The NIAS mission

- NIAS – Nordic Institute of Asian Studies is a Nordic research and service institute with an international mandate and a focus on political, economic, business, social and cultural transformations in modern Asia in their historical contexts.
- NIAS works closely with partner universities in the Øresund region to develop critical mass in and add value to research initiatives on modern Asia and to promote synergy and growth in Asian studies.
- The anchorage in the Øresund region is the basis for partnerships in the development of Asian studies in the Nordic region, where NIAS contributes to their coordination, consolidation and expansion.
- NIAS is a window to the Nordic countries for high-class, research-based knowledge and information on Asia and the institute contributes to the international recognition of and respect for Nordic Asia research.
- NIAS’s activities and services comprise
  (1) basic and applied research
  (2) research support, incl. NIAS LINC – library and information services
  (3) support for education
  (4) dissemination, incl. NIAS Press
  (5) partnerships and networks.

NIAS aims to achieve and communicate Asian Insights!

Contents

The NIAS mission 2

2005 • Finding a lagoon: The ‘new’ NIAS 3
2005 • The new partnership 4

The Nordic NIAS Council (NNC) 5

2004 • Good results despite adverse weather 6
2005 • Main tasks 6

Results 2003–2004 7

Financial result 2003–2004 8

NIAS’s activities and the Nordic responsibility 8
Asian dynamics create a dynamic research agenda 9

Sponsors in 2004 10

NIAS research themes and projects 2004–2005 12
A Retreat at NIAS? Grants for Nordic Guest Researchers 13
An outsider’s view of Asian studies in the Nordic region 14

Forging a partnership? 15

The Asian Century Research School • NIAS research school initiative 16
Research-based consultancy 18

NIAS SUPRA 20
NIAS LINC 22
NIASnytt – Asia Insights 25
The Board 26
NIAS Press 28

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2005 • Finding a lagoon

The ‘new’ NIAS

Although it is important and challenging to understand and capture the winds of change – as we discussed in our previous annual report (NIAS 2003/2004) – it is both pleasing and necessary to dock the ship in a quiet lagoon once in a while. You need to recuperate, replenish supplies, make repairs and chart a new voyage before setting sail again towards new horizons.

NIAS travelled troubled waters in 2004, which tested our skills in navigating under rough conditions. However, the ‘forces of nature’ were kind and friendly to us, we survived the voyage on the unruly ocean, and we have now found a new lagoon for the ‘new’ NIAS. The story behind this cryptic introduction will be explained in this report. Here we shall concentrate on what is the ‘new’ NIAS:

- NIAS has found new partners (see overleaf). Within the partnership the aim is to create both synergy and better coordination of activities within the field of Asian studies. NIAS will add value to existing activities through collaboration within and across relevant disciplines in social sciences, business studies, humanities, law and technical and natural sciences. In this way, the partnership should contribute to the growth of Asian studies in the Nordic region.

- The ‘new’ NIAS will be a hub for Asian studies in the Nordic region with a range of services and activities that will support the development of Asian studies and enhance the visibility and applications of Asian studies.

- The ‘new’ NIAS will coordinate an initiative to establish a Nordic, networked research school, The Asian Century Research School. NIAS will also expand the NIAS SUPRA Programme for Nordic Master and PhD students.

- The ‘new’ NIAS will strive to make Asian studies more visible in the business community that deals with Asia.

- The ‘new’ NIAS will tailor-make research-based information services to the needs of its users

NIAS has a breadth and depth of research and other services, activities and outputs, the combination of which is unique in the Nordic countries. NIAS represents considerable historical and current investments that have produced unique results and assets. The ‘new’ NIAS will continue to build on these assets, activities, and services in the future.

NIAS is a member of the European Alliance for Asian Studies (www.asia-alliance.org)
2005  The new partnership

A consortium comprising of the University of Copenhagen and the Copenhagen Business School in Denmark, and Lund University in Sweden have agreed to take over from the Nordic Council of Ministers the collaborative responsibility – as founding partners – for continuing NIAS as an academically independent research and service institute with a Nordic responsibility. The University of Copenhagen will be the host institution with the administrative and legal responsibility for NIAS under Danish law. The Nordic Council of Ministers will continue to partially finance NIAS under a contract with the institute.

The previous owner, the Nordic Council of Ministers, and the three founding partners have agreed with NIAS to establish a Nordic NIAS Council as a platform for continued partnership with Nordic universities and research institutes. These are invited to join the Nordic NIAS Council as members. The aims of the Nordic NIAS Council are:

- To establish an association that will cooperate with NIAS to develop Asian studies, i.e. research and education at the highest levels, in the Nordic region.
- To promote synergy between the activities of the members and NIAS.
- To support NIAS in being a window for Nordic activities on Asia within the field of Asian studies.
- To ensure that NIAS maintains a Nordic mandate based on cross-disciplinary studies with a focus on political, economic, business, cultural, and social transformations in modern Asia in their wider context and in a historical perspective.

See www.nias.ku.dk/who

On 6 October 2004, the final signing ceremony of the Cooperation Agreement of the ‘new’ NIAS took place at the Nordic Council of Ministers. From left: Director Jørgen Delman, NIAS, Secretary General Per Unckel, Nordic Council of Ministers, Rector Göran Bexell, Lund University, Rector Linda Nielsen, University of Copenhagen, and Rector Finn Junge Jensen, Copenhagen Business School. Behind: Erik R. Skaaning and John F. Christensen, NIAS Administration.
The Nordic NIAS Council (NNC)

Members of the Nordic NIAS Council will enjoy special Nordic benefits from NIAS. NIAS’ founding partners and the members of the Nordic NIAS Council will contribute financially to NIAS to match the funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers. Representatives of the Nordic NIAS Council will elect two members to the NIAS Board. NIAS is looking forward to working with the new partners.

