Acknowledgments
Thank you to everyone who contributed to the creation of this publication, especially Victor and Helen for granting me the ever-ballooning time required for completion and gracing me with their patience; all those that provided materials and fielded my inquiries, including the former Directors, especially Bill Neilson, the Deardens, Ted McDorman, and Stella Chan; also, Caron Rollins from UVic’s Diana M. Priestly Law Library, Lawrence Hong and the team at University Archives and Special Collections, the folks from UVic’s Photo Services and former CAPI intern Will Howling, for compiling the internship program data. Thank you to CAPI's former admin teams, especially Stella and Communications Officer Christina Harris for keeping such comprehensive and orderly files. Thanks to Rob, the janitor, for keeping me company in the evenings at the office. Finally, thank you to everyone who has made CAPI what it is - it’s been fun jumping on the bandwagon at a special time in its history.

Jonathan Woods, CAPI Communications Officer
In CAPI’s first thirty years, we have been committed to the twin goals of transforming lives and changing minds. We have sought to transform lives for the better by working with our partners in Asia to address the most pressing local and global challenges, offering practical training to professionals on both sides of the Pacific, and supporting emerging and seasoned scholars to pursue their research and share their ideas. We have also sought to change minds by creating opportunities for our interns, fellows, associates, visitors, colleagues, researchers of all sorts, and, indeed, ourselves to question our assumptions and to consider the world through an Asian lens.

In this special report, and at our 30th anniversary dinner in November 2018, we take a break from an exciting year of programming to celebrate all of those—past and present—who have helped to build UVic’s longest-running research centre into the thriving hub it is today.

More than ever, moving forward we need to think deeply about and act on the most pressing and existential questions of our time: climate change, aging and displaced populations, water and food security, gender-based violence, ethno-religious nationalism, vast disparities of wealth and power, and more. Asia’s creative ways of engaging with these issues offer thoughtful and nuanced models for a diverse world. Now is the time for CAPI to redouble its efforts to engage with and learn from Asia. As we do so, three ideas inspire us.

First, we need to think big. Many of Asia’s—and the world’s—challenges require multi-tiered thinking. We need to see how issues connect and to understand them holistically. In our next decade, we intend to create more opportunities for research and dialogue that deploy the tools of multiple disciplines and draw on the diversity of thinking from Asia’s scholars and institutions.

Second, we need to be in the field. Whether by confronting the harsh realities of migration and displacement; empowering girls and young women; studying energy policy and the impact of climate change; tracing the roots of conflict and seeking ways of managing it; understanding the corridors of power, both public and private; or strengthening human rights initiatives—CAPI will expand its mobility and funding opportunities to ensure that our interns and researchers remain in the field and that our work is informed by the shifting realities on the ground.

Finally, even as we seek solutions and agreement, we need to learn how to disagree while remaining open to change. As societies become increasingly polarized, we need to be inspired by disagreement and draw on resources—many of them part of the fabric of Asian societies—that allow meaningful and respectful dialogue to take place.

These are lofty aspirations. We invite you to join us in seeking to realize them.

Victor V. Ramraj
Director & Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations
October 2018
Two chairs for UVic

UVic is about to become a Centre of Specialisation in Pacific Asia trade relations and international commercial law. Serge Joyal, the federal Secretary of State, announced last week that $500,000 has been allocated to UVic towards the establishment of two chairs, one in economic and trade relations with Japan and one in international commercial law. The conditions of the award require the university to match the $500,000, which it plans to do from the UVic Foundation.

Joyal also announced the allocation of $250,000 for the establishment of a Canadian Centre for Asia Pacific Business Studies in downtown Vancouver under the jurisdiction of the three B.C. universities. In addition, the University of British Columbia receives $250,000 and Simon Fraser University $400,000 for chairs in specific areas of Asian studies.

UVic President Dr. Howard Petch explained that UVic plans to create an endowment fund to provide for the appointment of specialists in international commercial law and in Chinese and Japanese economic and trade relations.

"With these appointments, a Centre of Specialisation will evolve from the existing programs and expertise in our Centre for Pacific and Oriental Studies, Department of Economics and Faculty of Law," said Petch.

UVic had asked the federal government for $750,000 towards the establishment of three chairs.

UVic plans to raise $500,000 from the private sector and the provincial government has been asked to contribute $1.5 million to support the chairs.

"Interest from the fund will cover the cost of the chairs and associated costs of operating the Centre," explained Petch.

He said the university would be looking for top academic expertise in Pacific Asia trade relations to fill the chairs.

"It will depend on how quickly the money comes in as to exactly when the chairs will be established."

In addition to fostering UVic’s considerable academic expertise in Pacific Asia studies, a Centre at UVic will provide direct benefits to business and government officials concerned with economic relations with Pacific Asia and the Pacific Rim.

The UVic Centre plans publication of a monthly digest of information outlining opportunities and constraints for Canadian involvement in the region. Briefings by Asia experts for delegations, immersion programs for conflict resolution and others on extended projects, contractual research and data gathering, conference organisation and implementation, interpreting and translation services and certificate or diploma programs offered through UVic Extension are all planned as part of the Centre’s offerings.

Petch pointed out that British Columbia now has no wide-developed endowed expertise in Pacific Asia trade relations and international commercial law, “yet its economic well-being increasingly depends upon trade with its Pacific Rim neighbors.

“UVic, through its Centre for Pacific and Oriental Studies, already deals with Pacific Asian languages, cultures, social structures, history and geography. The new appointments will enhance this coverage and provide a unique specialization.

“Those Faculties of Law and Education and the Department of Economics are also involved in studies of Pacific nations,” he added.
In the Age of Acronyms, we seem destined to be known as CAPI
- from "CAPI Newsletter #1," March 11, 1988, by Ralph Huenemann and Douglas Johnston

In the mid to late 1980s Canada “discovered” Asia. Economic re-
calculation of the national interest resulted in our official adoption
of the Asia-Pacific region as the focus of our newest aspirations
on the world stage. The westward-looking province of British
Columbia became the primary beneficiary of federal funds made
available to support a variety of Canadian Asia-Pacific initiatives,
supplemented by substantial contributions from the provincial
government.

This government-programmed emphasis on the Asia-Pacific re-
gion was quickly reflected in a re-ordering of priorities on the
campuses of British Columbia. Included among these develop-
ments was the establishment of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Ini-
tiatives (CAPI) at the University of Victoria (UVic), a relatively
youthful institution located conveniently close to the heart of the
provincial government.

- Douglas Johnston, from the Introduction of “Asia-Pacific Legal
  Development” (UBC Press, 1998)

We hope to give the centre a running start with the three
best possible people in their areas of expertise
- then-UVic President Howard Petch on
the announcement of the new “centre
in Asia-Pacific Relations” and its foun-
dation around a core of three research
chairs (UVic’s Ring newspaper, vol. 13,
no. 2, January 23, 1987)

CAPI’s inaugural research chairs (clockwise from top right):
Ralph Huenemann (PhD, Economics, Har-
vard, 1982), Chair in Economic Rela-
tions with China (“China Chair”) and
first CAPI Director; Carl Mosk (PhD, Eco-
nomics, Harvard, 1976), Chair in
Economic Relations with Japan (“Ja-
pan Chair”); and (Douglas Johnston
J.S.D, Yale, 1962), Chair in Asia-Pacific
Legal Relations (“Law Chair”).

We hope to give the centre a running start with the three
best possible people in their areas of expertise

IU. Short-Term Tasks

(1) Name: The decision on a name should be taken with some care,
since the name establishes an image that will remain with the Centre
for many years. A pronounceable acronym is also of some value. Familiar
terms like “studies” or “research” should be avoided as too narrow or
academic-sounding. Neither the term “Asia” nor the term “Pacific,” by
itself, describes the region intended, while the term “Pacific Rim”
seems more trendy than helpful. Therefore, we suggest that the Centre
might be named “The Centre for Asian and Pacific Initiatives” or “The
Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives.” Either way, the inevitable
acronym would probably be CAPI.
How CAPI was initially funded by off-campus sources is a core part of its history and a continuing part of its mission.

- William Neilson, former CAPI Director (1992-2004) and Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations (2001-2004) on the outward-looking nature of CAPI
(personal correspondence, January 25, 2018)
MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. H.E. Pitch 
President and Vice-Chancellor 

From: Ralph Huennemann, Director 
Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives 

An Update on CAPI Activities 

I thought you would like to be aware of the following: 

(1) Carl Monk arrived in early July and is settling in well at CAPI. We traveled to Vancouver together in late July, where I introduced him to many of the Japan specialists in the downtown community and at UBC. 

(2) A draft of CAPI’s application to Senate for recognition as an Approved Centre, under the Senate guidelines of April 21, has been prepared. The paragraph on budgetary matters is being reviewed by Vice-President McQueen, and the application will then be circulated to members of the Senate well before the Senate meeting on Sept. 21. Would you like to review the application before it is circulated to Senate? 

(3) The World Bank is holding a seminar in Vancouver next week on the economic evaluation of technology choices in education, with the Ministry of Advanced Education serving as local executing agency. Attendees will be senior educational bureaucrats from a variety of Pacific Rim Countries: China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, etc. I will be giving a major presentation. I find that these pro-homo activities are extremely time-consuming, but I think that this is a good opportunity to build CAPI’s network of friends and acquaintances in Asia, and to do a favour for Advanced Education at the same time. 

(4) CAPI is exploring the possibility of a teacher-training project in China, in partnership with SFU/UBC if appropriate. Jan Walls is in China right now, and is making some preliminary inquiries for me. I will be in China in early December and will take appropriate next steps. Our target for funding is AOCF’s Cycle III of their CIDA programme. If the project moves ahead as hoped, it also provides a model for a more ambitious application to CIDA under the “Centres of Excellence” programme, which is supposed to be announced later this fall and which I am tracking on your behalf. I mention it now only because Jim Rae is aware of the proposal and has mentioned it to Mr. Ragen, who may in turn mention it to you. I thought you might want to be forewarned of the possibility.
Facing page: Pacific Rim leaders in town for the Williamsburg Conference participated in panel discussions on trade and security Nov. 21, in the Begbie Building. Shown taking part in a panel on Emerging Trade Issues and Agreements in the Pacific Rim are (left to right): Moderator and B.C. Finance Minister Mel Couvelier; International Business and Immigration Minister John Jansen; Vice-President of Government and International Affairs for the Boeing Corporation Orville Roetman; Australian Treasury Christopher Higgins; Singapore Ambassador to the U.S. Tommy Koh; former Korean Secretary for Economic Affairs Park Yung Chul; and former ambassador and advisor to the Mitsubishi Corporation Toshio Yamazaki. A session on Strategic Policy Issues in the Pacific included former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance; former Japanese Foreign Minister Saburo Okita; Director of the Soviet Institute for the U.S. and Canada Georgi Arbatov; UVic professor and former Canadian Deputy Finance Minister Tommy Shoyama; and Thailand’s U.N. Ambassador Birabhongse Kasemri. The panel discussions were organized by the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives and were videotaped by UVic Audiovisual and Television Services (from UVic’s Ring newspaper, vol. 14, no. 19, November 25, 1988 / Robbie Liscomb photo; UVic Archives / 9910886700).
"At night, in the drizzle, at a bus stop on Douglas Street, sometime in 1985, I asked Dr Johnston, who was visiting Victoria to consult about SEAPOL, whether he might be interested in the CAPI Law Chair and relocate from Halifax to Victoria. He indicated that maybe yes. I immediately communicated this to Bill Neilson (then Dean of the Law School) and over an extended period he (with Ralph Huenemann) executed the wooing and deal that landed Douglas in 1987 in Victoria, the Law School and CAPI."

