

The **Sylff** Newsletter

FEATURE

SYLFF Chamber Music Seminar 2006 at The Juilliard School

By Bärli Nugent (bnugent@juilliard.edu)

Dr. Bärli Nugent is assistant dean, director of chamber music, and a faculty member of The Juilliard School, where she also administers Juilliard's Mentoring, Scholastic Distinction, and Colloquium programs. She has received bachelor's and master's degrees from Juilliard, as well as a doctorate from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. A founding member of the Aspen Wind Quintet, winners of the 1984 Naumburg Chamber Music Award, she has performed in more than 1,000 concerts with the quintet throughout the United States, Europe, the former Soviet Union, and North Africa. She is also an artist-faculty member and director of chamber music for the Aspen Music Festival and School. She was instrumental in planning and running the SYLFF Chamber Music Seminar, in collaboration with her counterparts from the two other SYLFF-endowed music schools.

January 8, 2006 was a dreary winter day, but the excitement inside the arrivals section of John F. Kennedy International Airport was palpable. A small group from Juilliard stood behind the fence, straining to see the travelers emerging from the U.S. Customs section. Five young people had flown through the night from Vienna and landed one hour earlier; five more were soon due in on a flight from Paris. Any string or wind instruments in the crowd? We didn't know what the students looked like,

and we were not sure they would spot the friendly but small hand-lettered "Juilliard School" signs we were holding. But we were eager to welcome them to New York for the start of a project that had been dreamed about and worked on for two years.

This project, later called in this, its inaugural, year the SYLFF Chamber Music Seminar at The Juilliard School of the Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund Fellows Mobility Program, marked the first collaboration in a landmark three-year series



Participants in the SYLFF Chamber Music Seminar 2006 at The Juilliard School, together with Dr. Joseph Polisi, president of Juilliard (center); Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, chairman of The Nippon Foundation (to the right of Dr. Polisi); Ms. Kazuo Shiomi, president of The Nippon Music Foundation (far right); Mr. Tatsuya Tanami, executive director of The Nippon Foundation (second from right); Ms. Ellen Mashiko, executive director of The Tokyo Foundation (third from right); and Dr. Bärli Nugent (second from left). Ms. Anna Gotkowska, author of a Feature article in this newsletter, stands eighth from right.

of exchanges involving the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien, and The Juilliard School. These exchanges have been designed to foster an educational and artistic experience that embraced the learning process at the heart of each institution. A 10-day chamber music seminar, hosted once by each institution during the three-year period, incorporated five students from each visiting institution into a chamber music event at the host school.

The seminar at Juilliard placed the 10 visiting students—from Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, and Poland—into 4 chamber ensembles with 9 Juilliard students—from Canada, China, Germany, and the United States. These 4 ensembles joined 14 others that together made up the performers of *ChamberFest 2006*. *ChamberFest* is an opportunity for the serious chamber musician at Juilliard to return to the school for the final week of the winter break for an intensive week of rehearsals and daily coaching on a substantial chamber music work. The second week of *ChamberFest* coincides with the reopening of the school, and the 18 ensembles perform in six concerts given during that week.

People continued to come from the U.S. Customs section in waves. When at last a tall young man emerged with a cello strapped to his back, accompanied by four other people carrying cases for violins, a bassoon, and a trumpet, we saw the looks of relief that spread across their weary faces as they spotted us, and we knew that the SYLFF fellows from the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien had finally arrived. They were greeted in German by Juilliard graduate student and cellist Sabine Frick, escorted to the waiting bus, and were whisked off to Juilliard. Our five guests from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris arrived shortly thereafter, easily identified by their cases for clarinet, trombone, violin, viola, and cello. This group was greeted in French by Juilliard graduate student and harpist Sivan Magen, and then also whisked off to Juilliard. The 10 musicians settled into Juilliard's residence hall in rooms on the 22nd and 29th floors, which offer spectacular views of New York City and the nearby Hudson River, and then went for dinner, eating in the school's cafeteria with the Juilliard students. I was profoundly moved by the enthusiasm and sincerity of our guests, and I was eager to see what their collaboration with our students would bring.

Days later, I found myself wandering about on Juilliard's 5th floor, delighted to hear the strains

of Charles Ives, Antonín Dvořák, Igor Stravinsky, and recent Juilliard alumnus Jefferson Friedman emerging from the studios where the SYLFF ensembles rehearsed. The works by these four composers had been requested by the Juilliard students due to the latter's desire to share music that represented their own interests and Juilliard's chamber music traditions. As the days passed, students and faculty alike popped into my office during their breaks, with huge smiles on their faces as they described the joy of discovery, the exhaustion from the long hours of work they were undertaking, and the immense satisfaction of making new friends with each other. Juilliard cello-faculty member Bonnie Hampton perhaps expressed it best when she described the group she coached, saying,

They were the best group I have had the pleasure of working with at Juilliard in terms of attitude, and they were extremely fine players. The other remarkable thing is that they did not know each other at all prior to coming to the Juilliard program, but they worked together extremely well, seriously, and very professionally, and they also seemed to like and enjoy each other. Putting three unknowns together is always a "chance" and this one came up "golden." None of the musicians had played the Ives Trio before, and they were extremely open and receptive to working with his musical language. It was a real pleasure to work with this group.

As the days of preparation came to a close, the students joined in our traditional end-of-week *ChamberFest* Chinese banquet. The marble floors resonated with the laughter and ebullient talk of the 90 *ChamberFest* participants, who consumed endless trays of *lo mein* noodles (stir-fried, Cantonese-style egg noodles), sautéed *bok choy* (Chinese chard), *kung po* chicken (diced chicken sautéed with sweet peppers and peanuts in spicy pepper sauce), and tofu with mushrooms, among the more than 40 dishes offered. And as is traditional with the *ChamberFest* banquet, all of the leftovers were wrapped up and given to the students to take back to the residence hall to share in late-night snacking together. This traditional sharing of abundant food from another culture seemed to be a delicious and fitting way to mark the SYLFF exchange as the students prepared for their performance several days hence.

Violinist Eléonore Darmon noted,

It [the seminar] was very beneficial because we were put into a situation that one often encounters in a musician's life: preparing

in 10 days a work (contemporary in my case) without knowing one's partners, and working intensively in order to construct a unity of sound and intonation, and all the while exchanging approaches to the work and choosing an interpretation that pleases each person. And it was also very good for my English!


Juilliard percussionist Luke Rinderknecht remarked, Working with the students from Vienna and Paris was certainly an exciting learning experience. Our rehearsals were complicated by language challenges, but with perseverance we learned "L'Histoire du Soldat" and a little of each other's languages. Our concepts of sound were somewhat different, but through discussions about the educational and musical difference in our various countries I began to understand why that was so. It was a thoroughly fulfilling experience.

But it was clarinetist Maguy Girard who perhaps summed it up the best, when she said that she left home with

my clarinets, new tour books, and a new pair of shoes. Result: my tour books are now dog-eared . . . and my shoes have no soles! And the most important thing: I exchanged magnificent musical moments with students from three different nationalities (American, Austrian, and Hungarian). It was during this kind of experience that one can truly realize that music is universal, and especially that it is a language: one can

communicate and share emotions without speaking the same verbal language.

For me, being given the opportunity to observe these collaborations, it was a joy to meet the young people from Europe, entrusted to Juilliard for a too-brief period of time, to see the friendships that began within our walls, and to hear the indescribably beautiful music that resulted. I have also been privileged to make new musical friends myself: early-morning phone conversations across the Atlantic with Paris Conservatoire Deputy Director for External Affairs and Communication Gretchen Amussen introduced me to a soulmate in dreaming and planning for this project, and countless exchanges of e-mail messages with Vienna University's distinguished professor Wolfgang Klos, whose generosity and energy marked this collaboration. I also gained new friends at The Nippon Foundation and other affiliated organizations: Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Mr. Tatsuya Tanami, Ms. Kazuko Shiomi, Ms. Ellen Mashiko, Mr. Keita Sugai, and Ms. Takako Nakayama, who bestowed upon Juilliard the honor of their presence at the concert of the SYLFF Chamber Music Seminar at The Juilliard School. Their vision, hailed by Juilliard President Joseph W. Polisi, to nurture future leaders who will transcend geopolitical, ethnic, cultural, religious, and other boundaries for the betterment of humankind has found a home in the performing arts communities of the Vienna Universität, Paris Conservatoire, and The Juilliard School.

The days passed far too quickly. As the students in turn strode onstage before the packed hall and shared their music, the audience cheered their approval, and I began to dream of the next exchange: Paris in January 2007. It cannot come too soon. 

FEATURE

New York, New York ...

By Anna Gutowska (annagutowska@yahoo.com)

A native of Poland, Ms. Anna Gutowska is a SYLFF fellow at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, majoring in violin. She participated in the Asia/Pacific Regional Forum in Coimbra, Portugal, in 2005, and in the SYLFF Chamber Music Seminar that was held in January 2006 at The Juilliard School in New York City. This seminar is the first of three annual seminars, developed under the SYLFF Fellows Mobility Program (FMP), to be held at the three music schools involved.

This year's SYLFF Chamber Music Seminar, the first of three such annual events planned and jointly developed by three SYLFF music schools—the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris, the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna,

and The Juilliard School, in New York City—took place at Juilliard from January 9 through 17, 2006, in conjunction with Juilliard's *Chamberfest*, a week of chamber music seminars, coaching, and performances.

As a step leading to participation in the seminar,

Anna Gutowska performing during the concert in Paul Hall.



five of us from our university in Vienna—Bojidara Kouzmanova (violin), Philipp Schachinger (cello), Heidrun (“Heidi”) Wirth (bassoon), David Szalkay (trumpet), and I—met at the Vienna Airport on Sunday, January 8, subsequently arriving in New York City after a long flight.

The seminar started on January 9. It involved many intensive hours of practice and coaching each day. We worked with different coaches on different pieces by a variety of composers, such as Stravinsky, Ives, and Friedmann. Juilliard has some 100 practice rooms, and so enough rooms were available so that we could practice individually and in groups until 11 p.m.—and some days we did so, meeting together only for lunches and dinners. However, our time was not all work. Among the much-appreciated “extracurricular” events that Juilliard arranged for us during the seminar were a pizza party and a special Chinese dinner.

I was in a chamber group that also included Helena Madoka Berg and Christian Hacker from Germany, Bénédicte Royer from Paris, and Ang Li from China. Helena, Christian, and Ang were students at Juilliard, and Bénédicte was a student at the conservatoire in Paris. The piece that we chose to play was Anton Dvorak’s Piano Quintet in A-Major, op. 81, a very famous and wonderful piece that actually is for piano and strings and that also is my favorite. We practiced in the morning and afternoon every day.

Our coach was Dr. Yoheved Kaplinsky, chair of the Piano Department of The Juilliard School, from which she had received a doctorate. She has been greatly praised for her musical accomplishments in recitals, chamber music programs, and orchestral performances. Before joining Juilliard, Dr. Kaplinsky taught at the Philadelphia University of the Arts, the Peabody Conservatory, and the Manhattan School of Music. Widely known for her exceptional knowledge of piano techniques, she is in great demand as a teacher of advanced pianists, and she has lectured extensively and judged major musical competitions across the world.

Dr. Kaplinsky provided us with fantastic coaching. She is a very quiet person, but when she is playing, her performance is like fireworks, full of emotion and also very, very warm. I thought that our Dvorak Quintet needed a lot of color and joy, and a little nostalgia, and as a result of her working with us on every element of this piece, we were able to play it in the expressive way that it deserves. I absolutely adore her, and I loved and enjoyed her lessons. Dr. Kaplinsky’s family came from Poland, and I hope that some day she will come to Poland to visit our school.

We, the participants in the seminar, had different personalities, were from different countries and cultures, had studied at different schools, embraced different traditions (musical and otherwise), and had different ways of playing. But I think that this “mixture” was fantastic. It gave us many pleasant surprises, as well as much joy and many smiles, and we learned a lot from each other.

The concert in Paul Hall on the final day (January 17) was held before a large audience, and perhaps it can best be described in these few words: personally satisfying and musically successful! I very much enjoyed performing with my quintet-friends, and, I’m glad to say, our performance was well-received. And after the concert Dr. Kaplinsky came to us and said she was proud of us, which of course warmed our hearts and made us feel even more strongly that our hard work and intensive practice had been worthwhile.

During the post-concert reception I met people from The Nippon Foundation, The Tokyo Foundation, and the Nippon Music Foundation. I was very happy to see Ms. Ellen Mashiko again after having met her for the first time in July 2005 during the SYLFF Africa/Europe Regional Forum in Coimbra, Portugal.

* * *

I am now back in Vienna.

My first visit to New York City, in addition to very rewarding experiences collaborating with other students at Juilliard, also was enjoyable and memorable in other ways. I have many photos that I took while there: Central Park and its squirrels, Manhattan, Ground Zero, Planet Hollywood, the Metropolitan Opera, 34th Street, the Brooklyn Bridge, Chinatown, Times Square, and the Rockefeller Center and its ice rink, among others. Sometimes I look at my photos from my time in New York, and I laugh . . . about David Szalkay, who always had his video camera and was singing Jennifer Lopez songs, and about Bojidara, who was worried about her heavy baggage (She bought a lot of CDs and books in New York). And I remember the wonderful spaghetti party and the Uno playing-card game . . . among many, many other happenings.

Some of us from Vienna went to Avery Fisher Hall to listen to an open rehearsal of a violin concerto, “The Red Violin,” staged by Joshua Bell and the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, and we also saw a Metropolitan Opera production of the great ballet *Swan Lake*.

I also fondly remember a dinner at a sushi bar with my Vienna university roommate, Heidi, and Mathieu

and Magie from Paris. The weather was very cold, but we were very happy to share time together. Heidi made entries in her diary every day, and we talked whenever we had a chance. We thoroughly enjoyed the 10 days we passed in New York with the fantastic people we met, played with, and heard play there.

I worked very hard. I attended all the seminar sessions, where I learned a lot. I did my best to contribute to the success of the SYLFF Chamber Music Seminar and our quintet's performance. I hope I will meet all the seminar participants and teachers again someday . . . perhaps even in New York, which I enjoyed a lot.

After spending such an intense, enriching, and wonderful time in New York, a time that was so meaningful to me, I wish, on behalf of all other musicians who performed at the *Chamberfest* from the three music schools, to express our sincere gratitude to Ellen Mashiko and The Tokyo Foundation for providing us with such a wonderful opportunity and for the trust they placed in us.

I also wish to express my deepest and very

respectful thanks to Professor Wolfgang Klos and Ms. Dorothea Riedel of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, for the trust they placed in me and for making it possible for me to take part, first, in the SYLFF Africa/Europe Regional Forum in the summer of 2005, which in turn provided me with the opportunity to perform in the wonderful chamber music concert in the Biblioteca Joanina (King John Library) at the University of Coimbra during that forum, and then, second, in Juilliard's *Chamberfest* this past January.

I will never forget New York. I am very, very happy to have had the experiences I did during *Chamberfest*, and especially to have been able to play and work with musicians and other people from different countries and cultures around the world. I believe that the SYLFF Chamber Music Seminars, by bringing together in this way such different people, with their varied languages and traditions, will help to eliminate misunderstanding and hatred from this unquiet and uneasy world, and bring goodwill and peace instead. 🌍

UPDATE

The SYLFF Network Database

SYLFF fellows' collaboration and networking, trans-institutionally and transnationally, are the aims of new Tokyo Foundation follow-up programs and activities, including the Joint Initiatives Program (JIP) and SYLFF Fellows Mobility Program (FMP). Related to this, the SYLFF Network Database is intended to assist SYLFF fellows with their networking and collaboration by mobilizing, through the Internet, the resources of more than 9,000 fellowship recipients from 69 institutions in 45 countries.

The main feature of the SYLFF Network Database is its search-and-find function by which a registered fellow is able to search for information concerning other registered SYLFF fellow(s), based upon SYLFF institution, country of residence, academic background and interest(s), and current occupation and professional interests, among other criteria. Also, abstracts and research papers can be uploaded in electronic format for reading and downloading by other fellows.

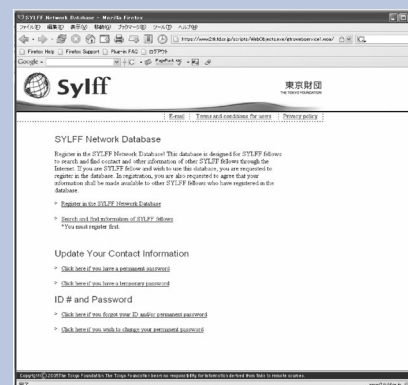
SYLFF fellows are encouraged to register for and to use this database. If you are a SYLFF fellow and have been provided an ID number and password by the

Scholarship Division, please register in the SYLFF Network Database by

accessing the homepage of the database (<http://www.tkfd.or.jp/eng/division/fellowship/sylff/database/index.shtml>) and following the instructions there (see the image of the database's homepage below). If you do not have, or have forgotten, your ID and password, send a request to the Scholarship Division (see the flyer that accompanies this newsletter for details).

To expand the pool of this cyber network, the Scholarship Division is running a special campaign: SYLFF fellows who register in the database by June 30, 2006, will receive a SYLFF pen (see the flyer for a photo).

The Scholarship Division will develop more tools for SYLFF fellows' networking as the number of SYLFF fellows continues to grow. Your ideas and suggestions are most welcome and will be greatly appreciated. 🌍



Making Poverty History: The First Step towards Sustainable Development

By Goizane Mota (gmota@soc.deusto.es)

Ms. Goizane Mota is a PhD Candidate of the European Doctorate Programme in Migrations and Conflicts in Global Society at the University of Deusto. She also works in the university's Faculty of Sociology and Political Sciences, supported by a research fellowship from the Basque Government Education Department. She received a SYLFF fellowship for the 2002 and 2003 academic years.

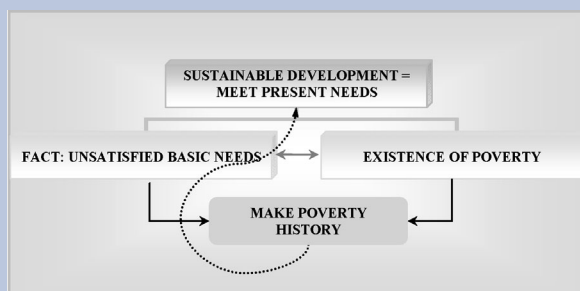


These days, the term *development* is applied to a wide range of activities relating to the economic, social, cultural, and/or political progress of a given human community.

The notion of sustainable development appeared in the public sphere for the first time in 1987, when the United Nations published *the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*, known as the Brundtland Report. The report's definition of sustainable development is "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

It can be appreciated that this definition does not provide a specific and practical approach to what should be understood by growth, sustainability, and "needs," nor does it specify how this kind of development should be able to continue over time or how long it is expected to last. Therefore, the first question that arises here concerns what kind of indicators are the ones that will allow us to evaluate and diagnose the degree of sustainable development being considered.

The following diagram shows the correlations among the ideas I will explain in this article.



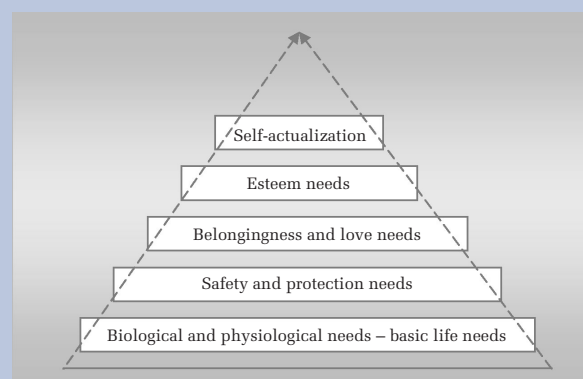
Sustainable Development = Meeting Basic Needs

So, let us go back to the definition of sustainable development itself and see if we can reach a significant

conclusion about what should specifically be meant by sustainable development.

Sustainable development means, first and foremost, "meeting present needs" in a way that is "not risking the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Therefore, in the first place, it is essential to satisfy current needs.

So what are the "needs" that should be met? The French Sociologist Chombart de Läuwe refers to two kinds of needs: those that come from the *lack* of certain unsatisfied basic necessities, and those that arise from personal *aspirations*. He says that the latter cannot be fulfilled without first satisfying the former. Some time earlier, Abraham Maslow had already suggested that some needs take precedence over others. This is his well-known pyramid illustrating the different levels of needs:



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

As the lowest level of the pyramid shows, the very basic needs, such as those for food, drink, and shelter, are biological and physiological. Thus, who are the people whose basic needs clearly are not being met? What people live in this bottom stratum? The answer to both questions is: the world's population that is living in poverty.

Has Anything Been Done to Fight Poverty?

Let me state from the outset that in the Brundtland Report the richest countries' interests were clear: to stop, for their own sake, rapid environmental degradation, which clearly was a direct consequence of the fast economic growth that has been linked to the increasing deregulation of the world markets. Therefore, let us bear in mind that the concept of sustainable development was introduced into the public sphere for the first time within the framework of the highly developed countries' underlying interests.

The question of whether anything has been done to fight poverty, and consequently to move toward real sustainable development, is very difficult to answer, and the data available has not been provided objectively. When I first started to conduct research concerning world poverty, it was easy to obtain worldwide data, and it was possible to compare data about countries at quite different levels of development. These days, however, the data is mostly about single countries and the way that it is explained is even more ambiguous and tendentious than it was before.

I will give an example to better explain this issue. The *Human Development Report 2005* says: "Twenty years ago somebody born in Sub-Saharan Africa could expect to live 24 fewer years than a person born in a rich country, and the gap was shrinking. Today, the gap is 33 years and growing." Conclusion: anyone who reads this long, yet little-useful document will realise that the situation is getting even worse.

Paradoxically, in that report the graph that appears immediately below the aforementioned sentence is entitled "Chances of survival in Sub-Saharan Africa are not much better than in 1840s England." What is the point of making such a historically and geographically non-contextualised comparison? What is meant by "not much better"? The data is clear; but the way of expressing it certainly is not.

In any case, we should remember that, in 1996, all member countries of the United Nations committed themselves to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the first and most relevant of which was to reduce to one-half, by 2015, the number of people living in absolute poverty, that is, people earning less than one dollar a day. In fact, this represents a key milestone towards the ultimate elimination of poverty worldwide.

However, by 2002, the United Nations General Assembly itself had already recognised that these goals would not be achieved, saying: "We take note

with preoccupation that, given current estimations, the volume of available resources to achieve internationally agreed development goals will remarkably diminish, even the resources available for the goals settled in the Millennium Declaration." (United Nations, January 30, 2002).

Due to the inherently complex structure of the international community, every year there are many conferences, summits, and speeches regarding MDGs. However, just nine years remain to meet the 2015 deadline for achieving the MDGs, and all indicators confirm that the lack of success in achieving them will by and large result because macroeconomic agreements and crisis-prevention measures have been accorded higher priorities than those goals.


Given these circumstances, I will just point out that every year, 10 million *children* younger than five years old die from *avoidable* causes.

