdapolrak presented his research group's project on "Translocal Resilience", and Benjamin Casper put forward his doctoral project on "The Transformation to amphibian Urban Spaces in Bangkok". Contributions on Indonesia examined the consequences of natural hazards and climate change in Semarang (Fabio Pruß); the role played by companies in regional adaptation to flooding, both in Semarang and Jakarta (Thomas Neise); sociocultural and institutional transformational processes in Jambi (Heiko Faust); and the martial art Pencak Silat (Patrick Keilbart). There were five papers on Vietnam: Javier Revilla Diez took stock of 30 years of the Doi Moi Policy; Franziska Sohns presented her doctoral project on survival strategies in household businesses; Sandra Kurfürst gave a report on a project dealing with food security in Hanoi; Eva Fuhrmann spoke on the perception of urban and rural spaces within Vietnam; Kerstin Schiele dealt with how the country is perceived by overseas Vietnamese. Findings of studies on the socio-economic potential of

Myanmar's Indawgyi Lake were presented jointly by Zin Mar Than and Frauke Kraas; Dörte Kasüske outlined the effects of the growing market for tourism in Myanmar and Laos. Finally, Moritz Breul's presentation of his work on the gateway function of global cities, as exemplified by Singapore, concluded the series of lectures and discussions.

This year the traditional tour as part of the conference programme was a trip to Cologne's Rheinau Harbour. On the excursion there was ample time for getting to know one another and exchanging ideas, as there was throughout the conference during coffee breaks and mealtimes. Frauke Kraas and Javier Revilla Diez, the two spokespeople for the Southeast Asian research group, were confirmed in office unanimously in the regular election overseen by Helmut Schneider.

After two exciting days packed with lively scientific discussions and intensive, personal exchanges between the participants it was agreed that the next annual conference of the work group was to be held on 23–25 July 2017. The host will be Heiko Faust of the University of Goettingen.

*Frauke Kraas / Javier Revilla Diez*