- Ted McDorman, UVic Law professor and original CAPI Research Associate, here pictured with Johnston, ca 1993 (photos courtesy Ted McDorman).


When Douglas Johnston came to UVic, he also brought to CAPI its first major externally-funded project in the Southeast Asian Programme in Ocean Law, Policy and Management (SEAPOL). While started in Dalhousie in the early 1980s, SEAPOL was re-funded by the International Development and Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) as a CAPI project in 1987 and continued as CIDA-CAPI project (through UBC) in 1991.

SEAPOL was centred in Bangkok but was a regional project holding workshops and other activities throughout Southeast Asia.

Amongst other things, the SEAPOL project created the professional literature that now exists on ocean law and policy matters in Southeast Asia, influenced countless academics and government officials, and played a significant role in modernizing the ocean laws and policies of the States in Southeast Asia.
When Prime Minister Jean Chretien and nine provincial premiers travelled to China in November, they were confronted with Chinese data indicating Canada reaps the greatest benefits from trade between the two countries. Those figures aren't completely accurate according to Dr. Ralph Huenemann (Public Administration and Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives). With financial support from CIDA, he and colleagues from the State Information Centre in Beijing are analyzing trade figures in an attempt to demonstrate to Chinese authorities that trade with Canada is much stronger than their data indicates.

"Much of China's trade goes through Hong Kong so the Chinese figures show a trade surplus with Hong Kong and a deficit with other countries," explains Huenemann. "I'm working with Statistics Canada and the Conference Board to get a measure of how much of the trade that goes through Hong Kong actually originates in China."

The Chinese government is very supportive of Huenemann's work and has given him and his team exhaustive trade data. Similar support was received from the government of Hong Kong. Statistics Canada, which has been instructed to sell its data to generate revenue, wants Huenemann to purchase this country's data on China.

While in China, the UVic professor did attend some official functions as part of Chretien's entourage, but Huenemann has no desire to make that style of travel a habit.

"I'm glad I'm not the Prime Minister," he said after returning to UVic. "Someone that important travels in such a bubble. I'm not sure he really went to China. Everywhere he goes, he's whisked through traffic. How can anyone go to China and not get stuck in traffic?"

- By Patty Pitts, from UVic’s Ring newspaper, vol. 21, no. 1, January 13, 1995.

You taught me the most valuable lesson I learned in four years at university. Thank you.

- A Peking University student whom he failed (from Dr. Huenemann's online CV).
The Ring

University community responds to crisis in China

by Brian Webster

University Archives 99/03914008

University of Victoria

Volume 15, Number 4
October 19, 1989

Huenemann with Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia David Lam and Yvonne Hsieh (UVic French) at CAPI's inaugural Dorothy and David Lam Lecture series in Asia-Pacific Affairs. Dr. Victor Hao Li, president of the East-West Center in Honolulu, presided on "Asia Pacific on the Move: Understanding the Pacssettes", March 14th, 1991 (UVic Archives / 9903911400).
Following the initial period of operational establishment and laying down of the Chairs’ research programs (although Mosk left the Centre to assume a full-time position with the Economics department), William Neilson assumed the directorship of CAPI in 1992 shortly after completing a five-year term as Law Dean (Huenemann stayed on as China Chair). Neilson set his eye on not only aggressively bridging the Pacific, but also the campus. He envisioned CAPI as a dynamic, multidisciplinary, outward-looking entity, active in the region across “academics, business and civic society interests and regional intergovernmental bodies - in other words, multi-interests and not library-bound.”

What CAPI is Not: CAPI is not an international liaison office or visitors’ reception centre for the university. CAPI does not provide contract research or briefing services for the private sector. The Centre does not have a teaching function.

- CAPI Director Bill Neilson (from CAPI’s September 1992 “Asia-Pacific News” newsletter)
Japan Investment in Vietnam Conference

The idea for the conference emerged from the mutual interests of members of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI), University of Victoria, who undertake work in Vietnam, in Japan, and in the area of development. It was obvious that Vietnam’s struggle for a new vision of its place in the world and for a development model would be influenced by the pervasive role played by Japan in the region. On repeated visits to Vietnam, the Japanese presence was more apparent each time to CAPI members. We not only wanted to look at Vietnam’s plans for its future, but also to analyze the strategy of Japanese aid and investment for Vietnam. Was there a common vision, or did it diverge in important ways? What would be the implications for Vietnam?

The conference was held November 17-19, 1994, at the University of Victoria, with speakers invited from Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Canada, the United States, and Britain (via Manila) presenting papers on the economic, social, legal, and environmental development of Vietnam.

- from the introduction, by Barbara Duffield, CAPI Administrative Officer and editor of the resulting published volume.
As Director, I kept emphasizing within UVic that we were the Home for Lone Rangers—i.e., to support and invite Asia-oriented faculty and other like-minded campus faculty, students and staff to be part of CAPI’s mission—important to remember that nearly every academic unit on campus has only a minority who actually relate to the Asia-Pacific region in any sustained and numerically significant way.


Below: UVic Ring newspaper vol. 17 no. 6, March 1991; at right: UVic Ring newspaper vol. 21 no. 9, June 1995.

UVic marine scientists to train people of the South Pacific in pollination control

By Rob Le Compte

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has awarded UVic marine scientists a grant to join a training program in marine pollution assessment and control at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji. The program will address urgent and immediate needs for the 11 South Pacific nations served by USP (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Western Samoa, and Vanuatu). It is directed by Dr. Dennis K. Goering (Director, USP). Although the South Pacific is a biologically and ecologically rich region it often goes unconsidered, as its needs are too remote from environmental problems, including oil spills and land-based pollution. The program is also an opportunity to train Pacific scientists and staff, and give them the necessary skills to become effective leaders in their own countries.

The Marine Science Department at UVic is working with USP on the project. The training program will last 10 weeks, and there will be follow-up training at USP and at USP's training centres in Fiji. The goal is to train 30 students for each country, with the aim of creating a network of Pacific scientists who can work together to address marine pollution issues in the South Pacific.

Voices of leprosy patients heard in Bangladesh

First CAPI Faculty Fellowship recipient

By Rose Le Compte

Dhaka, Bangladesh—Margaret Wilson-Moore of CAPI, an anthropologist and sociologist, is the recipient of the 2003 CAPI Faculty Fellowship, with special emphasis on 1993-1994 academic year. Margaret and her colleagues have been conducting research on leprosy patients in Bangladesh. She will use her fellowship to conduct in-depth interviews with leprosy patients and to write her book, "Voices of Leprosy Patients Heard in Bangladesh." The book will provide a first-hand account of the lives of leprosy patients and their families, and will help to raise awareness of the disease and its impact on society.

Bibliography

- Neilson, Bill. "As Director, I kept emphasizing within UVic that we were the Home for Lone Rangers—i.e., to support and invite Asia-oriented faculty and other like-minded campus faculty, students and staff to be part of CAPI’s mission—important to remember that nearly every academic unit on campus has only a minority who actually relate to the Asia-Pacific region in any sustained and numerically significant way." (2018)


- "As Director, I kept emphasizing within UVic that we were the Home for Lone Rangers—i.e., to support and invite Asia-oriented faculty and other like-minded campus faculty, students and staff to be part of CAPI’s mission—important to remember that nearly every academic unit on campus has only a minority who actually relate to the Asia-Pacific region in any sustained and numerically significant way." (2018)


- "As Director, I kept emphasizing within UVic that we were the Home for Lone Rangers—i.e., to support and invite Asia-oriented faculty and other like-minded campus faculty, students and staff to be part of CAPI’s mission—important to remember that nearly every academic unit on campus has only a minority who actually relate to the Asia-Pacific region in any sustained and numerically significant way." (2018)


- "As Director, I kept emphasizing within UVic that we were the Home for Lone Rangers—i.e., to support and invite Asia-oriented faculty and other like-minded campus faculty, students and staff to be part of CAPI’s mission—important to remember that nearly every academic unit on campus has only a minority who actually relate to the Asia-Pacific region in any sustained and numerically significant way." (2018)


- "As Director, I kept emphasizing within UVic that we were the Home for Lone Rangers—i.e., to support and invite Asia-oriented faculty and other like-minded campus faculty, students and staff to be part of CAPI’s mission—important to remember that nearly every academic unit on campus has only a minority who actually relate to the Asia-Pacific region in any sustained and numerically significant way." (2018)
"CAPI spells ‘Initiatives’ in real terms": We bring a variety of visitors and programs to the campus and we are also constantly in the field, meaning anywhere and everywhere in the Asia-Pacific region in the person of our Chairs, Associates and staff. In the past year, you would have found us in Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, China, the United States, Japan, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Funding support for our work and programs came from a number of sources... -CAPI Director Bill Neilson (2001/2 CAPI Annual Report).


Canada/South East Asia Comparative Law Project

Several faculty got together with legal scholars from South East Asia this spring, in a series of three symposia covering specific areas of law and policy of transnational interest. The meetings were co-ordinated through the UVic Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI), which makes its home in the law school. CAPI and the law faculty extend their thanks to the Canada-ASEAN Centre, which provided funding for the symposia through an Academic Institutional Support Grant.

The two symposia were held in the National University of Singapore in April. The first focused on Competition Law and Policy. It was organized by Professor Bill Neilson, currently the Director of CAPI. Professor Bob Howell organized the second symposium, overlapping with the first, on Intellectual Property Law and Policy. Odile Canclerz participated included Professors Douglas Jameson and Mike Gillon of our faculty. Regional participants included lawyers, economists and government administrators from the ASEAN countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, as well as from other Pacific Rim countries including Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

CAPI’s First Visiting Fellow

Judith Swan, formerly Legal Officer with the Pacific fisheries Forum Industry Group (FFI) and recently appointed Executive Director of the Oceans Institute of Canada, was at Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives during the summer months to work on a manuscript based on her considerable experience in the South Pacific. The FFI was established to promote regional co-operation regarding various aspects of fisheries, with the objective of maximizing benefits from the living marine resources of the region for its peoples. For the review as a whole and, in particular, the Canadian experience, Judith Swan contributed an extended review of the conduct of fisheries business in the South Pacific.