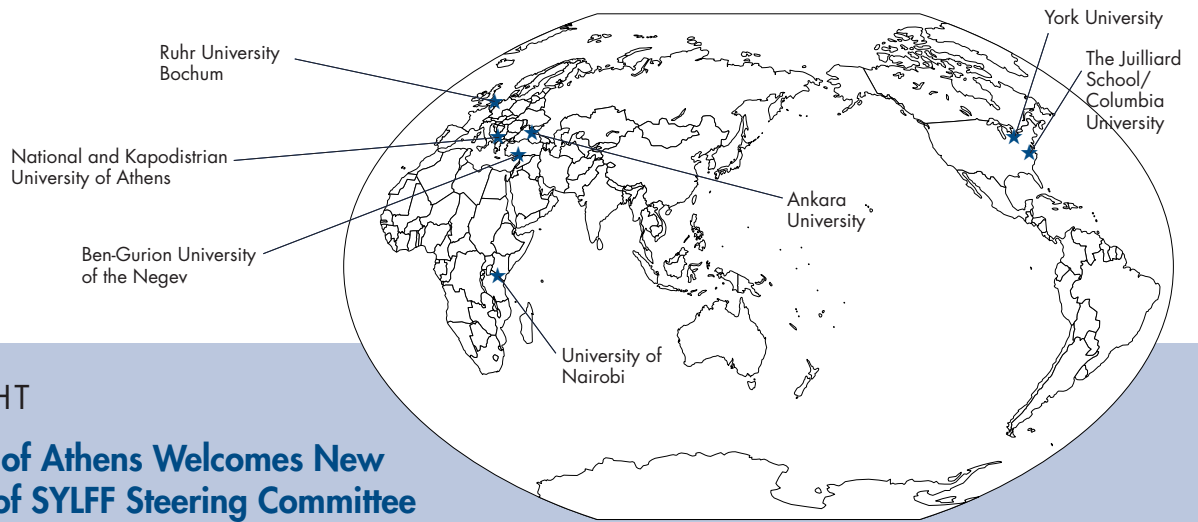
Large graphs or extensive analyses of data are not necessary: this is enough information for my purpose. The UN Millennium Project report states "no new promises are needed—only following through on commitments already made." There should be no delay in taking action.

Achieving sustainable development by first making poverty history is not as hard as we have always been told it is. It is just a question of determination, setting urgent priorities, and making serious political and economic choices.

Without coherent government and private action being taken, beautiful concepts end up being rhetorical and unmeaning words that are used merely to hide the lack of real political and economic will to actualize those concepts.

Coherent action means, first of all, attaining awareness of all external and internal factors that perpetuate poverty. Poverty exists due to specific causes; poverty is not a natural consequence of supposed incapacities of certain societies, as some authors have argued. Rather, poverty is a structural characteristic of this globalized world, where all activities and interventions influence and react to each other.

We should be realistic about this issue so that we do not have to suffer unfulfilled expectations. This is a very serious topic in part because, dear reader, if world poverty was proportionally distributed, at least one of four members of your family would have already died—but not before having suffered pain, hunger, cold, thirst, and lack of shelter. 



SPOTLIGHT

University of Athens Welcomes New Members of SYLFF Steering Committee

After Ellen Mashiko and Mami Yabe visited the University of the Western Cape to participate in the 10th anniversary of the SYLFF Program there, they visited the **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens** on March 20–21, 2006, to meet the new chairperson and key contact person of that university's SYLFF Steering Committee, roles that for many years had been filled by Prof. Dr. Constantine ("Costas") Evangelides, who passed away in December 2005 (see the January 2006 issue of *The SYLFF Newsletter*). Prof. George Babiniotis, rector, now serves as chairperson and Mr. Elias Marsellos, director of international relations, is the key contact person. Ellen and Mami also had the great pleasure of meeting 10 of the university's 17 new SYLFF fellows. The orientation for newly-selected SYLFF fellows was conducted by Loukas Spanos, principal organizer of the Hellenic Association of SYLFF Fellows, who explained to the new fellows all of the SYLFF programs in detail. At the end of their stay in Athens, Ellen and Mami visited Costas' grave, where they met his elder daughter, Sophia.

Ruhr University Bochum to Host the SYLFF Africa/Europe Regional Forum 2007

Ellen and Mami then went to Germany to visit **Ruhr University Bochum (RUB)**. The university has agreed to host the SYLFF Africa/Europe Regional Forum that is scheduled for June 25–27, 2007. Ellen and Mami met with the university's regional-forum organizing committee, headed by Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Löwenstein (chairman of both RUB's Institute of Development Research & Development Policy and the SYLFF Steering Committee), to discuss details concerning the forum. During their brief stay, they visited the hotel proposed for accommodations, as well as all of the on-campus venues and field-visit sites. The regional forum will be held at newly refurbished university facilities that offer a splendid view of the Ruhr Valley. RUB's close and careful attention to preparations for the forum suggests that it will be a great success. During their stay, Ellen and Mami also met with Prof. Dr.-Ing. Gerhard Wagner, rector of RUB, to whom they expressed their appreciation for the institution's willingness to host the forum.

Visit to SYLFF Institutions in North America

On January 17, 2006, a concert was held at **The Juilliard School** in connection with the SYLFF Chamber Music Seminar and in conjunction with the school's annual *Chamberfest* program. The seminar was funded by the SYLFF Fellows Mobility Program (FMP). The SYLFF Chamber Music Seminars, 10-day events consisting of both music seminars and musical performances, are held pursuant to a three-year plan developed jointly by The Juilliard School, Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris, and the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, and are to be hosted by each of these three music schools. SYLFF fellows and other musicians from the three schools participate in these programs. Juilliard was the host for the first SYLFF Chamber Music Seminar. The second and third seminars will be hosted by the Paris and Vienna institutions, respectively.

A concert at Juilliard's Paul Recital Hall was the culmination of the first chamber music seminar. Seven SYLFF fellow musicians—cellist Aurélienne Brauner, violist Bénédicte Royer (Paris), violinist Anna Gutowska, violinist Bojidara Kouzmanova, cellist Philipp Schanchinger, trumpeter David Szalkay (Vienna), and percussionist Luke Rinderknech (Juilliard)—participated in the seminar and performed at the concert.

Among those who attended the concert were, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, chairman, and Mr. Tatsuya Tanami, executive director, of The Nippon Foundation; Ms. Kazuko Shiomi, president, the Japan Music Foundation; and Ellen Mashiko and Keita Sugai from The Tokyo Foundation.

The musicians performed trios, quartets, quintets, and suites in four different sessions. All of the performances were extremely well-received by the audience.

On the following day, Ellen Mashiko and Keita Sugai visited the Weatherhead East Asian Institute of **Columbia University**, where they met with Dr. Xiaobo Lu, the institute director and chairperson of that university's SYLFF steering committee, and Mr. Robert Finkenthal, program officer and SYLFF Program

At Ben-Gurion University, two administrators of the university's SYLFF Program (far left), three SYLFF fellows (center), and Yoshi (far right).



administrator. This meeting was followed by a dinner with 18 SYLFF fellows. Jeanne Lee, SYLFF fellow and president of the SYLFF Fellows Council, shared with other SYLFF fellows information about the SYLFF Network Program (SNP) and asked for fellows' cooperation with regard to that program. Several fellows volunteered to work with her to launch a local association at Columbia.

Ellen and Keita then visited **York University**, in Toronto, Canada, on January 20, 2006. They were welcomed by Prof. Ronald Pearlman, interim dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and chairman of the SYLFF steering committee; his colleagues from the faculty; members of the university's SYLFF steering committee; and Dr. Gary Jarvis, who participated in the SYLFF Program Administrators Meeting in Manila in January 2005. They also met again with Dr. Eglá Martínez-Salazar, who was one of three winners of a SYLFF Prize in 2003.

Visit to SYLFF Institutions in Kenya, Israel, and Turkey

On February 20 and 21, 2006, Isamu Maruyama and Yoshikazu "Yoshi" Yoshida visited the **University of Nairobi** in Kenya. They called on Professor George A.O. Magoha, recently appointed as vice-chancellor; Professor Geoffrey N. Kamau, recently appointed as director of the Board of Post Graduate Studies, whose members also constitute the SYLFF steering committee and which administers the university's SYLFF Program; and other board members and administrators. They discussed several matters to strengthen that university's SYLFF Program. During Isamu's and Yoshi's visit to Nairobi, they also had the pleasure of meeting with SYLFF fellows, including the members of the Kenya Association of Sasakawa Fellows (KASF), who showed keen interest in participating in various SYLFF programs.

Isamu and Yoshi then went north to Israel to visit **Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**, the newest of the seven universities in that country, having been established in 1969 with a clear mission to spearhead the development of the Negev, a desert area comprising more than 60 percent of the country's area. They reported to Prof. David Newman, chairman of the SYLFF Steering Committee, and other committee members regarding the SYLFF Program Administrators Meeting held in Manila in January 2005, and briefed them on SYLFF follow-up programs. Isamu and Yoshi also met with SYLFF fellows from the university and solicited their ideas regarding the new initiatives

and encouraged them to organize an association of currently enrolled and graduated SYLFF fellows so as to develop a network of local SYLFF fellows that could connect with the worldwide network of SYLFF fellows.

Their final stop was Turkey, where they attended meetings with SYLFF steering committee members of **Ankara University** that focused on further developing the SYLFF Program at the university. The committee members reported that, as a result of a revised tax law enacted in Turkey January 2006, all proceeds from investments, including SYLFF endowment funds are now subject to a 15-percent tax.



SYLFF fellows at Ankara University intently listening to the presentation on SYLFF follow-up programs.

Isamu and Yoshi also had the pleasure of meeting some 20 currently enrolled and already graduated SYLFF fellows, who expressed great interest in enriching their graduate studies and research by participating in SYLFF follow-up programs. The visitors were delighted to learn firsthand that fellows were highly interested in organizing an association of SYLFF fellows in connection with the SYLFF Network Program (SNP).

During their trip, Isamu and Yoshi were also pleased to renew friendships with Karen Geffen (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), who participated in the Asia/Pacific SYLFF Regional Forum held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in October 2003, and Nicholas Kariuki Githuku (University of Nairobi), Oshrit Cohen and Erela Portugaly (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), as well as Gamze Nazan Bedirhanoglu and Funda Keskin (Ankara University), all of whom participated in the Africa/Europe SYLFF Regional Forum held in July 2005 at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. 

In Search of Global Linkages: A Trajectory through Peoples, Countries, and Organizations — Working with Street Food Vendors in Africa and India

By Carlos J. Moreno (camackenzie2002@yahoo.co.uk)

Mr. Carlos J. Moreno Leguizamon is a senior research fellow at the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Greenwich, UK, specializing in monitoring and evaluation of development and poverty-alleviation programs and projects, especially those focusing on health, cultural, environmental, educational, and social issues.

Since my days as a SYLFF fellow during the period of 1998–2000 at Howard University in Washington D.C., I have tried, to a certain extent, to put into practice through my work the SYLFF mission of contributing to international peace. Thus, since completing my SYLFF fellowship, my career has followed a trajectory in international development, particularly carrying out research on issues relating to poverty alleviation. The story I want to share here relates very much to this trajectory, through which peoples, countries, universities, organizations, and projects have been linked with each other. The particular link I would like to describe here concerns a research project to improve—through SYLFF institutions and other organizations—the livelihoods of informal or on-street vendors of food in Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and India.

In 2000, after finishing my graduate studies at Howard University, I went to work in India in connection with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) undertaking concerning issues of poverty and development. While I was there, personnel of The Tokyo Foundation came to visit some Indian universities that were being considered as recipients of SYLFF endowments. In conversations with Ellen Mashiko at that time, I mentioned Jadavpur University as a very interesting place. A friend of mine, Partho Shome, who now serves as an advisor to India's finance minister, had introduced me to this very vigorous university some time earlier, and from that time I felt that this university, with its many young and active faculty members, could play a very prominent role in promoting the SYLFF mission within India and globally. In the end, to my surprise and pleasure, two universities in India were chosen

for SYLFF endowments: Jawarahal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi and Jadavpur University (JU) in Kolkata.

In 2003, I left India to join the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) of the University of Greenwich in the United Kingdom. By this time, The Tokyo Foundation had already launched the SYLFF program in India. Then, early in 2004, Joyashree Roy, the director of the

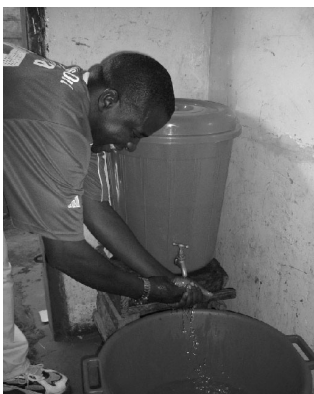
SYLFF Program at Jadavpur University, visited Europe. In order to further promote linkages with the new SYLFF Universities, Professor Roy and I seized

the opportunity afforded by her being in Europe and we facilitated her visit to NRI, so we could explore possibilities of cooperation between the two institutions.

The portfolio of projects in which I was participating at NRI at that time included one on food safety and the livelihoods of food vendors in Ghana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. It was an interdisciplinary project, by which we were trying to understand the issues from two complementary perspectives: the social sciences and the applied science of food safety.

The social science component examined the role played by the vendors in the broader socioeconomies of their cities and countries. In addition, we critically assessed all the legal and policy frameworks relating to food safety in each participating country or city. Last, the project tried to involve all the potential stakeholders of the food-vending sector, such as city health authorities, other city government authorities, market leaders, food research institutes, among others. The food safety component of the project involved laboratory examination of food samples to determine their levels of contamination from either microorganisms (bacteria) or health hazards such as lead, other metals, or even pesticides. This was important for generating concrete scientific evidence to induce the authorities, especially the policy makers, to give attention to informal or street-food vending.

At the end of 2004, after four years during which researchers in individual countries worked more or less independently, an opportunity arose to create a single umbrella project, enabling the participants to understand the reality of food vendors' problems from a more international perspective. Further, a very interesting spin-off in this new international project was the extension of the project to South Asia through the inclusion of India as a new partner. And the new





Traditional informal foods sold in Zambia, India, Ghana, and Zimbabwe, respectively (from left to right)

partner in India was a SYLFF institution: Jadavpur University.

The new project, involving more than 35 institutions in Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, India, and the UK, sought to combine the experiences and knowledge gained in previous projects and to develop a new coalition partnership in Kolkata, India. Consequently, throughout 2005, the new international project focused on using a “knowledge management” approach to explore ways that institutions and organizations manage and share knowledge concerning informal or on-street vending of food. As a result, these institutions jointly developed a management and monitoring system, consisting of a series of international and national modules, for the informal or on-street food-vending sector. The documents that were prepared regarding this comprise an integrated food-safety management approach that could be used by other towns and cities wishing to explore ways of improving the livelihoods of vendors and the health of consumers.

The modules, based on the practical experience and results of earlier years, dealt with such topics as: partnerships; training; consumer awareness; food-related policies, including those relating to food safety and food inspection; infrastructure; monitoring and evaluation; livelihoods of street-food vendors; legal frameworks; and supply chains.

Briefly, the modules built upon, among other factors, the following facts and research results:

- In all five countries, many of the vendors (both women and men) lived on USD1 per day, and most did not have any other source of income. The majority had a low level of education, and because they had not had access to information or training on food-related cleanliness, they did not know about food safety.
- Socioeconomic data from the participating countries showed that approximately 60,000 vendors in Accra (Ghana) earned a combined annual profit of US\$24 million. In Kolkata (India), 143,000 vendors earned a combined annual profit of US\$100 million. Meanwhile in Lusaka, Zambia, vendors’ combined annual profit was estimated at US\$10 million. Given such significant amounts, it was important to engage the attention of urban policy makers to recognise vending’s significance to the economy.
- Not all foods sold were the same among the participating countries, and some were safer than others. For example, foods that are cooked at high temperatures and are consumed within a reasonably short period of time are safer than those

that are not cooked and/or are kept for long periods of time. Further, high rainfall in some areas was an environmental trigger factor promoting more food-borne illnesses.

- Up to the end of 2005, more than 5,000 vendors in the five countries had been trained regarding improved food safety and financial micromanagement. It was important for the many vendors to understand all of the issues at stake in their micro (stall) businesses. Correspondingly, the health officers working in direct contact with the vendors were trained in how to understand all the issues at stake in the livelihoods of the vendors, so as to be more sensitive and more pro-poor in their institutional approach.
- The project attracted global media attention. Programs were broadcast on BBC World TV (“Earth Report”) and BBC World Service Radio (“Health Matters”), reaching a combined audience estimated at 350 million. In Zambia, in particular, 12 60-minute radio programs entitled *Eating Out Safely* were broadcast over a three-month period. Each program included food-safety messages, a drama, and a phone-in segment.

For further detailed information about the modules please see <http://www.nri.org/streetfoods/index.htm>.

By the end of 2005, just as the project was ending, a rapid assessment was conducted. Very positive changes in the health practices of the trained vendors were observed. For example, the picture in the right column on page 10 shows a female vendor in Lusaka, Zambia, following one of the newly adopted health practices for street vendors: wearing both a clean apron and a hat (to keep the vendor’s hair out of food) while selling food. The picture in the left column shows a customer washing his hands using safe water from a bucket.

In order to strengthen the work on food vending in the future and to continue working in more cities beyond 2005, the project organizers started to look for additional funds during 2005. As the reality of many development research projects has taught us, getting funds for this type of initiative is essential to continue them to the point where they are sustainable. Unfortunately, the two applications that we have submitted have not been successful. However, our active team of researchers, from the North and the South, will keep trying. Thankfully, the arts of proposal writing and applying for funds are among the first activities one learns as a SYLFF fellow. And it seems that these will continue to be vital skills throughout our professional lives.

(continued on back cover)

ASSOCIATIONS

The First Central and Eastern European SYLFF Fellows Conference

By Elena Temper (tempertemper@web.de)

Ms. Elena Temper is a doctoral student in the Faculty of Social Studies and Philosophy, University of Leipzig (Germany) and co-organizer of the Association of Leipzig University SYLFF fellows. Here Elena reports on the first Central and Eastern European SYLFF Fellows Conference, held in Leipzig in January 2006.

The first SYLFF fellows international conference in the central and eastern European region was held January 11–13 in the Bibliotheca Albertina of the University of Leipzig. The meeting, hosted by the Association of Leipzig University SYLFF Fellows (ALUS), had the theme “Intellectual and Cultural Changes in Central and Eastern Europe: New Challenges in the View of Czech, Hungarian, Polish, and German Scholars.”

Twelve fellows participated in the conference: eight from Prague, Czech Republic; two from Budapest, Hungary; one from Krakow, Poland; and one from Bochum, Germany. The idea to convene a meeting in Leipzig was conceived as a result of previous contacts among several of the fellows. First, Barbara Havelkova, who is the principal organizer of the SYLFF Network at Charles University, Prague, and Felix Böllmann, former principal organizer of the ALUS, initially met each other during the SYLFF Africa/Europe Regional Forum in Cairo in 2003. Also, Machabbat Kenzhegaliyeva, a co-organizer of the ALUS, and Stefan Jarolimek, the current principal organizer of the ALUS, met Marcin J. Rebes and Štěpán Holub from Charles University and SYLFF fellows from Bochum during the SYLFF Africa/Europe Regional Forum in Coimbra in July 2005.

The conference was opened by Prof. Dr. Martin Schlegel, the University of Leipzig’s vice-rector for research and chairman of the university’s SYLFF steering committee. In his speech, Prof. Schlegel emphasized the unique character of the event, which gave to SYLFF fellows who have similar interests and commitments and who are from neighboring EU countries the opportunity to get in contact with each other and to help build the regional SYLFF network.

In his keynote address, Dr. Frank Hadler, of the Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum an der Universität Leipzig Geschichte und Kultur Ostmitteleuropas (GWZO) (Research Centre of Culture and History of Central

Professor Dr. Martin Schlegel, vice-rector for research and chairman of the University of Leipzig’s SYLFF Steering Committee, welcomes the participants.

Conference participants.



Dr. Frank Hadler delivering the keynote address.



and Eastern Europe at the University of Leipzig), focused on Central and Eastern Europe from a transnational perspective and introduced the conference’s participants to a new project in Leipzig that is deeply connected with the conference topic.

The conference was divided into four panels that encompassed the following areas: law, politics, mass media, and culture and society. The participants in the conference represented very different research fields and topics, as did the subjects of their presentations.

Felix Böllmann opened the first session, on law. He spoke on “Legal Change — Cultural Change? The Impact of Law on the Organization of East German and Russian Municipal Enterprises.” He was followed by Barbara Havelková, who reported on “(In)effective Implementation of EU Rules: An Example of Gender-Equality Legislation in the Czech Republic.” The last paper in this session, by Jan Wiethoff, focused on “Human Rights in the EU.”

In session two, on politics, Marcin J. Rebes discussed “Politics and Societal Change in Poland in the 20th Century: From Authoritarian Government to a Democratic Liberal System.” Then Loretta Huszak from Leipzig, informed us about the “Absorbability of Hungary after EU-Accession-Changes in Regional Policies.”

After such an exciting first-day-program, all the participants were invited to continue their discussions and to learn more about each other during the welcome dinner. Actually, in planning the conference, we were thinking about having a cultural event, such as visiting the opera or a Leipzig music hall, or doing something else, for the conference participants. But after the day’s sessions ended we were so deeply involved in our discussions that we did not even recognize how quickly the time passed. No one asked: “Okay, what are we going to do now?” Everyone enjoyed being together—until 2 a.m. in the morning.

The next day started with an unpleasant event. A car of one of the participants was towed away because



it inadvertently had been parked inappropriately. As a result, we had to postpone the start of our program for more than 30 minutes. After the shock was over, Stefan Jarolimek started the third session, on mass media, with a presentation on “Old Friends – New Borders: The Conflict between Poland and Belarus in Summer 2005 in the Press.” Afterwards, Balázs Csíky, from Budapest, spoke on “Topics in the Hungarian-Right Press — Previously and Now.”

After a short coffee break we started the last session, on culture and society. I presented my paper, which focused on “The Role of the Russian Orthodox Church in Belarus.” Zuzana Korecká from Prague made a presentation on “Gypsies Culture in Slovakia.” Makhabat Kenzhagaliyeva informed us about “Higher Education in Central and Eastern Europe: Typical Features of Development.” Last, but not least, Gernot Klemens from Leipzig spoke about “The Bologna Process: Challenges for European Universities.”

Not only were the SYLFF fellows’ topics diverse, we also were at different stages in our work. Some

of us had already completed graduate studies; some were just beginning graduate-level work. But uniformity was not our goal. First of all we wanted to bring SYLFF fellows together in order to take a first step towards further cooperation. In this connection, although English is not the mother tongue of any of the participants, we chose it as our lingua franca.

Prof. Dr. Markus Kotzur, of the Faculty of Law and a new member of the SYLFF Steering Committee at the University of Leipzig, led us in an extraordinarily lively and interesting final discussion about “EU-Citizenship in Central and Eastern Europe after Two Years of Membership.” The discussions gave all participants a view from inside as well as from outside the nations in transition.

The conference was open to the public. Accordingly, students of the University of Leipzig, members of the university’s SYLFF steering committee, university lecturers, and other interested persons attended the conference and participated in the discussions.

After the conference per se was over, we did a little sightseeing, at the end of which we climbed the steps to the top of the tower of the Leipzig City Hall, which is one of the tallest buildings in the city. We said goodbye to our friends while looking over the roofs of Leipzig, all of us hoping to meet again soon.

As a conclusion regarding the essence of the conference, I wish to say that it was precisely because of our differences that it was a great experience to learn from one another.

