



To celebrate  
**The 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of the Chakri Dynasty and Ratanakosin Bangkok City  
Diamond Jubilee of the Accession to the Throne of His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand  
and the completion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNESCO**

**Institute of Language and Culture for Rural Development, Mahidol University, Thailand**  
in collaboration with  
**Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mahidol University  
Mahachulalongkorn Royal Buddhist University  
Mahamakut Royal Buddhist University**

**announces the 2<sup>nd</sup> SSEASR Conference**  
of  
**SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND RELIGION  
(SSEASR)**

on  
***SYNCRETISM IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA: ADOPTION AND ADAPTATION***

**May 24-27, 2007, Bangkok, Thailand**  
Co-sponsored as a Regional Conference by  
**International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), Member of CIPSH**  
**An affiliate organization of the UNESCO**

Since time immemorial, the region of South and Southeast Asia has played a pivotal role in carrying the traits of culture and religion not only amongst its own societies but also beyond. The basic carriers of such elements were Hinduism and Buddhism which took various routes (both land and sea) to reach the pre-modern Southeast Asia. Later on Islam and Christianity also entered the region and added lustre to the 'culture mosaic'. The concept of syncretism in this area was not only visible in religious scenes but also in various spheres of socio-cultural life. As we know, the word "religion" in South and Southeast Asia goes beyond its general definition. With the widest scope of syncretism in every aspect, 'religion' encompasses here every action of life: be it social customs, language and literature, art and architecture, polity, economics or commerce, performing arts and communication.

The Institute of Language and Culture for Rural Development, Mahidol University, Thailand is pleased to host the 2nd SSEASR Conference on the very auspicious occasion where scholars and writers from various parts of the world are likely to join together with their academic presentation.

#### **Sub-themes**

- 1. Ethnic Mosaic of South and Southeast Asia**
- 2. Syncretic Systems in South and Southeast Asia**
- 3. Language and Literature: Binding Force**
- 4. Women and Religion**

5. Symbolism( Art and Architecture), Communication and Religion
6. Education and Religious Studies
7. Faith and Survival: South and Southeast Asia Diasporas
8. Polity, Trade and Religion
9. Religion: Peace, Violence and Dialogue
10. Tradition vis-à-vis Globalization
11. Religion, Health and Healing
12. Religion and Ecology

Since this is the 2550<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Buddhism, we particularly invite scholars and papers dealing with Buddhism. Participants are requested to submit research papers in English language on any of the relevant sub-themes. An Abstract of 250 words is expected, preferably by E-mail.

A special symposium on Kingship and Religion would be held on the inaugural day. There would be an Exhibition of the Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage during the Conference, which would showcase the culture of South and Southeast Asia. A workshop on Science and Spirituality is also planned. We plan to have world-renowned plenary speakers on the religions of South and Southeast Asia from various parts of the world.

The Organising Committee is also working on a Temple Tour of Bangkok and around. There is a plan to have a chartered flight to Cambodia for Angkor Vat, along with a visit to Phnom Penh, at a special price for the SSEASR delegates. Certain other programmes are also on the way which would be sent to those who pre-register for the Conference.

Pre-Registration: June 30, 2006  
 Early Registration Deadline: October 30, 2006  
 Submission of Abstract: February 15, 2007  
 Submission of Full Paper: February 28, 2007

#### Conference Chair

Prof. Anthony Reid, Director, Asian Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore

#### International Committee

Prof Tim Jensen, General Secretary, IAHR (Chair)  
 Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, President, IAHR  
 Prof. Michael Pye, Former President, IAHR  
 Prof. Armin W. Geertz, Former Gen. Secretary, IAHR  
 Prof Gary Lease, Treasurer, IAHR  
 Prof. (Ms) Alef Theria Wasim, Executive Committee, IAHR

For further information, please contact:

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