Members of the NNC (as of April 2005)

Danmark
University of Aalborg, www.aau.dk
University of Aarhus, www.au.dk

Finland
University Network of East and Southeast Asian Studies
To be represented by 5 member universities

Iceland
University of Iceland, www.hi.is

Norway
University of Bergen (UIB), www.uib.no
University of Oslo (UIO), www.uio.no
Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), www.ntnu.no
Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration (NHH), www.nhh.no
Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), www.cmi.no
Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI). www.fni.no
International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), www.prio.no
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), www.nupi.no

Sweden
Göteborg University (GU), www.gu.se
Uppsala University (UU), www uu.se
Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), www.kth.se
Swedish School of Advanced Asia Pacific Studies (SSAAPS), www.stint.se
2004 ◆ Good results despite adverse weather

NIAS faced two major challenges in 2004: (1) To develop a new ownership structure that would ensure our Nordic mandate, which is the key to the success and progress of NIAS so far. We achieved what we set out to do (pp. 4–5); and (2) to continue an active programme of research, services and other activities and to avoid adverse impact from the restructuring process. ‘Results 2003–2004’ (table overleaf) shows the results in 2003 and 2004 held up against the goals in our contract with the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The results are satisfactory as they are generally beyond what is stipulated in the contract. It is gratifying that it has been possible to achieve such a good result despite the diversion of efforts and resources that went into the restructuring process.

A detailed list of activities at NIAS in 2004 can be found on our web site www.nias.ku.dk/who/annuals/2004-2005/

2005 ◆ Main tasks

The priorities for our work in 2005 are:

- Establishment of the Nordic NIAS Council
- An active programme of research and consultancy
- Establishment of the Asian Century Research School
- Delivery and development of NIAS LINC services
- Development of the SUPRA Programme
- Publication of 20+ titles by NIAS Press, many of these by Nordic authors
- Involvement in/or support to 11 workshops and conferences
- Organization of a series of seminars, lunch talks and lecture tours
- Expansion of networks in Asia and the Nordic countries
- Development and implementation of a communication strategy
- Improvement of administrative procedures under the new ownership
### Results 2003–2004 | actual results compared to goals specified in NIAS’s contract with the Nordic Council of Ministers

#### Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Activity, person years</th>
<th>Results 2004</th>
<th>Results 2003</th>
<th>Contract Goal 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Productivity</td>
<td>7.29</td>
<td>5.02</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monographs and edited publications</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific articles in recognised journals</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters in scholarly books</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other publications</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book reviews</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Nordic Research Support and Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associated researchers (months)</th>
<th>Results 2004</th>
<th>Results 2003</th>
<th>Contract Goal 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- among these Nordic researchers (months)</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest researchers (number)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of non-Nordic guest researchers</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated students and others (months)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA Theses</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral dissertations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIAS-organised networks</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars and lectures</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars organized by NIAS</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>35(+15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- among these Nordic researchers</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch talks at NIAS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- among these Nordic speakers</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members of the SUPRA Programme</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- % SUPRA members who visited NIAS</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of contact scholarships</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research scholarships</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visitors to the library</td>
<td>4,898</td>
<td>5,236</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library loans</td>
<td>10,739</td>
<td>10,385</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-library loans</td>
<td>839</td>
<td>691</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors on NIAS LINC home page</td>
<td>41,503</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### NIAS Press

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Published titles</th>
<th>Results 2004</th>
<th>Results 2003</th>
<th>Contract Goal 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- among these Nordic authors</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals for publications</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Intellectual Exchange, Public Information and Academic networking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NIAS workshops and conferences</th>
<th>Results 2004</th>
<th>Results 2003</th>
<th>Contract Goal 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIAS staff – conference participation</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference papers (not published) by NIAS staff (including associate researchers)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief interventions at conferences, lectures etc.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia Updates</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- participants in Asia Updates</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study visits organized by NIAS</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of ‘NIAS Nytt – Asia Insights’ issues</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual reports</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting assignments</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media interventions</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NIAS ♦ Financial result 2003–2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>Allocation from Nordic Council of Ministers (%)</th>
<th>Allocation from Nordic partners (% – tentative)</th>
<th>Other income (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td>12,547</td>
<td>12,163</td>
<td>11,253</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>12,791</td>
<td>12,300</td>
<td>10,727</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Result</strong></td>
<td>-244</td>
<td>-137</td>
<td>526</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reserve</strong></td>
<td>934</td>
<td>1,178</td>
<td>1,316</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 USD = 5.60 DKK (1 March 2005)

NIAS’s activities and the Nordic responsibility

NIAS’ core responsibility is to bring Nordic countries and Asia closer and to contribute to the development of Asia studies in the Nordic region. Our Nordic responsibility covers the following activities and services:

- NIAS works as a **platform for Asia research** in the Nordic countries and supports Nordic research networks. NIAS researchers collaborate with Nordic colleagues in joint activities.
- NIAS functions as a **think-tank** and undertakes research-based **consultancies** for Nordic governments and private companies.
- NIAS **LINC** (NIAS Library and Information Centre) maintains the biggest collection of books, journals and catalogued grey materials in Western languages on modern Asia in the region and provides up-to-date research support and information services on Asia.
- NIAS **SUPRA**, a service and visitors’ programme for Nordic students, offers a chance to stay and work at NIAS. NIAS has made a difference to the projects of hundreds of Nordic MA and PhD students over the years by providing research facilities not available elsewhere.
- NIAS also invites **Nordic guest researchers** to stimulate research collaboration and make available NIAS’ facilities and services.
- NIAS invites **international guest researchers**. Some of these undertake guest lecture tours in the Nordic region.
- NIAS disseminates information through **newsletters** and on the **website**.
- NIAS **Press** is an academic publisher that, among others, publishes Nordic research and disseminates research-based knowledge. This links Nordic research to an international audience.

NIAS was founded in 1968, and in partnership with the Nordic Council of Ministers we have maintained a commitment throughout to our Nordic responsibility. The **Nordic Council of Ministers** remains our main financier.
NIAS undertakes basic and applied research based on the academic disciplines that are relevant to our academic focus on social, political, economic, business, and cultural development in modern Asia in a historical context. Despite limited resources, we try to work with all regions of Asia. Research is NIAS’ core activity and it is the basis for all other services and activities at NIAS. NIAS maintains an independent research strategy and has a core group of its own researchers focused on implementing the research strategy. Basic research has the highest priority on NIAS’ research agenda and it is the core activity which informs all other activities and services. NIAS currently focuses on the following research themes:

- **Violence, security needs and regional cooperation in Asia.** The theme covers areas such as: conflict prevention, regional security issues and terrorism;
- **Asian governance and institutions in transition** with a focus on political culture, governance reforms, the role of civil society in the development of democracy and new political institutions, the role of the state and the private sector respectively in addressing welfare and inequality concerns and the role of ICT in developing democracy and governance;
- **Private business sector and the state in Asia** with a focus on factors contributing to growth in Asian growth centers, the development of the business environment, the role of enabling business environments in development processes, SME development, labour migration, and social corporate responsibility;
- **Women and gender politics in Asia**, which covers gender issues in political processes, institutions and participation, and the role of women’s organizations in the development of civil society.