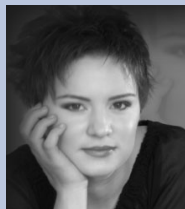
It is expected that the conference papers will be in printed form in the autumn of 2006. 🌐



Prof. Dr. Markus Kotzur (second from left) and SYLFF fellows having a discussion.

Introducing New Associations

The following SYLFF fellows associations were recently awarded first-year funding through the SYLFF Network Program (SNP). Presented below are the names of the institutions, and their respective fellows association and its principal organizer, as well as the principal organizer’s photo and e-mail address.



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University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria
SYLFF Network for Music and Arts Vienna

Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
The Association of JNU SYLFF Fellows (AJSF)



Mr. Dhrub Kumar Singh
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York University, Canada
York University SYLFF Fellows Association (YUSFA)



Mr. Christopher Smith
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Sustaining the SYLFF Network: From the Local to the Global

By Jeanne Lee (President, SYLFF Fellows Council) (jil2106@columbia.edu)

Many of you have learned about the December 2005 meeting of the SYLFF Fellows Council (SFC) from the last newsletter. It was an intense but rewarding meeting, with a challenging agenda that was met with enthusiasm by the nine members of the SFC in collaboration with personnel of The Tokyo Foundation. At this first meeting I was elected as the new president and immediately received the support of my fellow council members. This support has extended far beyond the boundaries of that meeting.

Shortly after my return to New York City, I received a warm and congratulatory greeting card from the Indonesian SYLFF local association. The connection between us is symbolic of an important goal that the new SFC hopes to achieve in the next two years: to build a stronger and more international SYLFF global network, so that friendships and collaborations can be fostered in line with Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa's vision of all of humankind as one family.

As the new SFC president, I would like to thank everyone in the SYLFF family for giving me the unique opportunity to work with you during my two-year term. I am fortunate that the SFC has three holdover members from the Provisional SYLFF Fellows Council, including its previous president, Israel (Izzy) Banegas, to help me in my new role. It will be a very difficult and delicate challenge, requiring much sensitivity and tact, to lead the council, whose members have diverse backgrounds, and to help sustain the SYLFF global network, during the remainder of my term as president. I intend to fulfill this role to the best of my ability, and I ask that each one of you will be proactive in contacting me or the other SFC members to present your ideas.

The December 2005 SFC meeting was the first time for me to meet all of the other SFC members. Each member represents a separate and unique nationality and cultural background, and each has distinct professional interests. It is a privilege to have the chance to work with eight dynamic, international, and diverse individuals who have been recognized as having in common a strong commitment to the SYLFF mission.

The SFC is only a small sample of the global SYLFF family, which looks like a beautiful mosaic of various shapes, patterns, and colors spread across the globe. Each one of us possesses a unique creative energy that I hope will continue to be harnessed and used for leadership purposes and to enhance the future of the SYLFF Program.

In order to sustain our community, we need a commitment by each endowed institution to support the creation of a local association if one does not yet exist. Each SYLFF fellow needs to stay involved at both the local and global levels through communication and collaboration with other fellows. The role of the SFC is to create practical methods by which you can contact us so that we can help support your activities, inform you about new funded and non-funded opportunities for SYLFF fellows' collaboration, and establish a system whereby all SYLFF fellows can easily contact one another for networking.

Related to this, The Tokyo Foundation has worked tirelessly to develop a website to support the networking of SYLFF fellows, so that each SYLFF fellow can locate other SYLFF fellows whose interests are similar to one's own. I hope that each SYLFF fellow will take the time to register in the newly established SYLFF Network Database and to utilize this invaluable resource. (See the UPDATES section for more information about how to register in the SYLFF Network Database.)

In January 2006, I met Mr. Yohei Sasakawa for the second time, when he was at the Juilliard School in New York City to attend a special concert by fellows from the three SYLFF endowed music schools. It was paradoxically both surprising and expected that he had just flown in for the concert and was flying back to Japan and then immediately to India in connection with his work on leprosy and poverty. Although there are many philanthropic foundations around the world that have similar interests and goals regarding human rights, gender equality, global governance, poverty reduction, and education, to name just a few noble objectives, I have rarely heard of a chairman or president of a foundation who works "in the field" on the issues it supports financially, as Mr. Sasakawa does.

When one witnesses the true commitment by the leaders of an organization through their actions, one recognizes the legitimacy of its intention to support the programs and goals on its agenda. It was inspiring for me to meet with Mr. Sasakawa again and to learn more about his activities. The Nippon Foundation's ability and willingness to be so transparent about its work gives me great confidence in working with this organization. I believe that the leadership of an organization reflects its values, culture, and agenda. In part due to my interactions with Mr. Sasakawa, I have no doubt that I have been given a wonderful opportunity to work with an organization that remains true to its original desire to foster a better world for all

humanity.

During a lifetime one has many opportunities, some of which one passes on for personal reasons. But there are also specific times that one chooses to take advantage of an opportunity. As SYLFF fellows, we have been granted financial support for our projects. But we are also given opportunities to engage in projects involving other members of the SYLFF family. I believe that if each SYLFF fellow can envision and participate in a global network, we can continue to cultivate and harness our energies together so as to move toward a future molded by these values. We have the opportunity and good fortune to be supported by The Tokyo Foundation and the SFC in these endeavors. Moreover, the collaborations and friendships that are possible through the SYLFF global network can help us to achieve these goals.

I urge each one of us, including myself, to generate a sense of community among SYLFF fellows at our respective institutions and to encourage networking

among them. There are many ways we can do this, including by establishing a local association or by expanding existing activities. It takes only one individual to inspire others to join in refining a concept before manifesting it into reality. Each one of us can be instrumental in changing and shaping the world. In a sense, by having been selected as SYLFF fellows we have been assigned the responsibility to do that.

The SFC should not be regarded as an inaccessible body of council members. Rather, we should be bombarded with your ideas, desires, and complaints about how to improve the SYLFF network. We hope to support your leadership strengths and to help you to overcome any obstacles you might have encountered, so you may advance your work successfully. I hope that you, as a representative from a unique part of the globe, where your cultural and professional knowledge makes the global network possible, will see the necessity of your work with and for SYLFF programs. 🌐

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introducing Hideki Kato, New Chairman and President of The Tokyo Foundation



We are pleased to announce that on April 3, 2006, Mr. Hideki Kato was elected as the new chairman and president of The Tokyo Foundation. He succeeds Mr. Kimindo Kusaka, who held these positions since the foundation's establishment in July 1997.

Mr. Kato concurrently serves as president of Japan Initiative (J.I.), an independent, not-for-profit policy thinktank that was founded in 1997 to challenge and alter Japan's national policy-making mechanism, long monopolized by bureaucrats, through the introduction of competition from the private sector.

Also a professor of Keio University's Faculty of Policy Management, he uses his expertise and strong commitment for implementing change in the policy-making process and improving the substance of national policies.

Mr. Kato's publications include *Economic and Social Systems of Asian Countries* (1996), *Financial Markets and the Global Environment* (1997), *Dismantlement Plans of Japan Highway Public Corporation* (2001), and *A Social System Built on the Commitments of Individuals* (2003) (all in Japanese).

Please welcome Mr. Kato to the SYLFF family.

The Joint Initiatives Program's First Awardees

Six project teams led by graduated SYLFF fellows were selected as the first recipients of Joint Initiatives Program (JIP) awards. The Scholarship Division announced the start of the JIP in April 2005 and received 25 applications in October 2005. Twenty-four

completed applications were sent to five academicians for review and ranking and to one SYLFF Fellows Council member for an ex-officio review. Based upon the ranking of the five reviewers, 12 applications were short-listed and sent to the International Advisory Committee for final review conducted on February 9, 2006. The six project teams that have been selected as awardees are the following (presented below are the names of each team's leaders, their SYLFF institutions, and each project's title):

1. Richard G. Wamai and Hisayo Katsui (both University of Helsinki), "Health and Disability in International Development Policy."
2. João Luis Jesus Fernandes (University of Coimbra) and Nicholas Kariuki Githuku (University of Nairobi), "Resource Management in Protected Areas and its Impact on Human Development: A Comparative Sustainable Development Study of the Mau Narok Forest Reserve (Kenya) and the Serra da Estrela Natural Park (Portugal)."
3. Andrew Jared Critchfield and Donna Allen Oti (both Howard University), "Crisis Communication and Cultural Construction of Calamities: Preparedness in Guyana, Thailand, and the United States."
4. Sarojini Imran and Yeni Salma Barlinti (both University of Indonesia), "Environmental Awareness of Waste Management: A Pilot Project at Manggarai District, Jakarta-Indonesia."
5. Kristine Locika (University of Latvia) and Petr Kokaisl (Charles University), "Common History, Different Narratives: Survival Strategies of Inhabitants of Latvia, Poland, and the Czech Republic in the Stalinist Period."
6. Jean-Louis Racine and Jeff Kee (both Columbia University), "Toolkit for Entrepreneurial Education."

The enclosed JIP announcement and application forms for 2006–2007 are available and downloadable at

<http://www.tkfd.or.jp/eng/division/fellowship/sylff/announcements/jip.shtml>.

In closing, it has been my idea to tell a story that started with discussions between Washington, D.C. in the United States and Tokyo, Japan, and then moved to India and from India to the UK. It then moved from the UK to Africa (Ghana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), and from Africa to India. And everything has arisen from a bit of a passion for wanting to link people, countries, projects, organizations, and ideas that might contribute to making the life reality of some humans less harsh.

Being a native of Colombia (still a non-SYLFF country), I still dream that the SYLFF Program will take root there and, from there, will later extend links to India and Africa. It is my hope to create South-South social science connections that contribute to poverty-alleviation programs. Among all the emerging global linkages of markets, technology, and capital, two links that are not much talked about are the ones between social sciences and South-South collaboration. So hopefully some opportunities will come this way. 🌐

Editorial Note

The launch of the SYLFF Network Database on March 1, 2006, reflected two distinct aspects of the SYLFF Program—collaboration and ongoing program development. First, the development of this new resource was a collaborative effort of the SYLFF Fellows Council (SFC) and The Tokyo Foundation's Scholarship Division. SFC members brainstormed the existing and potential needs of SYLFF fellows, considered the best possible database design to meet those needs, and worked closely with Scholarship Division personnel while the database was being created.

Second, the SYLFF Network Database builds on the existing SYLFF Database, the SYLFF Program's basic file of all SYLFF fellows, and is directly related to the recent start-up of other SYLFF follow-up programs, notably the SYLFF Network Program (SNP) and Joint Initiatives Program (JIP). In other words, the SYLFF Network Database is an integral aspect of the ongoing development of SYLFF programs. It has been designed to assist individual SYLFF fellows and local associations of SYLFF fellows in sharing their academic and professional interests and outputs, in seeking potential collaborators, and in exploring new ideas related to research and social action.

The big question is: Networking for what? Whether as individuals or associations, there are numerous reasons and incentives to engage in networking—creating knowledge and expertise, engaging and mobilizing people, and affecting positive change for the common good—that do not end with SYLFF fellows' completion of master's and/or doctoral degree work, but rather mark the commencement of lifelong pursuits.

The creation of knowledge and expertise is no longer a matter of only local or domestic concern; it can be an international endeavor. SYLFF fellows have the opportunity to become active players in global connectivity and in worldwide links that characterize outstanding scholarship and innovation. Therefore, one challenge facing SYLFF fellows is

whether they will not only access, but will contribute to, the global SYLFF network.

The engagement and mobilization of people is a crucial facet of leadership. People are selected as SYLFF fellows because they are among the "best and brightest" of their peers and because they have leadership potential. Thus, another challenge is whether SYLFF fellows will in fact exercise and continually hone their leadership skills.

Contributing to positive change for the common good is more often easier said than done. Accordingly, a third challenge facing SYLFF fellows is whether they will take time from their busy lives to join hands, minds, and hearts to discover and implement new approaches to making the world a better place for all.

Registering in the SYLFF Network Database is a good first step toward meeting the above-mentioned challenges. Please sign-up now!

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The Sylff Newsletter

FEATURE

In Search of Francesco Sambiasi, S.J.: An FMP Fellow's Experience in Beijing

By Isabelle Duceux (jduceux@colmex.mx)

Ms. Isabelle Duceux is a SYLFF fellow enrolled in the doctoral program in Chinese studies at El Colegio de México, doing research on the introduction of Aristotelian philosophy in China. From mid-March through mid-April 2006, Ms. Duceux conducted research at Peking University under the SYLFF Fellows Mobility Program (FMP). Here she talks about her one-month FMP experiences, both academic and social.

March 14, 2006:

I am now in Wudaokou, an area in northwest Beijing referred to as “the crossroads of the five ways.” A long time has passed since I was granted a SYLFF Fellows Mobility Program grant. I’ve had to wait eight months and then to take a 24-hour trip to get to the crossroads of the five ways. I wonder how long it would have taken to go from Europe to China in the 17th century—perhaps eight months or maybe even a whole year; the trip that Francesco Sambiasi took must have taken that long. My research-stay at Peking University (*Beida* in Chinese) is a quest—a quest to know a man, a Jesuit missionary who, three centuries ago, left his country to go to China to preach his faith.

When Sambiasi arrived in Macao, was someone waiting for him? What were his feelings at the moment he discovered firsthand what before then he had only known by drawings and strange letters from the Orient? I already know Wudaokou. This is Beijing’s neighborhood closest to the two great universities of Beijing: Beida and Tsinghua. It is now seven o’clock in

the evening. I brought my cell phone and I am going to buy a SIM (subscriber identity module) card. This is how I meet 21st-century China. I called Mao Mao, a Chinese friend from my previous trip to Beijing two years ago, and in a few minutes we will meet in front of . . . McDonald’s!!!

Today, I start my search for knowledge about Sambiasi. I really know very little about him. Born in the south of Italy, he studied theology as a member of the Society of Jesus. In 1610, he left Italy for China, where he died in 1649. In 1624, he published in Chinese a commentary about Aristotle’s *De Anima*. He wanted to teach Chinese functionaries—highly cultivated people—about Aristotle’s theory of the soul, precisely because he was looking to save their souls.

Why did Chinese scholars and ministers convert to Catholicism? What were they looking for that China could not give them? When Qin Shi Huangdi, in 221 BC, unified the Middle Kingdom and established the first Chinese empire, China already had a powerful military organization, sophisticated weapons, and a structured bureaucracy based on the legalist philosophy of Han Fei Zi. At that time, Chinese philosophers had already debated many philosophical doctrines. What Qin Shi Huangdi didn’t have was certainty about immortality, and this is why he sent numerous heralds, incessantly traveling around the states of Qi and Yan, to find the elixir of immortality.

Time to eat. Beida is a prestigious university and a particularly marvelous place. It is a little city offering services to meet all one’s needs. But the best in Beida are the cafeterias and restaurants. From intimate restaurants to three-floor cafeterias, one can eat wherever—and whatever—one wants. But too many choices can put one in great trouble, because one must decide where to have a meal. The Blue Pavilion cafeteria? The ravioli eating place? The Muslim



Peking University Library.



A hutong neighborhood in Beijing.

restaurant? Soup-and-noodles fast food? No! Ever since I was granted the FMP grant, I have been dreaming of *baozi*, the delicious small steamed buns typically filled with meat and/or vegetables, so I ride my recently bought old bicycle, cross Beida from southwest to northeast, to a cafeteria I know very well, to eat *baozi*.

I am back at Beida's library, leaving behind me the explosion of noise and odors that filled the cafeteria to enter the silent and ascetic world of the library. The cafeteria invited me to imagine what Sambiasi's feelings and ordinary life might have been like. In Beida's library I turn to more-academic questions. Qin Shi Huangdi won't help me to understand why some Chinese people converted to Catholicism. I have to think about the China in which Sambiasi was living.

Were the decadence and the agony of the Chinese dynasty part of what motivated people to look for new creeds? The virtually consecutive periods of the Emperors Wanli and Tianqi were a time of rapid decline in China, a time of deterioration of its moral basis and its social stability. Some evident clues of these changes can be read in novels and philosophical treatises. The fictional *Shui Hu Zhuan* depicts a great rebellion led by Song Jiang, an outlaw, but also a lover of justice, who fights against a corrupt and decadent government. The philosophical climate in China at that time is no less interesting. Since the end of the 16th century, a powerful individualistic trend had permeated Chinese thought.

I cannot stop thinking about my quest. Past and present seem to me to be related. Last night, I met with friends at the Tanguo, a nightclub near the Lama Temple. Like Khan Balik, the capital city of Kublai Khan, Beijing nowadays is a cosmopolitan city where every nationality is represented. The Tanguo is one of those places where the new cosmopolitanism is happening, where one can practice one's foreign-language abilities. This is one of the new palaces where friends enjoy socializing. It is like a palace, indeed. I am impressed by the sumptuous

decoration of the Tanguo. The ornamentation covering the walls invites one to dream. Images of the past, a Tang effigy of a woman and a gold statue of Buddha, fully designed in modern materials, confound one's sense of reality.

These new "temples" offer a clear contrast with the ordinary scenery of Beijing. Even though the reconstruction of the city has been accelerated tremendously, downtown Beijing is still a beautiful city of the past. Several of my friends are living along *hutongs*, narrow cobblestone alleys typically lined with old-style housing. Living in a *hutong* neighborhood gives one the opportunity to appreciate traditional Chinese conviviality. One feels part of a great family because one's neighbors are all *jiejie* or *meimei*, *nainai* or *yeye*, older sister or younger sister, grandmother or grandfather. Probably Francesco Sambiasi experienced this congeniality.

Today, I meet again with my friends at Tsinghua University. The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, together with French researchers, offers a lecture about the new social differences in Chinese society. We are all eager to learn about this; we all want to know what's going on in China. The lecture invites us to later engage in debates over a meal. Can we speak of a new individualism in China? This makes me return to Sambiasi's individualistic China. I still don't understand why some Chinese scholars converted to Catholicism. Did they aim for personal salvation? Were they discouraged by the decadence of their culture?

Another question puzzles me. Were Chinese scientists eager to learn about Western sciences? Treatises on hydraulics and astronomy were not missing in Chinese libraries. Already in the 9th century, the emperor Yangdi of the Sui dynasty completed the construction of the Grand Canal that connects Beijing to Hangzhou. But in fact, Chinese scientists were willing to acquire new knowledge. And not only scientists but also government authorities did exactly that. Precision was one aspect of Western sciences that interested their oriental interlocutors.

For one month I have been in a labyrinth of thoughts and emotions. I feel that, during this month in Beijing, I have gotten closer to Sambiasi, and I now know him better. I now have to embark on the way back to my ordinary life, being happy and sad at the same time about that prospect. I'll be happy to get home, but I'll feel sad because I don't know when I will again meet with my Beijing friends. And so, I can feel what likely was Sambiasi's emotion when he left Italy, his family, and his friends forever. 🌐

FEATURE

Another Side of the United States

By Marcin Grabowski (martin.grabowski@gmail.com)

Mr. Marcin Grabowski is a SYLFF fellow enrolled in the PhD program at Jagiellonian University (Krakow, Poland). His research focuses on the economic integration of the Pacific Rim. From May through July 2006 he conducted research at the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD), with the support of the SYLFF Fellows Mobility Program (FMP). In this article he discusses his stay at the university, as well as his personal experiences in San Diego.

A couple of months ago, my PhD-dissertation supervisor Professor Andrzej Mania asked me what I thought about going to San Diego, where (in the framework of the University of California) the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) is located. Actually, that was one of the most important questions I'd heard in my whole life, even if the time available for preparing for my journey and stay there—as well as for making a research plan—was very short. But the school that he suggested for me, and especially the research possibilities I could expect there, were



Marcin Grabowski on top of one of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

amazing, and actually that was the only place where I would be able to gather the materials necessary to prepare my PhD dissertation. After 30 seconds of thinking I decided: “I must try, I must apply for the FMP award.” And thanks to the help of a group of people, including Professor Mania, Mrs. Renata Dobrowolska (Jagiellonian University SYLFF Program Coordinator), Dr. Darla Wilson (SYLFF Program Coordinator at UCSD), and Mr. Isamu Maruyama of The Tokyo Foundation, I managed to go to the IR/PS, despite the extremely short period of time for preparation and a number of difficulties we had to overcome, which made it seem almost impossible for me to be able to go.

My Academic Interests and Future PhD Dissertation

The topic of my planned PhD dissertation is “The United States and the Economic Integration of the Pacific Rim since 1989, with a Special Focus on APEC

and ASEAN.” My research within the framework of the Fellows Mobility Program (FMP) had two main goals: (1) to examine the economic integration of the Pacific Rim and the influence of U.S. foreign policy on this process; and (2) stemming from the first goal, to prepare a PhD dissertation that would deal with both the integration process in the Pacific Area and the role of U.S. foreign policy on the area. I am pleased to say that I've achieved the first goal, and I've started to write my PhD dissertation.

In my dissertation I will attempt to predict the development of the economic integration of the Pacific Rim, focusing on APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) and ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations). APEC is the biggest economic integration organization in the world (in terms of population, GDP, territory of member countries)—although not fully developed. If one considers its potential, one can predict that in the future it will be the most important integration organization in the world. It also is a very interesting organization because, in light of the dominant tendency for countries to integrate economically with other countries that are at least partially similar to them, it is almost impossible to create such an organization. An organization that encompasses a number of very different countries (the members of APEC differ in all possible respects: they have diverse political, social, economic, and religious systems, as well as different historical and cultural backgrounds). ASEAN, created in 1967, changed its role in the 1990s, and currently it



UCSD Global Leadership Institute BBQ party at La Jolla Shores.

Geisel Library,
University of California,
San Diego.



can be perceived as the leader of integration not only in East Asia but in the entire region of East Asia, South Asia, and Oceania. In my dissertation I will examine the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN+3 mechanisms, as well as the East Asian Summit, regarding which ASEAN plays a leading role.

Another dimension of my dissertation focuses on a new and, in my opinion, crucial dimension of U.S. foreign policy, i.e., that nation's Pacific policy. Since the beginning of 1990s, the Pacific has become much more important to the U.S. government. In light of the enormous growth of the Pacific Rim countries, as well as their human and territorial potential, this dimension will be increasingly important in U.S. foreign policy. Moreover, the United States has contrasting visions and interests concerning this region, and recently we have observed U.S.-led tendencies to restrain integration in the Pacific Basin.

The Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies

There were four reasons I chose the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies as the place at which to conduct my research. First and foremost, the research conducted at the school focuses on U.S. foreign policy towards the Pacific Rim and on Pacific Rim integration per se. Second, the school has abundant resources, including books, databases, and other primary sources, especially those dealing with regional organizations in the Pacific Area. Third, the school includes the APEC Study Center, an institution that is extremely useful for one conducting this type of research. Last, but not least, this graduate school has paramount specialists in the field of Pacific Studies, with whom I wanted to exchange my views and opinions.

It was a very good choice. Thanks to the courtesy of my IR/PS research advisor, Professor Richard Feinberg (director of the APEC Study Center at UCSD), the APEC Study Center simply became my office. I was able to make use of its great collection of books and documents, and Professor Feinberg helped me with his knowledge, advice, answers to many difficult questions, and suggestions about how I should conduct my research. Professor Feinberg's opinions often were different than mine, and it was extremely important to find out what such a paramount specialist in the field thinks. This will definitely enrich my dissertation.

