

# 2012 Area Studies Joint Programme at the University of Malaya

Konan International Exchange Centre, Summer 2012

Prof. Fumiaki Taniguchi (Faculty of Letters)

This course will consist of 10 days in total, including an 8-day tour of culturally important places, historical sites, and ecologically significant areas between the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur and Endau Rompin National Park, Johor. It will take place from August 28 to September 3, 2012 and will be led by Prof. Fumiaki Taniguchi of Konan University, Kobe, Japan, an environmental philosopher who has served as an International advisor and a visiting professor at the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya. The travel group will be limited to approximately 25 people, including Prof. Taniguchi and course assistants. The course fee of JPY150,000 will include the airfare and the cost of accommodation. There may be additional participants (specialists in Ethnobotany) who will accompany the group during the field study parts of the tour and who may provide additional lectures.

The General Institute for the Environment, Konan University believes that providing our students with opportunities for field experience is very important. This course would provide a valuable integrated learning opportunity, where students can experience first-hand the cultural, natural and traditional features in the Endau Rompin National Park. They would have a diverse learning experience, as the program will seek to integrate the fields of ecology, ethnobotany, traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), sustainable tourism and environmental ethics. We will study aspects of cultural change that have occurred over the past three decades, and the impact these changes have had on the lives of individuals and on their communities. We will focus on differing perspectives of economic development, land use and tourism, and discuss possibilities for ecocultural restoration.

The students will undertake research on Malay history, biodiversity, cultural diversity, and environmental perspectives before the trip, and will be expected to complete a preliminary assignment at the outset. During the trip, they will keep a detailed journal covering the issues and perspectives they encounter along with some of their key observations. The students will work in groups of five or six, each focusing on a major theme of learning during the trip. The final day in Kobe, will consist of student-lead group seminars on these major themes. Each student, in addition, will prepare a research paper on some aspect of environment, tradition or culture as appropriate. This paper will be due by October 5.

## Assignments:

1. To be done ahead of time: a review of background readings; students will choose one or two readings and discuss their own perspectives relating to these readings.
2. A daily journal: Students will be expected to write at least one page each day summarizing the main concepts introduced during the day and recording detailed observations about their experiences. This journal will later be shared with other students and notes will be compared.
3. A group project on Endau Rompin National Park and other TEK issues, followed by a group seminar.
4. A term paper based on research carried out on a specific topic covered in the course (e.g. ethnobotany; TEK; sustainable tourism; restoration; colonialism; environmental ethics).
5. Class participation; students are expected to play a prominent role in the evening roundtable discussion

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

(Note: there will be short evening lectures at each overnight location, as appropriate)

### Day 1: Tuesday, August 28

*Morning:* Meet at Kansai International Airport (KIX) at 8:30. Departure at 11:00 on SQ619. Arrive at Changi Airport Singapore at 16:40. Transit and departure at 18:45 on MH9142. Arrive at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) at 19:40.

*Evening:* Arrive to the hotel and check-in to accommodation. Group dinner at a local eatery. General orientation on the field study, fieldwork methodology, etc.

Accommodation- Hilton Petaling Jaya Hotel | No. 2 Jalan Barat Selangor Darul Ehsan Petaling Jaya, 46200, Malaysia | Telephone +60 (0) 3 79559122

### Day 2: Wednesday, August 29

*Morning:* breakfast and hotel check out. Depart the hotel to the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UM CCD).

Introductory day on UM campus; Introduction (9:30-10:00): "Introduction to the Research Activities at the UM Centre for Civilisational Dialogue" presented by Dr. Raihanah Binti Haji Abdullah, Director, UM CCD. Keynote Lecture I (10:00-11:30) "Biodiversity and Multiculturalism from the Viewpoint of Environmental Ethics" presented by Prof. Fumiaki Taniguchi, Konan University at the UM CCD Katha Room; Group discussion (11:30-12:30); Free time for lunch.

*Afternoon:* after lunch, Keynote Lecture II (14:00-15:30) "The Traditional Knowledge of Orang Asli: Jakun People and Sustainable Tourism" presented by Mr. Ashari Yakub at the UM CCD Katha Room.

