DIVISION OF ECONOMICS

Professor Peter Warr, Convener
Professor Raghbendra Jha, Deputy Convener

AUSTRALIA SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH CENTRE

Professor Raghbendra Jha, Executive Director

INDONESIA PROJECT

Associate Professor Chris Manning, Head

POVERTY RESEARCH CENTRE

Professor Peter Warr, Head
Division of Economics
http://rspas.anu.edu.au/economics/

    Working Papers in Trade and Development

Australia South Asia Research Centre
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    ASARC Working Papers

Indonesia Project
http://rspas.anu.edu.au/economics/ip/

    Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies (BIES)
    http://rspas.anu.edu.au/economics/bies/

Poverty Research Centre
http://rspas.anu.edu.au/economics/prc/
THE ARNDT-CORDEN DIVISION OF ECONOMICS

The Arndt-Corden Division of Economics works on the application of economic analysis to issues of analytical and policy importance within the Asia Pacific region. Members of the division are engaged intensively in research, PhD student supervision and teaching corresponding to this mission.

The distinctive feature of the division is the intersection, within the same individuals, of two different but complementary forms of expertise: (i) a high level of disciplinary competence in the relevant fields of applied economics and (ii) deep regional knowledge, supplemented by on-the-ground experience.

The fields of economics in which the division has sought to maintain a high level of competence are development economics, international economics and aspects of applied microeconomics and macroeconomics that are especially relevant for its work on the Asia Pacific region. Division staff currently has active interests in the analysis of macroeconomic stability, agriculture, industrialisation, poverty, the role of the state, the environment, and international trade and investment. The geographical areas in which the division is most closely engaged are Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia; South Asia and China. As Australia engages ever more deeply with the Asia Pacific region this work is of increasing importance for Australia itself and for the contributions Australia can make to the region as a whole.

The division hosts three major research centres: the Indonesia Project, recognised as the leading centre outside Indonesia for research on the Indonesian economy and publisher of the Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies; the Australia South Asia Research Centre (ASARC) and the Poverty Research Centre.

The division sponsors two major annual public lecture series. The Sixth Arndt Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Ross Garnaut on ‘Measuring the immeasurable: The costs and benefits of climate change mitigation’ and attracted a very large audience. The 2008 K R Narayan Oration was entitled ‘Why environmentalism needs equity: Learning from the environmentalism of the poor to build our common future’, and was given by Ms Sunita Narain, Director of the Centre for Science and Environment, Director of the Society for Environmental Communications and publisher of the fortnightly magazine Down to Earth. It too attracted a large and enthusiastic audience.

During 2008, 28 students were enrolled for PhD research and 11 PhDs were awarded. Members of the division taught courses in both the College of Business and Economics and in the Crawford School of Economics and Government, College of Asia and the Pacific.

Professor Peter Warr led a team commissioned by the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to report on progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals within Southeast Asia and organised a symposium on the impact of the global financial crisis in the Asia Pacific region, involving economists and international relations experts from across the university. His research publications included papers dealing with economic issues in Indonesia, Laos, India and Thailand. They covered protection policy and the effects of international price changes on domestic prices in Indonesia; the poverty-reducing effects of road improvement in rural Laos; agricultural trade policy and poverty in India; protection policy and the structure of economic incentives in Thailand; and the effects on the...
global food price crisis on poverty incidence in Thailand. He also contributed a newspaper op-ed article on Thailand’s political crisis (Canberra Times, 12 September). He presented invited papers at the following conferences and workshops: Emerging Trends and Patterns of Trade and Investment in Asia (as part of the 9th Global Development Network (GDN) Conference in Brisbane, February); a workshop on protection policy and poverty incidence in Asia (presenting papers on Indonesia and Thailand) at the World Bank, Washington DC; the Asian Economic Panel Conference, Brookings Institution, Washington DC, October; and a symposium Progress Toward the Millennium Development Goals in Southeast Asia, Bangkok, where he was the keynote speaker. He also continued in his role as a resource expert for the East Asian Development Network, participating in their conference in Bangkok. He served on the editorial boards of seven academic journals and was a referee for 10 papers for economics journals. He taught a graduate course on development economics (with Prema-chandra Athukorala) and supervised two PhD students.