I also appreciated the IR/PS library, where I was able to find almost everything that seemed to be useful for my research. Moreover, when I couldn't find

something in the library, I could simply request that it be sent from any of the 10 UC campuses; it would be delivered to me within one week. I'd like to thank Mrs. Anne Delaney at IP/PS, who took care of me during my stay at UCSD. Thanks to her, I was able to attend some classes and to contact almost all the professors working at IR/PS. And thanks to Anne and Dr. Wilson, I was able to conduct my research at UCSD for one month longer than planned. I very much appreciate the assistance they provided.

Life in San Diego

Upon arriving in San Diego, I met four people, thanks to whom I experienced one of the most beautiful periods in my life. I managed to rent a room in a house that is located quite far (about one hour by bus) from the university but that offered an international community-living situation, which made it really interesting. Chau (born in the United States but of Sino-Vietnamese origin), the owner of the house, came to the airport to pick me up, and that was when my adventure started. Living in that house in addition to Chau were three guys: from India, Slovakia, and Mexico, respectively, and the first activity we undertook in common was installing the floor in the living room. That was the first floor I'd ever worked on in my life, but thanks to that afternoon and evening the five of us developed a sense of community.

During my stay there, we visited the city of San Diego together, and we went to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the Mojave Desert, and many other places, seeing what that part of America looks like (Because I didn't have a car, I couldn't have done that by myself), and I even learned how to surf. Thanks to my roommates I could experience a different America, not the America of skyscrapers we usually see on television, but a part of America marked by beautiful and impressive natural scenery.

The three months that I passed in San Diego made for a truly amazing experience, and sometimes I think that I'm one of the luckiest guys I know, because my way of life is to follow my dreams, and in San Diego there were people who wanted to help me to make my dreams come true.

In concluding, I would like to thank The Tokyo Foundation for its FMP, the UCSD Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, and the Jagiellonian University SYLFF Steering Committee for making all the above possible. 🌐

UPDATE

Michelle Sadler Selected as One of 100 Young Chilean Leaders

The Scholarship Division is pleased to report that Ms. Michelle Sadler, a University of Chile SYLFF fellow, was recently selected by the weekly magazine *El Sábado* as one of 100 young Chilean leaders. This magazine is included in the Saturday issue of *El Mercurio*, the oldest and most important Chilean daily newspaper, having a circulation of about 120,000 copies per issue. Michelle majored in social anthropology and now focuses on reproductive rights from a gender-studies perspective. She sojourned in Japan in 2004 under the Visit Japan Program to visit several maternity homes and to learn firsthand about how non-hospital deliveries are conducted in Japan.

Following are excerpts from *El Sábado*, translated by Ms. Teresa Iriarte, SYLFF Program administrator at the University of Chile.

100 LEADERS — These are names that are changing Chile, with ideas, initiatives and strength. Students and professionals from all regions of the country were contacted by *El Sábado* magazine to select the 100 leaders. This was the sixth consecutive year that the magazine has selected such leaders. They are young persons, up to 35 years of age, who are working for a more-modern and more-integrated society. We mention each of them in this special edition of this magazine.

Since year 2000, *El Sábado* has been looking for these kinds of persons, to show, in this



special issue, what they do. They are young, up to 35 years old, and they are engaged in successful projects that contribute to the development of the country in different fields and different regions. The list includes sociologists, engineers,



lawyers, students, business people, scientists, ecologists, writers, culture-promotion specialists, psychologists, artists, and priests. We left out only journalists who are active in communications media.

The magazine introduces Michelle as follows:

Medical Anthropologist, age 31. Her main interest is in “humanizing” child-delivery services. After witnessing the condemnation directed at mothers-to-be in public hospitals in Chile in response to their natural fears or complaints about pain, she decided on her objective: to strive to reduce the unnecessary use of technology (Chile has one of the highest rates of cesarean sections in the world) and to stimulate mother-child affection. She earned an MS in medical anthropology at Oxford University and currently is deputy director of the Center of Gender Studies at the University of Chile, where she trains health personnel in sexuality and reproductive health.

UPDATE

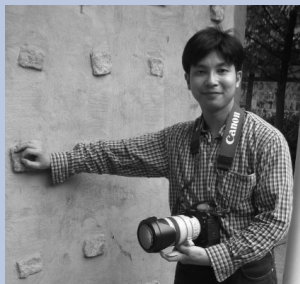
James To Wins Prize in International Photo Competition

Mr. James To, a SYLFF fellow at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand (a beneficiary of a SYLFF endowment at Massey University), recently won a prize in the AIESEC Photo Competition, an annual international competition for university students around the world. The theme for 2006 was “Corporate Responsibility”—an important concern in our modern age, when excess concern for profits poses challenges for the allocation of resources, for sustainability, and for respect for our environment.

James writes:

I was delighted to have been selected by the judges as one of three prizewinners. My photo of a natural-gas refinery facing the South China Sea on the Malaysian coastline of Bintulu was taken when I traveled there with my local Lions Club. It shows how an industrial complex meets with a natural landscape to create an impressive image of contrasts. Although energy security is important for the welfare and economy of the region, environmental considerations should never be forgotten as a matter of corporate responsibility.

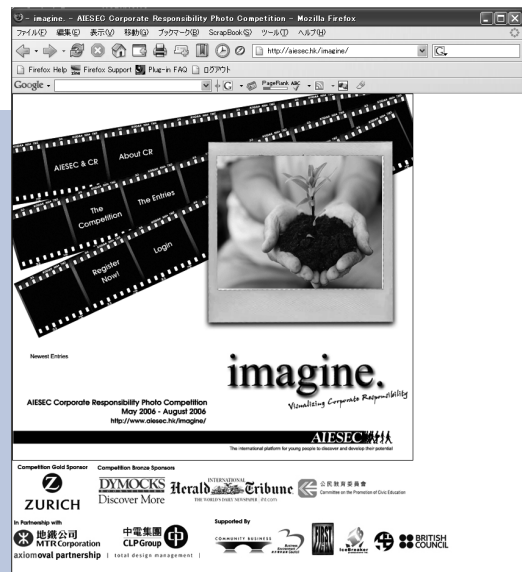
Shown below this article is James’ prize-winning photo (a full-color photo is available on The Tokyo Foundation website).



For more information about the competition, please visit the AIESEC website at <http://www.aiesec.hk/imagine/>.

James also writes about the possibilities that photography can offer:

It definitely is possible to use photography for the betterment of society. I think photography is an ideal medium to communicate ideas across different cultures. A single image can evoke so many emotions and feelings. As well as raising awareness, photography can also be used to raise money for worthwhile causes.



For example, last year I helped to organize a photo exhibition of more than 80 photographs taken by myself and friends. With sponsorship from local businesses, we held an auction and sale of the framed prints, donating all the proceeds to charities. Please visit <http://www.ourworldnz.com> to see our pictures of the photos and auction event.

For those interested in photography or corporate responsibility, James can be contacted at jamesto@es.co.nz.



SPOTLIGHT

ABCDE 2006: Rethinking Infrastructure for Development

By Duke Ghosh (dukeg1@yahoo.com)

Mr. Duke Ghosh is a SYLFF fellow pursuing a PhD in economics at Jadavpur University, India. Duke was recently awarded a support grant by the World Bank to attend its Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) 2006, which was held May 29–30, 2006, in Tokyo. Here Duke shares what was discussed during the meeting and the implications of those discussions.

The theme of this year's ABCDE was "Rethinking Infrastructure for Development." A wide array of issues relating to infrastructure development evolved from the discussions at the conference. These issues, involving the development, distribution and valuation of infrastructure, provide much material for future research. The Researchers Alliance for Development (RAD)—an informal network of researchers supported by the World Bank External Affairs Department—might play an important role in this regard. Researchers across the world can become members of RAD and thereby contribute positively to the debate and dialogue concerning infrastructures for development.

Infrastructure and Development

The need for infrastructure goes hand-in-hand with the growth and development efforts of an economy. It is not too much to say that the availability of infrastructure is a necessary condition for an effective development process. At a time when all the countries of the world are trying to achieve the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it is natural that the world would like to take a second look at the supply-demand situation concerning infrastructure and the quality of available infrastructures, and to reexamine the impediments that inhibit the growth of infrastructure.

"Rethinking Infrastructure for Development" was the theme for this year's ABCDE, held in Tokyo. It is a wonderful coincidence that the venue for discussion of the theme was Tokyo, the capital city of a country that has continuously and proactively stressed infrastructure development (across the globe) during the past 50 years. Japan's emphasis on the development of effective infrastructure has had a tremendous impact on that nation's economy. During the 1950s and 1960s, the period of revitalization of the Japanese economy, the World Bank helped Japan in developing some key elements of the nation's infrastructure, including the Kurobe Hydroelectric

Power Station, the Tomei Expressway, and the Tokaido Bullet Train. In the last 30 years, Japan has extended overseas development assistance to a number of less-developed nations to help them build physical infrastructures that have played a vital role in the growth and development of those nations' economies. It is widely known that apart from building physical infrastructure, an economy must also focus on the development of infrastructure relating to health and education in order to bring about holistic development and to generate an effective business climate. Moreover, infrastructure development poses its own challenges—in regard to priorities, quality, and distribution.

Some 500+ delegates from around the world assembled in Tokyo for this year's ABCDE to critically discuss issues relating to infrastructure. The participants included academicians, researchers, bureaucrats, development-funding agencies' personnel, civil servants, politicians, and a variety of other stakeholders involved in economic development in various countries.

Future Challenges

Mr. Sadakazu Tanigaki, Japan's minister of finance, and Prof. Paul Wolfowitz, president of the World Bank Group, opened the conference on May 29, 2006. Mr. Tanigaki stressed the development of infrastructure for achieving the MDGs, while Prof. Wolfowitz noted that the global supply of infrastructure is far from what might be termed adequate. According to the World Bank's estimates, almost 25% of the 6.3 billion people residing on Earth do not have access to basic energy services. About 2.6 billion people lack access to water and basic sanitation. In regard to future challenges, Prof. Wolfowitz said, "In the next 25 years another 2 billion people will be born, 97% of them in developing countries. They will need access to water, energy, and sanitation services. And they will need roads to drive on, airports to fly from, and telephones with which to communicate."

According to World Bank projections, in the next 30 years the urban populations of all developing countries will double. This growing trend toward urbanization poses a serious challenge to economists, planners, and policymakers, because urban areas will have to be provided with adequate infrastructure without disturbing the environment. The challenge will be particularly severe in nations whose economies are growing rapidly, like China and India. The need of the hour is, therefore, “responsible infrastructure development”—what Prof. Wolfowitz calls “smart growth”—growth that is economically sound, environmentally friendly, socially acceptable, locally desirable, and has the capacity to change peoples’ lives for the better. As a proactive step, the World Bank will put renewed emphasis on lending for infrastructure. Over the next two years the bank will lend for that purpose about USD9 billion–USD10 billion per year, which will be about 40% of the bank’s total lending. At the same time, the knowledge and technical expertise available to the bank will be effectively used to help bring funds from other financing agencies. At the conference, experts discussed the need for private-public partnerships for developing infrastructures across the world, because the efforts of the public sector (or the private sector) alone have been inadequate.

The other issue besides infrastructure development that was discussed at length at the conference was the issue of corruption, which seriously impedes the development of high-quality infrastructures. Researchers across the world have been urged to take up this issue as a research topic and to come up with policy prescriptions that will help policymakers to design effective strategies for infrastructure development.

In various discussions at the conference it was noted that Africa represents a special challenge in regard to infrastructure development. The World Bank estimates that the African countries need to invest, on average, about 9% of their GDP (about USD40 billion) per year on infrastructure development if these countries want to achieve the MDGs by 2015, the UN’s goal year. The amount required is twice what these countries have spent in the last 40 years. It was explained that the bank’s future infrastructure policies would put special emphasis on closing the demand-supply gap concerning infrastructure in Africa. At the same time, the bank will make every effort to develop the African private sector and to support regional integration in Africa.

Although the sound development of infrastructure

is a key precondition for economic growth, there also are other issues that must be addressed, particularly in developing countries. These concern the quality, distribution, and affordability of infrastructure. The development of infrastructures in these countries has been plagued by, among other factors, the absence of proper cost-benefit analyses (resulting in the creation of sub-optimal infrastructures) and corruption. One area that requires considerable attention is that of evaluation of infrastructure investment priorities. These priorities have to be determined while keeping in view issues relating to economic growth, development priorities, climate change, sustainable development, and regional cooperation. It was pointed out time and again at ABCDE 2006 that policy-makers must pay adequate attention to developing, in addition to the “hard” infrastructure, the “soft” infrastructure—the infrastructure that is conducive to developing skills and knowledge among the people. Considerable focus is required in this area because there is a discernible possibility that various developing nations could become “knowledge economies” in the years to come.

The issue of the distribution of infrastructure also continues to require serious research, because the benefits of infrastructure development must be targeted at the grassroots level—toward innumerable small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) and the rural population. Although industrialization remains the top priority in most countries, many experts at ABCDE 2006 said that a considerable portion of infrastructure investment must be directed to agriculture, because this segment constitutes the core of most low-income economies. Rural infrastructures must have the power to complement agricultural research and technology, must be designed to raise productivity, and must encourage broader institutional development. The global community needs to draw inspiration from Japan and Thailand, where considerable efforts have been made toward infrastructure development that promotes the branding of agriculture. Such efforts in both those countries have resulted in self-sufficient villages whose income generation, employment, and standard of living have improved within a very short time. The ABCDE discussions made it clear that there is a need to evaluate the “true” rate of return from investments in the infrastructure for agriculture, because there are a host of positive externalities associated with such investments. Last, infrastructure must be cross-border so that it can promote global integration.

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Festival de musique de chambre, Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat: The Serious Business of Fun

By Timothy Carter (timothywildcarter@gmail.com)

Mr. Timothy Carter is a clarinetist and SYLFF fellow at The Juilliard School in New York. He participated in the Africa/Europe Regional Forum that was held in Coimbra, Portugal, in the summer of 2005, and he performed with his counterparts from the Conservatoire Paris and the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. Their relations developed and, in the spring of 2006, Antoine Landowski, a Conservatoire Paris fellow who also participated in the Coimbra forum and who is the artistic director of the Festival de musique de chambre, invited Timothy to participate in the festival to be held in France that summer. Here is Timothy's story.

It is summertime in the south of France. Together with great musicians and friends, I am exploring musical masterpieces of Johannes Brahms and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Does life get much better than that? I doubt it! These were the thoughts and feelings that consumed me on my return trip home to New York City after a wonderful musical experience at the festival.

The story of my participation in the Musique de chambre in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat in southern France began one year earlier, in July of 2005, when at the SYLFF Africa/Europe Regional Forum in Coimbra, Portugal, Antoine Landowski and I met and had a fantastic time making music and getting to know each other. In the spring of 2006, I was delighted to receive an invitation to perform at Antoine's festival in France in early August of 2006. After I journeyed across the Atlantic and arrived in Nice, I rode with Antoine through winding cliffside roads to the festival's headquarters, feeling energized and inspired by some of the most unbelievably beautiful scenic views I have ever seen in my life: mountains and cliffs reaching out toward the sea, sailboats gliding through the bluest seawater I had ever laid my eyes on, and homes, streets, and businesses showing an irresistible historic charm that is unmistakably French.

Our first concert was an all-Mozart event in the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, featuring the Cremona String Quartet, myself, and violist Anne-Aurore Anstett. The villa is one of the most elegant historic buildings of the Côte d'Azur, surrounded by nine sprawling gardens and fountains. The living rooms of Louis XV and Louis XVI are located on the ground floor and conceal remarkable tables and other furniture from the 18th century, as well as a collection of beautiful porcelain. The second concert, titled "Soirée Romantique," featured works by Brahms and Mendelssohn and was held at an Anglican church, a structure that boasted fantastic acoustics and intimacy. There I had the pleasure of performing with Antoine and Boris de Laroche Lambert, pianist of the Trio Ernest Chausson, of which Antoine is also a member. Enthusiastic audiences wonderfully received both concerts.

Despite the marvelous halls and the views that take away one's breath, for me the best part of the festival by far and away was collaborating with the musicians there. No matter how many times I play Mozart's Clarinet Quintet, I learn something new every time. And working with a group like the Cremona Quartet—an ensemble that brings both intelligence



Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild.
(© Les Azuriales Opera 2005)



Timothy Carter (clarinetist) and Antoine Landowski (cellist) together with pianist Boris de Laroche Lambert (center) playing Brahms' Trio pour clarinette, violoncelle et piano op. 114 during the Festival de musique de chambre. (Photo by Jeanne Brost.)



The program of the Festival de musique de chambre 2006.

and emotional intensity to its performances—was exhilarating. The same can be said for working with Antoine and Boris; if during a rehearsal we weren't laughing and marveling in the greatness of the music, we were delving deep into the score, analyzing the harmonies and structures of Brahms, hoping to bring meaning and inspiration to our interpretation.

Exploring masterpieces of classical music with great musicians and friends in beautiful French villas and churches—does life get any better than that? I doubt it! Making music at Antoine Landowski's Festival de musique de chambre most definitely was the serious business of fun. 🌐

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RAD: A Facilitator for Research

ABCDE 2006 in Tokyo raised for the global community of researchers a series of possible research topics concerning infrastructure development. The World Bank is keen to have inputs from development stakeholders around the world, so that its vision for smart infrastructure development will become a reality. The Researchers Alliance for Development—an informal, action-oriented, and multidisciplinary network of researchers, supported by the World Bank External Affairs Departments, offers a unique platform for intellectual debate and development cooperation. RAD seeks to bridge the gap between researchers and the World Bank and to contribute positively to the intellectual debates being waged among policymakers and researchers concerning poverty and development challenges. RAD has already become a forum for active discussion concerning migration and sustainable development. After ABCDE 2006, issues relating to infrastructure are likely to be discussed on this network. SYLFF Fellows might consider becoming members of RAD and contributing positively in research on emerging issues relating to infrastructure. Their involvement would definitely enrich the dialogue concerning infrastructure development for meeting the UN's MDGs and for attaining "smart growth."

Notes:

1. The proceedings of the ABCDE 2006 are available at <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTDECABCTOK2006/0,,contentMDK:20939324~menuPK:2599728~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:1869548,00.html>.
2. Membership in RAD is free. Interested persons can apply online at www.worldbank.org/rad.

UWC Celebrates Its 10-Year Association with SYLFF

By Bridget Johnson (bjohnson@uwc.ac.za)

On Friday, March 17, 2006, the University of the Western Cape (UWC) celebrated its 10-year association with the SYLFF Program. The university's staff and students organized a celebratory seminar to pay tribute to Ryoichi Sasakawa and to express their appreciation for the SYLFF fellowships that have been granted to UWC students, helping them to attain great heights in their professional and personal development. Ms. Ellen Mashiko and Ms. Mami Yabe of The Tokyo Foundation were honorary guests.

During the seminars, Prof. Jan Persens noted that UWC is the only South African university—and one of only three in Africa—to be part of the SYLFF family, which now consists of 69 institutions in 45 countries. UWC first received SYLFF fellowships in the 1996–97 academic year. Over the past 10 years, 146 SYLFF fellowships have been awarded to UWC master's and doctoral students. Because some students received a fellowship for more than one year, the total number of UWC SYLFF fellows now stands at 91.

According to Prof. Persens, among these are graduated fellows such as Associate Professor Aslam Fataar (Faculty of Education, UWC), Dr. Beverly Thaver (deputy director of the Centre for Higher Education Studies, UWC), Associate Professor Zubeida Desai (acting dean, Faculty of Education), Professor Maureen Robinson (dean of education, Cape Peninsula University of Technology), Associate Professor Juliana Smith (Faculty of Education, UWC), Dr. Wendy McMillan (Faculty of Education, UWC), Dr. Bridget Johnson (director of research, Faculty of Education, UWC), Dr. Edna Rooth (Faculty of Education, UWC), and Mario Baatjies (Parliament, Cape Town). Current fellowship recipients include Rozenda Hendrickse, Yusuf Smith, Vuyokazi Nomlomo, and Althea



People who gathered for the 10th-anniversary celebration of SYLFF endowments at UWC.

Whitaker. Rozenda also serves on the worldwide SYLFF Fellows Council.

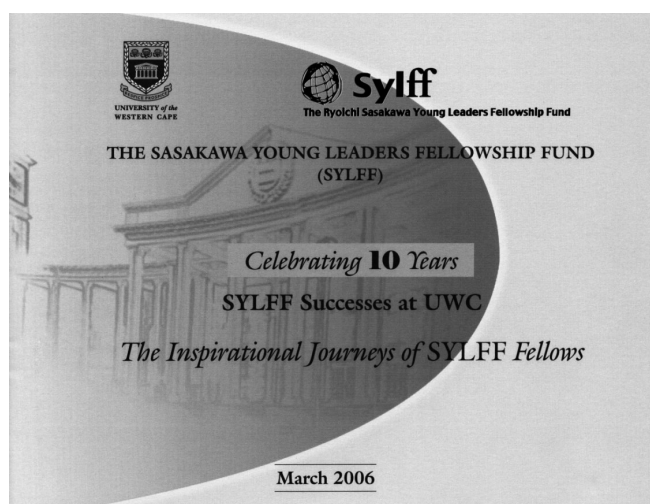
The seminar highlighted the role of Mr. Sasakawa in enabling UWC graduate students to manifest their true potential. Dr. Bridget Johnson, in her speech marking the opening of the 10-year celebration, talked about Mr. Sasakawa, noting that:

Ryoichi Sasakawa was a man with great vision. He realized that all over the world were individuals with great potential and leadership skills. He also realized, quite significantly, that this potential needed to be nurtured and supported; that while talent could lead an individual to great heights, the combination of talent, resources and support would result in miracles. By choosing to finance raw talent and hidden potential, Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa embarked on a mission that would give rise to individuals who would not only make headlines, but who would also change history.

The celebration speeches noted that UWC graduates are changing the world. Most fellows are the first in their families to obtain university degrees or to be masters or doctoral students. Thanks in part to SYLFF support, they have been able to break the cycle of oppression that has plagued many families for generations and to rise to the highest levels of academic achievement.

The seminar and the poster presentations by SYLFF fellows were very impressive. They reflected a wide range of research activities that included contributions toward expanding theoretical knowledge as well as transforming society. UWC fellows are actively engaged in making a difference in the lives of others and improving the plight of many South Africans.

It is evident that SYLFF fellows at UWC currently find themselves at a critical juncture in their lives, being able to compete with the best in the world and able to contribute to the acquisition of new knowledge



The cover of a booklet edited by Bridget Johnson to celebrate 10 years of SYLFF at UWC.

ASSOCIATIONS

in a variety of fields. The significance of the SYLFF Fellowships is the fact that The Tokyo Foundation's involvement with the students and their institutions goes far beyond awarding the fellowships. There is clear and meaningful interaction by the staff of The Tokyo Foundation with the fellows and their institutions, and the SYLFF follow-up programs are very useful in maintaining these connections. The

University of the Western Cape very much appreciates the contributions made by both The Tokyo Foundation and The Nippon Foundation.

“Even though we are situated very far in the south, we are known for our quality of education, partially as a result of our membership in a wonderful family of SYLFF institutions” (Prof. Jan Persens). 🌐

Websites for Local SYLFF Fellows Associations

As of August 1, 2006, there were 23 local associations of SYLFF fellows, 9 of which had developed their own websites. Set forth below are the names of those 9 local associations and their websites.