Pending the availability of resources, a long-standing wish of NIAS has been to develop a theme on:

- **Society, culture and environment in Asia** focusing on how societies and communities deal with environmental stress and the need to use natural resources in a more sustainable way.

Much of NIAS’ research is country specific, but researchers regularly undertake regional and comparative research. The projects of the researchers at NIAS are shown in a separate table.

As for country-specific expansion, NIAS will first look to expand its research capacity in relation to South Asia, primarily India, and then East Asia, primarily Japan, within the framework of the themes listed above. NIAS is also planning to set up a Korea Research Unit. It will look at development on the Korean Peninsula and the prospects and conditions for reunification.

The research themes are under continuous development and NIAS guides its investments and activities into their direction (www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/strategy/default.html). NIAS also undertakes research-based consultancies and contract assignments for various public and private clients and stimulates the involvement of researchers from the partner universities in these projects, when possible.
Sponsors in 2004

**Asia House Foundation, Denmark**
5th Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO V) / Jørgen Delman & Mette Thunø

**Asia Intelligence Limited**
Information service: Asia Intelligence Service / Anja Møller Rasmussen

**Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF)**
Guest lecturer: Asia and Europe: Joining Forces for Multilateralism / Zongze Ruan

**The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Fund**
Research project: Revitalization of Buddhism in Cambodia / Alexandra Kent

**Carlsberg Foundation, Denmark**
Research projects:
1: A meeting point of the local and the global: the socio-cultural role of private entrepreneurs in the PRC / Mads Holst Jensen
2: General project support / Ida Nicolaisen

**Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange**
1: 5th Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO V)/ Jørgen Delman & Mette Thunø
2: Research project: ‘Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling’ / Vibeke Børdahl
3: Research project: Large-scale Registration of Chinese Storytelling’ / Vibeke Børdahl

**China Agricultural University, College of Humanities and Development**
Conference participation: International Conference on Contemporary Rural Development in China / Jørgen Delman

**China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD)**

**Chinese University of Hong Kong, University Services Centre**

**Copenhagen University, Department of Asian Studies**
5th Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO V) / Jørgen Delman & Mette Thunø

**Daloon Foundation**
1: Research project: Chinese Storytelling Website / Vibeke Børdahl
2: 5th Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO V) / Jørgen Delman & Mette Thunø

**Politiken**
Seminar: Why Taiwan Referendum? Domestic, Regional and International Consequences / Tom Hart, Camilla Tenna Sørensen, Flemming Ytzen and Clemens Stubbe Østergaard
The Danish Center for Human Rights
Book subsidy: Better to rely on ourselves, NIAS Press 2004 / Hatla Thelle

Danish Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities
Research project: ‘The Oral Tradition of Yangzhou Storytelling’ / Vibeke Børdahl

Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
5th Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO V) / Jørgen Delman & Mette Thunø

Danish Research Agency
5th Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO V) / Jørgen Delman

Danish Research Council for the Humanities
Research project: ‘The Oral Tradition of Yangzhou Storytelling’ / Vibeke Børdahl

Danish Social Science Research Council
Research project: ‘Chinese Women Moving Boundaries’ / Cecilia Milwertz

EuropeAid, Asia-Link Program
Research and training project: ‘Research and Research Training Collaboration between the Nordic Countries and Indonesia’ / Timo Kivimäki

Finnish Embassy, Djakarta
Indonesian Conflict Studies Network / Timo Kivimäki

Gerhard Mercator University Duisburg
Book subsidy: The Power of Ideas: intellectual Input and Political Change in East and Southeast Asia, NIAS Press 2004 / Claudia Derichs

International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS)
5th Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO V) / Jørgen Delman & Mette Thunø

International Media Support
Indonesian Conflict Studies Network / Timo Kivimäki

International Republican Institute (IRI)

Knud Højgaards Fond
5th Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas ISSCO V / Jørgen Delman & Mette Thunø

Lund University, Dept. of East Asian Languages
Book subsidy: Indonesian Literature vs. New Order Orthodoxy, NIAS Press 2004 / Nilsson Hoadley

Research Council of Norway
Research project: ‘Traditional Oral Culture in the Modern Media World of Asia – The Case of Chinese Storytelling’ / Vibeke Børdahl

Swedish School of Advanced Asia Pacific Studies (SSAAPS), STINT Foundation
Guest researcher: Buddhism in Cambodia / Trudy Jacobsen, Griffith University, Brisbane