Hal Hill’s publications included work on Indonesian industrialisation, Indonesian trade policy and regional (sub-national) development in Southeast Asia. He published in the Asian Economic Policy Review (and was also guest co-editor of an issue), The World Economy, Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies, and also published press pieces. He attended conferences and made presentations in Canberra, Brisbane, Tokyo (twice), Kyoto, Singapore, Jakarta, Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Phnom Penh. He was principal organiser of the 4th Australasian Development Economics Workshop (ADEW) and co-organised another year of the High Level Policy Dialogues (HLPD) with the Indonesian Ministry of Finance. He also served on the editorial board of 13 academic journals and refereed extensively. His research collaborations included with the National University of Malaysia (as a visiting professor), the University of Indonesia, the University of the Philippines, the World Bank, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (Jakarta) and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. He undertook advisory work for AusAID, the Asian Development Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. He taught a semester 2 course, Economic Development of Southeast Asia. He was supervisor of seven PhD students, three of whom successfully completed in 2008, and a member of the advisory committee of two PhD students. He secured grants of $65,000 from the AIGRP, 2007–08, with colleagues from the CSIS; $180,000 from AusAID for the HLPD, 2008–2010, with Chris Manning; and $75,000 from AusAID for the ADEW series, 2008–2010.

Professor Raghbendra Jha taught graduate Public Economics in the College of Business and Economics; supervised students for Case Studies in Economics, in Economics Seminars (CBE) and Economic Seminars (Crawford); presented a lecture on the Indian economy at Toad Hall and in a Symposium on the Impact of the Global Financial Crisis in the Asia-Pacific Region. He worked in collaborations with other universities and/or bodies: on attaining the Millennium Development Goals, with Professor R Gaiha, University of Delhi; on market integration in Indian agriculture with Professor K V Bhanu Murthy, University of Delhi and Dr A Sharma, Monash University; on fiscal federalism, decentralisation and the provision of public goods with Dr H K Nagarajan, National Council of Applied Economics Research, New Delhi; on an ARC Linkage grant, ‘Social Safety Nets in India—Effectiveness, Nutritional Impact and Political Economy’, with Drs R Bhatia, SDC Data Systems, New Delhi, P K Roy, Delhi, S Shankar, Centre for Policy Research, Delhi, and
Professor R Gaiha, University of Delhi; on vulnerability and poverty in Central Asia and Pacific Island countries with Dr Tu Dang, Ministry of Finance, Vietnam, Professor K L Sharma, University of Fiji, and Dr Y Tashrifov, Central Bank of Tajikistan; on ‘Local Public Goods in a Democracy’ with Professor S Gupta, Xavier Labour Relations Institute, School of Business and Human Resources, India.

Professor Jha’s involvement with professional bodies included consultant, Millennium Development Goals, World Bank; member, American Economic Association; Royal Economic Society, Econometric Society; consultant on Macro Policies to attain Millennium Development Goals, United Nations Development Program (UNDP); consultant to the Asian Development Bank; consultant on Prospects of Inflation Targeting in India, to the United Nations, 2004–05; Australia Coordinator for Asia Pacific Economic Association; member Steering Committee of South Asia Node of AusAID/Asia Pacific Futures Network. Professor Jha was associate editor, *International Tax and Public Finance*; a member of two editorial boards, and a referee for 24 journals and six publishers. His involvement with government, industry and commerce comprised adviser, World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER); fellow of the World Innovation Foundation, 2002–; member, Panel of Experts, Fiscal Affairs Division, International Monetary Fund; consultant, World Bank; consultant, United Nations Research Institute for Sustainable Development (UNRISD); consultant, United National Development Program (UNDP).

Professor Jha organised a public lecture, 2008 K R Narayanan Oration, and a workshop on the National Employment Guarantee Program in India. He was an invited speaker at an international conference called The New India, organised by the Japan Centre for Economic Research in Tokyo; invited speaker at Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on IFAD Rural Poverty Report 2009, Manila; invited national speaker at the India Update, University of Canberra; and invited to present a lecture on the Indian economy at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra, May. His contributions to newspaper and media were in *The Australian*, ‘Investors punish the poor’, August; *Hindustan Times*, ‘Keep up the tempo’, 2008 (with Raghav Gaiha and Shylashri Shankar); *Financial Express*, ‘Expansionary in its fiscal stance’, March; *Asian Currents*, ‘The impact of the Global Financial Crisis on India and policy responses’, November.

In February, Professor Athukorala organised an international research workshop on Emerging Trends and Patterns of Trade and Investment in Asia (as part of the Ninth Global Development Network (GDN) Conference) with financial support from GDN. An edited volume incorporating the 12 papers presented at the conference will be published by Routledge, London. He was an invited contributor to a multicountry research project on ‘Multilateralizing Asian Regionalism’ jointly organised by the Asian Development Bank and the World Trade Organization. A volume based on this project is to be published by the Cambridge University Press. He also contributed a paper to a multicountry study on ‘Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation’ organised by the Asian Development Bank Institute. He presented papers at nine international conferences (all by invitation): Workshop, Asian Development Bank Institute’s Flagship Study on Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation, ADBI (Tokyo, February); Asian Economic Panel Conference, (Seoul, April); Trade-Poverty Nexus in South Asia conference organised by the Institute of Policy Research (Sri Lanka) and Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Germany), (Colombo, May); China Update 2008 (ANU, July); Monetary and Financial Issues in Economic Integration in Asia conference...
Division of Economics

(Adelaide, August); Asian Economic Panel Conference (Brookings Institution, Washington DC, October); Multilateralizing Asian Regionalism conference organised by the World Trade Organization and Asian Development Bank Institution (Tokyo, September); The Future of Economic Integration in Asia conference co-organised by the Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University and Japan Bank for International Cooperation, (Bangkok, November).