Censorship of Indonesian theatre and cultural personae of Chinese poets studied by CAPI Fellows

By Robin Lockyer

The Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives has been successful in attracting several distinguished researchers to study various aspects of Chinese theatre and cultural personae...
MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Search Committee for Director

From: Ralph Huenemann, DAPI

Date: June 21, 1995

File: Results of Confirmation Vote

As agreed at the meeting of the Search Committee on 14 May, notification ballots were distributed to Search Committee members, CAPI Chairholders, and CAPI Associates. In total, seventeen ballots were distributed. Thirteen ballots were returned by the deadline of 15 June. Of the ballots returned, all voted in favour of confirming Dr. Neilson’s reappointment as Director until mid-year 1997 (in fact, the very date on which Hong Kong reverted to China, which may or may not be an omen of anything).

Let me express my appreciation to each of you for finding the time in your busy schedule to participate in the work of the Search Committee.

Distribution:
Dr. Daniel Bryant
Dr. Harold Coward
Dr. Mark Flecherty
Dr. Alex McAuley
Dr. Chris Morgan
Dr. John Owens
Dr. Margot Wilson-Moore

Ralph

CAPI’s website 1997
In November 1993, Khun Anand Panyarachun was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by UVic. Dr. Anand was Thailand’s first Ambassador to Canada (1969-72) and twice Prime Minister of Thailand, who is widely credited with restoring stability to Thai society and the country’s economy following the February 1991 military coup and the bloody May 1992 demonstrations in Bangkok. As part of his visit to UVic, Dr. Anand headlined a CAPI symposium focusing on democratic directions in Thailand (Dr. Anand is pictured above with long-time CAPI friend Jittiya Dearden and Thai students studying at UVic; photo courtesy Bill Neilson).

In February 1996, Dr. Anand became UVic’s Honorary Patron in Thailand, a title reserved for “persons of great distinction who are held in high esteem in their country, and who have a particular friendship with and support of the University of Victoria.” The ceremony was overseen by UVic President David Strong at the residence of the Canadian Ambassador in Bangkok.

The Anand-UVic fund is awarded annually through CAPI for deserving Thai graduate students studying at UVic and UVic faculty who conduct research in Thailand.

UVic Education Ph.D. candidate, Sira-orn Wissawapaisal is the second Anand Scholar as a result of being awarded an Anand-UVic Fund Scholarship to complete her doctoral program with the Department of Communication and Social Foundations, Faculty of Education. Jointly administered by President David Strong and UVic’s Honorary Thai Patron, former PM Anand Panyarachun, LL.D. 1994, the Anand-UVic Fund is the product of donations by the Thai business community to strengthen UVic’s dozen cooperation agreements with Thai universities. Ms. Wissawapaisal is a teacher of ESL and intends to return to Thailand upon completion of her graduate studies to pursue a career as an educator.

- from CAPI’s spring 1999 newsletter
On July 26, 1999, Dr. H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn L. Mahidol, President of the Chulabhorn Research Institute, Thailand, presented “Cooperation in the Fight Against AIDS in Thailand.” President David Strong addresses the audience; CAPI Director Bill Neilson, future CAPI Japan Chair Tim Craig and Anthony Welch (UVic Art History) are among those in the background.
On November 5th, 1999, UVic - represented by Chancellor Norma Mickelson, President David Strong, and Board of Governors Chair Brian Lamb - conferred the Degree of Honorary Doctor of Science upon His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand at Chitralada Royal Villa in Bangkok:

"We honour His Majesty for his service to the Thai people and his standing in the wider global community as a Head of State respected for his integrity, his appreciation of education and his record of service in the public interest"

- an excerpt from the convocation document.

Here, CAPI Director Bill Neilson shakes the hand of the King. Also in attendance were Jittiya Dearden and CAPI Research Associate Phil Dearden (UVic Geography), Khun Anand Panyarachun, and CAPI Research Associate and prominent Thai businessman Jingjai Hanchanlash. The programme included a roundtable on "Environmental Protection and Rural Development in Thailand."

The King died in 2016 at age 88, having reigned for seventy years. His death was marked by a year of mourning in Thailand.

Dear Participants,

Since the commencement of His reign, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej has been known for His great interest and dedication to the environment and appropriate development of His country. He has shown selfless dedication and inventiveness in a wide range of activities, from village-based development through to scientific innovations. Many of these initiatives have seen direct application through the Royal Projects that have stretched from the highest mountains of the Kingdom down to the seashores.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I welcome you to our Roundtable to discuss past experiences in environmental management, and to exchange ideas regarding future developments in Thailand. The University of Victoria has long benefited from our close relationship with many Thai institutions. This week we are honored that His Majesty will accept the degree of Doctor of Science honoris causa from the University, and our Roundtable has been organized in recognition of this occasion.

I take this opportunity to thank Professors Dearden, Neilson and the Canadian Education Centre for organizing this event, IDRC for their financial support, and I join with our co-hosts, Kaset TS University and the Chai Pattana Foundation in welcoming you here today.

Yours sincerely

David Strong
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Victoria
CAPTI provides a platform for visiting scholars.

By David Angrenetti (CAPTI vision, February 1999)

Victoria, Canada (JP): Victoria, the pretty and watery capital of British Columbia in Canada, is not a place one would expect to see a reunion of Indonesians. Yet it was there, last month, when well-known artist Semaar Sitarnam and author-journalist Seme Gumiun AjiJamala were seen among the invitees.

Behind this small reunion was the University of Victoria, a 36-year-old center of learning with 15,000 students, 12 faculties and 11 centers. Mainly responsible for the occasional Indonesian presence is the Center for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPTI).

Since its establishment in 1988, CAPTI has been a proactive body, running conferences, training programs and workshops. It acts as a nexus to the university with Asia Pacific, research institutes, university colleges and government. "The idea of a center in the university is to get over institution of disciplines. To get outside the normal structural framework of the university, which ties back into subjects they recognize, such as anthropology, language, law and business," said CAPTI director Bill Nelson, an Asia-Pacific law professor.

"Over the years universities have been built on the idea that you are a collection of disciplines. Like in any other organisation, each discipline usually does the best to guard the turf, making cross-disciplinary works difficult. A center bridges this distance, bringing together people of common interests, in a wider sense, and have them work together. It also works directly with graduate students and deal with the general community," Nelson continued.

Nelson is one of the three professors working for the Center. The other two, the fields of China economy and Japanese Organization respectively, like Nelson, also work half time at the center.

While CAPTI is not involved in teaching programs, it provides a platform for visiting scholars to the university. It arranges for them to give lectures. These are in the forms of formal evening lectures or informal "brown-bag" lectures (thus named because attendees bring their own buns in brown bags). Borrowing lectures are indeed very popular. There are 20 each year, spread out over eight months.

The conferences run by CAPTI are high profile and extremely topical. Last December's conference for instance, featured Mari Panjaitan, executive director of Indonesia's Center for Strategic and International Studies delivering a lecture titled "Asia's Road to Recovery: A Balancing Act". And in March this year, Tim Lindsay, a visiting associate professor from the University of Melbourne's Asia Law Center, ran a major colloquium, "Back to the Future? Prospects for Reforms in Post-Suharto Indonesia."

While the University of Victoria itself was represented by Bill Nelson and Michael Holod of the Department of Pacific an Asian Studies, there were also speakers from other countries and universities. For instance, from Indonesian Legal Aid Institute was Bambang Widjojanto, from Washington was Dan Levi and Sarawati Sumendro.

Pop culture conferences, run annually, are also very much of interest among students and academics. The first one, three years ago, was on Japan, then on Asia-Pacific in general, and the third, this year, is on South Asia.

CAPTI has at least one senior research fellow each year. Currently the fellowship is held by a geography professor working on an environmental project, name conservancy mainly in Thailand and Vietnam. It is a coveted position for which each faculty competes each year.

"The applicants will have to be very far along the major research projects," CAPTI will then buy their time from their faculty so they can finish their major works or projects. "There have been linguistics, geographers, one art practitioners," Bill Nelson explained.

Academics of various fields also compete for CAPTI research grants. "We have a minimum of three per year," Nelson said. "This year there are recipients from seven different disciplines."

With CAPTI funding they have been able to do field work in Indonesia, China, Thailand and other Asia-Pacific countries.

Students who need funding for language study can also apply for CAPTI grants. One such successful applicant is indeed studying in Jakarta.

Another important link to Indonesia, on the board of CAPTI directors is Aari Wright, whose enthusiasm in introducing Indonesian art into the community has put Indonesian art definitively on the map, at least the map of the University of Victoria.

While it appears that CAPTI has well eddowed coffers, they have not been presented on a silver platter to the center. Apart from a kick-start funding from the government 12 years ago, CAPTI has had to raise its own money. It has to go bidding for projects. Its clients are usually foundations, such as Asian foundations, Japanese foundations, Korea foundations, or aid agencies and government departments.

CAPTI also sponsors seminars, sometimes acting as a partner organizer. Six years ago, Nelson joined forces with the University of Indonesia's School of Law, and they went to the International Development Research Center's headquarters in Singapore. They succeeded in obtaining the necessary funds to run workshops on modernizing the law curriculum for the Association of Indonesian Law Schools. Nelson has since done similar works in Thailand and Vietnam.

This has been a trend in universities in North America: being simultaneously academic, organizer and lobbyist. The concept seems to be that if you cannot raise any more money for future works, it means that your present works have not been fully appreciated. In this highly competitive environment, CAPTI and other university centers are reviewed externally every five years, where their achievements, priorities and future paths are scrupulously evaluated.

CAPTI has been working very well for almost 12 years, and there does not seem to be any reason for it to fail any reviewers. Certainly not now, when Nelson will be one of the major speakers at the Conference on Reform of Bankruptcy Law in Indonesia, to take place on April 29 and April 30, at the Regent Hotel in Jakarta. Asia Law Centre's Tim Lindsay, the convener of the conference, named the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and AusAID as joint-sponsors.

Below: Bill Neilson with Harley Davidson representatives from Kansas City at the conference:

“Ted Harris is the Union President for Local 760 of the United Paperworkers, International Union (now PACE) at the Harley-Davidson Plant in Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Harris is a full-time union president, running the facility in the presence/absence of the plant manager. He sits on several committees and helps facilitate meetings. Mr. Harris believes employee empowerment is the key to success of Harley-Davidson.”

“Greg Smothers is a Maintenance Technician with Harley-Davidson as well as the Chief Steward and Grievance Chairman for the International Association of Machinists, District 71 Local 276. Mr. Smothers has been a Union Member with the United Steel Workers of America since 1979. He is an avid outdoorsman and sportsman and enjoys riding his 1999 Harley Electra Glide.”

- from the conference proceedings
Dr. Robert Bedeski, Department of Political Science, will be CAPI’s first Program Professor for the 2000 calendar year following his selection by the CAPI Executive Committee after a campus-wide competition conducted in the 1999 fall term. The Professorship provides partial teaching release time for Dr. Bedeski in return for his bringing his active research program in Human Security in the Asia-Pacific Region to CAPI. As Program Professor, Dr. Bedeski will concentrate on attracting funding support for several planned research initiatives, in cooperation with like-minded UVic colleagues and team members from other institutes and universities in both Canada and overseas. Dr. Bedeski joins the CAPI research and program core professors, Tim Craig, Ralph Huenemann, and Bill Neilson, in pressing UVic’s funded program efforts more prominently into the Asia-Pacific region.

