Paving the way for a regional graduate school of Asia

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences in NTU successfully concluded the Campus Asia-East Asian University Institute (EAUI) Winter School 2013 – the first held outside of Japan.

The Winter School @ NTU, held from 25th February to 1st March, is part of a series of prelude programmes conducted to path the way for the launch of a regional graduate school in Asia, Campus-Asia EAUI, by 2020. It is a collaboration between five leading Asian universities: Waseda University, NTU, Peking University, Korea University, and Thammasat University.

Over 60 faculty members and graduate students from the partner universities gathered at NTU for five days of intensive interdisciplinary education and research undertakings. The Winter School @ NTU served as a vehicle for the development of curriculum and research programmes for Campus-Asia EAUI.

Read on to find out what the Campus Asia-EAUI is all about – and how it enables NTU to play an integral role in building a sustainable Asia.
**What is Campus-Asia EAUI?**
The Campus Asia-EAUI is envisioned to be a regional graduate school of Asia. To be formally launched by 2020, it will offer postgraduate degree programmes with the aim of grooming scholars and professionals who can foster Asian regional integration. The Campus Asia-EAUI consortium comprises:

- Waseda University’s Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (Japan)
- Nanyang Technological University’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences (Singapore)
- Peking University’s School of International Studies (China)
- Korea University’s Asiatic Research Institute and College of Political Science (Korea)
- Thammasat University’s Faculty of Political Science (Thailand)

Through a curriculum co-taught by faculty from the consortium, students will develop interdisciplinary expertise in areas such as politics, international relations, economics, history and sociology. They will carry out cutting-edge research to address regional problems, build a cohesive network, forge lasting friendship, and hopefully take on future leadership roles in academia, regional institutions, governments and private sector organisations.

To path the way for the launch of Campus Asia-EAUI by 2020, the consortium ran a series of pre-programmes starting in 2012. The pre-programmes consist of winter and summer schools and exchange programme. They are open to all graduate students from the partner universities, including NTU’s HSS.

These overseas immersion programmes are fully funded by a US$ 5 million grant from Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The consortium, led by Waseda University, won the backing of MEXT in 2012 despite facing over 56 contending bids from top universities worldwide.

Each partner university will take turn to host the winter schools, while Waseda university will host the summer schools. Students will be co-taught by faculty members from the partner universities and will study Asian regional integration issues and concerns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s in store for NTU students?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer School</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures and project work held at Waseda University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round-trip air ticket and accommodation provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open to all HSS graduate students in NTU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winter School</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures and project work held at NTU, Waseda University, Korea University, Peking University, or Thammasat University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round-trip air ticket and accommodation provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open to all HSS graduate students in NTU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate Exchange Programme</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester-long exchange programme at Waseda University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round-trip air ticket and partial subsidy for accommodation provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open to all NTU-HSS PhD students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PhD students from each partner university can also go on a semester-long exchange at Waseda University. Likewise, PhD students from Waseda University can head to one of the four other partner universities for exchange.

Waseda University hosted the inaugural Summer and Winter Schools in 2012. The 2013 Winter School was held in NTU, while the upcoming 2013 Summer School is slated to be held at Waseda University.

**Why the need for Campus Asia-EAUI?**
The Campus Asia-EAUI is modelled after the European University Institute (EUI) and the College of Europe. They were formed in the aftermath of the Second World War to promote integration and mutual understanding between all nations in Europe.

Both distinguished institutions have produced notable alumni excelling in various fields and who have made significant contributions to European integration. A notable example is Nick Clegg, the current Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and a former member of the European Parliament. He is a graduate of the College of Europe.

In a similar vein, the Campus-Asia EAUI and its pre-programmes aim to groom students to become effective leaders in regional integration, deploying a curriculum which emphasises interdisciplinary learning and cross-cultural research and learning environments.

In his welcome address to the Winter School @ NTU, Prof Liu Hong, Chair of HSS, said: “The Campus Asia-EAUI is a unique program which brings together leading Asian universities to act as a cultural and scientific bridge between countries in Asia.

“Through interdisciplinary dialogues, I am hopeful that students and scholars will develop strategies for promoting a sustainable Asia, and for managing social, political, economic, cultural and environmental challenges that Asia is facing.”

He also described Asia as an engine of growth that is increasingly troubled by challenges such as an aging population, ethnic and religious conflicts, security issues, economic inequality and poverty, the loss of biodiversity, deforestation, natural and man-made disasters, and pandemics.
For instance, Asia is now the world’s number one greenhouse gas emitter. Japan on its part struggles to rebuild Fukushima in the aftermath of nuclear disaster. Across the East China Sea, tension remains high over territorial disputes involving the Diaoyu Islands, also known as Senkaku Islands. In Southeast Asia, trans-boundary haze, a result of forest fires in Indonesia, often engulfs the skies of neighbouring countries. And closer to home, Singapore has to grapple with a fast-ageing population – a problem that adversely affects Japan.

These and other problems are often trans-border or transnational in nature, and solving them will require cooperation from the affected countries. Asian countries need to look beyond parochial national interest – and come together to address these issues. But unlike Europe, Asia is a much more diverse continent – with diverse ethnic groups, languages, and cultures – making cooperation and dialogue difficult.