Australian Graduate School of Management, Sydney, Australia (AGSM SYLFF Fellows Association)
<http://www2.agsm.edu.au/agsm/web.nsf/Content/Student-sasakawaFellowsAssociation>

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic (SYLFF Network at Charles University)
<http://www.sylff.cz/>

El Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico (El Colegio de México SYLFF Fellow's Association)
<http://sylff.colmex.mx/index.htm>

Howard University, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (Howard University Graduate School SYLFF Fellows Association—HUGSSFA)
<http://www.gs.howard.edu/finacial/Sasakawa/about.htm>

Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India (Fellows: Jadavpur University SYLFF Association)
http://www.jadavpur.edu/sylff/Fellows_Issue_1_September_2005.pdf (newsletter)

Sofia University, Sofia, Bulgaria (Society of SYLFF Fellows in Bulgaria)
<http://forum.uni-sofia.bg/sss/>

University of Chile, Santiago, Chile (Chilean Association of SYLFF Fellows—CASF)
<http://www.asociacionsylff.uchile.cl/>

University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany (Association of Leipzig University SYLFF Fellows—ALUS)
<http://wwwstud.uni-leipzig.de/~alus/>

University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil (Brazilian SYLFF Association)
<http://www.npt.com.br/brasylff>

Introducing New Associations

The following SYLFF fellows associations were recently awarded first-year funding through the SYLFF Network Program (SNP). Presented below are the names of the institutions, and their respective fellows association and its principal organizer, as well as the principal organizer's photo and e-mail address.

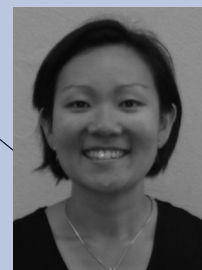
Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary
Hungarian SYLFF Fellows' Association (HUNS)



Mr. Balázs Csíky
(fcsiky@freemail.hu)



Columbia University, U.S.A.
Columbia University SYLFF Fellows Association (CUSFA)



Ms. Ann Putnam
(annputnam2@yahoo.com)

Getting SYLFF Together: A Report on the Tokyo Meeting of the SYLFF Fellows Council

By Štěpán Holub (Member, SYLFF Fellows Council) (stepan.holub@sylff.cz)

For two full days—June 9 and 10, 2006—the biannual SYLFF Fellows Council (SFC) meeting was held at The Tokyo Foundation. Representatives of SYLFF fellows from nine countries met again to discuss recent developments and plans regarding the SYLFF network, especially how to encourage and support local, i.e., institution-based, SYLFF fellows associations.

Extended Support for Local Associations

The SYLFF Fellows Council (SFC) recommended that the Scholarship Division consider supporting local associations with regard to basic operating expenses, even after the three-year support under the SYLFF Network Program (SNP), because most of the associations are likely to have difficulty covering such expenses from the fourth year on. The SFC concluded that annual support of up to USD500 from The Tokyo Foundation (on a request basis) could help the associations to meet their basic financial needs and to sustain their activities, and it recommended that the Scholarship Division seriously consider providing such support.

Under the SNP, a newly established association can receive USD1,000 in support for its first-year activities, and may ask for up to USD2,000 and USD3,000 for second and third years, respectively. These funds are intended to help SYLFF fellows to start their associations and to implement their activities.

Each local association is expected to submit regular reports to the Scholarship Division regarding its activities and to communicate closely with its institution's steering committee, so that the Scholarship Division and the steering committee will be able to work together with the association in building the SYLFF network.



SFC members engaging in discussions.

Assisting New and Existing Local Associations

The SFC decided to give more help to local associations in their activities by appointing members of the SFC who will be responsible for assisting local associations in different regions of the world.

SYLFF fellows whose institution does not yet have a local association are encouraged to contact their region's assigned SFC member(s), who will help them to establish a fellows association. This does not, however, prevent an existing association from also seeking help from the region's SFC member(s). The responsible SFC persons for each region and their contact details are:

Africa

Ms. Rozenda Hendrickse (hendrickser@cput.ac.za)

Asia

Mr. Tiejun ("Hunt") Bu (abu@email.jlu.edu.cn)

Ms. Sherilyn Tan Siy (sherilyn_01@yahoo.com)

Europe

Mr. Štěpán Holub (stepan.holub@sylff.cz)

Mr. Felix Böllmann (fb@uni-leipzig.de)

North and South Americas

Mr. Israel ("Izzy") Banegas (israel_banegas@yahoo.com.mx)

Mr. Stuart Graham (sg181@mail.gatech.edu)

Ms. Paulina Berríos (paulinaberrios2004@yahoo.com.ar)

SYLFF fellows who would like to start a local association may also request a copy of the *SYLFF Network Guidelines* from the Scholarship Division or download it from the division's website (<http://www.tkfd.or.jp/eng/division/fellowship/sylff/guidelines.pdf>). These guidelines, prepared by the Provisional SYLFF Fellows Council (PSFC) in May 2005, provide ideas and suggestions that are useful in launching and operating a local association.

Regional Forums as Means of Enhancing the SYLFF Network

The SFC also discussed the 2007 SYLFF Regional Forums, including their theme, time schedule, procedures for nominating participants, and presentation requirements. "Human Rights and Creative Leadership" was chosen as the theme for the forums and later endorsed by the Scholarship

Division's International Advisory Committee.

Also, to support the establishment of new local associations and the operations of existing ones, the SFC decided to include a training program in each forum, especially for fellows who are already involved in association activities or are willing to establish a new association. The schedule for the regional forums is as follows:

- North/South America: Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, U.S.A. (June 12–14, 2007)
- Africa/Europe: Ruhr University Bochum, Germany (June 25–27, 2007)
- Asia/Pacific: Jadavpur University, India (November 20–22, 2007)

All SFC members will participate in the North/South America Regional Forum (immediately after the SFC meeting in Boston), and two members will represent the SFC at the Africa/Europe and Asia/Pacific Regional Forums.

The SYLFF Network Database: a Powerful Tool


There are now more than 9,000 SYLFF fellows worldwide. In March 2006, the Scholarship Division, in collaboration with the PSFC, launched a new SYLFF Network Database that contains a wealth of

useful information about SYLFF fellows. SYLFF members who are registered in the database can obtain information about their registered colleagues all over the world for possible collaborations in different fields of discipline. Thus, SYLFF fellows can find prospective partners for various projects, including those initiated pursuant to the Joint Initiative Program (JIP). The SFC regards the database as a very handy tool and encourages all fellows who have not yet registered to do so.



SFC members on an excursion to Hakone in the rain.

Other topics that we discussed during the meeting included the SFC's roles and responsibilities during the SYLFF Program Administrators Meeting (SPAM) scheduled for January 2007 in Copenhagen, and ways to improve the JIP and the Fellows Mobility Program (FMP). As with previous SFC meetings, this one was very intense, but we had a great time together and enjoyed each other's company.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the SFC or if you wish to submit any requests to the SFC. 

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plans for the SYLFF Regional Forums 2007

The third round of biennial SYLFF regional forums—whose theme will be “Human Rights and Creative Leadership”—are being planned for 2007 as follows:

North/South America Regional Forum
Dates: June 12–14, 2007
Host: The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (Boston, U.S.A.)

Africa/Europe Regional Forum
Dates: June 25–27, 2007
Host: Ruhr University Bochum (Bochum, Germany)

Asia/Pacific Regional Forum
Dates: November 20–22, 2007
Host: Jadavpur University (Kolkata, India)

Two SYLFF fellows (preferably one currently enrolled and one whose studies have been completed) from each SYLFF institution in a region will participate in the region's forum. The fellows will be selected by the institution's SYLFF steering committee, except that for institutions where there is a SYLFF fellows association the association will select one of the two participants.

Each participant at a regional forum will be requested to give a theme-related oral or poster presentation. Due to time constraints, the number of oral presentations per forum will be about 10. Each forum will include, in addition to the theme-related sessions, a network-capacity-building workshop conducted by the SYLFF Fellows Council. In addition, community service is being worked into the schedule for each forum.

Given the considerable amount of work that will be involved in preparing for the forums, the participant-selection process will start early. In October of this year, the Scholarship Division will request the names of proposed participants from the SYLFF steering committees and fellows associations for the North/South America and Africa/Europe Regions, and will do so in March next year for the Asia/Pacific Region. The deadline for submission of the names of proposed participants for the North/South America and Africa/Europe regions is November 10, 2006, and the deadline for the Asia/Pacific region is May 7, 2007. Information concerning the regional forums will be available on The Tokyo Foundation's website early in October 2006.

SYLFF Fellows Mobility Program (FMP)

The following institutions joined the FMP this year (FY2006):

Ankara University (Turkey)
 Australian Graduate School of Management
 (Australia)
 Nanjing University (China)
 Oregon University System (Oregon State
 University, Portland State University, and
 University of Oregon) (U.S.A.)
 University of Sussex (U.K.)

For an updated and complete list of participating institutions and contact persons, please visit the FMP webpage at:

<http://www.tkfd.or.jp/eng/division/fellowship/sylff/announcements/html/cplist.htm>.

Updated information on the participating institutions' conditions for receiving SYLFF fellows from other institutions will be compiled and mailed to all SYLFF institutions and fellows associations in November 2006, and will be uploaded on The Tokyo Foundation's website at that time. Currently enrolled SYLFF fellows who are interested in participating in this program are encouraged to contact the SYLFF

administrator at their institutions. Please note that the duration of a visit should be 1 month to 12 months, and the visit should be directly related to the fellow's master's or doctoral work.

Reminder regarding Joint Initiatives Program (JIP) Application Deadline

The deadline for submitting applications for the Joint Initiatives Program (JIP) is fast approaching. This program provides an award to a team of graduated SYLFF fellows to collaborate together by conducting a joint-research or social-action project concerning contemporary issues of social relevance. Under this program, awards ranging from USD5,000 to USD20,000 will be provided on a competitive basis.

The application deadline for the first JIP awards in Program Year 2007–2008 is October 15, 2006. If you are interested in applying for this program, please visit our website to see the JIP announcement and application forms, which can be downloaded: <http://www.tkfd.or.jp/eng/division/fellowship/sylff/announcements/jip.shtml>. The Scholarship Division looks forward to receiving your application. 🌐

Editorial Note

Preparations are underway for the "Coming of Age" of the SYLFF Program. "Coming of Age?" you ask. In Japan, the second Monday of January is Coming of Age Day, a national holiday that celebrates the beginning of adulthood. That is, young men and women whose 20th birthdays fall between April 1 of the previous year and March 31 of the current year are feted by their families, friends, and even the municipalities where they reside. It is both a somber and festive rite of passage—young people become eligible to vote and assume other responsibilities of adulthood, but it is also an occasion to don new finery and to have fun.

Calendar-wise, the SYLFF Program will come of age on January 8, 2007, based on the date on which the agreement to establish the first SYLFF endowment was signed. On October 15, 1987, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University and The Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation (renamed The Nippon Foundation in 1995) completed procedures to launch the SYLFF Program.

The SYLFF Program's coming of age will be celebrated throughout 2007 in both serious and pleasant ways. We will begin with the biennial SYLFF Program Administrators' Meeting (SPAM) that will be held January 16–19 and hosted by the University of Copenhagen. The SPAM—no pun intended—will be followed by SYLFF regional forums: North/South America at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy; Africa/Europe at Ruhr University Bochum; and Asia/Pacific at Jadavpur University. (See the Announcements section of this issue for more information about the forums.) In addition, the second SYLFF Prizes will be presented to up to 3 SYLFF fellows during the year.

Much to our regret, not all of the countless SYLFF Program administrators and staff members who implement and promote the program will be invited to Copenhagen. But the meeting agenda will be available beforehand, and thus prior to the meeting all interested individuals will be able to share their ideas and suggestions with the SYLFF Program administrators who will be representing the 69 SYLFF institutions.

Also, and alas, not all of the more than 9,000 SYLFF fellows will be able to attend the regional forums that are being jointly planned by the SYLFF Fellows Council (SFC), host institutions, and the Scholarship Division. However, all SYLFF fellows will be able to express their views via their local associations and SYLFF steering committees, which are being requested to nominate fellows.

Next year's regional forums will address the theme—"Human Rights and Creative Leadership"—reflecting the vision and mission of the SYLFF Program and the mission statement of the SYLFF Network, and in SYLFF-like ways. All regional forum participants will be expected to give theme-related oral or poster presentations, and engage in a network-building workshop and community service—integrating intellectual exchange, networking, and contributing to society.

In 1987, the SYLFF Program was a "newborn." In 2007, when it will become an "adult," 69 universities and consortia and more than 9,000 fellows will have opportunities to move together toward a common goal—contributing to the well-being of all humankind. Please join us in this collaborative effort!

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SYLFF Institutions

- **Australia**
The University of New South Wales
- **Austria**
University of Music and Performing Arts
Vienna
- **Brazil**
University of São Paulo
- **Bulgaria**
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
- **Canada**
York University
- **Chile**
University of Chile
- **China**
Chongqing University
Fudan University
Inner Mongolia University
Jilin University
Lanzhou University
Nanjing University
Peking University
Sun Yat-sen University
Xinjiang University
Yunnan University
- **Czech Republic**
Charles University
- **Denmark**
University of Copenhagen
- **Egypt**
The American University in Cairo
- **Fiji**
The University of the South Pacific
- **Finland**
University of Helsinki
- **France**
Conservatoire national supérieur de musique
et de danse de Paris
The European Institute of Business
Administration — INSEAD
- **Germany**
Ruhr University Bochum
University of Leipzig
- **Greece**
National and Kapodistrian University of
Athens
- **Hungary**
Hungarian Academy of Sciences*
Debrecen University of Arts and Sciences
*Eötvös Loránd University of Arts and
Sciences*
Pécs University of Arts and Sciences
Szeged University of Arts and Sciences
*University of Economics and State
Administration, Budapest*
- **India**
Jadavpur University
Jawaharlal Nehru University
- **Indonesia**
Gadjah Mada University
University of Indonesia
- **Israel**
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
- **Italy**
Institute of Political Education "Pedro Arrupe"
- **Japan**
Keio University
Waseda University
- **Jordan**
University of Jordan
- **Kenya**
University of Nairobi
- **Korea**
Korea University
- **Latvia**
University of Latvia
- **Malaysia**
University of Malaya
- **Mexico**
El Colegio de México
- **Mongolia**
Academy of Management
- **New Zealand**
Massey University*
University of Auckland
Auckland University of Technology
University of Canterbury
Lincoln University
University of Otago
Victoria University of Wellington
University of Waikato
- **The Netherlands**
Utrecht University
- **Norway**
University of Oslo
- **The Philippines**
Ateneo de Manila University
- **Poland**
Jagiellonian University
- **Portugal**
University of Coimbra
- **Serbia**
University of Belgrade
- **Slovakia**
Comenius University of Bratislava
- **South Africa**
University of the Western Cape
- **Spain**
University of Deusto
- **Sweden**
Uppsala University
- **Switzerland**
University of Geneva
- **Thailand**
Chiang Mai University
- **Turkey**
Ankara University
- **United Kingdom**
University of Sussex
- **USA**
Columbia University
Howard University
Oregon University System*
Eastern Oregon State College
Oregon Institute of Technology
Oregon State University
Portland State University
Southern Oregon State College
University of Oregon
Western Oregon State College
Princeton University
The Juilliard School
The University of Michigan
The University of Texas at Austin
Tufts University
University of California at Berkeley
University of California at San Diego
Yale University
- **Vietnam**
Vietnam National University, Hanoi*
*Vietnam National University,
Hochiminh City*

*This institution administers the SYLFF endowment on behalf of the university(ies) listed below it.



F E A T U R E

Trajectories of Three Early SYLFF Fellows

The year 2007 marks the 20th anniversary of the SYLFF Program. The following are short articles by three of the early SYLFF fellows at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, which received the first SYLFF endowment in 1987.

One Thing Leading to the Next

By Jennie Litvack (Jlitvack@worldbank.org)

It's hard to believe that almost 20 years have passed since I first began my graduate studies at The Fletcher School at Tufts University. Reflecting back on my experience, I realize what an important role that funding from the SYLFF played in allowing me to focus fully on my studies and to take advantage of opportunities that prepared me so well for my subsequent career in international development.



Jennie in a boat while visiting villages along the Mekong River in Vietnam in 1994.

I recall receiving the news that I had been awarded a new scholarship, called the Sasakawa Scholarship, which would pay my full tuition as well as a good share of my other academic and personal expenses. I received this news shortly after my first semester at Fletcher, and I remember realizing that this funding would give me much more freedom during graduate studies than I had anticipated. For example, the award

would enable me to pursue an overseas internship during the summer, rather than to have to return home to Canada to save money.

I accepted an internship with USAID to work in what was then called Zaire (now the two Congo republics), traveling throughout the country to study pharmaceutical-pricing strategies at rural health clinics run by the government and the missionary sector. This study evolved into my master's thesis, which I published as an article in the international health journal *The Lancet*. Although I still did not know much about health financing in developing countries—a subject of growing interest to me—I knew a lot about drug-pricing strategies and thus I became a "world expert" on this issue. I soon received various consulting assignments, including one for a two-month study in Papua New Guinea (PNG) for the Asian Development Bank. In PNG, I expanded my previous work on drug pricing and developed a model for allocating pharmaceutical expenditures in hospital-cost analysis, a model that I presented and discussed in an article in the journal *Health Policy and Planning*. I was then hired as a consultant by the World Bank to work on these issues in Rwanda and to offer training courses on this subject to ministers of health at a large global conference. My narrow research focus was giving me extremely interesting consulting opportunities and invaluable field experiences where I was learning about the reality of working in



(Jennie with her husband, Rob Satloff)

Jennie Litvack, a Canadian citizen, was among the second group of students at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy to receive SYLFF Fellowships, for the 1988–1989 academic year. She has an AB from Duke University and an MALD (Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy) and PhD from the Fletcher School. She joined the Young Professionals Program at the World Bank in 1992 and has continued to work there since then. She has served in a variety of positions, including separate assignments as country economist for Vietnam and Morocco, and coordinator of the World Bank's Thematic Group on Decentralization. At present she is lead economist for human development (health, education, and social protection) for the Latin America and Caribbean region. She has published many articles and books on topics relating to health financing, poverty and household welfare, and fiscal decentralization. She lives with her husband, Rob Satloff, and two children, William and Benji, in Chevy Chase, Maryland, U.S.A.



Jennie at a rural health center in Cameroon as part of her PhD field work in 1990.

developing countries. However, in the classroom, I continued to take a broad range of classes in economics, politics, and history, and those courses have served me well in my career.

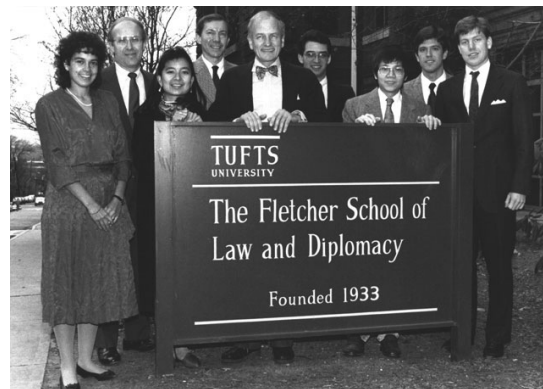
I finished my master's thesis and decided to pursue a doctorate. Unburdened with graduate school debt, I married, and my husband and I moved to Africa for a year-long "honeymoon in Cameroon," highlighted by lots and lots of difficult but very rewarding fieldwork. I conducted a year-long study on a USAID-funded health project with the Ministry of Health, examining the impact of introducing user fees for rural health services. The results of this study were published in the journal *Social Science and Medicine* and attracted the attention of various international donors and organizations, including the World Bank.

When I graduated with a PhD from Fletcher in 1992, I joined the World Bank in its Young Professionals Program. That was almost 15 years ago, and since then I've been fortunate to work on many fascinating issues relating to various countries. In my first assignment, I studied intergovernmental fiscal relations in Russia just after the fall of the Soviet Union, when disgruntled oil-rich regions threatened the unity of the Russian Federation. In my second World Bank job, in the early- and mid-90s, I was the country economist for Vietnam when that country was first opening up to the West. Poverty rates, which were almost 60 percent when I first began my work, were reduced by almost one-half by the end of my assignment—an amazing accomplishment by that country in strong, broad-based economic growth.

In my next assignment, I switched from following a range of related issues in one country to dealing with one key issue—decentralization—in a large number of countries. With democracy on the rise worldwide, central governments were increasingly shifting fiscal, political, and administrative responsibilities to local governments, and the World Bank was playing an active role in providing advice concerning the technical design of such reform programs. This work took me to countries as diverse as South Africa, Romania, Sri Lanka, and Venezuela, as well as to the West Bank–Gaza area. I continued to publish articles and books on topics relating to decentralization, poverty, and household welfare, as well as health financing.

In 2002, I took up my next assignment, as the World Bank's lead country economist for Morocco, and I and my family (my husband, Rob, and two boys, William and Benji, aged 2 and 5, respectively, at that time) moved to Rabat. Morocco is a beautiful and interesting country, and for me to be able to help it pursue its economic and public-sector reforms during a period of both democratic opening and rising security concerns in the region was a fascinating learning experience.

My most recent assignment started in the spring of 2006 in the Latin American and Caribbean region where I am the World Bank's lead economist for human development (health, education, and social-protection policies). Thus, I have come full circle and am once again focusing on the micro details of social policies. However, I now have a much broader frame of reference (e.g., public finance, governance, poverty reduction strategies) in which to



SYLFF took off from here. The second group of SYLFF fellows (1988–1989 academic year) and Fletcher School faculty members: (from left) Jennie Litvack, Professor Jeswald Salacuse (then dean of The Fletcher School), Reeta Roy, Professor James Paddock, Professor John Perry, Ariel Cohen, Song Ly, James Loewen, and David Saybolt (missing: Catherine McAuliffe, the seventh SYLFF fellow named that year).

situate social-sector reform efforts. I also have learned Spanish and am very much enjoying getting to know a new region.

My career path can be characterized as "one thing leading to the next," and it all started with the SYLFF Scholarship and the freedom that it gave me to wholeheartedly pursue my interests. I feel very honored to have been a recipient of this award and to see how the SYLFF Program has grown into such a large, prestigious program, worldwide in scale. I also feel humbled at having been included in the list of "future world leaders," and although I am not a world leader at present, I am trying my best to make the world a better place. The SYLFF Program gave me this opportunity, and for that I am extremely grateful.

F E A T U R E

Reflection and Futuer Paths

By Chung Min Lee (cmlee@nus.edu.sg)

As I was finishing my PhD at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy toward the end of the 1980s and searching for additional funding—one of the great constants of doctoral students—one of my academic advisors, Professor John C. Perry, helped me to be awarded the first SYLFF Scholarship. I remain grateful to the Sasakawa Foundation (now The Nippon

Foundation) for supporting me financially at a key juncture in my doctoral studies and for thereby having contributed to the subsequent opportunities that I have had following my education at Fletcher.