- from CAPI’s spring 2000 online newsletter.

On December 4th, the day after the close of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle, CAPI joined with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada to sponsor a de-briefing session on the “Battle of Seattle.” The speakers at that conference in Vancouver, many of whom were struggling with severe sleep deprivation but gamely made their presentations anyway, included Jonathan Fried (the Canadian ADM for Trade and Economic Policy), Robert Lees (Secretary General of the Pacific Basin Economic Council), Will Martin (Principal Economist of the World Bank’s Development Research Group), Sherry Stephenson (Principal Trade Specialist, Organization of American States), Murray Smith (former Director of the Centre for Trade Policy and Law at Carleton University), Chris Tollefson from the UVic Law Faculty (wearing his hat as Chair of the Sierra Legal Defence Fund), and others.

By anyone’s reckoning, this was a distinguished group of experts. They are well-informed, thoughtful, and sophisticated. The discussions were stimulating, and I learned a lot from them. To give you a taste of the intricacies of the issues, let’s look at agricultural subsidies. The wealthy nations of the world are deeply divided between those that subsidise their farmers heavily (the Europeans and Japan) and those with a comparative advantage in agriculture (land-rich countries like the U.S., Canada, and Australia). Even if this were simply a case of protectionist governments defending vocal vested interests, it would not be easy to resolve. But concerns about the safety of genetically-modified foods have now been added to the debate. And Canadian negotiators face the intellectually awkward task of attacking European subsidies while defending Canada’s use of marketing boards to protect dairy products, eggs and poultry.

As these agricultural issues exemplify, the WTO’s traditional agenda of trying to promote trade liberalization is fraught with difficulty. Neomercantilist views (“exports good, imports bad”), however illogical, are politically seductive. But this has always been true. What is new after Seattle is that the WTO is now being asked to address a wider agenda (human rights, environmental issues, etc.), yet the WTO, both in its mandate and in its personnel, is ill-equipped to deal with such questions. The paradox is that the only way that the WTO can successfully deal with a larger, more ambitious agenda is to be given greater powers, which is presumably the last thing that its critics would accept.

- CAPI WTO De-Briefing in Vancouver by Dr. Ralph Huenemann, CAPI Chair in Economic Relations with China and Professor of Business. From CAPI’s spring 2000 online newsletter.
The CAPI Executive Committee in February established a new Service Award which, upon nomination, is to be given “in recognition of exemplary service in fostering knowledge of and experience with the Asia-Pacific region, including teaching, research, scholarship, collaborative programs, international education, student support and service to the University of Victoria community.” Dr. Harry Hsiao (Pacific & Asian Studies) was the unanimous choice for the first Award. We happily report that he was awarded his certificate and a gift on the evening of April 12 at a special retirement party given in his honour by his Pacific & Asian Studies colleagues. Harry was in fine voice!

- from CAPI’s fall 2002 online newsletter

On Thursday September 19, 2002 CAPI was very pleased to host Sir Hugh Kawharu as our distinguished Dorothy and David Lam Lecturer for 2002. Sir Hugh, a Ngati Whatua elder is the former Head of Anthropology and Maori Studies at the University of Auckland and is also a recent Order of New Zealand recipient. Sir Hugh’s talk, “Treaty, Tribes & Governance in New Zealand,” was very well received by a diverse audience including several Pacific Islanders, as well as members of the University community and the public. This free lecture also served as the opening event for Pacific Peoples’ Partnership’s Pacific Networking Conference that took place at the University of Victoria on September 20 and 21, 2002. Sir Hugh’s talk will be published as an Occasional Paper by CAPI in the fall of 2003. (Helen, pictured with Sir Hugh and Alec Hawke, board member of the PPP. Sir Hugh passed away in 2006.)

CAPI served as the Secretariat and host Centre for “Communities in Southeast Asia: Challenges and Responses,” a joint Conference of the Northwest Regional Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies and the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies, held at the UVic Cadboro Commons Conference Centre on October 26-27, 2001. The Conference’s Keynote Address on “Indonesian Histories and Current Conflicts: Aceh and Other Identity Problems” was delivered by renowned UCLA historian and our 2001 Lam Visitor, Dr. Anthony Reid. Over 60 researchers and scholars from more than 20 universities and 12 countries presented papers on a range of topics. Selected papers are now being edited for CAPI publication by Helen Lansdowne, Philip Dearden and Bill Neilson [published under the same title in 2002, at right].
Japan Pop! Ask Tim Craig, CAPI’s recent Japan Chair, about Japanese pop culture and he will point out that a new generation of young Americans, Europeans and Asians has grown up watching not Mickey Mouse and Bugs Bunny, but Japanese cartoons, from Astroboy, Speed Racer, Star Blazers and Robotech to Doraemon, Sailor Moon, Dragon Bill and Crayon Shinchin. It would appear that the appetite for Japanese pop culture does not end here. Tim would know. Not only did he organize the 1997 CAPI Japan Pop Culture Conference, but Tim is the editor of the recently published work, “Japan Pop!: Inside the World of Japanese Popular Culture.” This book is a collection of 17 essays presented at the 1997 conference that cover the span of popular music; comics and animation; television and film; and Japanese popular culture abroad. As the book reviewer for The Japan Times, Philip D. Zitowitz, points out, this book is “a scholarly work with enough sizzle to bridge the broad gap between academic and general audiences” and much of this is due to the editorial skills of Tim Craig. Over the past year while on sabbatical, Tim has been busy together with Richard King from P & A, editing the next in the series of pop culture books. This next work, “Global Goes Local: Popular Culture in Asia,” is due to be published by UBC Press in the near future. At this time, we at CAPI wish to thank Tim for his many contributions to CAPI’s programs in his capacity as Japan Chair. Tim leaves CAPI at the end of December 2000 to return to full time commitments at the Faculty of Business. Happily, he will remain as a CAPI Associate.

- from CAPI’s spring 2001 online newsletter
David Chuanyan Lai (UVic Geography) receiving the CAPI Asia-Pacific Service Award in 2003. Dr. Lai was known as “Mr. Chinatown” for championing Chinese history and Chinatowns across the country and was particularly instrumental in the re-vitalization of Victoria’s Chinatown, which faced possible destruction in the late 1970s, having fallen into disrepair. His 1979 report for the City of Victoria titled “The Future of Victoria’s Chinatown: A Survey of Views and Opinion” served as the foundation for the neighbourhood’s rejuvenation, which was consummated with the construction of the Gate of Harmonious Interest in 1983 under Lai’s leadership.

His many awards and recognitions included the Order of Canada, the Gabrielle Léger Award of the Heritage Canada Foundation, the Heritage Award of the B.C. government, a Victoria Leadership Award and an honorary citizenship of the City of Victoria.

Dr. Lai passed away in June 2018.

In October 2004, CAPI hosted the Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC) annual meeting, which coincided with the 75th anniversary of the establishment of a diplomatic presence for Canada in Japan, as well as the 100th anniversary of Canada establishing a trade commission in Japan. Above, CAPI Japan Chair (2002-2007) Joseph Kess with colleagues at the conference at the Laurel Point - the keynote was delivered by H.E. Robert J. Wright, Canadian Ambassador to Japan, and the conference proceedings were published in a printed volume edited by Kess and Lansdowne (at left). Kess was a professor (now emeritus) of UVic’s Linguistics department.
Outside the University Faculty Club, 2003. Back row, L-R: Bill Neilson (CAPI Director), Andrew Newcombe (UVic Law prof), Helen Lansdowne (CAPI Assistant Director), Heidi Tyedmers (CAPI Program Officer), Joe Kess (CAPI Japan Chair). Front row: Freda Kardish (UVic Law Secretary), Bui Thi Bich Lien (CAPI Law Visitor), Stella Chan (CAPI Secretary), and Mark Gillan (UVic Law prof).

A New Look for CAPI...

It was unanimous -- after a staff meeting last Fall all of us here at CAPI decided that it was time for a new look. While the blue globe that so many of you are familiar with had served us well for many years, as an innovative and international research and networking hub at the University we felt that it was time for an updated look. With help from the team at UVic Graphics and from a young web designer, Michal Kozakowski, with this issue of the newsletter we are very pleased to launch CAPI’s new look! With a new logo, a new design and layout for our popular newsletter Asia-Pacific News as well as a new look for our website (coming soon to a computer near you!)
This exciting new program was created in recognition of the fact that students are increasingly turning to the field of international development as a potential area for future employment, a field that requires not only academic credentials, but also practical experience. CAPI’s internships will not only allow students to apply what they have learned and to gain some “on the job” experience, but will also give them a step up in the increasingly competitive job market.

CAPI’s internship program offers students the opportunity to work with non-governmental organizations in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region for a period of four to eight months. The program looks after all of the basic expenses associated with the internship, including travel costs and basic allowance for accommodation and food. While the key focus of the program is to offer young people valuable international work experience, CAPI also recognizes that research opportunities, network building, and language training are also significant benefits that the interns will derive through participation in the program. Host organizations also benefit by having a talented and energetic young person join their team for a few months.

- CAPI 2002/03 annual report
China’s recent turn to multilateralism in its foreign policy, as evidenced in both its declaratory and operational policies, has been both apparent and demonstrated in China’s increasing involvement in global and regional multilateral organizations. First and foremost, this involvement has been in the economic arena, but now, in the new century, it has remarkable advanced into international security institutions. This volume records, analyses, and attempts to conceptualize this phenomenal development in Chinese foreign policy and its impact on international relations with the emphasis on China’s active participation in multilaterally oriented regional security regimes.

- from the introduction
Cambodia-Canada Legislative Support Project (CCLSP)

Over the past year, the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, along with its partner, the Parliamentary Centre in Ottawa, have been actively involved in Cambodia delivering technical assistance for the Cambodia-Canada Legislative Support Project. This bilateral, CIDA funded, five-year, 4.5 million dollar project is directed at building the capacity of the National Assembly and Senate of Cambodia and their respective Secretariats.

The CAPI arm of the program has particular responsibilities for enhancing the capacity of the Parliament and the Secretariats to effectively review, monitor and supervise government legislative proposals, including public consultation and education. In January 2004, CAPI Director Bill Neilson and Assistant Director Helen Lansdowne delivered a series of workshops in Phnom Penh focusing on Cambodia’s draft Domestic Violence legislation. In addition, during the course of the year, CAPI’s work focused on the delivery of three online legislative analysis assignments involving selected legal staff of the two Secretariats. A regional study tour was organized with the help of CAPI, sending selected legal staff to the Philippines and Thailand to engage in comparative analysis with respect to Domestic Violence and Anti-Corruption legislation.