*Late afternoon:* Visit the UM Natural History Museum and further exploration in the UM Botanical Garden.

*Evening:* Dinner party at Bamboo Shoot Restaurant (provided).

Accommodation- UM Rumah University

### Day 3: Thursday, August 30

*Morning:* Hotel check out. Depart Kuala Lumpur at 7:00 on a 4-hour journey to Kahang supported by Mr. Nazri; light breakfast on your own en route; Arrive to Kahang; Group lunch en route.

*Afternoon:* after lunch, depart for Kahang. Arrive at the Endau Rompin National Park, Kampung Peta, Johor by late afternoon and check in to park's bungalows.

*Late afternoon:* orientation and introduction.

*Evening:* Keynote Lecture IV "Introduction to Sustainable Tourism in Endau Rompin Johor National Park: One of the Biodiversity Hotspots in Malaysia for Tropical Rainforest" presented by Mr. Lo Hamzan, Park Ranger & Interpreter, Endau Rompin Johor National Park at the Park Interpretive Center from 19:00-20:00. Group dinner at the park cafeteria.

*Late evening:* Voyageur canoe trip down river in the night.

Accommodation- Nature Education and Research Center.

### Day 4: Friday, August 31

*Morning:* go on a morning walk along the nature trail and bird-watch. Breakfast at the park cafeteria. Workshop (1) "Religious Ceremony and Folk Medicine in Jakun People" presented by Mrs. Lo Voyageur canoe trip. Go on a jungle trekking through a dense tropical forest. Picnic lunch en route.

*Afternoon:* Workshop (2) "Observation of flora and fauna and the use of the ecological resources"; Visit the Upeh Guling Waterfall and note how man and the forest can live together in harmony. Return to the Kampung Peta Visitors' Complex by late afternoon.

*Evening:* Group dinner at the cafeteria. Enjoy sharing time with the villagers of Orang Asli 's Jakun Tribes. Rest of the day will

be free for relaxation.

Accommodation- Nature Education and Research Center.

### **Day 5: Saturday, September 1**

*Morning:* go on an early morning walk in the forest to get a sense of the huge variety of trees and the medicinal properties they have. Breakfast at the park cafeteria. Workshop (3) "Animal Trap Demonstration in Jakun Village" & Workshop (4) "Folkcrafts and Arts among the Jakun People" presented Mr. Awang bin Kudi, ERNP Park Ranger. Depart Kampung Peta for Kahang.

*Afternoon:* Group lunch en route. Return to Kuala Lumpur by evening.

*Evening:* Free time for dinner. Interim meeting to check students' field records.

Accommodation- Hotel

### **Day 6: Sunday, September 2**

Break into smaller groups for a chance to explore some not-to-be missed sights.

*Late evening:* Dinner on your own. Transfer to the airport at 16:30 and check in for return flight to Osaka. Depart for Changi Airport Singapore at 20:30. Transit (21:25) and depart for Osaka at 01:25. Spend night above the clouds and arrive at KIX at 8:55 in the morning, **Monday, September 3.**

**Note:** there will be additional course projects on the Konan University Okamoto Campus before and after the field study tour.

**August 2:** Course readings available and pre-assignment.

**August 27:** Presentations by Prof. Taniguchi and informal discussions.

**September 22:** Follow-up support and seminars on group projects.

## **AREA STUDIES**

### **Outline of the Program**

#### **I. Objectives**

The Area Studies Program aims to foster international understanding and awareness of countries in the Asian Region. Emphasizing the importance of first-hand experience, the program gives students the opportunity to take part in short international exchange programs lasting for approximately one week. Lectures and seminars are offered by local university instructors and study visits to local enterprises are arranged. Students have the opportunity of meeting and exchanging ideas with local students. The program offers students wide-ranging and varied opportunities for study and exchange with the aim of stimulating a deeper interest in and understanding of the Asian region.

#### **II. Program of Study:**

**Preparatory classes:** Students attend preliminary classes at Konan University focusing on the background and conditions in the country they are to visit.

**Classes on location:** Lectures, seminars and visits to enterprises and public offices are arranged in the country visited.

**Follow-up activities:** Papers and presentations reflecting what has been learned are required after the students have returned to Japan.