Other sponsors/clients, see: NIAS LINC (p.26), and clients see: Consulting (pp. 18–19)
## Research themes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher Project</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Employees</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vibeke Børdahl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Oral Culture in the modern media world of Asia – the case of Chinese storytelling</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation of the &quot;Oral Tradition of Yangzhou Storytelling&quot; into Chinese</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jørgen Delman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The party-state and enterprise development in China</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers’ organizations and civil society in China</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Director, The Economic Reform Project, Vietnam: ‘Strengthening the Development Research and Policy Analysis Capacity of the CIEM (Central Institute of Economic Management)’</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geir Helgesen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Koreas and the political landscape of North East Asia</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mads Holst Jensen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A meeting point of the local and the global: the socio-cultural role of private entrepreneurs in the PRC</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra Kent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovering Community: the role of the revival of Buddhism in Cambodia</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timo Kivimäki</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesian Conflicts</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-state security in Asia</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism in Asia</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and research training in conflict prevention in collaboration between the Nordic countries and Indonesia</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Cecilia Milwertz</td>
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<td>Organizing for gender equality in China – a process of cultural change</td>
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<td>Chinese women moving boundaries – activism, constraint and support</td>
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<td>International and transnational influence in the development of policy and practice – domestic violence in China, Denmark and England</td>
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<td>Jan Kanne Petersen</td>
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<td>Conflict and harmony between homo hierarchus and homo aequalis: negotiating &quot;public office&quot; in contemporary Bali</td>
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<td>Camilla T. Sørensen</td>
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<td>The Taiwan Straits conflict and its influence on the security situation in NE Asia</td>
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<td>Asian security and EU opportunities</td>
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**NIAS research themes and projects 2004–2005**
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<tr>
<th>Researcher</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 Michael Jacobsen</td>
<td>Chinese entrepreneurship and inter-ethnic relations in South-East Asia</td>
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<td>11 Ida Nicolaisen</td>
<td>Culture and personhood in central Borneo</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>12 Irene Nørlund</td>
<td>Forging partnership – donors and institutional change in Vietnam</td>
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<td>Sustainable livelihoods in Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Don Wagner</td>
<td>Source-critical study of the 17th century text Tian gong kai wu</td>
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<td>Research guide on the use of archaeological material in the study of</td>
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<td>Chinese history</td>
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<td>Technological development in Sichuan, China, 1880–1949</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Bente Wolff</td>
<td>Identity and modern cosmology in a tourism area, Nias Island, Indonesia</td>
<td>x</td>
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A Retreat at NIAS?  ♦ Grants for Nordic Guest Researchers

NIAS offers special scholarships for senior researchers and post-docs from members of the Nordic NIAS Council (www.nias.ku.dk/nnc) to work in a stimulating research environment and use the research facilities at NIAS for periods of two or four weeks. Longer stays are possible, but need to be negotiated. The scholarship provides the affiliated Nordic researchers with an opportunity to stay at NIAS, and covers inexpensive travel to and from Copenhagen, with accommodation at “Nordisk Kollegium” (www.noko.dk).

The visiting scholar enjoys full access to the library and information services of NIAS LINC (www.niaslinc.dk), office facilities, contact networks and scholarly environment while being at NIAS.

More information and an application form can be found at [www.nias.ku.dk/activities/supra/scholarships.htm#students](http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/supra/scholarships.htm#students)
An outsider's view of Asian studies in the Nordic region

Excerpt from a report on a lecture tour

Edmund Terence Gomez, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, and in charge of preparing the establishment of the Institute of China Studies (ICS), University of Malaya, visited NIAS from 24 October till 10 November 2004. His fellowship was funded by the Swedish School for Advanced Asia Pacific Studies (SSAAPS) and NIAS. It involved a series of lectures at universities around the Nordic region: Aarhus University, Aalborg University, Copenhagen University, Roskilde University, and the Copenhagen Business School in Denmark; Lund University and Göteborg University in Sweden; and Oslo University in Norway. In general, the topics involved a discussion on the influence of Chinese culture on entrepreneurial activities, the impact of political and business linkages on economic growth and enterprise expansion in Malaysia and East Asia, and the outcome of affirmative action in Malaysia in terms of promoting ethnic cohesion and economic development. After having described his activities and the positive feedback received, Gomez wrote in his report:

"I wish to draw attention to a few issues that I feel would help ensure that the problems I encountered [with drawing sufficient numbers of participants, especially students] will not be repeated...

a) The attendance at my lectures would probably have been better if I had conceived the topics more broadly....

b) I was surprised to find a clear dichotomy in area studies, involving academics at the Asian Studies departments I visited. Academics focusing on South Asia or East Asia showed little interest in attending discussions on events in Southeast Asia. Even though there were a lot of similar issues involving India and China, for example, academics focusing on South Asia showed little or no interest in attending these lectures. Few academics with a focus on Japan or Korea appeared interested in a talk about the Chinese. ...there should [be] an attempt to get academics with a focus on different countries, but dealing with similar themes, to attend these lectures.

c) Although I used these lecture series to also talk about the China Studies Institute recently established at my university, the University of Malaya, there was little interest among academics interested in promoting comparative studies, involving China and other countries, or ethnic Chinese and other diasporic communities. This problem is probably tied to the issue of funding.

d) Among academics with an interest on China or the Chinese diaspora, I was very encouraged with the feedback I got from them about developing new research projects and even establishing ways to cooperate with my China Studies Institute. I was well received at all the universities I visited, and the academics I met went out of their way to ensure that all my needs were met...

e) There also appears to be little communication between academics and post-graduate students involved in East Asian or Southeast Asian studies. There probably were people at institutes I visited who would have been interested in my research, but did not attend as they were unaware of these lectures that I had given. One way that NIAS could help overcome this problem in future is by creating communicative ties directly with academics and students – rather than only with institutions – involved in Asian Studies, through a mailing list for example..."
Forging a partnership?
A comparative study of institutional responses to Nordic and Japanese aid in Asia

A project with support from the Nordic countries and Japan.

Japan is an increasingly stronger development partner for developing countries in Asia, while development aid from Nordic countries in relative terms has gone down in countries like Vietnam. In some Asian developing countries, international aid constitutes a large share of the national budget, whereas in others, aid is not essential. But in all cases, development cooperation has contributed to the agenda of national development policies.

The impact of Nordic and Japanese aid may be quite different, since the development cooperation policies vary in relation to some of the basic concepts and ideas of how to create development, reduce poverty and create new types of partnership in a post-colonial context.

The overall goal of this project is to improve the understanding of the interaction between donor agencies and recipient organisations within the framework of international development assistance and in a comparative perspective.

The currently proclaimed architecture of aid is focused on poverty reduction and structured around the twin concepts of ‘partnership’ and ‘ownership’ – concepts that often appear to be contradictory. There is currently a broad consensus, however, that donor agencies, including multilaterals (World Bank, IMF, UNDP etc), bilateral (Danida, Sida, JICA etc), and international NGOs have a responsibility to form aid partnerships with national governments and other national stakeholders in ways that contribute to strengthen what is often referred to as ownership by the partner country. In theory, this may seem to be relatively simple and easy, but in reality the approach is complex and fosters different reactions in various countries and contexts.

