Introduction

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The third installment of *Asia Pacific World* sees the Journal taking a close look at Sri Lanka and its role in the Asia Pacific. Since the ending of the civil war, Sri Lanka has attracted considerable attention from scholars within and outside of the region: in this introduction I discuss these contributions to our understanding of this country. This issue also concentrates on the question of governance in relation to economic growth, in the regional energy industry, and in Japanese universities. Finally, we have included a paper on the very important topic of knowledge management in the medical field, utilizing examples from Japan.

The Contents of Volume 2, Issue 1

As laid out in Volume 1, Issue 1, our editorial policy for at least the first few issues was to invite a series of position papers on major policy concerns facing the Asia Pacific Region in addition to general articles. The invited paper by Clammer suggests that the debate on the nature of the Asia Pacific Region is somewhat misplaced, in that it is often forgotten that in thinking about how specific geo-cultural areas were and are formed, and how ideas about social formations change, migrate, mutate and are transmitted, it is images as much as concrete objects that are involved. Clammer highlights it is therefore necessary to consider both the social mechanisms (groups, networks, modes of communication and influence) through which ideas and images are transmitted across and within borders, and the somewhat obscure relationship between ideas and images. In this article, Clammer suggests that the modern dialectic of globalization and localization requires a new transnational anthropology of the Asia Pacific Region in order that we might grasp its dynamics and character. As a result, it may now be necessary to speak less of borders and regions and more of 'Trans-cultures,' trans-border imaginaries, multiple modernities, and de-territorialization. It is perhaps also time to replace the Western structuralist and functionalist sociological vocabularies that are most often used in such academic discourses with a much more fluid and strategic understanding of culture and society, in which transfer, innovation, borrowing, and assimilating are continuous and natural sociological processes, and in which images play a central and crucial role.

In this issue, we have also partly shifted focus towards a particular country, Sri Lanka. The second article has been contributed by Emeritus Professor Jayasuriya, a long-time observer of

the Sri Lankan political and social scene, in which he provides a critical analysis of the 2010 Sri Lankan elections – the first post-war presidential and parliamentary elections – and situates this within the foundational political institutions and practices of an emerging liberal democracy. He notes that while Sri Lankan politics was dramatically shaped by post-colonial politics, which saw the introduction of an executive presidential style of government, and the regionalization of *alliance politics* (Sinhalese and Tamil in the main), these have in turn been dramatically altered by the ending of the nearly 30-year civil war. This change has witnessed the emergence of a new and potentially illiberal political culture of a partial authoritarian constitutionalism that has recently been fortified by the constitutional changes relating to the 18th Amendment, introduced in 2010 by the new Rajapaksa government. The author concludes by posing the question: Is this the beginning of a new phase of illiberal politics in that country?

The second article on Sri Lanka by Nishantha looks at the development of small enterprises in Sri Lanka. This study assesses the impact of social capital formation and governance in the form of networks on the growth of small enterprises. The survey data was collected from a sample of 97 small manufacturing enterprises in late 2009. On analysis it was found that organizational networks and supportive networks are extremely important for enterprise growth. The study found a positive relationship between the existence of supportive networks with financial institutions and sales growth in the firm. While financial institutions are providing different kinds of loans for small enterprises, in addition to that they are providing consultancy services for small enterprises, and these support networks help entrepreneurs to overcome resource limitations. Equally, organizational networks and network maintenance are important resource sharing factors significantly and positively associated with the growth of small enterprises.

The article by Adhikary takes a different approach to the analysis of good regional governance by investigating the relationship between Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), governance infrastructure and economic growth rates in 15 Asian economies over the period 1996 to 2008. Sri Lanka is included in this analysis. The empirical results reveal that FDI and good governance indicators, like government effectiveness and political stability and absence of violence, are robust determinants of economic growth, as they exhibit consistent results under different estimation models. Besides, the study reveals that financial deepening significantly influences the economic growth of a country. The article concludes that countries that can formulate FDI-led polices, ensure sound governance environment in general, *and* supply adequate finance for domestic investors from the existing financial system are more likely to enhance economic growth at large.

We turn in the next article to an analysis of Japan's universities in an age of globalization. In this article, Askew suggests that the Japanese university sector today faces a serious crisis. The percentage of eighteen year-olds going on to tertiary education has plateaued, and alternative sources of domestic students have been largely exhausted. Moreover, large numbers of tertiary institutions have been newly established over the past two decades, just as the eighteen-year-old population collapsed. Today the recruitment of large numbers of fee-paying foreign students seems to offer the only alternative to wide-scale downsizing in the Japanese higher education system. The recent Japanese government

initiative, the Global 30 Project, aims to help Japanese universities do just this. However, as demonstrated by global evaluations of universities across the world, the quality of the education provided by the Japanese university does not enjoy a high reputation. Unless standards and quality can be improved, Japan's ability to recruit sufficient numbers of fee-paying foreign students to keep its large numbers of tertiary institutions afloat has to be seriously questioned.