Hence the need for a regional graduate school to bring together the best minds in Asia, to be taught by leading scholars from various parts of Asia.

Prof Shunji Matsuoka, a professor at Waseda University and also the general manager of the Campus Asia-EAUI programme, said: “We found that having a regional wide graduate school university has helped to enhance the human resource of effective regional cooperation in Europe.

“The Asian way is of course quite different from the European way. Asia is much more diversified in its political systems, economic institutes, and socio-cultural aspects compared to Europe.

“Nevertheless, we can learn from the
European cases and other region’s experiences to help make peace and prosperity in East Asia. We have designed to make the East Asian University Institute (EAUI) an organisation equivalent to the European University Institute (EUI) of Europe, with an aim to develop a peaceful and prosperous Asia.”

With the five partner universities as anchors, the Campus-Asia EAUI aims to expand and to open the programme in the future to other leading universities in Japan and Asean, as well as those under the Universitas 21 network and the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU).

Promoting Interdisciplinary Research

The Campus-Asia EAUI also serves as a vehicle for developing joint research projects involving faculty members from partner universities. They can exchange research ideas in workshops or conferences held in conjunction with the winter or summer schools.

Waseda University also hosts faculty members from partner universities through a visiting researcher scheme. Asst Prof Joey Long (right), Director of NTU’s History Programme, was the first faculty member from NTU to take part in the scheme. The month-long visit at Waseda University (conducted last December) provided him with a supportive environment to write a chapter bringing together his new research on Singapore-U.S. relations during the Vietnam War. At the Waseda library, he tracked down scholarly writings on how Japanese diplomats had attempted to bring stability to Southeast Asia as Indonesia conducted its Confrontation policy against Malaysia from 1963 to 1966. He also presented a paper at a seminar on American military interventionism and obtained useful feedback on his ideas and arguments.

A research workshop on the theme “Citizenship, Identity and Community” was held at the Winter School @ NTU. The following papers were presented:

- **Emerging Consensus on Human Security**
  By Prof Yasushi Katsuma, Waseda University

- **Making the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Political for the Global Community**
  By Dr Janjira Sombatpoonsiri, Thammasat University

- **The Migrants’ Workers Movement in the Democratic Consolidation of Korea**
  By Prof Nam-Kook Kim, Korea University

- **Citizenship and Identity in Cosmopolitan Communities: A Confucian Exploration**
  By Assoc Prof Tan Sor Hoon, National University of Singapore

- **Citizenship, Identity and Community: Follow the Footsteps of Okakura Kakuzo**
  By Assoc Prof Chu Xiaobo, Peking University

- **Low Fertility and the Politics of Population: The Case of Singapore**
  By Asst Prof Shirley Sun, Sociology, NTU

- **Global Citizenship Education and Diaspora Chinese Community: An Exploration at the University of Nottingham**
  By Dr Bin Wu, University of Nottingham

- **Starting Transnational Citizens: Belonging Between Here & There & Back Again**
  By Dr Michiel Baas, International Institute for Asian Studies

- **Japanese Development Assistance towards ASEAN Countries**
  By Dr Naohiro Kitano, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Campus-Asia EAUI Winter School @ NTU
Faculty members from the five partner universities took turns to deliver lectures on the theme of the issues and challenges of citizenship and security in contemporary Asia. Students were able to hear from each professor’s own unique perspective on the theme.

Thereafter, students were required to demonstrate their understanding of the theme, as well as independent and creative thinking, through group projects and presentations. In the process, they learned to work together despite their different academic, cultural, national and language backgrounds.

They also visited NEWater, a wastewater reclamation facility, to understand how Singapore deals with the water security issue.

### Lectures on Citizenship and Security in Contemporary Asia:

- **Citizenship and Democracy**  
  By Prof He Baogang, Public Policy & Global Affairs, NTU
- **Citizenship and the Multiple Dimensions of Security**  
  By Asst Prof Joey Long, History, NTU
- **Traditional and Non-Traditional Security in East Asia**  
  By Prof Key-young Son, Korea University
- **State, Citizenship and Energy Security: A Comparison between China and Singapore**  
  By Assoc Prof Chen Shaofeng, Peking University
- **Popular Dissent and the Reconfiguration of Global Citizenship: From the Arab Awakening, Occupy Movements to Thailand’s Red Shirts**  
  By Dr Janjira Sombatpoonsiri, Thammasat University
- **National Identity, Transnational Practices and Local Belonging: Citizenship in the Global Age**  
  By Assoc Prof Gracia Liu-Farrer, Waseda University

### Other Overseas Programme for HSS Graduate Students

Besides the Campus Asia-EAUI pre-programmes, HSS graduate students can also take part in the Erasmus MULTI exchange programme. Funded by the European Commission, the programme allows graduate students to head to Europe for study and research on Multilinguality and Multiculturalism. They can go to: University of the Provence (France); University of Pisa (Italy); the University of Saarland (Germany); Freie Universität Berlin (Germany); or City University of London (UK). Airfare and living expenses are provided.

Also in the pipeline are new exchange programmes with several world-class universities. Details will be announced in due course. Stay tuned!