Together with the European Institute of Japanese Studies in Stockholm, Sweden, IDS, University of Helsinki, Finland, and Chr. Michelsen Institute in Bergen, Norway, NIAS has built an alliance with a group of Japanese universities and institutes to undertake research in this area. They include Hosei University, GRIPS Development Forum at National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, and Risumeikan University. The project is planned for implementation in several stages. First a preparatory workshop was held in March 2004 in Hanoi in cooperation with the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences. Forty-five Nordic, Japanese and other Asian scholars as well as representatives from the development agencies met to exchange ideas and proposals. A number of research proposals were endorsed. Secondly, research is currently underway and the results will be discussed at a coming conference in Stockholm in June 2005. Thirdly, the outcome will result in a publication to illuminate the multiple aspects of the attempts to forge development partnerships in Asia today. The project is implemented with support from Sida, Norad, the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the two Japanese development agencies, JBIC and JICA.
The Asian Century Research School

◆ NIAS research school initiative

Jan Kanne Petersen, Research School Coordinator

In collaboration with its Nordic partners, NIAS is in the process of establishing a joint Nordic research school on Asia, *The Asian Century Research School*.

This will be organized as a network research school. The school will draw on the exchange of teachers, students, and other Nordic research resources. This will facilitate a much-needed 'critical mass' and create synergy amongst scattered Asian Studies environments.

The School will strengthen the education and training of PhD candidates within the social sciences and the humanities and provide value-added advanced training in understanding and analysing contemporary Asia in a historical and comparative perspective. The focus is on political, social, economic, environmental and cultural dynamics and contexts.

As of today, there are very few Nordic research clusters with a critical mass to support a fruitful intellectual environment in advanced Asia studies, and these are often based within established disciplines supplemented with an area approach. The Asian Century Research School aims at ensuring better education and training in Asia studies by adding specific area and interdisciplinary competences.

In September 2004 a Nordic working group, consisting of representatives from universities in Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark, was established to facilitate and organise this joint Nordic research school. The plan is to set up a number of decentralized research clusters under the research school which can accommodate the different needs and interests in research and research training of Nordic scholars and students. The Gendering Asia Network ([www.nias.ku.dk/genderingasia](http://www.nias.ku.dk/genderingasia)) and South Asia Research Training SARTrain are examples of research clusters that are in the process of being organised.

Information and up-to-date news about the current progress of this initiative can be found on [www.nias.ku.dk/researchschool](http://www.nias.ku.dk/researchschool), where interested scholars and students can also join a mailing list to receive news about the research school and/or contribute with ideas and suggestions.
Members of the **working group**  
**The Asian Century Research School**

**Denmark**  
Dr Birgitte Refslund Sørensen, University of Copenhagen  
Dr Peter Birkeland Andersen, University of Copenhagen  
Professor Anne Wedell-Wedellsborg, University of Aarhus  
Dr Peter Wad, Copenhagen Business School

**Finland**  
Coordinator Marita Siika, National University Network for East and South East Asian Studies  
Professor Pekka Korhonen, University of Jyväskylä

**Norway**  
Professor Pamela Price, University of Oslo  
Dr Anne Kathrine Larsen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)  
Professor Knut Jacobsen, University of Bergen

**Sweden**  
Director, Professor Thommy Svensson, Swedish School of Advanced Asia Pacific Studies (SSAAPS)  
Dr Hans Blomkvist, Uppsala University  
Professor Anders Törnvall, Linköping University  
Professor Staffan Lindberg, Lund University

**NIAS**  
Director, Dr Jørgen Delman  
Dr Mads Holst Jensen  
Project coordinator: Jan Kanne Petersen, NIAS

Information and up-to-date news about the current progress of this initiative can be found on [www.nias.ku.dk/researchschool](http://www.nias.ku.dk/researchschool), where interested scholars and students can also join a mailing list to receive news about the research school and/or contribute with ideas and suggestions.

Participants of an earlier research course for PhD students, organized by NIAS in cooperation with the Centre for East and Southeast Studies, Lund University.
Quality research not published through the normal channels

◆ Excerpt from a review of a research report


"... For its accessible overviews and no-nonsense discussion, this report is a good reminder of that valuable and timely research is not only published in journal or book format." Sven Gunnar Simonsen, in: Journal of Peace Research, vol. 41, no. 6, November 2004, pp. 759–60.

Research-based consultancy

NIAS undertakes research-based consultancies for international donor organizations and the private sector. The assignments are often undertaken in collaboration with partners and/or individual researchers from across the world. In 2004, NIAS undertook the following projects:

**Background Study for EU-Indonesia Relations**
Client: European Commission
Team Leader: Timo Kivimäki, Senior Researcher, NIAS
Duration: September – December 2004
Reference: [http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/kivimaki.htm](http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/kivimaki.htm)

**Development of a 4-module Course on Business Sector Development in Developing Countries**
Client: Danida Centre for Competence Development (DCCD)
Consultant: Jørgen Delman, Director, NIAS
Duration: 1 May 2004 – 31 December 2004
Reference: [http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/delman.htm](http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/delman.htm)

**Doing Business in East Asia: The Problem of Cross-Cultural Communication**
Client: Bang & Olufsen
Consultant: Geir Helgesen, Senior Researcher, NIAS
Duration: April 2004
Reference: [http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/helgesen.htm](http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/helgesen.htm)

**Islam, Terrorism and the North-South Interaction in the Post-9/11 World Order**
Client: Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Research Team Leader: Timo Kivimäki, Senior Researcher, NIAS
Duration: 1 August 2003 – 31 July 2004
Reference: [http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/kivimaki.htm](http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/kivimaki.htm)
Leisure in the Korean Culture: A Report on the Prospects of Theme Parks in an Evolving East Asian Economy
Client: Tivoli International
Consultant: Geir Helgesen, Senior Researcher, NIAS
Duration: June 2004
Reference: http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/helgesen.htm

New Security Threats and Development Challenges and Responses
Client: Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Consultant: Timo Kivimäki, Senior Researcher, NIAS
Duration: 2004
Reference: http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/kivimaki.htm

Review of Assistance to the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), Vietnam
Client: Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danida)
Team Leader: Jørgen Delman, Director, NIAS
Duration: November 2003 – January 2004
Reference: http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/delman.htm