Since receiving my PhD and MALD (Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy) degrees in 1988, I have focused primarily on Asian security issues, having had the



The first SYLFF fellow was Chung Min Lee (1987–1988 academic year), the only SYLFF fellow that year. He received both a MALD (Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy) and a PhD degree from Fletcher. Dr. Lee is now professor of international relations at Yonsei University in Korea.



good fortune to hold research and teaching posts in Korea (Yonsei University and, earlier, the Sejong Institute), the United States (Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis and, subsequently, the RAND Corporation), and Japan (National Institute for Defense Studies and the Graduate Research Institute for Policy Studies, GRIPS). Since September 2005, I have been engaged in teaching and research at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National University of

Singapore.

These experiences have enriched not only my professional career; they have also enabled me to broaden my cultural horizons. Although many Asian countries, including Korea and Japan, continue to have historically based disputes, bilateral ties between those two nations have evolved beyond anyone's imagination since their diplomatic relations were normalized in 1965. However, mindful of the

complex nature of the ties among Asian countries, I remain convinced that the similarities and complementarities among those countries outweighs their differences and incongruences. That is perhaps the key lesson I have learned since 1988, the year that—due to my being awarded a SYLFF Scholarship—propelled me with a critical boost into the research and teaching worlds.

F E A T U R E

Reflections of a SYLFF “Old-Timer”

By Matthew R. Auer (mauer@indiana.edu)

I was a SYLFF fellow in 1989–1990 at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Of course, the SYLFF Fellowship provided immediate benefits, covering the tuition for my second year of graduate school. But my connection to the SYLFF Program continued to pay dividends for many years thereafter.

In the early 1990s, the SYLFF sponsored a very well-organized and well-attended meeting in Beijing for SYLFF fellows and program directors from SYLFF-endowed institutions.¹ At that meeting, I met two fellows who became not only research collaborators with me, but my friends as well.

Xiaolan Ye, of Nanjing University, was my partner for a SYLFF Joint Research and Exchange (JREX) project. Xiaolan and I compared the costs and benefits of making energy-efficiency improvements at Nanjing University and Yale University. In 1993, Xiaolan visited me at Yale, where I was pursuing a PhD in environmental studies, and where we collected data for the energy

audit. Xiaolan collected data in Nanjing, too. The report we coauthored won the JREX Award of Excellence in 1995 from The Tokyo Foundation.² Xiaolan went on to earn a PhD in sociology from Duke University.

Back to the forum in Beijing: at that meeting I became acquainted with another SYLFF fellow—Teivo Teivainen from the University of Helsinki. Less than one year after meeting Teivo, he kindly allowed me to live—rent-free!—in his apartment in Helsinki while I collected data for my doctoral dissertation. Teivo is a talented sociologist, and he now shuttles back and forth between Finland and Peru.

In sum, my experience exemplifies the power of the SYLFF network. When I became a SYLFF fellow late in the 1980s, I had no idea how helpful that network would become in the years to follow. The SYLFF Fellowship helped me to get acquainted with two countries I dearly love, China and Finland, as well as with two



(Photo courtesy of Indiana University)

Professor Auer's research focuses on comparative industrial environmental politics, international forest policies, and the politics of foreign aid. Professor Auer recently completed an examination of the accomplishments and shortcomings of 15 years of environmental policy reforms in Central and Eastern Europe. At present he is assisting the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of State on new initiatives for global-scale sustainable forest management. That work includes devising a system for monitoring, assessing, and reporting on progress achieved by countries in implementing “soft-law” obligations to promote sustainable forest management and conservation. Professor Auer teaches international and comparative environmental policy and public policy at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University. (Source: Indiana University website: <http://www.indiana.edu/~speaweb/faculty/auer.php>)

(The following footnotes have been provided by the Scholarship Division.)

1. “The Young Leaders Forum on Challenges of the 21st Century,” which was held in Beijing, China, August 27–29, 1993. It was sponsored and organized by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (then the administrative organization of the SYLFF Program), cosponsored by the Sasakawa Foundation (now The Nippon Foundation), coorganized by Peking University, and supported by the State Education Commission of the People's Republic of China and the

China Association for International Friendly Contact. It brought together more than 100 SYLFF fellows and about the same number of university administrators from the then 50 endowed institutions in 35 countries.

2. The JREX program was launched in 1994 to provide funding to teams of graduate students enrolled in SYLFF institutions to conduct joint research or collaborative exchange activities within the parameters of the social sciences and humanities. The team that produced the best project could be selected for

the Award of Excellence and given additional funding to further the project, and up to three teams were selected for publication of their respective project reports as SYLFF working papers. Matthew and Xiaolan's project report was published in August 1996 as a SYLFF working paper entitled *A Bright Idea: Saving Energy, Money and the Environment at Yale and Nanjing Universities*. From 1994 to 2002, when the program was terminated, some 180 teams received funding under this program.

great SYLFF fellows whom I respect and miss: Xiaolan Ye and Teivo Teivainen. Now,

with more than 9,000 fellows in the SYLFF network, comparable friendships and pro-

fessional relationships surely number in the thousands.

F E A T U R E

A Voyage between Cultures

By Zsuzsa Arendas (zsarendas@gmail.com)

I became a social studies student in 1989, which was a turning point in Eastern Europe in many respects. Nation, ethnicity, nationalism, interethnic relations, and citizenship became important issues in our region more than ever before. The changes that occurred there at that time affected my choice of subject and the direction of my studies as well. And through my studies I have started to look at them in a more analytical way.

Interethnic Relations in Central Europe

My first "independent" attempt at field research, which took place during my undergraduate years, was part of a departmental project directed by a communication studies professor on the topic of nationalism and public representations of national holidays. I had to research the celebrations, among ethnic Hungarians in the southern parts of Slovakia, where I originally come from, of the 150th anniversary of the Hungarian March Revolution of 1848. That fieldwork was a great experience for me. I engaged in participatory observation by attending the celebratory events, conducting interviews with the participants of the 1848 commemorations, and collecting relevant media materials (newspapers and journal pieces, special publications for the event, leaflets, program materials, and so on). The success of the project increased my confidence in my own fieldwork skills, too, and so the next time the department recruited student researchers, I was ready to volunteer again.

My MA thesis at Pécs University focused on a community of resettled Hungarians from Slovakia and their strategies for integration in their new environment in an area close to Pécs town. (Just a brief historical note: after WWII, thousands of Hungarian families from southern Slovakia were forcibly "resettled" in their "homeland," i.e., in Hungary. Many of them were settled in areas left behind by the deported German

minority, as part of the post-war population "reorganization" programs). I interviewed families—first- and second-generation resettled people—who were reflecting on their current identity strategies, on their memories of the resettlement, their past, and most important, on their former interethnic relations in Slovakia (in their left-behind villages), and in their current living environment in Hungary.

My doctoral thesis follows along the lines of the above research—though now I am investigating the identity-forming processes on the level of individuals, specifically in two counties in the southern part of Slovakia that are inhabited by a population of mixed ethnic origins/belongings. This "mixed" nature of their cultural repertoires and the languages that they use, and, most important, their ethnic-national identifications, are topics that I found fascinating to build doctoral research on.

I have been interviewing people for the past two years, focusing on the above questions. I have primarily selected members of mixed marriages (e.g., Hungarian wife and Slovak husband), or families in which the choice of education in a minority or majority language made (supposedly) a significant change in the language use and ethnic identification of the family members (e.g., a Hungarian-speaking family whose children are enrolled in a Slovak-speaking state-run school; or, in a more-rare case, when a child from a predominantly Slovak-speaking home environment goes to a minority-/Hungarian-speaking school). As is the case with all primary-education institutions all over the world, the school conveys knowledge that is not "pure information" but is a culturally embedded, contextualized set of ideas, values, world-views, and so on. The school also socializes—in a linguistic, cultural, and national sense of the word—its students. Therefore, I was interested in how the various "messages"—private (family), public (school), state (school), "street"-based, and media-generated, just to men-



Ms. Arendas is a PhD candidate at Pécs University of Arts and Sciences (Pécs, Hungary) in the Communication Studies Program, and is in the final stage

of writing her dissertation. She discusses the cultural and ethnic hybridities, bilingual interethnic situations, and identity-forming processes of people living in two counties (Galanta and Sala) in southern Slovakia. Her dissertation is based on anthropological fieldwork that she conducted in 2005 and 2006 in the above-mentioned region.

From October 2005 through June 2006, she was an affiliate researcher in the School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. Her doctoral research has been supported by a SYLFF Fellowship, and her sojourn in India was made possible by a Fellows Mobility Program (FMP) award.

As a continuation of her stay in Delhi, she has recently affiliated with the Centre of Social Research (CSR-New Delhi), where she is currently working as a researcher, focusing on gender issues.

tion several—form an individual's identity in the concrete socioeconomic, geographical context mentioned above.

Cultural Hybridity of India

As part of my research and writing process, I was able to arrange a 10-month academic research affiliation at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), in New Delhi, India. My stay was supported by a SYLFF Fellows Mobility Program grant provided by The Tokyo Foundation.

India is a country that has a vast tradition and long experience as a multicultural soci-



ety, so it was obvious from the very beginning of my stay here that I could gain a lot from this affiliation—on both the empirical and theoretical levels. During the first period of my stay I studied the literature of the Indian education system, the famous three-language model (which combines English, Hindi, and the local language), various policies targeting language use in India, and the historical development of the foregoing, all of which were of great interest to me. Also, I familiarized myself with the literature concerning the formation of the nation of India and, more important, with post-colonial writings. It was interesting to read about how the Indian nation defined itself against “the Other”—primarily against the West, and the colonizing forces. India is a fast-changing society, so it was fascinating to observe the trajectories, changes of Indian identity politics (on the religious, caste, national, and regional levels).

During my 10-month stay in India, I wrote articles on various social issues, many of them gender-related—such as the disadvantaged situation of Muslim women, the reservation debates (conflict between the government, which wants to reserve 27 percent of the enrollment in higher education for members of the “socially backward” classes, and the higher castes, which protest and try to boycott these policies and argue for an admission-by-merit system), and female feticide (Because of the male-dominant social scene, and in parallel the strong son-preference of families, many

female fetuses are aborted in the early stage of pregnancy, with the result that the social balance between the two sexes has been disrupted in many regions of India, leading to a large-scale demographic problem in that country). I had also been trying my hand at photography, and some of my photographs were published in the Delhi edition of *The Hindu*, an English-language national newspaper.

In 2005, as part of my extracurricular activities, I, together with a team of Hungarian and Indian filmmakers, made a documentary film concerning social integration and schooling in India. The film presents the story of an 11-year old girl from Rajasthan who has a tribal background but who is admitted to one of Jaipur’s leading schools (on the basis of a special quota system that the school implements for children coming from economically disadvantaged families of low social status). The story of Priscilla (that’s the name of the main protagonist and of the film) is about the sort of “good practice” that the film wants to emphasize. On January 10, 2006, the film was shown at the Hungarian Cultural and Information Centre to an Indian audience, and on January 16, 2006, *The Hindu* newspaper carried an article about that event.*

I can definitely state that the past year in Delhi has been a very colorful time, both academically and personally rewarding for me. What more could one ask for during a scholarship period of 10 months in India?

*** Note by the Scholarship Division:**

The Hindu article comments on Zsuzsa’s work as follows: “. . . Though there have been umpteen documentaries on gender issues, this one was in the form of a real story weaved into a piece of fiction. . . . The documentary in a refreshing visual narrative takes us through the life of Priscilla and demonstrates the power of education in spreading awareness about gender rights. . . . Zsuzsa’s effort is a new beginning in bridging the gap between social science research and media studies. She has indeed made a brave attempt at realising the post-modern notions of the fuzzy edges between reality and fiction. ‘A good documentary is like an intricate Indian textile. It’s the texture that matters,’ she sums up. One couldn’t but agree.” If you are interested in reading the full article, please visit *The Hindu* website at <http://www.thehindu.com/thehindu/mp/2006/01/16/stories/2006011600690200.htm>.

F E A T U R E

My Journey to China: A Dream Come True

By Todor Shterev Radev (todorradev76@abv.bg)

How It All Started

It might sound ridiculous, especially when said by a person engaged in academic activities for nine years, but my experience in China began with a dream. And that dream was that one day my country will become a leading Southeastern Europe center for East-Asian studies. This goal is one that will be extremely difficult to achieve, because now in Bulgaria, for instance, academic interests in East-Asian studies are focused exclusively on linguistics and to some extent on philosophical studies, but

we have no serious specialists in the politics, sociology, economy, and so on of East Asia. Moreover, it is very hard to convince someone in our academic community to pay serious attention and to finance serious research in the field of East-Asian studies. But for good or bad I have always looked at China and the Far East not just as objects of academic interest but much more like my fate, and I am still dreaming of promoting interest in them in Bulgaria and trying as much as I can to make that dream come true. And thanks to the FMP, a part of my



Born in Topolovgrad, Bulgaria, Mr. Todor Shterev Radev is currently a PhD candidate in international relations at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski,” conducting research on EU–China political relations. As a result of his receiving a SYLFF Fellows Mobility Program (FMP) award, he was able to visit Sun Yat-sen University in China from April 3 through May 2, 2006.

dream has come true. I've had a chance to visit China, to see and feel all the things I had read and dreamed of, and to correct many of my views, concepts, and prejudices. So, here I would like to share with all the SYLFF fellows and other readers some of the most exciting moments and impressions of my experience in China.

What I saw were very spontaneous and sincere young and highly educated Chinese, an open-minded community excited not only about "big" politics but also about their own opportunities and personal lives.

My Academic Interests

In 2002 I completed my MA studies in political science, with a thesis entitled "Jiang Zemin's Concept of the Three Representatives: An Ideological and Political Analysis." Now I'm working on a PhD that is related to the political dialogue and relevant relations between the European Union and China in recent years (1995–2005). My thesis focuses on how the EU formulates its China policies: specifically, the role of EU's central institutions and particular member states in defining their priorities and putting them into practice. First I explored the formal aspect (current legal basis defining the EU's China policies), and then I explored the second, informal aspect (real implementation of the legal basis, and the problems, tensions, and opportunities related to that aspect). Of course, my interests in Chinese studies are much broader than those covered by my PhD thesis, because I believe that without having a deep and overall knowledge and understanding of socio-economic, political, and cultural situations—the traditions and patterns of behavior and thinking of a country and its people—it is not possible to seriously and scientifically explore any phenomena related to that country. And my visit to China under the FMP contributed greatly in getting me familiar not only with some Chinese views on the relations with the European Union but also with the overall situation in that country.

My Experiences at Sun Yat-Sen University (SYSU)

I confess that prior to my visit to China I was apprehensive whether I'd be able to put into practice my plans, especially concerning interviews and conversations about such a sensitive topic as political relations between China and the European Union.

But I was very pleasantly surprised that all the people I met—professors and students—were always ready to talk about politics, to explain their views, and to give me suggestions on my research topic. Of course this was an invaluable experience for me. Moreover, in addition to all the conversations during my brief stay at SYSU, I had a chance to attend three events that were extremely interesting for me as a political analyst researching China affairs.

First, I was invited to a student discussion forum organized by the United States Consulate in Guangzhou. At this meeting I had a chance to witness a rare example of interaction between Chinese students and American diplomats, to hear what young Chinese are interested in and concerned about with regard to politics and international relations, especially those with the United States, and to learn about how they think about their country and its place in the world. And what I saw were very spontaneous and sincere young and highly

educated Chinese, an open-minded community excited not only about "big" politics but also about their own opportunities and personal lives. At the end of the meeting I was a little disturbed and jealous, because I saw that Chinese students are much more interested in the United States than in the European Union, and from this moment until my departure I was not only a PhD student doing his research but also a promoter of the European Union. This became my big cause during my stay in China.

The second interesting event I attended was the Bausch & Lomb Cup competition of knowledge in international relations among students of three Guangzhou universities who are specializing in that field. I was introduced to the participants and audience as an official guest, and it was a big surprise to me when during a short break I was asked to address the participants and the audience. Of course, a part of my presentation was devoted to promoting the European Union and Europe in general.

Third, I had the pleasure to attend a public lecture presented by a famous professor from Tsinghua University in Beijing concerning contemporary domestic problems and policies in China. That lecture was extremely interesting to me because I again saw a person who had an open mind regarding problems and a readiness to engage in discussions with an audience.

In addition to these events, I had a lot of conversations with students—about Chinese and world politics, and about their personal problems and goals—and I can definitely say that when I left Guangzhou I left many new friends. I was at SYSU for only one month, but I will never forget my night walks along the Pearl River and strolls on the beautiful SYSU campus, the many amazing historical places and fascinating parks, and the famous and somehow-strange-for-Western-people Chinese restaurants and eating places along the roads. And, of course, mainly I will never forget the people who did their best to make my stay in Guangzhou as fruitful and pleasant as possible: Professor Wang Xincheng, dean of the Department of International Relations, a very kind and helpful person who always found time for me regardless of the pressure of his work; Associate Professor Xi Wang, deputy head of the Department of Finance, an excellent specialist and also a SYLFF fellow; Mr. Xinghua Qi of the SYSU Graduate School, who is very young but is a very kind and responsible person who is in charge of the SYLFF FMP, and to whom



Todor (right) with Associate Professor Xi Wang in front of the famous Lingnan Hall on the Sun Yat-sen University campus.



I most owe my visit to China; and last, but not least, Ms. Ru Chen, an MA student, president of the Association of the Students of International Relations in SYSU, and an amazing person who was always ready not only to help me with my work but also to show me around Guangzhou and to make me familiar with Chinese culture and life.

In conclusion, I want to say that an

Todor and Ms. Ru Chen in front of the North Gate of Sun Yat-sen University.

experience like participating in the FMP is valuable not only from an academic point of view but also is an extremely pleasant way to learn about a different country and culture and to make new friends. I wish to urge every SYLFF fellow to apply for an FMP grant. I am sure that if you do you will not regret it.

F E A T U R E

My FMP Experience in Japan: A Series of Great Illuminating Revelations

By Madhuchanda Ghosh (bubu_madhu@yahoo.com)

An extremely rewarding experience in my journey as a SYLFF fellow was my field trip to Japan under the FMP. The title of my dissertation is "India and Japan: Prospects for a Strategic Convergence." A field trip to Japan was imperative for collecting data on Japan's strategic policies towards India. I was in the middle of my doctoral research when our SYLFF Project Director, Professor Joyashree Roy, advised me to apply for placement at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan, another SYLFF-endowed institution. On February 9, 2006, I arrived at Narita Airport. As I stepped out of the terminal building the ice-cold winds made me realize that I was no longer in the hot tropics but in the cool temperate zone of the main island of Japan during winter. On my way to Tokyo I could see snow falling lightly. Late in the evening I arrived at the guest house of Waseda University in central Tokyo, my home during the period of my field research.

Waseda is one of the top-two private universities in Japan. The research environment in Waseda University is excellent. The university's libraries are full of resources, and I was able to gather a huge and very useful body of data. At Waseda I also was able to meet and interact with visiting researchers from various places in the world. And from my interactions with the university's SYLFF fellows, Mr. Ken'ichiro Higuchi and Mr. Masahiro Noguchi, I could see the enthusiasm that Waseda SYLFF fel-

lows had for forming their SYLFF fellows' association.

I collected data through research interviews, participant observation, and visiting various libraries and archives. My field work was based on a deductive-approach research methodology, which tests in the real world various hypotheses that are based on existing theories.

During my field work, my host supervisor, Professor Takehiko Yamamoto of the Graduate School of Political Science, provided me with very valuable leads that facilitated my field study to a great extent. In addition to providing his expert supervision, Professor Yamamoto gave me two opportunities to make presentations on my research theme. And without the cooperation and assistance of Professor Yamamoto and Mr. Yutaka Kobayashi, vice minister of economy, trade and industry, I would not have been able to conduct research interviews with Mr. Yoshiro Mori, a former prime minister of Japan. I also was able to interview various other political dignitaries, and the information and views of Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Deputy Foreign Minister Mitoji Yabunaka, and Mr. Yutaka Kobayashi, a member of the House of Councillors, are proving especially useful for my research.

One valuable aspect of my field research was attending seminar-presentations by noted academic experts in the field of international relations. And my being able to attend seminal expositions of scholars



Madhuchanda Ghosh is a PhD candidate in the Department of International Relations of Jadavpur University in Kolkata, India. She visited Japan for five months, from February 9 through July 10, 2006, under the SYLFF Fellows Mobility Program (FMP) to conduct doctoral field research.

like Dr. Mike Mochizuki of George Washington University at Waseda, and Professor Ronald Tammen of Portland State University at The Tokyo Foundation, provided me with some thought-provoking insights into the changing regional strategic framework. Perhaps one of the best parts of my experience as a visiting researcher was being able to meet the inspirational people I met. An insightful experience in this regard was interacting with Nobel Laureate Jody Williams on the issue of landmines.

Cultural Lessons

In addition to having been able to conduct fruitful field research in Japan, one very unique experience for me under the FMP was my exposure to various facets of Japanese culture. In this regard, it is worthwhile to mention my memorable visit to the cultural capital of Japan, Kyoto. From my visits in Kyoto to Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples, which are impeccably preserved and maintained, I was able to get a glimpse of Japan's rich cultural heritage. Another treasured memory is of my visit to Renkoji Temple in Tokyo, in which are preserved the mortal remains of Subhas Chandra Bose, a leader in India's struggle for independence from Britain.

Living in Tokyo—a technological paradise with so much vibrancy and a wealth of sub-

cultures of every possible type—gives one a feeling of being at the center of the world. It was fascinating to observe and experience the wide array of cultural attributes manifested by the Japanese people living in Tokyo and to encounter legendary Japanese politeness in daily life. Most of the people I met came from different regions in Japan, each region having its unique cultural identity. My knowledge of Japanese language helped me to understand and appreciate the various aspects of life in Tokyo. From my apartment I very often could hear a voice outside saying somewhat loudly in a singing tone, "*Ishi yaki imo.*" An Indian couple staying next door to me told me that they were under the impression that

Madhuchanda and Yu Shindo, a Waseda graduate student whom Madhuchanda met by chance in the Waseda Metro Station, leading to their becoming good friends. In the background is Waseda University's Okuma Clock Tower.



those words must be some kind of prayer to God, and they likened it to Muslim prayer. They were really taken aback to know that the words were not any kind of prayer being offered to the Almighty, but were an invitation to buy sweet potatoes (*yaki imo*) that were being roasted on stones (*ishi*) in a mobile foodstall.

One interesting aspect of the time I spent in Japan was learning to deal with rules and customs different from those of my country. For instance, I was told by a Japanese friend that while using an escalator or moving sidewalk in Tokyo I should always keep to the left when not in a hurry, because the right side is reserved for people walking at a very fast pace rather than just standing and letting the escalator carry them along. Life indeed moves at a lightning speed in this city, which perhaps is the busiest in the world. Another memorable experience was witnessing the picturesque spring season in Japan. During my visit to the Indian Embassy, located in the Kudanshita section of Tokyo, I saw that a nearby park, named Chidori-ga-Fuchi, had assumed a pale pink hue—the result of countless *sakura* (cherry blossoms). It seemed that the whole of Tokyo was out on the streets in a festive mood during the few days of the *sakura*-viewing period.

From learning to use chop sticks to wearing the exotic kimono—my time in Japan was through and through an absorbing experience. One striking moment was tasting *wasabi* (Japanese horseradish) for the first time. That happened on my first day

of experiencing authentic Japanese cuisine, when Ellen Mashiko and her colleagues from The Tokyo Foundation treated me to a lunch at a Japanese restaurant. Coming from the land of spices, I was under the impression that to taste *wasabi* would be no big deal. But I will never forget the moment when the pinch of *wasabi* went into my mouth. My eyes smarted and tears started rolling down my face as I tried to manage the strong sensation of the spicy-hot mustard-like taste. That was my first encounter with the magic of Japanese spices.