In the coming year, CAPI’s work will continue to focus on capacity building of the Secretariat with a series of workshops to be held in July in Phnom Penh addressing report writing and comparative legal analysis, as well as an orientation for the newly elected Members of Parliament.

- from CAPI’s 2003/04 annual report

"Cambodia is like a play with too few actors, all of whom have to play several roles."

- Om Radsady

"The last time we had dinner, three weeks before his death, he patiently talked to every child who came by the table selling flowers. 'They are our future,' he would say."

- Bill Neilson, on the assassination of Cambodian political advisor Om Radsady (CAPI newsletter, spring 2003)
In 2002 CAPI, along with a four member consortium of legal experts including BearingPoint LP trade lawyer Mark Sills of Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, and trade economist Murray Smith of Ticon Holdings, were awarded a bilateral, CIDA funded, five-year, 5 million dollar project to work with the Ministry of Justice in Vietnam. This past year has seen the completion of Year One of the Project’s program, encompassing the delivery of technical assistance in three distinct areas: addressing WTO legal compliance, strengthening the system of civil judgment execution and improving capacity in comparative law analysis.

CAPI, in the person of the Law Chair and Director, Bill Neilson, directs the comparative law and civil judgment parts and serves overall as the chief legal services advisor to the project. Assistant Director Helen Lansdowne undertakes senior management responsibilities as the project’s technical services coordinator. Also involved in the comparative law portion of the project is UVic Associate Law Librarian Caron Rollins, and UVic Law Professor and Canadian Research Chair Jeremy Webber.

During the past year, in the area of civil judgment execution, Bill Neilson assisted with conducting a baseline study of the existing civil judgment execution system in Vietnam and overseeing an informatics feasibility study. As well, CAPI was involved in the designing, preparation and delivery of a Canadian Study Tour for senior managers of the Department of Civil Judgement Execution. In the area of comparative law analysis, technical assistance has included a series of workshops delivered by Bill Neilson and colleague Andre Braen from the University of Ottawa to selected legal experts from the Hanoi Law University and the Institute of Law Research. These workshops focused on the use of internet research resources while engaging in comparative law analysis and identifying and evaluating the complex treatment of civil liability for environmental damage plus the setting of required professional qualifications for a wide range of legal professionals in various jurisdictions.

In the coming year, programming includes the delivery of four-month Canadian study placements for four candidates from the Institute of Law Research and Hanoi Law University and continued delivery of workshops addressing the development of collaborative teacher trainer models and an advanced practical comparative methods program. Civil Judgment Execution activities will involve the development of a prototype informatics system to be tested in five provincial locations. As well, the completion of a management handbook for civil judgment enforcement operations is planned.

- from CAPI’s 2003-04-annual report
On Saturday June 5, 2004, sixty of Bill Neilson’s friends, colleagues and family members joined him in the Terrace Room of the Laurel Point Inn to celebrate his career. The evening began at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails, followed by a special photographic presentation of Bill’s much esteemed and colourful career. At this time Bill was presented with one of CAPI’s two Asia-Pacific Service Awards for 2004 to recognize the deep and lasting contribution he has made to fostering knowledge of, and experience with, the Asia-Pacific region at UVic. After dinner, tributes to Bill from his many colleagues and students were read, followed by special presentations by CAPI’s Assistant Director Helen Lansdowne (who wittily traced Bill’s career through his time at law school, to brief but memorable stints in the movies, TV and the Banff Springs Hotel, to his time at CAPI), Bill’s son Allan Neilson-Welch (who regaled the audience with anecdotes about life and travels with his father) and Acting Law Dean and long-time colleague John McLaren (who composed and performed the entertaining “Airline Bill”). CAPI Associate and former Japan Chair Tim Craig joined Bill’s family to wrap up the evening with a medley of songs in Bill’s honour. It was a fittingly festive, humour-filled and heartfelt send-off for a Director who in his twelve years at CAPI, and throughout his career, left a lasting impression and built many friendships.

- from CAPI’s fall 2004 newsletter
My chief memory of those early years, in rather confined quarters in the Law School Building, is of a feeling of energy and shared purpose. While each of the chairs had his own research agenda, organized events, and published prolifically, they were also willing to think collectively, to participate in the Centre’s existing programmes, and to come up with new ways of making the Centre relevant in the University and the community as well as the wider academic world.

- Richard King (personal correspondence, June 2018)
Since the last Newsletter was published, CAPI has undergone the external review process required by the University every five years. This is the third such review in the Centre’s history, and I am proud to report that the Review Committee expressed itself impressed with CAPI’s achievements over the last few years, and our plans for the future. The Committee also offered valuable perspective from their understanding of the workings of similar centres at other universities, and had advice for us on our future development.

Presenting ourselves for examination by objective observers required us to examine the directions the Centre has taken, and to judge how best to fulfil our responsibility to promote further research on the Asia Pacific, bring together scholars and members of the community with an interest in the region, raise the profile of the University of Victoria in Asia and the Pacific, and play our part in nurturing students and recent graduates by providing opportunities to study about, and gain experience of, this vast, populous, and diverse part of the world. Our resolution to work cooperatively with researchers across the University and beyond in collaborative projects with a regional perspective also won the approval of the External Review Committee.

There can be no question of the increasing importance of Asia: China’s astonishing growth, described by that country’s leaders as a “peaceful rise” but viewed with trepidation by much of the rest of the world, has been accompanied by increasing tension with a Taiwanese leadership chafing at the denial of nationhood by China and the international community. Highly publicized clashes between peasants and developers, the latter often backed by local officials, have demonstrated a social volatility that lies beneath China’s economic miracle. And while business relations between East Asia’s two economic giants, China and Japan, continue to prosper, the hostility between the two nations is also rising, due in part to abiding animosity and unresolved disputes dating from the Pacific War over half a century ago. Both countries are seeking to increase their regional influence through strategic economic and political alliances with ASEAN, ensuring that Southeast Asia will also have a major role to play in the developments of the next few years. CAPI has research projects planned that will examine historical and present relations between China and Japan, good governance and human rights throughout the Asia Pacific region, and China-Taiwan relations and Pacific security.

- from CAPI’s spring 2006 newsletter
CAPI co-hosted King Prajadhipok’s Institute’s VIIIth Annual Congress 2006, which was held in the UN Centre in Bangkok, 3-5 November 2006 entitled “Thailand’s Constitutional Reforms in Comparative Perspective.” The Congress was opened by the King’s granddaughter, and keynote addresses were given by former Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and former Prime Minister of Thailand Mr. Chuan Leekpai. The Congress was a major event in Thailand, given the military coup on 19 September 2006 and the undertaking to draft a new constitution.

- Andrew Harding, CAPI 5-year review appendices, November 2010

In CAPI’s spring 2006 ‘Asia-Pacific News’ newsletter, UVic Political Science/Pacific and Asian Studies undergraduate student and CAPI Student Coordinator Chandler Vandergrift recounted the escalating violence he witnessed while documenting the conflict in southern Thailand as an amateur video journalist. After graduation, he continued to work in Thailand as a journalist and was seriously wounded by a grenade attack on May 19, 2010, in Bangkok, while covering the military’s attempts to over-run barricades raised in and around the city centre by anti-government protesters. Chandler recovered from his injuries and now runs a security and investigations consulting company in the region.

Below: Chandler lies wounded after the grenade attack (photo: Athit Perawongmetha/Getty Images Europe). At left, a Muslim girl in Pattani province, Thailand, by Chandler Vandergrift.

What happened in the small southern town of Tak Bai in October 2004 is still a shock to me.
My years at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives were probably the most meaningful of my career at UVic in trying to achieve something for us on the larger world scene. Reminding Canada of its necessary commitment to Asia in general, and Japan specifically, is something that CAPI does well, and it’s gratifying to know that the Japanese government has recognized us in this way.

Kess upon receipt of Japan’s Order of the Rising Sun (with, L-R, Hiroko Noro of UVic Pacific and Asian Studies, Jittiya Dearden and Stella Chan) - the highest honour bestowed by Japan on foreign nationals - in Vancouver on December 10th, 2008, for his “contributions to greater understanding of Japan [which] have come through all facets of his professional career. His landmark books on Japanese psycholinguistics, his acknowledged excellence as a teacher and his leadership at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives at the University of Victoria stand out among his many accomplishments that have served to increase awareness and knowledge about Japan in Canada.”

- UVic News article
1.5.2 Physical Space

For the first 18 years of its existence, CAPI was located in the Fraser Building. CAPI and the Law School, the principal occupants of the building, were good neighbours; the relationship was beneficial to both and many of CAPI’s past projects involved members of the Law School. In 2008, CAPI was moved to the Sedgewick Building because of the Law School’s pressing need for space. In 2011 CAPI renovated its part of the “C” Wing of the Sedgewick Building, contributing $230,000 to a much-needed upgrade. The front half of a hallway in the “C” Wing is CAPI’s home, with a reception area, meeting room and seven offices. The other half of the hall is occupied by Communications Staff. Of the remaining one occupant and both the Law Chair and China Chair are without offices at the Centre. In addition, there is no room for expansion, particularly with respect to welcoming visiting scholars, post-docs, and graduate students.

Below: Helen and Cody Poulton at the 2008 CAPI Student Symposium.

CAPI’s Inaugural Albert Hung Chao Hong Lecture, titled “State Evasion in Mainland Southeast Asia: Why Civilizations Can’t Climb Hills,” was presented by Dr. James Scott, Department of Political Science, Yale University, 2007.

The lecture series is named in honour of Dr. Albert Hung Chao Hong, a Chinese-entrepreneur.

Dr. Hung was born in Fujian Province, China, and moved to Hong Kong during his teen years. After graduating from middle school, Dr. Hung worked in the Philippines with his father who was in the construction business. Upon returning to Hong Kong, Dr. Hung embarked on a number of business enterprises, establishing a number of companies. Currently, Dr. Hung serves as Vice Chairman for FakenG, a microelectronic company that designs and manufactures computer chips.

Dr. Hung received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Victoria in May 2005 at a special ceremony in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Some of his other honours include being named Justice of the Peace, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR; his appointments to the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Committee; and serving as a member of the Board of Governors for the Association of the Celebration of the Reunification of Hong Kong with China.

Persons with a disability requiring accommodation for these lectures should call 472-4947 at least 48 hours in advance.

Free and open to the public. Seating is limited. Visit our online events calendar at www.uvic.ca/events for more information on this lecture phone 721-7020.

Albert Hung Chao Hong Lecture Series

Presented by the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives

Dr. James Scott
Sterling Professor of Political Science and Professor of Anthropology, Yale University

State Evasion in Mainland Southeast Asia: Why Civilizations Can’t Climb Hills

Tuesday, 27 November, 7:30 p.m.

Room A240
Human & Social Development Building,
Last Friday, the final working day of the old year in the lunar calendar, Stella spent her last day at CAPI. This Monday, the first day of the year of the Ox, her own birth sign, was the perfectly auspicious day for her to begin her new position at the Department of Psychology.