Review of the Economic and Social Situation in North Korea
Client: Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danida)
Team Leader: Geir Helgesen, Senior Researcher, NIAS
Duration: December 2003 – February 2004
Reference: http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/helgesen.htm

Socio-economic Factors in the Recruitment for Terrorism
Client: Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Team Leader: Timo Kivimäki, Senior Researcher, NIAS
Duration: 2004
Reference: http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/kivimaki.htm

Strengthening the Development Research and Policy Capacity Analysis of the Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM), Hanoi, Vietnam
Client: Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danida)
Team Leader: Jørgen Delman, Director, NIAS
Duration: 1 June 2001 – 31 December 2004
Reference: http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/delman.htm

Understanding Korean Business Attitudes
Client: S. F. Design
Team Leader: Geir Helgesen
Duration: 24 September 2004
Reference: http://www.nias.ku.dk/activities/research/staff/helgesen.htm
Join the NIAS SUPRA club!

The NIAS SUPRA was initiated in 1993. The programme is open to students resident in the Nordic countries, who have been admitted to a university MA or PhD programme and who actively carry out work on an Asian topic. To become a member of the NIAS SUPRA programme, the students must register their project and CV in NIAS’s contact database www.nias.ku.dk/contact/contactdb.htm

NIAS SUPRA package

Scholarships for visiting MA students and PhD candidates

We offer two kinds of scholarships to the student members of the SUPRA programme:

- **Fully-financed Nordic Scholarships for members of Nordic NIAS Council**
  For students affiliated with institutions that are members of the Nordic NIAS Council (see www.nias.ku.dk). All scholarships cover travel expenses, accommodation and full board at “Nordisk Kollegium”.

- **Öresund Scholarships for students from Lund University**. NIAS will reimburse daily commuting costs.

- **Students from non-members of Nordic NIAS Council** will have to pay for accommodation and transportation.

Application deadlines in 2005:
4 April, 5 September and 28 November

Application forms are available at www.nias.ku.dk/activities/supra/scholarships.htm#students

New!

Students from member institutions of the ‘Nordic NIAS Council’ (www.nias.ku.dk/nnc) will have priority access to fully-financed NIAS SUPRA scholarships.
The student gateway to NIAS and Asia

Services

The librarians at NIAS offer a comprehensive introduction to the resources at NIAS LINC to holders of scholarships, who will also have at their disposal a suitably equipped work place. They will be able to interact with NIAS researchers and will have the opportunity to participate in the various activities at NIAS while being here.

NIAS LINC – NIAS Library and Information Centre is an open-access library. See www.niaslinc.dk

Other services include thesis advice, invitations to participate in courses and workshops, the possibility of having one’s PhD thesis published by NIAS Press as a monograph, discount on NIAS Press publications, and the supply, free of charge, of NIAS Nytt – Asia Insights, NIAS’s quarterly on Asian affairs, and SUPRA News and SUPRA Bulletin, NIAS’ electronic student newsletters on Asian studies.

NIAS SUPRA package:

- The package includes scholarships for visiting MA and PhD students. We offer two kinds of two-week scholarships to students who are members of the SUPRA programme.
- Fully-financed Nordic Scholarships for students affiliated with institutions that are members of the Nordic NIAS Council: scholarships cover travel expenses, accommodation and full board at “Harall Kolegium”, www.ni.ac.uk.
- General Scholarships for students from any university. NIAS will reimburse daily commuting costs.

Application forms are available at www.ni.ac.uk/supra/supraapp.html

Further information can be obtained from Søren Kragh at soren.kragh@nias.dk

NIAS SUPRA gives support to graduate and postgraduate students resident in the Nordic countries who have been admitted to a university MA or Ph.D. program and are actively carrying out work in Asian studies.

Workplace

For SUPRA students living in or near Copenhagen, there is a possibility of applying for a workplace (‘studieplads’) at NIAS where we would expect you to become part of the Asia research environment at the institute.
NIAS LINC • NIAS Library and Information Centre

A recognized, first-class library and information centre on modern Asia and a Nordic gateway to information resources on Asia

The discussions about the role and service portfolio of NIAS LINC in the ‘new’ NIAS were one of the key tasks of 2004.

It was acknowledged that, as a first-class innovative Nordic library with focus on contemporary Asia, NIAS LINC continues to be of great importance to the Asian studies community, decision makers and news media in the Nordic countries. Embedded in the ‘new’ NIAS, NIAS LINC will benefit from and add value to the new interdisciplinary collaboration within the Asian research communities in the Nordic countries.

NIAS LINC’s vision is to ‘unlock’ Nordic Asian information resources and put them to work. In 2004 the foundation stone was laid for the powerful Access Asia Knowledge Portal (http://www.niaslinc.dk/gateway_to_asia/Asia_Insights). The portal will make relevant information available from many sources to members of the Nordic NIAS Council, tailoring the information for the benefit of the users. An example of relevance is the new Tsunami Disaster Portal on website of NIAS LINC.

NIAS LINC works with a unique combination of resources, as well as with a close link between a group of researchers and a research library, and between knowledge and information. This has helped NIAS LINC become one of the leading sources of information on Asia. For our users, it is equally important that NIAS LINC maintains close co-operation with other special libraries and documentation centers in the Nordic countries, the rest of Europe and Asia, and by virtue of our status as a depository library for ‘grey’ electronic literature on Asia, we ensure that the users will have access to a rare combination of knowledge, information and documentation sources.

During 2004, stakeholder communities of NIAS LINC have shown a strong interest in maintaining NIAS LINC as a key Nordic hub for development of joint services and co-operation among Nordic libraries focusing on Asian studies and related libraries with a Nordic mandate. The stakeholders agree that there is a need for a centre of excellence that can contribute to enhance and utilize the co-operation and the development of library and Internet tools in order to ensure that the Nordic Asian studies libraries, including those working with Asian language materials, are at the cutting edge, recognized by the target groups, and highly qualified.
2004 saw other developments, too, not least some marketing initiatives aimed at creating a better awareness about our services. NIAS LINC sent out a new guide and a poster, and created a series of courses and seminars for students and researchers studying contemporary Asian topics. A two-day Nordic course for librarians will be advertised in 2005.