During my stay in Tokyo, Dr. Joyashree Roy, Jadavpur University's SYLFF Project Director, and another SYLFF fellow, Duke Ghosh, came to attend a conference there. It was very pleasant for all of us to get together and to meet the Tokyo Foundation team at the foundation's office.

As I reflect on my FMP experience in Japan, I realize that it helped me immensely as a researcher. The FMP provided me with a crucial platform that facilitated good accessibility to resources in the field and to invaluable research subjects in Japan, including high-profile Japanese policymakers as well as noted academic experts. The five months of field research under the FMP deepened my knowledge of my field of research and broadened my outlook and vision. It truly was a great learning experience—a series of illuminating revelations—for me both as a researcher and as an individual.

D I A L O G

Sustainability and Human Rights: Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Japan

By Susan Banki

The term *sustainability* often conjures up images of land-use policies in Southeast Asia or ecotourism in Latin America. That is, we generally think of sustainable practices as those focused on populations in the global South (otherwise referred to as developing countries). But the term can refer to sustainable practices that aid any resource-poor population—even those in the North, and even those in Japan.

With generous funding from the Visit Japan Program offered by The Tokyo Foundation, I had the opportunity to study the challenges of sustainability of a particularly vulnerable population located right in urban Japan: that nation's small and struggling refugee and asylum-seeking population. Little-known and even less-heeded, Japan's refugees and asylum seekers confront the core problem of any threatened popula-



Susan Banki (SYLFF Fellow, 1999–2002) is a doctoral candidate at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts.

She is currently completing her dissertation on the transnational political activities of Burmese refugees and migrants. Her field work has taken her to Japan and the Thai-Burmese border. In January 2007, she will begin a two-year research fellowship at Griffith University in Australia, studying refugee populations in Nepal, Thailand, and Sri Lanka.



tion: within Japan, they are concerned about how future generations will survive and thrive. Lacking access to many of the financial, legal, and social resources available to other residents in Japan, this group of individuals from different countries and diverse ethnic, linguistic, educational, and socioeconomic backgrounds is hard-pressed to develop the tools and processes that will help it to sustain itself.

My research, which was conducted primarily in Tokyo, viewed the challenges of and opportunities for sustainability through the unique perspective of the population of refugees and asylum seekers in Japan. Through interviews with government officials, asylum attorneys, and not-for-profit organizations (NPOs) that provide

pursuing livelihoods. The basis for improving these elements will be discussed later in this article, after considering the situation concerning refugees and asylum seekers in Japan.

Many terms are used to describe refugees and asylum seekers under international law, but for simplicity I offer broad categories here to paint a portrait of the community. Refugees (including both "convention refugees"—those accepted under the UN Refugee Convention's definition of *refugee*¹—and those with special humanitarian status) and asylum seekers (those who are seeking protection by legal application) are small in number in Japan.

In the past five years of 2001 through 2005, Japan accepted a total of less than

Sustainability can also be understood to mean that individuals want to be able to access employment, housing, and services so that they can live day by day, and also help the population to grow.

services to that special population, as well as by reading written materials about Japan, I studied the political and legal context of Japan's refugee and asylum policies. Discussions with numerous refugees and asylum seekers, and participation in refugee-related and refugee-frequented events illuminated the obstacles this population faces in ensuring its own sustainability.

But what does it mean for a population of refugees and asylum seekers to sustain itself? Sustainability can imply a certain permanence of position. That is, sustainability could be interpreted to mean that refugees and asylum seekers want to remain exactly as they are—individuals with a different legal status than Japanese citizens around them. But sustainability can also be understood to mean that individuals want to be able to access employment, housing, and services so that they can live day by day, and also help the population to grow (i.e., absorb more refugees and asylum seekers from abroad). It is this second interpretation of sustainability on which I focus in this article. In this definition, the most important means for enabling sustainability are (1) securing legal protection, and (2)

350 individuals as refugees (or those with comparable humanitarian status); most of them came from Myanmar (Burma), Afghanistan, Iran, and Vietnam. By contrast, in that same time period, the United Kingdom, another industrialized island nation whose population is only one-half that of Japan's, accepted more than 130,000 persons as refugees. The year 2005 represented a 20-year high for Japan: the 46 individuals that were accepted as refugees in Japan that year represented the largest number for one year since the Indochinese refugee flows in the 1970s and early 1980s. The past decade has also witnessed an increase in the number of asylum seekers in Japan. From 1996 through 2005, approximately 2,700 requests for asylum were submitted, compared to less than 500 in the 10 years prior to that.² Japan's asylum-seeking population includes approximately 500 Kurds from Turkey, none of whom have been recognized as refugees in Japan.

How does this tiny population sustain itself? In these pages (*The Sylff Newsletter*, No. 13) and in SYLFF regional forums that have explored the issue of sustainable development, various elements of



Susan speaking to a group of students, attorneys, and refugee advocates at an October 2006 symposium organized by the Japan Association for Refugees (JAR).

this practice have been considered and presented. Within the fields of economics, biology, environmental science, business, urban planning, and sociology, the concept of sustainability takes on a variety of forms, all with an eye to ensuring the continuity of a community. But in the case of refugees and asylum seekers, sustainability and continuity take on a different meaning. Asylum seekers may become refugees, refugees may become permanent residents, and permanent residents may become citizens. At the same time, new asylum seekers continue to arrive. What the refugee and asylum-seeking population in Japan demonstrates is that there is yet another conduit for continuity. My research (and the research of many others studying refugee communities) suggests that one important way that communities and populations continue to survive and sustain themselves—particularly in the areas mentioned above (pursuit of legal protection and livelihoods) is through the presence of an effective human rights regime.

Rather than having a negative connotation, as *regime* often does, the term *human rights regime* refers to the laws, norms, and institutions that provide universal rights to individuals. There are four aspects of the human rights regime that are relevant to Japan's refugees and asylum seekers: legal instruments, governmental implementation, pressure from international organizations, and support by NPOs.

In theory, legal instruments should provide consistent and uniform protection for those who meet the relevant criteria.

In Japan, this translates into the need for a consistently applied definition of "persecution" so that asylum seekers know and understand why their applications for refugee status are accepted or rejected. The most important legal instrument in Japan that is applicable to refugees and asylum



Susan and U Tin Win, a Burmese refugee who lives in Tokyo, at a refugee protection workshop sponsored by the Japan Association for Refugees (JAR).

seekers is the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (ICRRA), which was originally written in 1981, but has recently been amended. The new ICRRA went into effect in May 2005. In response to criticisms that Japan was unsympathetic to refugees, the new ICRRA established, by law, some important guidelines for a just and equitable asylum review process.

First, it abolished the "60-day rule" that used to require that asylum seekers submit an asylum request within 60 days of arrival in Japan. In the past, approximately one-half of all applications were rejected because of this rule.³ Instead, applicants now apply for "permission for provisional stay" (PPS) (*karitaizai*), so that they are not required to remain in detention while their applications are being considered. But although this amendment should improve the possibility of strengthening asylum seekers' chances of being recognized as refugees (because it is easier for their requests to be evaluated fairly), restrictions on PPS eligibility mean that few have been able to take advantage of it.⁴

Second, the new ICRRA established an independent body of refugee adjudication counselors (RACs) to hear asylum appeals. Although the use of RACs represents an improvement over the past situation, when decisions were delivered with little in the way of criteria or explanation, the RACs have been chosen by the Prime Minister's Cabinet and have received little training in refugee law. Therefore, their independence

has been called into question.⁵

The Japanese government's implementation of the ICRRA and other migration and refugee policies merits attention on two points. First, asylum seekers are prohibited from working while their requests are being considered. Because it takes anywhere from six months to three years for a decision to be issued regarding a request, this imposes an unsustainable livelihood burden on the asylum seeker. The quasi-governmental agency Refugee Assistance Headquarters (RHQ) has begun providing limited support to asylum seekers who are considered the most needy, but this assistance is the exception, rather than the rule, and the amount provided is hardly sufficient for one to survive on.⁶

Second, integration programs designed by the RHQ for accepted refugees are unsuitably designed. Originally intended to respond to newly-arrived Indochinese refugees, refugee-acceptance programs were designed to teach Japanese culture and language, and they required accepted refugees to move to a reception center, typically away from their jobs (which many already had) and away from the center of Tokyo.⁷ Japanese-language classes and minimal job counseling have replaced the old scheme, but only convention refugees (rather than also those with humanitarian status) are eligible for these programs. In addition, there is a sense among some refugees (whose number includes doctors, engineers, teachers, and lawyers) that finding a job appropriate to one's education level is a hopeless endeavor.⁸

International organizations, most notably, the UNHCR, have brought some pressure to bear in Japan in order to help sustain the refugee and asylum-seeking population through the legal protection of human rights. Through meetings with Japanese Parliament officials and members of the Ministry of Justice, the UNHCR has emphasized a "rights-based approach" to the refugee issue. That is, the UNHCR has encouraged the Japanese government to view refugees and asylum seekers as people who have the right to be protected by provisions laid out in international law, rather than perceiving those seeking refuge only as recipients deserving only temporary humanitarian assistance. The UNHCR has also delivered advisory opinions on the fairness of the asylum process and on other procedures that affect asylum seekers, such as detention and deportation procedures.⁹ In addition, regarding the livelihoods issue,

1. According to the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is someone fleeing a "well-founded fear of being persecuted."
2. These numbers come from statistics on the website of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at www.unhcr.org. The total number of asylum-seekers is difficult to measure over a period of years because many asylum-seekers submit more than one application.
3. Meryll Dean, "Japan: Refugees and Asylum Seekers," an independent report commissioned by the UNHCR's Protection Information Section. February 2006, 9.
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*
6. In addition to a housing allowance and access to limited medical care, recipients of RHQ's financial assistance are given JPY45,000, (less than USD400) each month.
7. See Susan Banki, "Burmese Refugees in Tokyo: Livelihoods in the Urban Environment," *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 19:3, September 2006, 328-44.
8. Confidential interviews with refugee informants. Tokyo, Japan, October 2006.
9. See, for example, "UNHCR's Comments on the Bill to Reform the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act of Japan," May 2004, Tokyo Japan. The UNHCR's advisory opinions on Japanese refugee and asylum-seeker policy can be found at http://www.unhcr.or.jp/protect/j_protection/protection_e.html.
10. See the website of the Japan Association for Refugees at <http://www.refugee.or.jp/>.



the UNHCR has pushed for a change in the aforementioned policy that prohibits asylum seekers from working.

Where the Japanese government has failed to produce and implement policies that protect and sustain refugees and asylum seekers, nonprofit organizations (NPOs) have attempted to fill the gap. The Japan Association for Refugees (JAR) is Japan's only refugee-focused NPO; its work includes (1) providing asylum seekers with legal services, social support, and information about the asylum process in Japan (translated into several languages), (2) lobbying the Japanese government for improved refugee policies, (3) referring refugees and asylum seekers to asylum attorneys and (4) working with government ministries, the UNHCR, and other international organizations to promote the wellbeing of refugees and asylum seekers in Japan.¹⁰ A toll-free number for refugees and asylum seekers ensures that JAR is

accessible to the largest number of individuals possible.

In addition, faith-based organizations such as the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association (JELA) and the Catholic Tokyo International Center (CTIC) provide shelter, clothing, and language classes for asylum seekers whose resources have dwindled as they pursue recognition as refugees. Still, these organizations' resources are limited, and only a fraction of asylum seekers are fortunate enough to obtain help. Furthermore, even for those who obtain it, the support enables only a fragile and non-sustainable existence.

This cursory review has shown that protection and livelihoods—both of which are essential preconditions for ensuring sustainability of the refugee and asylum-seeking population in Japan—are both issues that have shown some improvement in Japan in the past decade, thanks to a strengthening of legal codes, pres-

sure from the UNHCR, and the activities of committed members of the Japanese NPO community. It now seems that, for the medium term, the community has found the means by which to survive. Long-term sustainability, however, poses additional challenges. For sustainability to occur over generations, asylum seekers must be able to support themselves without the aid of outside humanitarian agencies, and refugees must be able to obtain employment that utilizes their skills and reinforces, rather than weakens, their positions in the community. More than anything else, a strong and effective human rights regime that establishes legal protections and the right to livelihood, based on collaborative efforts between the government, the UNHCR, and NPOs, will create the conditions for Japan's refugees and asylum seekers to survive and thrive.

U P D A T E

Organizing a Winter Campaign to Help the Needy

By Dana Sagha (dana_sagha@yahoo.com)

During September and October 2006, five friends of mine and I decided to carry out a campaign that could help our society. Because winter was soon to come, we thought it would be a good idea to run a winter campaign to collect funds and other necessities in order to help needy families. Although some of them get official help from the National Aid Fund, what they get is still not enough to meet their basic needs, because they have large families and many of them are unemployed or are in families that have only one person who works, and so they depend heavily on the official funds. And what makes matters worse for them is the tense situation in the Middle East and neighboring countries such as Iraq, which causes the prices of commodities to rise. That seriously affects our economy and our people, especially the poor people. World Bank statistics for 1999 show that 11 percent of the people lived in poverty, and no doubt the percentage is higher now. We felt a need to help those poor families. But because we did not have any sponsor for our campaign, we had to

rely heavily on our own resources. Also, we could not make any public announcement to solicit assistance, because in order to do that we first had to establish an association and to register it, and then get approvals from the appropriate authorities to collect items. But that would take us a long time, and we did not want to waste time.

We started collecting from our families and friends items that were no longer in use, such as clothes, toys, carpets, and books for children, but that were still in very good condition. This process actually took us two weeks. After that, we communicated with some local charitable organizations in Irbid, such as Al Ramtha Charity and Save The Children. We asked them about needy families and obtained information as to the number of family members and the ages of their children. We then started organizing the collected items according to the family information, put the items in special bags, and put the name of the appropriate family on each bag. We were indeed surprised at the number of items that we collected from our families



Dana Kaid Sagha has BA in law from the University of Jordan and is currently pursuing her master's degree in intellectual property at the same university. Her interests center on human rights and international law. She has participated in numerous conferences held at the University of Jordan, including one on the future of the United Nations and one on the future of the relationships between Arab and Western countries.

and friends alone. We wondered how much more we would be able to collect if we had a more ambitious plan.

We started distributing the items in three different communities. We were shocked to learn that there were people who did not even have the very basic necessities of life. In fact, we felt that, in light of their enormous needs, whatever we might give them would never be enough help. But, to the contrary, they were very happy to receive

our gifts. We also decided to buy, out of our modest funds, room heaters for some families that were in greater need than others.

After that, it was the time for Eid Al Fiter, an Islamic holy day in our country. So we decided to visit a home for the elderly called "Dar Al Diafa" on this occasion and to distribute *mamoul* (traditional sweets served on this holy day), because these elderly people need more than just mon-

etary and material help. They need someone to sit with them and to talk with them, especially on such a special occasion, a holy day that they used to spend with their families. Now most of these people are alone, with no one to visit them. With their minds busy thinking of the sweet days when they were young, they welcomed us and thanked us for our visit.

After all, maybe what we did wasn't

enough to help these people fully, but it was our small attempt to give as much as possible to a special group, aged people, in our society.

And this gave us a further motive to try to help other people. We are now thinking about how to be wish-fulfillers for children who suffer from cancer and to help them realize some of their wishes.

U P D A T E

Getting to Know Members of the SYLFF Family

By Yan-Di Chang (yc2197@columbia.edu)

When I received the Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) Fellowship to conduct summer research in Thailand in 2005, I did not know that I would be inducted into a large network of people hailing from 88 institutions located all over the world and having knowledge and skills in a wide range of fields including music, management, education, law, social sciences, humanities, and economics. At Columbia University we are fortunate because Jeanne Lee, President of the SYLFF Fellows Council, is one of our fellows, and she constantly gives us news and updates regarding the workings and activities of The Tokyo Foundation and local SYLFF fellows associations. She has told us about the various programs that were designed by SYLFF fellows for SYLFF fellows, such as the SYLFF Network Program (SNP), the Joint Initiatives Program (JIP), and the Fellows Mobility Program (FMP), and she has encouraged us to register in the SYLFF Network Database.

Last year (2006), I received an e-mail from a graduated Columbia University SYLFF fellow who learned about me through the SYLFF Network Database. She was interested in working with Tibetans, and she wanted my advice as an anthropologist. As it happens, I had been working with Tibetans in both western China and India through the nongovernmental organization—iACT—that my friends and I established in 2001. She and I exchanged some e-mail and later met together. It was an interesting and fruitful encounter. She then left for China, and later I heard that she has been successful in targeting the needs of

the people there.

This past summer I went to South Africa for my research. Because that would be the first time for me to go to that country, and because I did not know many people there, long before I went there I began to look for local contacts from all sources possible. I searched the SYLFF Network Database, using terms that were related to my research interests: "anthropology," "health care systems," "development," and, of course, "South Africa." To my disappointment, I did not find any SYLFF fellow record that met my criteria. In desperation, I looked through all the names in the database one by one, and finally found the name of a SYLFF fellow in South Africa. (This was at the end of 2005; now there are four). Even though I would be in Durban—another part of the country—I nevertheless wrote to Rozenda Hendrickse in Cape Town. She replied in a very warm manner and invited me to visit her. I was encouraged by her reply, and I planned my itinerary so that I would spend a few days in Cape Town at the end of my trip. While I was in Durban, I talked to Rozenda on the phone a couple of times, and she was always warm and friendly.

At the end of July 2006, I visited Rozenda and spent three wonderful days in Cape Town and Stellenbosch. Meeting her was like meeting an old friend. Despite the misfortune that Rozenda's elder daughter was ill during that period, Rozenda showed me around and introduced me to many people. Her family welcomed me warmly to their house, and they even had a *braai* (South African barbecue) that weekend. Staying



Dr. Yan-Di Chang is a SYLFF fellow who is pursuing a doctoral degree in anthropology at Columbia University, in the United States. Here she shares the

great joy and value of the SYLFF network and relates some of her encounters with other SYLFF fellows.



Yan-Di (right) with Rozenda (left) and Jade (front), Rozenda's younger daughter, during Yan-Di's visit to Rozenda's home in July 2006.



with Rozenda and her family gave me a rare insight into the lives of people in South Africa. Compared to my two months in Durban, where I was on my own most of the time, my short stay with Rozenda allowed me to see what South Africans do in their daily lives. That vastly enriched my experience of the country. I also learned that Rozenda is a member of the SYLFF Fellows

Council, and I looked at photos of various SYLFF activities and heard about her experiences.

Rozenda and I still keep in touch via e-mail. Together with another SYLFF fellow whom we learned about through the database, we have applied for a JIP grant to help make it possible for us to carry out a social action program to enable more AIDS

patients to obtain antiretroviral treatments. Rubert Van Blerk, of the University of the Western Cape, agreed to contribute his expertise, even though he did not know us before then. I believe that our being members of the SYLFF family was the reason why Rubert joined our program, as well as why Rozenda welcomed me in her house. The SYLFF network, consisting of a huge, diverse pool of more than 9,000 talented people worldwide, is indeed a formidable resource. To become part of this rich network, all that a SYLFF fellow has to do is simply to register on the SYLFF Network Database. And one can help make the database even more useful by encouraging other SYLFF fellows to do the same. Interested? Before the next time that you travel or plan a project, first check out the database. See you in the SYLFF database, see you in cyberspace!

The SYLFF network, consisting of a huge, diverse pool of more than 9,000 talented people worldwide, is indeed a formidable resource.

S P O T L I G H T

Building a Better Asia: Future Leaders' Dialogue

The following Asian SYLFF fellows (SYLFF institution in parenthesis) participated in a retreat workshop organized by The Nippon Foundation: Mr. Henry Chan (University of Malaya, Malaysia; also an API fellow*), Mr. Duke Ghosh (Jadavpur University, India), Ms. Dongshu Ou (Columbia University, U.S.A; originally from China), Mr. Rux Prompalit (University of Oregon, U.S.A; now back in Thailand), Ms. Sherilyn Siy, (Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines), and Mr. Dongyi Wang (Peking University, China). Mr. Mitsunori Shoji (Keio University, Japan) was also nominated to participate but was unable to attend. The following is a report, jointly prepared by Henry and Sherilyn, on the workshop. The communiqué that follows the report is a joint effort by everyone who attended the workshop.

* API fellowships are presented annually to selected Asian public intellectuals by The Nippon Foundation. For more information, please visit www.api-fellowships.org.

From September 3 through 9, 2006, we participated in a retreat workshop that took place on the picturesque campus of Peking University, Beijing, China. It was, in the words of Mr. Yohei Sasakawa in his opening speech, "a historic event." This retreat brought together for the first time ever beneficiaries and associates of The Nippon Foundation, The Tokyo Foundation, and The Sasakawa Peace Foundation. The 17 participants came from all over Asia: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The retreat provided a venue for the participants to come together and to get to know each other and to network together—with an emphasis on bridging the different programs offered by the three sister organizations mentioned above. Moreover,



SYLFF Fellows who participated in the workshop (from left to right): Duke Ghosh, Dongshu Ou, Sherilyn Siy, Rux Prompalit, and Henry Chan, with Tongyi Wang in the upper-left corner, and Keita Sugai of the Scholarship Division sitting second from the right.

the retreat was also a forum for dialogue concerning some serious issues confronting Asia. We were given, as a group, the unique opportunity to discuss what we aspire Asia to be and how we intend to work towards our vision of a better Asia.

Why Asia? Perhaps the European model has propelled Asians to consider the implications of closer cooperation in the region. Perhaps the magnitude and the proportion of Asia's sudden growth make it impossible for the world to ignore Asia. Also, Asia is the world's biggest geographical region and, of late, ties within that region are still relatively weak. At the same time, the huge potential of Asia cannot be denied; a better Asia will inevitably contribute to the making of a better world.

The intensive retreat workshop featured an impressive line-up of distinguished lecturers, experts, and key figures in their respective fields, all of whom shared their personal experiences and concerns on specific issues affecting the Asian region. We feel very privileged that they took the time to speak to a small group of young people and to express their faith in our capacity to bring about changes in Asia.

We learned a great deal from these lecturers and from each other. But perhaps one of the most important things that we learned is that *we don't know much about each other*. It is embarrassing to note that Asians know more about the United States or Europe than about other Asian countries. The lack of awareness and understanding of our neighboring countries that undermines our ability to cooperate surfaced in almost all the lectures.

In his keynote address, Qingguo Jia, associate dean of the School of International Studies in Peking University, noted how East Asian regional cooperation seems to be deterred by the great diversity in the region, by deep historical animosities, by distrust and leadership rivalry between the super-powers (Japan and China), and by the dubious role of the United States. However, due to globalization and growing interdependence, East Asian countries have no choice but to reach out to each other and to work towards cooperation.

Harsha Kumar Navaratne of the Sewalanka Foundation shared a story about Sri Lanka to illustrate what civil society means: a space for people to participate in decision-making and feel empowered to effect changes in their communities. Only when people feel that they are active members of civil society—able to organize and mobilize



Mr. Surin Pitsuwan, Thailand's former foreign minister, speaking on "Reconciliation Reconsidered in ASEAN" on September 8, 2006.

themselves—will there be sustainable resolutions to the peace issues in Sri Lanka and in other Asian countries facing similar challenges. Harsha stressed the value of having local people share their traditional knowledge.