We are here to celebrate the more than twenty years Stella spent at CAPI. She joined the Centre as its founding secretary and was the consistent and reliable presence in the office while others came and went - directors, program chairs, assistant directors, program directors, visitors, executive committee members and associates, interns, co-op students and student coordinators, conference participants and more. Everyone she has dealt with admires, appreciates, and likes her.

- Richard King, CAPI fall 2009 newsletter

Douglas Johnston obituary

Born in Dundee, Scotland, he immigrated to Canada in 1955, after graduating from St. Andrews University. He worked as an Executive Trainee at Eaton’s before realizing that academia was his calling. Earning post-graduate degrees from McGill and Yale Universities, he went on to teach at the New School for Social Research in New York City, the University of Western Ontario, Louisiana State University, the University of Toronto, Dalhousie University, the National University of Singapore, and the University of Victoria in a career that lasted until 1999.

Demonstrating a passion for writing, he wrote over 30 books and 90 articles in the theory and history of international law, law of the sea, marine and environmental policy studies, comparative law, modern Chinese studies and public policy issues.

He died, pen in hand, completing the finishing touches on a comprehensive history of international law. He will be remembered by his colleagues as an institution-builder through the creation of the Southeast Asian Programme in Ocean Law, Policy and Management (SEAPOL) centered in Bangkok, the Dalhousie Ocean Studies Programme (DOSP) in Halifax and the Maritime Awards Society of Canada (MASC) dedicated to student scholarships.

- from Johnston’s obituary, published in the Victoria Times Colonist, May 10, 2006; in 2009, he was posthumously awarded the annual Premimous Contribution to Creative Scholarship Award by the American Society of International Law for his final, monumental book, “The Historical Foundations of World Order: The Tower and The Arena,” as well as his “significant contributions to the study of international law.”
“Initially my law colleagues would say, ‘Oh! You are not going off to Asia again?’ After a year or two of schooling in the nature of the law chair, their response changed to ‘Oh! You are back again!’”

- Andrew Harding (personal correspondence, May 2018)
Thai Judicial Training

In July 2008 the Faculty of Law and CAPI collaborated in delivering the first judicial training program to a group of 34 high level Thai judges. The topic of this inaugural 10-day program was “Environmental Law”. This training program was so successful that a second group of 30 judges visited in March 2009 for a shorter program on Criminal Justice, and in July 2010 the law chair directed another CAPI/Law judicial training program involving thirty-two Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Judges from Thailand. The purpose of the visit was a two-week training program focusing on Youth and Justice designed and delivered by CAPI, under the direction of Law Chair Andrew Harding and the National Judicial Institute of Ottawa. The first week of the training program was spent in Victoria and included speakers from UVic’s Faculty of Law, Education, and Human Services as well as experts in the field of children and the law in Canada from the Provincial Government and civil society organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club of Victoria. The second week of the program was spent in Vancouver where the Judges received interactive training from both Provincial and Federal Court Judges, observed court proceedings at the Provincial Court and Supreme Court focusing on family cases. This was CAPI’s second training program provided to the Office of Judiciary of the Kingdom of Thailand.

- from CAPI annual reports 2009-10 and 2010-11

When we organised another Thai judicial training programme, Helen was dismayed to visit the UVic art gallery, where the reception was to take place, about 45 minutes before it was due to begin, only to find the whole place closed for renovation! Crisis being all in a day’s work for Helen, she speedily organised a downtown wine-bar venue, we fielded some BC judges wandering around campus, and Helen was able to call the bus driver, diverting the bus to the wine bar. We all turned up just on time and the judges never knew anything untoward had occurred!

- Andrew Harding (personal correspondence, May 2018)

Scenario Two:

You have made arrangements at a local restaurant for the Law Firm Hosted Launch Banquet for 200 people. You arrive at the restaurant approximately 30 minutes before the registrants are due to arrive to find that the whole place closed for renovation! Crisis being all in a day’s work for Helen, she speedily organised a downtown wine-bar venue, we fielded some BC judges wandering around campus, and Helen was able to call the bus driver, diverting the bus to the wine bar. We all turned up just on time and the judges never knew anything untoward had occurred!

- Andrew Harding (personal correspondence, May 2018)
I enjoyed especially at CAPI a conference on ‘New Courts in Asia’ in 2007, which led to a ground-breaking book of the same title, which I edited with Pip Nicholson (now Dean at Melbourne Law School). It was one of those blissful, beautiful Victorian summers, and to have so many outstanding scholars and good friends involved in that conference made me think that academic life could not get any better. I recall the rabbits poking their noses round the open door to see what was going on. Sadly, there are no more rabbits on campus.

- Andrew Harding (personal correspondence, May 2018).

In February 2009, CAPI, in conjunction with the Faculty of Law of Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan, organized a highly successful conference under the title “Special Economic Zones in Asian Market Economies: [SEZAME] What is Next for SEZs?” held at Kyushu University in Fukuoka. This project culminated in the publication of a book published in July 2010 based on the 2009 conference proceedings, Special Economic Zones in Asian Market Economies, published by Routledge. This publication was preceded by a CAPI Round Table, held at UVic in June 2010, involving some of the contributors to the book and including as a keynote Professor Zeng Huaqun of Xiamen University in the PRC.

Andrew Harding, CAPI Director, with Connie Carter, CAPI Associate and Royal Roads University faculty member, 2011.
Constraints, trends, assumptions

- Universities are slow to change - problems are multidisciplinary - appointments are made to academic departments - creating incentives to work with each other over departments.
- Funding constraints are permanent - if university continues to try to grow, some programs must be capped, other can be given a green light, or modest growth for a range of interests. External funding requirement for growth.
- Funding, by and with the private sector important over collaboration with for example CIDA, which will likely have less available in the future.
- Assuming Canada continues to exist and there is not a radically different environment.

Definition of the Pacific Rim

- This may be expanded to include Latin American countries and those along the west coast of South America.

Attitudinal Changes

- UVic faculty and community will have to develop a more entrepreneurial approach as less funding is available from traditional sources.
- Should become "more political" and more sensitive to trends. More outward looking.
- Must be willing to look beyond own disciplinary boundaries.

"Dream Team" UVic Asia-Pacific Activities in the Year 2010

Rapporteur - Jim McDavid

CAPI hosts the annual Neil Burton Commemorative Lecture through a fund established in his honour.

Neil Burton (1941-2010) was a long-time advocate for closer Asia-Canada relations and went to China as part of the first Canada-China student exchange in 1973. He lived in China for eight years and then in Japan for 18 years before returning to Canada in 1990. Neil taught at Sophia University, the University of Toronto and at UVic.

- Notes on Presentations made at the CAPI Forum on Asia-Pacific Activities at UVic, October 10, 1992.

"We project Asia into UVic, BC, Canada - By doing so, we also project UVic, BC & Canada into Asia."

- Andrew Harding in the winter 2009 UVic Law News

CAPI is clearly held in high regard, referred to frequently as one of UVic's "gems" or "jewels." Yet it is equally clear that CAPI is at a key juncture in its development and has the potential to utilize its assets in a new way as part of a re-invigorated push by the university in its Asian connections. It may be more valuable to the University and the country for CAPI in future to be perceived not as a precious stone but the enlightened hub of a neural network.

... The title of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, especially the word "Initiatives", was ahead of its time and has recently been emulated elsewhere. To stay at the leading edge, another "I" word might be added: "Innovation."


Naga City, Philippines

The Penafrañcia festival is a huge celebration every September in Naga City. The Procession starts with a statue of the virgin (a replica of the Madonna in Penafrañcia Spain) being carried on foot throughout the city to a Cathedral in the center of town. At the end of the festival it's carried back to its shrine by way of a fluvial procession along the river. This photo was taken during the 300th anniversary of Naga City.

- Stephanie Ellis, 2010 CAPI intern
From the outset, CAPI was a dynamic and creative force with a true emphasis on the word “initiatives.” It formed a central focus around which Asian interests at UVic could coalesce, intermingle and benefit from each other. Seldom was an idea pitched that did not receive some support from the CAPI Director of the time. Gatherings were held on campus that attracted over 60 UVic Asianists. However the scope of CAPI was far from parochial and it became a significant centre in the Pacific Northwest regarding Asian studies. It hosted conferences, published books, participated in grant applications, and was recognized as a key player on both sides of the Pacific in a wide range of Asian initiatives. The twentieth century may have been the Atlantic century, but few can doubt the increased importance of the Asian and Pacific interests that now dominate many global issues in the twenty first century. It is a very fitting time for the University of Victoria to celebrate and renew its commitment to CAPI as a key knowledge generator in these challenging times.

- UVic Geography’s “Hot Shot” professor (Globe & Mail, 2013) Philip Dearden (personal correspondence, August 2018). Dearden has been a dedicated “Asianist” and CAPI collaborator since the Centre’s early days. Above, in 2011, he is pictured leading a group of undergraduate UVic Geography students on a “field school” to India to learn about Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) to learn about community development and conservation.
The Chinese government officials just think those decisions about Lai Changxing [at the time, one of China’s most wanted criminals who was living in Canada] … are not judicial decisions but political decisions, because all decisions in China are political decisions – Globe and Mail, December 1, 2009.

It’s jungle politics. The party does not play the game by its own rules.

- on the nature of the Communist Party of China’s process for determining leadership positions on the occasion of the 19th National Congress, NPR.org news, October 17, 2017

[The Chinese government officials] just think those decisions about Lai Changxing [at the time, one of China’s most wanted criminals who was living in Canada] … are not judicial decisions but political decisions, because all decisions in China are political decisions

- Globe and Mail, December 1, 2009.

Li Peng’s Tiananmen diary has clearly revealed that Deng was the proposer and decision maker of enacting martial law in parts of Beijing in 1989. And he gave the final approval to the ‘ground clearing’ operation in Tiananmen Square on June 3.

- The New York Times, June 4, 2010

For me, the most powerful of [our international conferences] during the time was the conference commemorating former Chinese Communist Party General Secretary and Premier Zhao Ziyang, removed from office shortly before the army drove student demonstrators and their supporters from Tiananmen Square on June 4th, 1989. Zhao spent the remaining years of his life under house arrest. For the conference, Wu Guoguang, who had been one of Zhao’s brilliant young group of advisors in the 1980s, brought together scholars and former colleagues to reflect on what might have been if the reformist Zhao had assumed full national leadership.

- Richard King (personal correspondence, June 2018)
In 2008 the China program organized its fifth symposium since the China Chair (Guoguang Wu) joined the Centre in 2004. The symposium, “Foreign-Domestic Linkages in China’s International Behaviours”, was held from April 24 to 25, 2008.

The conference was generously funded with $35,000 by external supporters, and featured the presentation of ten papers by scholars from China, Hong Kong, Australia, the United Kingdom and North America. The China Chair also joined the Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast 2008 Annual Conference, organizing two panels on China’s relations with Asia, and legal reforms, and chaired two panels as well.