The final article, by Claster, Shanmuganathan, Ghotbi, and Sallis, continues our analysis of policy and procedure in Japanese institutions through a study of the medical records of Nagasaki University Medical Hospital. In this study, the authors analyze free text digital records from pediatric patients who underwent CT scanning, using text mining algorithms to model the records. Each scan was evaluated by an expert in the field and classified as to whether the CT scan was necessary or not. The results show that raw textual data can contribute significantly to the physician's decision to order a CT scan. Practically this is important because radiation at levels ordinarily used for CT scanning may pose significant health risks, especially to children, and thus the pre-identification of unnecessary scanning may lead to less exposure to radiation. The use of knowledge mining in this situation is therefore a critical new tool for effective medical policy-making in the Asia Pacific and beyond.

The Book Reviews

In the first of our book reviews for this issue, Allison Holland assesses Masaaki Morishita's *The Empty Museum: Western Cultures and the Artistic Field in Modern Japan* (Ashgate Publishing, 2010) and notes that it offers an English language audience important insights into the evolution of Japan's curatorial and museological history through the experience and opinion of key institutional and art group figures. In his view centered in a process of transculturation, Morishita outlines the ongoing reciprocity and interaction between the West and Japanese culture that has resulted in an 'empty museum,' where temporary exhibitions and competitive art prizes (*kenten*) are preferred over the historicization of art and acquisition policies as in other museum collection traditions.

Nadvi provides a review of *Taking Social Development Seriously: The Experience of Sri Lanka*, (Laksiri Jayasuriya, Sage Publishing, 2010), in which he notes that this scholarly work is an important contribution to the literature on global social policy-making as social development. In his article in this issue, Jayasuriya extends his analysis of the Sri Lankan social and political scene as outlined in this book into the implications of the outcome of the recent elections in that country. The book results from a research project on comparative social policy funded by the Australian Research Council and offers many important insights into the history of social policy, post-colonial politics and the effects of a 25 year-long civil war on a small Asia Pacific country, within a past-present analytical framework. His summation is that while Sri Lanka may be a 'unique' country, the lessons to be drawn from its welfare history are vital ones to learn and assimilate for the region as a whole.

B. M. Jain looks at *Pakistan, Democracy, Terror and the Building of a Nation* (Iftikhar Malik – New Holland Publishing 2010), and concludes that this book makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the complexities of Pakistani society, politics and economy and provides fresh insights and interpretations of the interface between religion and cultural identity, and also of the role of ruling elites in the emergence of extremist forces, given their narrow sectarian and political considerations. This analysis can also be seen as supporting that in Jayasuriya's article on Sri Lanka that heads up this issue of APW.

Next, Chris Ballard looks at *Papua Road Map: Negotiating the Past, Improving the Present and Securing the Future* (Muridan S. Widjojo (ed) – Jakarta: Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia). This highly ambitious study, by a team of researchers from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, reports on a project initiated in 2004 and sets out to provide a road map for dialogue involving all actors in the conflicts over the emergence of a new Papua, reconciled within the Indonesian nation-state. The review notes that what is perhaps most significant about this book is not so much the content – for it divulges little that is new – as the position of the authors within a respected, mainstream Indonesian institution, and the extended breadth of their intended audience. This is important because if there is to be a non-violent solution to the current Papua conflict, something more or less similar to the road map sketched here will have to be travelled.

Jason Lim then assesses *Raids on Australia: 1942 and Japan's Plans for Australia* (Pam Oliver – Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2010). Lim suggests that Oliver's work is important in helping us understand the problems faced by Australia during the last years before the bombing of Darwin in February 1942 because it dispels all current beliefs that Japan had been a threat to Australia since the Russo-Japanese War. This book clearly shows that despite the White Australia policy introduced in 1901, the Japanese occupied a very unique position as traders and shopkeepers. The policy did not prevent every non-white from migrating to Australia. If there was a non-white person who could play a key role in Australia, he or she would be accepted despite the restrictions on immigration and naturalization.

The final book review is that by Malcolm Cooper and comments on *The Dragon and the Taniwha: Maori and Chinese in New Zealand* (Manying Ip (ed) - Auckland University Press, 2009). This review notes that this edited collection results from a major research project funded by the Aotearoa-New Zealand Marsden Foundation and entitled 'Maori-Chinese Encounters,' overseen by the editor Dr. Manying Ip. *The Dragon and the Taniwha* is an excellent book, long overdue in relation to historical and sociological studies of Aotearoa-New Zealand, and comprehensive in its coverage of an important topic. Perhaps a concluding chapter might have been an improvement, but once the book has been read the lack of such a chapter does not seem all that critical. Importantly, the book highlights New Zealand's steady progression towards true multiculturalism.

Once again *APW* has demonstrated the extraordinary diversity of research on the Asia Pacific Region and the importance of understanding the policy and governance issues facing it. As we have noted in previous issues, there is an overwhelming need to recognize and deal with such issues, so that we can create a sustainable future for this region and the world.