Rizal Sukma of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Jakarta underscored, in discussing the recent political transition in Indonesia, how, quoting Lord Acton's famous expression, "absolute power corrupts absolutely" on the national level. Rizal traced the arduous steps that led from the sultanistic and corrupt regime of former President Suharto to genuine political reform.

Renowned Thai journalist Kavi Chongkittavorn called our attention to the important and influential role of the media in the political landscape. He provided an overview of the state of the media in Southeast Asia, and he zeroed in on recent trends regarding the Thai media. The media have been used and abused to control public opinion, perpetuate power, and promote personal agendas. Kavi recommended that Asian journalists network and promote regional news services, training centers, and programs.

It is impossible to talk of information exchanges without discussing the use of technology and innovation. Wong Poh Kam of the Entrepreneurship Center in the National University of Singapore suggested that developing countries should not waste their resources in competing with countries that are far ahead technologically. Instead, they should aspire to develop and apply technology that will yield benefits in the unique situation in their country (e.g., in the Philippines, developing GPS technology

for forest and marine-resource management). He also pointed out that progress in technology and innovation is the result of information sharing and networking.

Last, Surin Pitsuwan, Thailand's former minister of foreign affairs, challenged the concept of state sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in other countries' affairs, even regarding such countries' "conscience-shocking" problems and "prob-

Communiqué (September 9, 2006)

We, the participants of the 1st Retreat "Building a Better Asia: Future Leaders' Dialogue", recognize that:

- We Asians lack knowledge and understanding of each other.
- We face a number of serious problems, including abject poverty; social, economic and political injustice; violent conflict; and, environmental degradation within countries and across Asia.

Our vision of a better Asia is a prosperous, peaceful, harmonious, progressive, secure, just, and free community. For this purpose, we want to be leaders who recognize and respect diversity and actively work in unity towards our common vision of a better Asia. We want to become interconnected agents of change for building a better Asia. Hence, we promise:

1. to collaborate within our network
 - a. by maintaining a website to facilitate communication and to update information on our activities
 - b. by organizing annual meetings
 - c. by engaging in joint research and social actions
2. to share and make available our local resources and networks
3. to expand our network to make it more viable and relevant in Asia
 - a. by actively identifying and encouraging our peers to participate in our network
 - b. by supporting members' activities in the form of funds or other means
4. to promote a better understanding of Asia within and outside by disseminating information and documentation about Asia in multiple languages



lems without passports." Surin urged us to reevaluate the destructive development-growth model advocated by the market-economy system and to take inspiration from Asia's, glorious and enlightened past.

Small group discussions allowed us to reflect on all these issues and to consider ways we can respond as a group. On the last day of our retreat workshop, we drafted a

joint statement (communiqué) to guide our collective actions (see P.14).

The retreat workshop was truly an enriching and inspiring experience for all of us. Our website, "Building a Better Asia" (BABA), was set up at the end of November 2006 at www.buildingabetterasia.com. We would like to invite all SYLFF Fellows to visit this website, participate in its online forum,

and share in the spirit of our fellowship to build a better Asia and ultimately, a better world.

ASSOCIATIONS

Report on an Indonesian Seminar on Community-Based Disaster Management: "Developing Community Independence in Facing Natural Disasters"

By: **Andri Rosadi** (rosadi96@yahoo.com) and **Jiah Fauziah** (jfauziah@yahoo.co.id)

The great tsunami that hit Aceh, in Sumatra, Indonesia, and several other areas in the world on December 26, 2004, and that killed hundreds of thousands of people, has been followed by many natural disasters in Indonesia. Two months after that tsunami, Nias Island suffered from a big earthquake that also killed people and destroyed houses. Then, on May 27, 2006, Yogyakarta, one of the most important cities in Java, was also shaken by a great earthquake from the south while the people were anticipating the eruption of a volcano located north of the city. About two months later, a tsunami hit Pangandaran and some other southern areas of Java. Actually, during the above-mentioned time many more earthquakes occurred in other parts of Indonesia, but fortunately they did not cause much damage for people. Nonetheless, all these disasters made many Indonesian people aware that they live on moving lands that might experience many more such serious calamities.

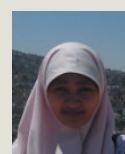
The earthquake disaster that occurred in May 2006 in Yogyakarta, the city where Gadjah Mada University, our Sylff institution, is located, was the main inspiration for the seminar. That earthquake caused more than six thousand deaths and reduced

thousands of houses into ruins. In responding to such a tragedy, one important thing that people should consider for the future is how to develop the independence of the community for facing any disaster that it might experience. This is because in the case of the aforementioned disaster the victims placed their greatest hope in the local government, but the local government of Yogyakarta was too dependent on the central government in aiding the victims. Moreover, although it is true that the victims needed assistance from all parts of society, when assistance from others is believed to be the only solution, the result is a mental dependence on the part of the victims, along with other consequences that negatively effect the post-disaster reconstruction process. It appears that such is the case in Yogyakarta. Several months after the great calamity, people seem to be still suffering and longing for help.

Based on this reality, the Sylff Fellows Association of Gadjah Mada University held the aforementioned small seminar regarding the problem. It is expected that the seminar results can be used as input for various relevant segments of society. The association invited two speakers to speak at the seminar: Dr. P. M. Laksono, an anthro-



Andri Rosadi
Andri graduated with a major in Islamic civilization from the University of Al-Azhar, Cairo, in 2003, and received an MA in anthropology from Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, in 2006, in which endeavor he was supported by a SYLFF Fellowship. He has worked in several organizations, including Ikatan Cendekiawan Muslim Indonesia and Muhammadiyah Student, both based in Cairo, as a coordinator. He was a teacher in Medan, North Sumatra, in 1996, in Kediri, East Java, in 1997, and in Yogyakarta, in 2003–04. Since 2004, he has been involved in community development work in Ngaglik Village, Sleman, Yogyakarta.



Jiah Fauziah
Jiah graduated with a major in English from Gadjah Mada University in 1999, and is now finishing her thesis for a master's degree in linguistics from that university, for which undertaking she was awarded a SYLFF Fellowship. She has also been working as an English lecturer in the LIA School of Foreign Languages in Yogyakarta since 2001.

pologist who is also a lecturer in the Faculty of Cultural Sciences at Gadjah Mada University, and Ms. Estuning Tyas, a current Sylff fellow who is a graduate student at Gadjah Mada University, specializing in disaster management.

In his exposition, Dr. Laksono commented on the slow reaction from both the local and central governments in responding to the disaster. The local government relied

fact, what needs to be done in the future is to further develop such community-based disaster-response measures and to learn from the past weaknesses regarding such activities.

In regard to community-based disaster-response measures, one thing that must be emphasized in advance is the empowerment of the overall society in handling any disaster. This must be based on the ability and

Disaster education is still not included in schools' curricula in Indonesia. Similarly, at the family level, children have not been taught to recognize, understand, and deal with disasters.

on the central one, whereas actually in this case disaster response was mainly the responsibility of the local government, because the impact of the May 2006 disaster was regional, in contrast to the case of the tsunami that hit Aceh, which caused a disaster that was national in scope. In this situation, according to Laksono, the actor that turned out to play the most important role was the collective mass media. Thanks to their nationwide or even worldwide networks, they succeeded in raising public awareness and support on a widespread level, resulting in a huge amount of help being received. Nevertheless, Laksono also criticized the media for their tendency to present the news in a way that created bias and adversely influenced how people regarded the disaster.

Besides the media, there are several other elements of the community that also play great roles in responding to disasters. They are informal and outside the governmental structure. They usually help spontaneously and based solely on humanitarianism. Their weakness lies in their organizational management, which often results in many obstacles to their dispensing help. One of the obstacles is the corruption or deviousness on the part of some parties that use the situation for their own benefit.

Nonetheless, the effectiveness of certain groups in the community has proved to significantly contribute to assisting the disaster victims. That really helps in lessening the suffering of the victims. Based on this

potential of the society. The main obstacle in this regard is that a society usually breaks apart when a disaster occurs. This makes it impossible for the ability and potential of the society to be utilized to solve the problems of all the members of the community. Another obstacle is that the people tend to forget the disaster very quickly, so that they do not anticipate disasters in the future. If disasters are experienced so many times, a society should realize that it needs to formulate at least one model for handling disasters in ways that rely mostly on the society's own capabilities and potential. However, this still does not happen.

The other speaker, Estuning Tyas, emphasized the need to socialize disaster knowledge in the community. It is a fact that the people in Indonesian villages, who generally have only a low level of education, do not have enough knowledge about disasters. This limits both their view of disasters and their ability to handle their own problems in a disaster situation.

However, to increase the ability of a community to handle a disaster, Estuning discussed several steps that Eko Teguh Pari-purno, a disaster-relief/crisis-management expert, has suggested be taken: (1) Identify potential disaster areas; (2) Map these disaster areas; (3) Identify specific dangerous areas and the possible risks associated therewith; (4) Identify the sociocultural characteristics of the communities in the dangerous areas; (5) Formulate procedures and identify steps to be taken in dealing

with the disasters; (6) Develop the social systems to help people to learn how to anticipate and to handle the disaster, based on the potential and strengths of their community; and (7) Develop natural-disaster prevention and response technologies. In order to make all these steps community-based, all of them must be taken with the involvement of the community: together by and for the members of the community, not only by some experts and the government.

One important thing that must be considered here is that disaster education is still not included in schools' curricula in Indonesia. Similarly, at the family level, children have not been taught to recognize, understand, and deal with disasters. Therefore, one step that is especially important for the future—as the first step to implement all the other steps—is to educate the people, especially villagers, so as to make them aware of the socio-geographical condition of their locales in regard to possible disasters. To be effective, this educational model must use many kinds of interesting instruments, including films, as media.

In brief, both Estuning Tyas and Laksono emphasized the need for disaster education in order for a community to increase its awareness of its own strengths and weaknesses so that it can handle its own problems if a disaster occurs. As a follow-up to the discussion, the Sylff Fellows Association of Gadjah Mada University plans to organize some social action projects aimed at educating the people in some villages in the area of Yogyakarta so that they can recognize their own potential for handling any disaster that might befall them. Fortunately, the Sylff fellows of Gadjah Mada University have different academic backgrounds: economics, cultural studies, political science, geography, and conflict resolution. Such a combination of multi-disciplinary backgrounds holds great potential for engaging in a variety of actions reflecting different





approaches.

The actions are planned to involve formal and informal measures. Formally, the association will provide disaster education

in schools and for some small groups in the community. Informally, it will hold some community entertainment programs that indirectly will educate a larger mass of

people. It is hoped that these actions will greatly contribute to the communities' ability to effectively deal with disasters.

COUNCIL MATTERS

SYLFF's 20th Anniversary – Looking Forward to Continuing Success

By Jeanne Lee (jil2106@columbia.edu)
President of the SYLFF Fellows Council

It has been a great honor to serve as president of the SYLFF Fellows Council (SFC) for the past year and for my term as president to include the SYLFF's 20th-anniversary year. This is an auspicious time for recognizing the importance of the SYLFF network as a community that reaches across the globe and that is made of people who are interacting and sharing common values towards improving the world. On the council, I witness the amazing collaboration and hard work of people from as far apart as Chile, the Czech Republic, and China, to name just a few of the home nations of my co-members. We are truly a unique and international network, drawing on our various backgrounds and cultural resources to create a diverse approach to our programs.

In 20 years the world has changed rapidly regarding the way we live and interact with each other. It has been greatly transformed by technology, communications, and transportation, allowing us to come closer together building a SYLFF community. In order to adapt with the changes of the times, we must also advance the way we further develop the SYLFF network. We are looking ahead to incorporating technological advances, as reflected, for instance, in the newly launched SYLFF Network Database, designed to strengthen the network through the use of biographical information. The SFC is able to accomplish the majority of its work operating as a virtual council, communicating via e-mail and video/telephone conferences online. And with the simplicity of travel, the ability to carry out field work abroad and to connect in person with other SYLFF fellows has become feasible. We encourage using the database not only for professional collaborations, but also for meeting other SYLFF fellows when abroad. Also, the SFC would

like to encourage you to relate your experiences in *The Sylff Newsletter* so that the international community can share in the various ways we can network and connect.

This year marks SYLFF's 20th anniversary –an auspicious time at which to look back and see how far the SYLFF network has progressed. Also, as Sherilyn Siy, a SFC member from Manila, has insightfully commented, it is a time to look forward to the future of SYLFF. What that entails can only be determined by you, by your contributions in leadership, and your commitment to the SYLFF network.

Since I first joined the SFC, I have witnessed a strengthening of the SYLFF network in a variety of ways. For one, we now have more local associations than a year ago, in large part because The Tokyo Foundation has generously supported its commitment to sustaining local associations beyond their first three years. Also, there has been more feedback regarding the newly launched database. In addition, regional conferences are taking place between local associations, and the SFC is developing new programs and new efforts at outreach. These are only a few of the changes and growth that we see happening in regard to our international network of fellows. Without the support and involvement of our current active members these achievements would not have occurred. The foregoing examples speak to the desire for our collective spirit to continue participating in building relationships as an investment in the future. Although the SFC plays an important role in supporting the network, it is because of your local-level activities and community-building that the SYLFF network is gaining momentum and having positive impacts worldwide.

The importance of your voices being



Jeanne received a SYLFF Fellowship in 2004 and used it for a consultancy with Thailand's Ministry of Labour to finalize Thailand's first National Code of Practice on Prevention and Management of HIV/AIDS at the Workplace. The law became effective the following year. Her professional experience has been with the ILO in Geneva under the Conditions of Work Branch (CONDIT), Maternity Protections Programme and in Geneva and Delhi under the SafeWork SOLVE Programme. Her areas of specialization include international labor relations; gender, sexuality, health and human rights advocacy, with a particular interest in private-public alliances; corporate social responsibility; and the international legal system. Jeanne is now completing a master degree at of Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs in New York City, and is serving as the president of the SYLFF Fellows Council for a two-year term that began in December 2005.

heard was stressed during the June 2006 SFC meeting in Tokyo. We responded by assigning SFC members as liaisons to institutions with or without local associations in order to bridge the communication gap between the local and international levels. We are constantly trying to find new channels by which to encourage and support local associations and regional connections. But success in building the network depends on your involvement. I hope that you, whether a member of an already active local association or of a group desiring to build a more visible SYLFF community, will connect with your SFC liaison member so as to receive extra support.

Three regional forums will be held in 2007: the North/South America region, hosted by The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (U.S.A.); the Africa/Europe region, hosted by Ruhr University Bochum (Germany); and the Asia/Pacific region, hosted by Jadavpur University (India). We are grateful to the host institutions for working with us to support the activities of the SYLFF network. With an added focus on shaping and building the SYLFF community, the regional forums will have a new public service element that we

hope will help to broaden our experiences by giving back to the community. The SFC hopes that you will embrace this unique opportunity, alongside your fellow colleagues, to share in the mission of the SYLFF network.

It is through our collective personality that we share a spirit of involvement

in our individual communities throughout the world. Although our personal and cultural values might differ, we have been identified with our roles as leaders who are committed to helping shape the future by responding on both a local and global scale to a growing number of challenges. We encourage you to contact us by e-mail or

postal mail, because we are always inspired when we receive messages that convey your ideas and information about your activities. I hope that your membership in the SYLFF community inspires you to help us sustain this network through the various creative channels available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introducing SYLFF's 20th-Anniversary Logo

A big tree with 20 leaves in the shape of hands—this is the logo designed to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the SYLFF Program. The 20 leaves represent the 20-year history of the program, showing that it has grown to be big and strong. The leaves are shaped like hands so as to represent the more than 9,000 SYLFF fellows around the globe who are “helping hands,” contributing their expertise and commitment to their respective societies. The leaves also show the ever-growing and expanding nature of the program. This logo will be used throughout 2007 on all SYLFF materials and signs, along with the original SYLFF logo of a lop-sided globe.



Publication of the 20th-Anniversary View Book

A 32-page view book entitled *SYLFF: The First Twenty Years* has been published to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the SYLFF Program. It contains a number of photos from the SYLFF files, along with ones contributed by SYLFF fellows, plus a message from Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, a brief chronology of the program, and a narrative history of the program's development during the past two decades. A copy will be mailed to each member of the SYLFF steering committee at each endowed institution, and 10 copies each to the principal organizers of local SYLFF fellows associations. Individual SYLFF fellows interested in obtaining a copy are requested to contact the Scholarship Division by e-mail at sylff-viewbook@tkfd.or.jp, providing his or her name and mailing address.

SYLFF Network Program (SNP) Minimum Maintenance Grants to Be Available

The SYLFF Network Program (SNP), launched in 2003, has supported 24 SYLFF-institution-based local associations in engaging SYLFF fellows in networking activities within/between local associations. SNP awards are provided to local associations for up to three years, as follows: USD1,000 for the first year, up to USD2,000 for the second year, and up to USD3,000 for the third year. Among the 24 local associations, 9 associations have already received third-year awards; and another association has been approved for a third-year award.

In addition to the three-year awards, the Scholarship Division has begun a program for awarding “minimum maintenance” grants to local associations that have completed three years of activities under the SNP. These grants, which can be up to USD500 per year, will be provided to local associations upon application. Also, it will be possible to renew such a grant annually. The minimum maintenance grants are intended to sustain local associations' main functions as facilitators and hubs of SYLFF fellows' networking.

Local associations that so far will be eligible for this grant during FY2007 are:

- SYLFF Network at Charles University (Czech Republic)
- University of the Western Cape SYLFF Fellows Association (South Africa)
- SYLFF Association of Helsinki University (Finland)
- El Colegio de México SYLFF Fellows' Association (Mexico)
- Chilean Association of SYLFF Fellow (Chile)
- Society of SYLFF Fellows in Bulgaria—SSFB (Bulgaria)



- SYLFF Association of the University of Indonesia (Indonesia)
- University of the South Pacific Sasakawa Students' Association (Fiji)
- Association Leipzig University SYLFF Fellows—ALUS (Germany)
- Australian Graduate School of Management SYLFF Fellows' Association (Australia)

In April 2007, details regarding how to apply for a minimum maintenance grant will be provided to the above associations and announced on the SYLFF website. Additional associations will become eligible for a grant during FY2007 upon successful implementation of their third-year activities.

New Brochures about the SYLFF Program and Scholarship Division

Enclosed with this issue of the newsletter are two new bro-

chures: one about the SYLFF Program and the other about the Scholarship Division. They include basic information on the SYLFF Program and the activities of the Scholarship Division, respectively. These brochures are intended to help SYLFF administrators and local SYLFF fellows associations promote the program. For additional copies, please contact the Scholarship Division at scholarship@tkfd.or.jp, providing your name, mailing address, and number of copies being requested.

Lanzhou University

The Scholarship Division is pleased to report that Lanzhou University's SYLFF endowment (capital and earnings) has been restored (see *The SYLFF Newsletter*, No. 13, October 2005). The university will be included in all SYLFF-related programs and activities from now on.

In Memoriam

Gary Saxonhouse, professor of economics and long-serving chairman of the University of Michigan's SYLFF Steering Committee, passed away on November 30, 2006, in Seattle, Washington, where he was being treated for leukemia. Gary planned to participate in the SYLFF Program Administrators Meeting in Copenhagen. We will miss him, and we extend our deepest condolences to his wife, Arlene, and his family. Additional information is available at: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/econ/news/>.



Editorial Note

The SYLFF Program is now 20 years old. In Japan, that age marks the beginning of adulthood, a time for both rejoicing and somber reflection, celebrated each year by a national holiday: Coming of Age Day. Other cultures also mark such a rite of passage—typically at 12, 16, 18, or 21 years of age. In that sense, the SYLFF Program has “come of age.” And because the first SYLFF endowment was presented to The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1987, SYLFF is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2007. The SYLFF Program now has an expanding “house” that is becoming a “home” that has a steady source of revenue, and its family members have the means by which to communicate with each other. Readers who have read these editorial notes from the launch of this newsletter in October 2001 might already recall how the SYLFF Program has developed, but for those who are new readers or do not remember, here, in brief, are recent developments in the SYLFF “story.”

The foundation of the SYLFF house was strengthened by the nine members of the Provisional SYLFF Fellows Council (PSFC, 2003–2005), and it is becoming a home in large part due to the efforts of the nine SYLFF Fellows Council members (SFC, 2005–2007). The SYLFF house/home is not just a single dwelling—there are now 24 institution-based local associations of currently enrolled and graduated SYLFF fellows (a SYLFF fellow is one for life).

The more than 9,000 SYLFF fellows have a variety of means to learn about and to communicate with each other—including this newsletter, The Tokyo Foundation's website, the SYLFF Network Database, and the websites and newsletters of the local associations; after all, SYLFF fellows are a mobile and highly dispersed lot.

The SYLFF Program is fortunate to have a stable source of revenue, thanks to the foresight of The Nippon Foundation (the donor of SYLFF endowments) and the commitment of The Tokyo Foundation (the administrator of SYLFF endowments and supporter of the SYLFF follow-up programs).

In the opening paragraph of Susan Banki's article in this issue (pages 8–11), she zeroes in on a fundamental challenge facing the world's peoples and their sub-groups irrespective of whether they are located in the global South or North. This challenge—sustainable development and practice—also applies to smaller-scale entities such as communities, organizations, universities, networks, and programs.

The SYLFF Program is no exception. The challenges facing the SYLFF community are of three types: challenges to the 69 SYLFF-endowed universities and consortia (a total of 88 institutions) in 45 countries; challenges to the more than 9,000 SYLFF fellows throughout the world; and last, but not least, challenges to the Scholarship Division. During 2007, a self-study by SYLFF-institutions will be initiated; during the 2007 regional forums the SYLFF Fellows Council will conduct workshops that will focus on sustainable development and practices vis-à-vis local associations utilizing a Council-developed “toolkit”; and the Scholarship Division will renew its efforts to strengthen all of its programs and activities.

These plans and concrete actions are ambitious, but they can be achieved through the active participation and collaboration of all SYLFF stakeholders. Accordingly, the terms *indifference*, *complacency*, and *inaction* surely have no place in the SYLFF vocabulary.

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SYLFF Institutions

- **Australia**
The University of New South Wales
- **Austria**
University of Music and Performing Arts
Vienna
- **Brazil**
University of São Paulo
- **Bulgaria**
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
- **Canada**
York University
- **Chile**
University of Chile
- **China**
Chongqing University
Fudan University
Inner Mongolia University
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Lanzhou University
Nanjing University
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Sun Yat-sen University
Xinjiang University
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Gadjah Mada University
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Comenius University in Bratislava
- **South Africa**
University of the Western Cape
- **Spain**
University of Deusto
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Uppsala University
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University of Geneva
- **Thailand**
Chiang Mai University
- **Turkey**
Ankara University
- **United Kingdom**
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Portland State University
Southern Oregon University
University of Oregon
Western Oregon University
Princeton University
The Juilliard School
The University of Michigan
The University of Texas at Austin
Tufts University
University of California at Berkeley
University of California at San Diego
Yale University
- **Vietnam**
Vietnam National University, Hanoi*
Vietnam National University,
Hochiminh City

*This institution administers the SYLFF endowment on behalf of the university(ies) listed below it.



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