In the summer of 2008, a volume of papers from the China program’s June 2006 symposium, “Zhao Ziyang and China’s Political Future”, was published by Routledge. Another conference volume based on an October 2006 conference organized by the China program, “Socialist China, Capitalist China: Social-Political Conflicts under Globalization”, was also accepted by Routledge for publication. This constitutes three volumes in the past two years to be published under the co-editorship of Guoguang Wu and Helen Lansdowne; and as with past volumes, manuscript preparation was greatly assisted by Stella Chan, CAPI Secretary.

- from CAPI’s 2007/08 annual report
They are an exceptionally dedicated and effective team that would be the pride of any academic unit in North America. Helen Lansdowne was described in various interviews as "amazing," "terrific," "dynamic," and "indispensable."

Everyone recognizes the tremendous capacities of Ms. Lansdowne, and the committee praised her for her full-time dedication (even though we learned that she is in fact part-time) . . .

The CAPI Faculty Research Grant has enabled me to conduct interviews and archival research in Hong Kong and mainland China for my ongoing research on gender, migration and precarious labour in China. I have published a few articles and book chapters based on this CAPI-funded research.

- Dr. Feng Xu (UVic Political Science; above in blue t-shirt), recipient of a 2013 CAPI Faculty Research Development Grant.
2013 CAPI Interns Elena Lopez (centre) and Corey de Vries (second from right) spent six months with Center for Migrant Advocacy in Quezon City, Philippines. Here, they are pictured with friends at Mt. Pinatubo.

With the dismantling of CIDA and as a result, the loss of our program funding, CAPI needed to come up with some creative ways to keep our program going. With the continued support of the Centre, we were able to fund six student placements from May to November 2014.

-2013-14 annual report

Mary Yoko Brannen (CAPI Japan Chair from 2012 - 2016) with Stephen Jarislowsky

As a result of activity undertaken with the Peter B. Gustavson Business School at UVic during 2010, arrangements have been finalized for the filling of the CAPI Japan Chair, following a gift of one million dollars from the Jarislowsky Foundation. This will enable the appointment of an outstanding scholar to the CAPI Jarislowsky Chair in Japan/ East Asian Studies, which will be shared between CAPI and the Business School. Thanks are due to Stephen Jarislowsky, the Business School and its Dean, Professor Ali Dastmalchian, in joining CAPI to make this initiative possible. The position will be advertised shortly and will be filled by July 1, 2012.

- from CAPI's 2009/10 annual report
Much effort this year culminated in the “Forgotten Corridors: Global Displacement & the Politics of Engagement” conference. This was the 10th annual conference of the Canadian Association of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) and the first to be held on the west coast of Canada. The title and theme was purposefully chosen to highlight the complexities surrounding the forced movements of people in all parts of the world. Bringing together scholars, activists, civil society members and policy makers, our hope was to create opportunities for discussions concerning the hierarchies of displacement, the multiple causes of forced migration and the various ways that strategies for movement and resettlement play out.

- from CAPI’s 2016/17 annual report

In June 2015, the MMP’s interdisciplinary steering committee hosted a conference entitled “Migration and Late Capitalism: Critical Intersections with the Asia-Pacific and Beyond.” The conference served as the launch of “Migration, Mobility & Displacement” (MM&D), the first-ever open-access scholarly journal on migration and mobility in the Asia-Pacific region, published by CAPI. Under the editorial leadership of Dr. Feng Xu (UVic Political Science) and an international advisory board, the inaugural issue of the journal presented boundary-pushing articles by five leading scholars, as well as a video interview with migration activist Harsha Walia, and a photo essay by Jakarta-based documentary photographer Andri Tanbunam.

Above: An art exhibit featuring pieces by North Korean refugee youth as part of art therapy at Yeo-myung School in Seoul, South Korea, was on display as part of the “Forgotten Corridors” conference.

At right: The research team for the “Southeast Asian Women, Migration and Family in the Global Era” project led a three-day “Master Class” in migration studies in May 2014 titled “Family Entanglements, Migration and Media.”

Below: CAPI Visiting Faculty Scholar Leslie Butt (UVic Anthropology) anchored the research core of CAPI’s Migration and Mobility Program (MMP) from 2012 to 2017, leading two multi-year projects investigating the experiences of migrant Indonesian families. Above, Butt at a health information session for expectant mothers in East Lombok, Indonesia as part of her research project “Stateless Children, Parents and Undocumented Migration: An Indonesian Pilot Study.”

At right: Jessica Ball (UVic Child and Youth Care) and project collaborator Harriet Beazley (University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia) disseminating results to stakeholders in East Lombok.

Above: At right: Jessica Ball (UVic Child and Youth Care) and project collaborator Harriet Beazley (University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia) dissemi-
During the 1940s, Canada enacted mass displacement and dispossession of people on racial grounds, a collective moral failure that remains only partially addressed. Japanese Canadians lost their homes, farms, businesses, as well as personal, family, and communal possessions. Landscapes of Injustice is dedicated to recovering and grappling with this difficult past.

Housed at CAPI and led by UVic Department of History associate professor Jordan Stanger-Ross, Landscapes of Injustice (LOI) is a seven-year, multi-partner research project exploring the forced dispossession of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War.

Four years into its mandate, the project has activated a robust national community of practice, including researchers, educators, curators, elders, and students, and garnered an impressive amount of local (e.g., the Times Colonist, Georgia Straight), national (CBC, National Post, Globe and Mail, Toronto Star), and international (NHK, Japan’s national broadcast organization) media coverage for its work.

At left: LOI has been active in campaigning to reconstruct a Japanese Teahouse in Esquimalt-Gorge Park to replace the one that was destroyed through neglect, looting, and vandalism during the war.

Below: Dr. Henry Shimizu giving a presentation to grade 7 students at Lansdowne Middle School about his experiences in New Denver internment camp, October 2014.

Top: San Yamamoto, Mary Kitagawa, and Jean Kamimura relating personal experiences of their internment in the 1940s during an event at the Vancouver Public Library, January 2017.

Above: Hide Hyodo-Shimizu, research scholarship recipient Hikari Rachmat with Landscapes of Injustice Project Director Jordan Stanger-Ross (L), Project Manager Mike Abe (R), and National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) Executive Director Ken Noma at the project team’s annual “Spring Institute,” Victoria, April 2015.

Landscapes of Injustice researchers uncovered a trove of long-lost letters written by interned Japanese-Canadians to representatives of the Canadian government during World War II in protest of the forced sale of their private belongings.

Sub. P. O. 9, Edmonton, Alta.
July 31, 1944

The Right Honourable The Minister of Justice,
Justice Building,
Ottawa.

Dear Sirs,

During May of this year I received notification that my property at Haney, B.C. had been sold for the sum of $1,000 to the Director, Veterans’ Land Act. My property there consisted of seventeen and a half acres of land and other household goods of which I am enclosing a list, which I valued at the total sum of $4,500. The Custodian has not at any time requested my sanction of disposal of my property and had he done so, I would have been most reluctant to sell it, as it has been my livelihood for the past seven years and through hard work I had been successful in making an income to approximately $3000 per year which I expended to put two of my children through university as doctor and dentist respectively. In order that my two remaining children, who are dependent upon me, receive the same privilege as their two elder sisters, it was my desire to return to my home at Haney and undertake, as in the past, to obtain sufficient independence to enable them to complete their education, one as an optometrist and my only son as an electrical engineer.

I came to Canada in 1907 and was allowed the privilege of Canadian Citizenship on December 22, 1911. This, to me, was the most precious opportunity given by the country of my adoption. Through it, I realized an ambition I had desired since landing on this continent, that of being able to raise a family of Canadian sons and daughters. The opportunities given me by Canada, sir, have never been abused by me or any member of my family.

I am now fifty eight years and feel that I cannot start again from the bottom. My health is failing, and as previously pointed out, my desire after hostilities have terminated, was to return to my home at Haney and continue where I left off upon evacuation during October 1942.

As you will see, sir, the disposal of my property for the sum stated has caused me a loss of over $3000 in actual cash value and also the loss of a home I had spent years to build up to a point of security for my wife and my children. My wife and I have been Canadian subjects for thirty years. It does not seem just that as Canadians my family should be deprived of a home which to us meant more than just a home. It was to us, the foundation of security and freedom as Canadian citizens.
Andrew Marton, CAPI Director 2014 to 2017

Marton with CAPI Research Assistant Gordon Wang Guodong doing fieldwork in China.
My earliest memories of CAPI came as a Masters student here at UVic in the late 1980s, then in the early 1990s as a PhD student at UBC. I had the opportunity to participate in CAPI sponsored events which provided opportunities for students and early career scholars to share their research on China and to interact with senior scholars of Asia from across the region. CAPI’s reputation for leadership in undertaking world-class multi-disciplinary research, sponsoring life changing student internships in Asia, and delivering outstanding leadership and research training programs were well established when I stepped in as director 25 years later.

Highlights during my tenure as director included the moving vignettes and powerful images showcasing research experiences of our student interns, contributing to CAPI’s youth and early career leadership training programs focused on building cross-cultural understanding with Asia, travelling with UVic’s new president on his first visit to China, and participating in no fewer than thirty CAPI sponsored local and international knowledge mobilization events.

Embedded in the details of these many activities are important outcomes with profound impact on our insights and understanding of the Asia Pacific, and on our students and young scholars. As I reflect on my own experience – as a student, young scholar then later as CAPI director – I can say for many of us who undertake research and teaching on Asia here at UVic, at the core of what we do is a deep desire to open the eyes of our young students and scholars to the opportunities which come with the study and understanding of the Asia Pacific. It was an honor and privilege to work with colleagues in CAPI, and our many local and global partners, to contribute to that vitally important endeavour.

- Andrew Marton, CAPI Director 2014-2017 (personal correspondence, August 2018).

A key highlight of the past year was the very successful Five Year Review process, which culminated in May 2016 with senate approval of Centre Status for CAPI for the five-year period 1 July 2016 through 30 June 2021. A panel of distinguished reviewers found that CAPI had “…established itself as one of Canada’s leading university-based hubs for Asia-Pacific related activities both in research and teaching [and were] … pleased to recommend enthusiastically that its status at UVic should be continued.

- CAPI 2015-16 Annual Report
In Memoriam: Dr. Martha Farrell

Dr. Martha Farrell, a long-time associate of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI) and the School of Public Administration, was killed May 13th, 2015 in a Taliban terrorist attack on the Kabul guesthouse where she was staying. Farrell was in Afghanistan with the Aga Khan Foundation leading workshops on gender and anti-violence for Afghan locals and government officials.

Farrell was a director of the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), an India based non-profit with a long history of collaboration with the university. Over the years, Farrell has developed many personal and professional connections with the UVic community and programs.

Budd Hall (Public Administration, Anthropology) has known Farrell for 25 years. Of his friend, Hall reflected, “Martha Farrell was a joyful, courageous, strong and principled woman. She was a national leader of the movement against violence against women, a great friend of the University of Victoria and will be with us always in our hearts.”