**Tsunami Disaster Portal** – A NIAS LINC website that brings analytical and other background information together for a better understanding of the impact of the tsunami that hit Asia in December 2004. The site that has been developed for researchers and students of Asia, ministries, the media and international aid organizations (http://www.niaslinc.dk/gateway_to_asia/Asia_Insights/Tsunami_disaster.asp)

The library offers
- Help with literature searches in our own ‘Asiana’ and external databases
- Help with information searches in the library and on the Internet
- Guided tours in the library and user education

The services are free for private individuals. A fee is charged for more extensive services to companies, authorities and organizations.
The Collection

NIAS LINC contains the largest collection of materials for the study of modern Asia within the social sciences in the Nordic region and is a unique resource for Nordic Asia research.

We maintain a role as a Nordic central library within Asian studies and continue to be a front-runner in the acquisition of books, journals, electronic resources, etc. in Western languages. The acquisition policy of NIAS LINC is to collect all major works and periodicals in modern Asia studies within politics, economics, modern history, anthropology, sociology and development studies. The collection amounts to 31,800 monographs and 1,531 journals, newsletters and annuals. 496 of these are current. They are primarily in Western languages and cover most of Asia. We added 1,182 volumes to the monograph collection in 2004. NIAS LINC is a depository library of the Asian Development Bank.

The library primarily focuses on users in the Nordic countries. During 2004, NIAS LINC continued to provide special services to students from Nordic universities through the SUPRA programme.

Opening Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am to 4:30 pm
Tuesday: 10 am to 6:00 pm (15–31 August: 10 am to 4:30 pm)
Friday: 10 am to 4:00 pm
On-line: Access to the holdings is provided on a 24 hour basis through the website [http://www.niaslinc.dk](http://www.niaslinc.dk)

Summer closure (2005): From 1 July to 14 August

Persons who need to use the library collections for special tasks, are given the possibility to use the library at times other than above through agreement with the library staff.

NIAS LINC sponsors

NIAS LINC acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of materials from the following sponsors in 2004:

- Ashgate
- Asia Institute, University of Copenhagen
- Centre for Asia-Pacific Area Studies
- Academia Sinica
- Center for Pacific Asia Studies, Stockholm University
- Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University
- Centre d’Histoire et Civilisations de la Péninsule Indochinoise
- Garges les Gonessses
- Danish Institute for International Studies
- Finnish Institute of International Affairs
- Hashimoto, Kazutake
- ILCAA, Tokyo
- International House of Japan
- International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Kyoto
- Embassy in of the PRC, Denmark
- Korea Foundation
- Korea Institute for Industrial Economics & Trade
- Libraririe DROZ, Geneva
- Lund University
- National Central Library, Taipei
- National Institute for Defence Studies
- National Policy Research Foundation, Taipei
- NIAS Press
- Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo
- The Republic of Korea’s Embassy in Denmark
- Taipei Representative Office, Denmark
- Embassy of Thailand in Denmark
- Toyo Bunko, Tokyo
- Uppsala University
- Östasiatiska Museet
NIASnytt
Asia Insights

a quarterly with focus on current issues

No. 1: March 2004
Theme: ‘Women and Politics in Asia’
Guest Editors: Will Burghoorn, Göteborg University, Sweden; Kazuki Iwanaga, Halmstad University, Sweden; Qi Wang and Cecilia Milwertz, NIAS

No. 2: June 2004
Theme: ‘Multilateral Cooperation in Central Asia’
Guest Editor: Indra Øverland, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway

No. 3: September 2004
Theme: ‘De-essentializing “Chinese Capitalism” in Southeast Asia’
Guest Editor: Michael Jacobsen, NIAS

No. 4: December 2004
Theme: ‘South-East Asian Islam: Plurality, Tolerance and Change’
Guest Editor: Sven Cederroth, Göteborg University, Sweden

Want to be a guest editor?

NIAS invites Nordic guest editors to edit each theme. In this way, we bring fresh research to our readers, but we also help provide exposure to research networks based in the Nordic countries.

Do you have suggestions for a theme for NIAS Nytt – Asia Insights?
Contact: Leena Höskuldsson, Coordinating Editor
e-mail: leena@nias.ku.dk • tel. (+45) 3532 9502
The new NIAS Board (from 1 January 2005)

Dean Tage Bild  
Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Copenhagen  
• Chairman of the Board  
tbi@samf.ku.dk

Professor Roger Greatrex, Director  
Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University  
• Deputy Chairman of the Board  
roger.greatrex@ace.lu.se

Professor Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard, Director  
Asia Research Centre, Copenhagen Business School  
keb.int@cbs.dk

Director Thorkil Kastberg Christensen  
NOVO  
tkc@novo.dk

Senior Researcher Geir Helgesen  
Staff Representative  
geir@nias.ku.dk

Two more members to be appointed by the Nordic NIAS Council
The outgoing NIAS Board

Denmark
Associate Professor, Dr. phil. Esther Fihl
Centre for Comparative Cultural Studies, Copenhagen University
Esther Fihl@hum.ku.dk

Finland
Professor Hans Christer Blomqvist • Chairman of the Board
Swedish School of Economics and Business Administration, Vasa and Helsinki
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Hannesgi@rhi.hi.is

Norway
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Helge.Hveem@tik.uio.no

Sweden
Professor Christer Gunnarsson
School of Economics, Lund University
Christer.Gunnarsson@ekh.lu.se
Although NIAS has been producing books for 35 years, it was only in March 2002 that NIAS Press was launched as a fully independent Asian Studies publisher. Much of our time since then has been devoted to ‘growing’ this fledgling enterprise. Given the volatile economic conditions, it has not been a simple matter to juggle concerns for financial survival with needs to implement major changes to how the Press functions.

2004 demonstrated that – with a record number of new book proposals, not least from established scholars in the field offering major new works – NIAS Press no longer needs to fear a lack of authors. Also notable was that the Press launched two new series: ‘Gendering Asia’ and ‘Women and Politics in Asia’. We also joined a consortium publishing the SE Asia monographs of the Asian Studies Association of Australia. This expansion will in time greatly impact upon the number of new book proposals. Already, in the next two years are planned several major titles that should boost our reputation as a publisher of innovative and high-quality research within Asian Studies.

