

CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES

Drink a Bowl of Tea

The Japanese Language Programme of the Centre hosted a lecture and demonstration on "Chado, The Way of Tea", by the former Grand Master of Urasenke on 13 March 2009 at Lecture Theatre 13. This event was co-organised by the Embassy of Japan and Chado Urasenke Tankokai Singapore, supported by the Japanese Association of Singapore and the Japanese Teachers' Association in Singapore, as a pre-opening event of the Japan Creative Centre in Singapore, which will be officially launched by the end of 2009.

The distinguished speaker from Kyoto, Dr Sen Genshitsu, was the 15th Grand Master of Urasenke Chado, for 38 years, till 2002. He is widely known as a global-minded promoter of the culture embraced by *Chado* and of world peace. He has been named Honorary Citizen of numerous cities around the world, and has received many national and international awards and decorations, including, in 1997, the Order of Culture from the Emperor of Japan. Over 350 participants including 140 NUS students and staff enjoyed the lecture and tasted tea and traditional Japanese sweets.



The Grand Master

Aloha!

Lee Pei Ying, Assistant Manager of the Centre, went to the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature, University of Hawaii, at Manoa (UH), on the Administrative Staff Exchange Programme. She had the privilege of:

- meeting up with the Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Programmes, Deans of the language schools, Directors of language centres, other teaching staff and administrative staff;
- sitting in language classes;
- attending meetings and seminars at the College; and
- speaking to a few students studying in UH.

She shares some of her thoughts below:

"I was very impressed by the fact that UH places a lot of emphasis on language learning. It is mandatory for most undergraduates to complete two years of language study. There are also various scholarships available for language learning, sometimes paid for by the United States government. UH has language learning laboratories and seminars are frequently held to allow teachers and students to network and exchange views.

The teaching staff was passionate about teaching and some even source for their own funds to develop their language programmes. Most of the students are very active and outspoken in the classes, which makes the classes enjoyable.

I have been exposed to language learning not only from the administrative point of view, but also from the academic point of view. I have increased my understanding of some of the pedagogy in language teaching. My presence in UH has strengthened the network between our Centre and UH."



Students enjoy their language class



Basking in the blue skies in Manoa

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Building Bridges with SKKU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Department and the Integrated English Literature and Linguistics Studies Programme, Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea (SKKU) in February 2009 for five years. The MOU aims to provide overseas training possibilities for NUS graduate students, while allowing qualifying SKKU graduate students to take modules from NUS; to provide the Department staff working in relevant fields with a research base from which to conduct fieldwork in South Korea; and to foster collaboration in research activities and the exchange of academic publication and information.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Geography in the Real World

The Department was pleased to host Careers Talk 2009 on 25 February 2009. At Lecture Theatre 11, the audience, comprising junior college students, teachers and geography majors, heard from the following speakers:

- Ms Sonia Singh, Planner, Urban Redevelopment Authority
- Ms Ho Chooi Yin, Assistant Vice President, Survana International Consultants
- Mr Tan Yi Hui, Journalist, Singapore Press Holdings
- Mr G. Jayakrishnan, Chief Information Officer and Deputy Director, International Enterprise Singapore



The speakers with (third from left) Assoc Prof Shirlena Huang (Head of Department), (fourth from left) Assoc Prof TC Chang

Geography Challenge 2009

The preliminary round of the Challenge was held on 28 February 2009. 395 students from 79 Secondary Schools participated in the annual Challenge. 30 schools competed in the semi finals on 4 April 2009 and the top 10 schools competed in the Finals on the same day. The Guest of Honour was Professor Alan Chan, Associate Provost (Undergraduate education). Raffles Institution emerged as the Champion!

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

An MOU for Exchange and Cooperation

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Department and the Department of Philosophy, College of Letters and Science, University of California, Berkeley in October 2008 for two years. The MOU aims to promote joint research and education activities. Staff members with relevant expertise from one department will be able to teach courses at the other department. Both parties will work together to identify opportunities for exchanges, cooperation, joint research and development in disciplines of mutual interest. They will also be involved in the organisation and participation of joint academic and scientific activities such as seminars and conferences.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

The CHPC Opens Its Doors

The Clinical and Health Psychology Centre (CHPC) was officially opened on 4 May 2009 and will provide services primarily to the public. It is a self funded centre affiliated to the Department. The CHPC is for the professional training of students in the Master of Psychology (Clinical) Programme offered by the Department. The programme seeks to develop the practical competencies that are pertinent to professional training in Clinical Psychology. The CHPC will also serve as a regional hub for postgraduate training and research in clinical psychology and clinical health psychology. Services at the Centre are currently provided by postgraduate clinical psychology interns who are under the close supervision of qualified and experienced clinical psychologists who are faculty members of the Department. Services provided by CHPC are chargeable at a nominal rate.

The Department Welcomed a Visiting Committee

A Visiting Committee comprising three distinguished overseas academics – Professors John Frisby, Harry Reis and David Funder visited the Department of Psychology from 23 to 28 March 2009 to evaluate, review and advise on the Department's development.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Saying YES! in Yunnan

The Society of Social Work Students (SSWS) organised a social work field trip for students to Wenshan, Yunnan, China from 16 December 2008 to 3 January 2009. Part of a YES! (Youths Empower & Serve) project, 17 students participated in this trip and activities were conducted in two different aspects: construction and education. The former, involved building water filter systems to solve problems of water shortage. Education involved teaching children from village schools healthy habits such as personal hygiene, English and music etc. Simultaneously, SSWS established contacts with non-government organisations and other social service organisations in Wenshan to find out more about the needs of the community before and during the trip.

Buying books for the school



Learn and play



Staying fit

SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAMME

Songkran – Ngaan Wat: Thai New Year

Jointly organised by the Programme and Centre for Language Studies, *Songkran - Ngaan Wat* showcased projects by students from three modules, namely, *SE3221 Traditional Music in a Southeast Asian Country*, *LAT4201 Thai 5* and *LAT4202 Thai 6*. On 5 April 2009, in a traditional temple fair atmosphere, over 100 students from these modules, together with students from the NUS Thai Music Ensemble performed classical, folk, and pop music pieces, dances, Thai boxing, and a play. Through the performances, the true meaning of *Songkran* was revealed. This event was made possible with the support of the Royal Thai Embassy in Singapore, Tourism Authority of Thailand, Siam Commercial Bank, East West Chemical, the Programme, and the Centre for Language Studies.

An Evening of Indonesian Music and Dance

On 21 March 2009, the Programme, in collaboration with *Artyfakt – Space for Intercultural Arts*, organised *An Evening of Javanese Music and Dance*. The evening featured various traditional Indonesian musical pieces performed by the NUS Singa Nglaras Gamelan Ensemble and dances by Nunuk Sri Rahayu, Sherina Tan and NUS students. Performances included classical Javanese dance, classical, contemporary and pop Javanese gamelan music, Balinese gender wayang and wayang *mbeling* (a tradi-comic dance drama about love, lust and loyalty).