Hall shares the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education with Farrell’s husband and President of PRIA Dr. Rajesh Tandon who received a honorary Doctorate of Laws from UVic in 2008. Farrell helped develop community development courses for the School of Public Administration and has been adjunct faculty both here and at Royal Roads where she was scheduled to teach later this summer.

PRIA has welcomed students from CAPI’s International Internship Program where CAPI interns had the privilege of working with Farrell directly. Robyn Fila, internship program manager says that “Martha was an incredibly strong, intelligent and inspiring woman, who’s work had a huge impact on many people’s lives.” CAPI will be sending two interns to PRIA this summer.

In 2011 and 2012 Phil Dearden (Geography, CAPI Associate) collaborated with Farrell and PRIA in developing and leading field schools for the department of Geography, taking students to India to explore issues of community governance, women’s empowerment, resource use and management and conservation. Of his experience in India, Dearden says “Martha and Rajesh were such an inspiration to the students on both the 2011 and 2012 India field schools. Lively, warm, welcoming, funny, grounded and so very helpful both to me and the students. It is difficult to imagine PRIA as the vivacious place it was without seeing Martha at the centre of it all.”

Farrell’s death is a tragedy that has brought home to UVic the reality of the violence happening in many places around the world. All who knew her or her work will miss Farrell’s leadership, inspiration, courage and dedication.

At left: This collection of essays is an outcome of a symposium held at the University of Victoria on April 7-8, 2017 titled “Engendering Social Transformation in China: Gender Dynamics, Women’s Rights, and Feminist Activism.”

“This book explores the extent to which women have been initiators, mobilizers, and driving forces of social transformation in China. The book considers how conceptions of women’s roles have changed as China has moved from state socialism to engagements with capitalist globalization, examines the growth of women’s gender and sexual consciousness and social movements for women’s rights, including for marginalized social and sex/gender groups, and discusses women’s roles in society-state interactions, including many forms of social activism, cultural events, educational innovations, and more. Overall, the book demonstrates that women have not simply been passive receivers of the consequences of the forces of global capitalism, but that they have had a profound, active impact on social transformation in China” ( Routledge 2018).

Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives
University of Victoria

Sarah Close Hamayun,

In response to your correspondence dated February 7, 2017, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) - International Events and Convention Services Program (IECSP) officially recognizes the following event:

ENGENDERING SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN CHINA: GENDER DYNAMICS, WOMEN’S RIGHTS, AND FEMINIST ACTIVISM

April 7-8, 2017
University of Victoria
Victoria, BC

The information provided to the CBSA states there will be approximately 50 attendees of which 10% are foreign to Canada. The event is open to the general public with no sales of merchandise taking place.
With two successful years under its belt, CAPI continues to deliver the China Youth Leadership Program welcoming nearly 400 participants to Victoria and the University of Victoria [for week-long trainings]. The China Youth Leadership Program (CYLP) is an educational leadership program delivering a global and experiential learning experience to Chinese undergraduate students through a hybrid of interactive lectures and practical field trips involving local history; gender, sexuality and identity studies; global leadership; art history and comparative sociology. Between September 2015 and June 2016 CAPI hosted 362 participants from China. For the purpose of optimizing participants’ learning outcomes, students were taught by faculty, CAPI Associates, and PhD candidates from Pacific and Asian Studies, Fine Arts, History, Geography, and Political Science, as well as participated in field trips with various CAPI’s community affiliates. The CYLP is in partnership with the Union of Northern International Universities, a union of 16 universities in China, eight of which send students to take part in the CYLP on a regular basis. With the dedicated effort of CAPI staff, the community stakeholders and the Chinese partners, the CYLP has drawn overwhelming attention and positive testimonials. The number of students has risen steadily from under 30 to 50+ in each CYLP group as well as an increasing number of partner universities. After another fruitful year, reinforcing strong ties with CAPI’s partners at home and abroad, the CYLP clearly illustrates CAPI’s dedication to its vision and objectives.

- from 2015-16 annual report

China Youth Leadership Program
CAPI’s Internship Program at 15

Since its inception in 2003, the CAPI internship program has sent 171 Canadian students on placements with 51 different non-governmental organizations in 20 countries across the Asia-Pacific (and a couple in Africa, too!) for a cumulative duration of 85 years.

“This internship is about building connections across, and recognizing the fluidity of, the so-called ‘boundaries’ between people. It’s about conscious exploration, trying new things, getting to know new people, absorbing new ideas and perspectives. It’s about having conversations and stepping outside of your comfort zone and returning a better person than when you left.”

- UVic Anthropology student Alex Lloyd spent three months in Australia working on her master’s thesis exploring the impacts of transnational migration on the sexual subjectivities of young Indonesian women studying overseas.

Asia is awake

- Robyn Fila, who is often busy putting out fires halfway around the world while the rest of the CAPI team sleeps.

Below: CAPI internship Program Manager Robyn Fila with Sumaiya Islam from Bangladesh Ozbazhi Mohila Sramik Association (BOMSA) at the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2016.
“I cannot think of any other endeavour I could have undertaken that would have challenged me in such deep and meaningful ways. Ultimately, by taking myself far outside of my comfort zone, by doing so many things for the first time (usually badly), and going through periods of doubt, questioning, and reflection, I had what has by far been the most transformative, fun, and rich learning experience of my life so far.”

- 2017 CAPI intern Will Howling (top left), who spent seven months in India on with Participatory Research in Asia.

Once a CAPI intern, always a CAPI intern
- CAPI internship Program Manager Robyn Fila
Victor V. Ramraj, CAPI Director 2017 - present; Law Chair 2014 - present

Victor speaks to the inaugural cohort of students at Bhutan's first law school, Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law during a visit in August 2017.
A New Director

The Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives is delighted to welcome Victor V. Ramraj, Professor of Law at the University of Victoria, as its new Director.

Dr. Ramraj joined the University of Victoria in July 2014, after 16 years at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Since 2014, he has been a Professor of Law and Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations, and served as the Director of Graduate Studies at the Faculty of Law.

As he takes on the Centre Director role, Dr. Ramraj will draw upon his many years of research on the Asia-Pacific region, and his international leadership experience, including five years as Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs at the NUS Law School and a one-year secondment as Co-Director of the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS) in London, England. Upon his arrival at UVic, Dr. Ramraj convened two major international events in 2015, the Asia Desk Form and the Transpacific Aviation Law and Policy Conference, and launched a CAPI Roundtable Series, Southeast Asia in Global Context. This past year he successfully received a half-million dollar grant from the Queen Elizabeth II Scholars fund for a project, Regulating Globalization in South and Southeast Asia, to bring doctoral, post-doctoral, and early career scholars to the University of Victoria from partner institutions in Bhutan, Cambodia, India, and Vietnam, and to send Canadian researchers to Asia. Dr. Ramraj’s research has been published on five continents. His current research focuses on comparative constitutional law and transnational regulation, both with an emphasis on Asia.

Dr. Ramraj will continue his to serve as CAPI’s Asia-Pacific Legal Relations Chair and Professor in the Faculty of Law as he takes up the reins at CAPI.

- announcement of the confirmation of Victor V. Ramraj as CAPI’s seventh Director.

Facing page: “The Right-Side-Up Map of Southasia”

“For parallel identities in Southasia, beyond the nation-states . . . this map, the work of artist (and cartographer) Subhas Rai, is Himal Southasian’s response to the nation-state centred discourse that has all of us in its grip…”

- from himalmag.com
QES-Advanced Scholars Program

Nima Dorji (a senior lecturer from Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law in Bhutan), Ratana Ly (a researcher with the Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law in Cambodia), and Kan Pongboonjun (a law instructor at Chiang Mai University, Thailand) are all undertaking their PhD studies in law at UVic through the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Advance Scholars (QES-AS) Scholarships program organized by CAPI and UVic Law.

All told, the QES-AS program will bring thirteen advanced scholars whose work focuses on South and Southeast Asia to the University of Victoria to create lasting impacts both at home and abroad through cross-cultural exchanges encompassing international education, discovery and inquiry, and professional experiences. It will also send five Canadian post-doctorate early career scholars to the region to develop valuable experience and build skills and networks, in Canada and South and Southeast Asia (including UVic Law profs Supriya Routh and Pooja Parmar, who each spent a couple of months in India and Bhutan, respectively, in summer 2018).

Leading lawyers, academics and policy-makers from 11 countries on four continents—Chile, Columbia, the US, Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, India and Australia—came together for an in-depth look at recent legal developments in Asia and their relevance to the Americas. Hosted by CAPI and the Faculty of Law, the first Asia Desk Forum provided a unique opportunity for private and public sector lawyers with an Asian dimension to their practice to extend and deepen their knowledge of cutting-edge legal issues through a series of workshops, panels, and lectures. - from CAPI’s 2014/15 annual report.

QES-AS scholars Sushmita Pati and Sunayan Ganguly, faculty members from Azim Premji University, India, arrived at CAPI in May 2018 for a three-month visit to focus on their scholarly work.


Facing page, top: Victor and Helen with Petronila P. Garcia, Philippine Ambassador to Canada, and consular officials at CAPI’s fall 2018 welcome back reception at the University Club.

Facing page, top:

Facing page, below:
Victor with long-time CAPI Associate and prominent Thai businessman Jingjai Hanchanlash, Robyn Fila and CAPI friend and Asian business consultant Paul Stinson outside the University Club following a talk by Dr. Hanchanlash on Thailand’s role in ASEAN, 2018.

In 2018, CAPI Senior Research Fellow Neilesh Bose (UVic History; second from left, above) brought his “Global South Colloquium” (GSC) program under the CAPI banner, which seeks to “centre the Global South into ongoing conversations about the making of the modern world - a focus not divided by geography but placement within global histories and practices.”

The above photo was taken following a GSC talk by Ken Pomeranz, professor of Modern Chinese History, University of Chicago, September 5, 2018, titled “Beyond the “Great Divergence” Debate: What Have We Learned About the Origins of Modern Economic Growth?”

CAPI Senior Research Fellow and former Canadian Ambassador to Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos Phil Calvert introduces a panel on “Accountability for Human Rights Violations: Perspectives on Myanmar, North Korea, and Beyond,” October 2018. The panel featured international human rights experts Dr. Vitit Muntarbhorn, a UN Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and Mr. Phil Robertson, Deputy Director of Human Rights Watch’s Asia Division. The session was moderated by Dr. Susan Breau, UVic Dean of Law.
CAPI core staff, September 2018

Back row, left to right: Keren Huang, Program Coordinator, CAPI China Youth Leadership Program (CYLP), Kan Pong- boonjun, visiting QES-AS scholar / UVic Law PhD student, Jonathan Woods, CAPI Communications Officer, Robyn Fila, Internship Program Manager, Katie Dev, Office Administrator, Helen Lansdowne, Associate Director.

Front row: Victor V. Ramraj, Director, Qian Liu, CAPI Event Coordinator and CYLP Program Assistant, Mike Abe, Landscapes of Injustice Project Manager, and Kezang Wangmo, Project Manager, Queen Elizabeth Advanced Scholars (QES-AS) Project.