A steady increase in the number of author contracts signed was reflected in the editorial and production areas, where resources were stretched to their limits to publish 20 new titles despite increased outsourcing of work. Rising title output plus the falling U.S. dollar will force us to outsource even more production to Asia in future.

The increase in title output was matched by intensified marketing and promotional efforts. NIAS Press staged a record number of book exhibitions in 2004, not only at major scholarly gatherings around the globe but also at more low-key events in the Nordic region. Again, NIAS exhibited at the Frankfurt Book Fair, this being our most successful year yet in terms of co-publication rights sold. The opportunity was also taken to broaden our base of business partners among the major North American university presses. That said, much of our rights business remains with a small group of Southeast Asian publishers.

Far less positive was the sales situation. Largely, this was due to short-term forces beyond our control but (due to ballooning journals and IT costs) the long-term decline in the ability of libraries to afford to buy books is a threat that we have begun to address. Meantime, of immediate concern in 2004 was the almost catastrophic sales situation affecting all academic publishers due to many European libraries operating under budget restrictions, a bad situation worse by the plunging value of the U.S. dollar; this not only cost us much in lost revenue but also had a distorting effect on global pricing of our books.

Finally, as would be obvious, also having an effect on the Press was the process leading to the launch of the ‘new’ NIAS. On the positive side, it was made clear to us time and again that NIAS Press with its international profile and global connections is an attractive component in the package offered to NIAS’ Nordic partners. Although as a globally based and recognized publisher, we cannot afford to be seen as Nordic only or biased in favour of Nordic authors, NIAS Press does continue to work to foster the dissemination of Nordic Asia research worldwide. This work will be intensified in 2005 with seminars on getting published (aimed at junior scholars especially). In so doing, NIAS Press continues to demonstrate its centrality to the future of the ‘new’ NIAS.
NIAS Press Publications in 2004

Teaching and Learning in Tibet
A Review of Research and Policy Publications
Ellen Bangsbo

Reaching for the Dream
Challenges of Sustainable Development in Vietnam
Edited by Melanie Beresford and Tran Ngoc Angie
NIAS Press, Jul 2004, x + 302 pp., illus.
Hardback: ISBN 87-91114-19-5 • £45/$70

Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling
Full-length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video
Edited by Vibeke Bardahl, Fei Li and Huang Ying
NIAS Press, Oct 2004, xxxvii + 371 pp., illus., short film on DVD
Hardback: ISBN 87-91114-64-0 • £48/$70

Gender Practices in Contemporary Vietnam
Edited by Lisa Drummond and Helle Rydstrøm
NIAS Press, Aug 2004, 286 pp., illus.

Power and Political Culture in Suharto's Indonesia
The Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) and Decline of the New Order (1986–98)
Stefan Eklöf

Commoners and Nobles
Hereditary Divisions in Tibet
Heidi Fjeld
NIAS Press, Dec 2004, xvii + 170 pp., illus.
Hardback: ISBN 87-91114-17-9 • £40/$60

Contesting Visions of the Lao Past
Lao Historiography at the Crossroads
Edited by Christopher E. Goscha and Søren Ivarsson
NIAS Press, Aug 2004, xxi + 326 pp., illus.
Hardback: ISBN 87-91114-02-0 • £45/$75

Indonesian Literature vs New Order Orthodoxy
The Aftermath of 1965–1966
Anna-Greta Nilsson Hoadley
NIAS Press, Dec 2004, xiii + 159 pp., illus.
Hardback: ISBN 87-91114-61-6 • £36/$55
Divinity and Diversity
A Hindu Revitalization Movement in Malaysia

Alexandra Kent

NIAS Press, Dec 2004, xix + 212 pp., illus.
Hardback: ISBN 87-91114-40-3 • £40/$55

Beyond Hanoi
Local Government in Vietnam

Edited by Benedict J. Tria Kerkvliet and David Marr

NIAS Press, Oct 2004, 288 pages

From Monobank to Commercial Banking
Financial Sector Reforms in Vietnam

Jens Kovsted, John Rand and Finn Tarp (University of Copenhagen), with Le Viet Thai, Vuong Nhat Huong and Nguyen Minh Thao (Central Institute for Economic Management, Hanoi)

NIAS Press, Dec 2004, xxii + 170 pages, charts and tables
Hardback: ISBN 87-91114-62-4 • £40/US$60

Civil Society in Southeast Asia

Edited by Lee Hock Guan

NIAS Press, Nov 2004, xi + 276 pages
Paperback: ISBN 87-91114-54-3 • £17.99

Ethnic Relations and Nation-Building in Southeast Asia
The Case of the Ethnic Chinese

Edited by Leo Suryadinata

NIAS Press, October 2004, 260 pp., illus.

Southeast Asian Responses to Globalization
Restructuring Governance and Deepening Democracy

Edited by Francis Loh Kok Wah and Joakim Öjendal

NIAS Press, in press at end-2004, xvi + 382 pages

Indonesia’s Post–Soeharto Democracy Movement

Edited by Stanley Adi Prasetyo, A.E. Priyono and Olle Törnquist

Paperback: ISBN 979-98029-0-3 • £30/$54

A Mencius Reader
For Beginning and Advanced Students of Classical Chinese

Donald B. Wagner

Hardback: ISBN 87-91114-27-6 • £36/$55
The Thaksinization of Thailand

*Duncan McCargo and Ukrist Pathmanand*

Hardback: ISBN 87-91114-45-4 • £40/$60

Thaksin – The Business of Politics in Thailand

*Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker*

Paperback: ISBN 87-91114-78-0 • £15.99

Modernization and Effeminization in India

*Kerala Cashew Workers since 1930*

*Anna Lindberg*

NIAS Press, Dec 2004, xiv + 200 pp., illus.
Hbk • 87-91114-21-7 • £45/$66

Better to Rely on Ourselves

*Changing Social Rights in Urban China since 1979*

*Hatia Thelle*

Hardback: ISBN 87-91114-26-8 • £40/$66

The UP Saga

*Susan M. Martin*

NIAS Press, August 2004, xii + 356 pp., maps, illus.