Professor Athukorala’s interactions with other areas of ANU included a course in Economic Development (jointly with Professor Peter Warr) in the Masters in International and Development Economics program, Crawford School of Economics and Government, 1st semester; he also supervised three Masters students (research essays) in the International and Development Economics program, Crawford School of Economics and Government. His research collaborations with other universities or bodies: ‘Flagship Study on Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation’, Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo (advisor/paper writer); ‘Multilateralizing Asian Regionalism’, World Trade Organization, Geneva and Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo (advisor/paper writer). He reviewed manuscripts for Stanford University Press (1), Routledge (2) and Edward Elgar (1) and reviewed 16 papers for international journals. Newspaper and media contributions included ‘US-China trade relations’, APEC Economies Newsletter, Crawford School of Economics and Government; ‘Liberalization has paid dividends’, The National (Colombo), May.

Dr Ross McLeod created the Indonesia Project blog to enable project staff and colleagues to contribute short, timely essays on newly emerging economic policy issues in Indonesia. He developed the BIES Interactive Forum to enable online discussion of articles published in BIES. The forum was scheduled to go live in February 2009, and is, so far as we are aware, the first example of such a facility for an academic journal. He was awarded research grant from Australia Indonesia Governance Research Project to undertake research on ‘Public Sector Accounting Reform in Indonesia’, in collaboration with Harun, a lecturer at Tadulako University in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia (work to be undertaken in 2009).

Dr McLeod was guest lecturer at Padjadjaran University, Bandung, Indonesia, on ‘Public sector corruption’, April; guest lecturer to High Level Training Group at Indonesia’s Department of Foreign Affairs, on ‘Recent economic developments’, August; and a guest lecturer in Hal Hill’s Economic Development of Southeast Asia course (ANU), September. He undertook presentations at the International Conference on Indonesia’s Decade of Democratisation, the Rise of Constitutional Democracy, Jakarta, on ‘A decade of Reformasi: What has Indonesia gained, and what has it lost?’; to the Indonesia Study Group, ANU; to AusAID; and at Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia; on ‘Recent economic developments’; to a group of Indonesian officials from Indonesia’s Civil Service Board and Ministry for Administrative Reform on ‘Ideas for public sector reform in Indonesia, Canberra’; on High Level Policy Dialogue with Indonesian officials and advisors, ANU; in Office of National Assessments Round Table on Emerging Crisis; and to a visiting group of officials from Indonesia’s Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs on ‘Review of governance issues for Indonesia’; and presentation at Workshop on the State and Illegality, ANU, on ‘Institutionalized public sector corruption: A Soeharto legacy’.

Dr Budy P Resosudarmo continued to head the development of Indonesian interregional computable general equilibrium model, part of the ‘Analysing Path for Sustainability in Indonesia’ project, together with colleagues Arief A Yusuf and Djoni
Hartono. The model aims to simulate the impact of environmental policies on the Indonesian economy. He is also a principal investigator in the ‘Rural-Urban Migration in China and Indonesia’ project together with colleagues Xin Meng, Tao Kong, Chris Manning and Paul Frijters. This project was established to investigate the impacts of internal migration within China and Indonesia.

Dr Resosudarmo published six journal articles and a chapter in an edited book. He was a member of the organising committee of the 9th Indonesian Regional Science Association International Conference conducted in Palembang on 31 July–1 August, as well as a member of the organising committee of the 5th Australasian Development Economics Workshop conducted in Canberra in June. His international conference/seminar presentations included at Mapping Causal Complexity in Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation workshop (Melbourne, November), at the 11th International Convention of the East Asian Economic Association (Manila, November), and at the 21st Indonesia—Challenges Ahead (Singapore, November). Four of his PhD students submitted their dissertations. He was also involved in the supervision of 10 other PhD students.

Dr Sambit Bhattacharyya authored five articles which were accepted for publication in reputed national and international journals. He also signed a book contract with Edward Elgar Publishing, for a book entitled Growth Miracles and Growth Debacles: Exploring Root Causes which is expected to be published in 2010. He is continuing to work on the project analysing the impact of the anti-poverty program National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in India (with Raghbendra Jha, Raghav Gaiha and Shylashri Shankar). He also co-authored a paper entitled ‘Commodity price shocks and the Australian economy since federation’ (with Jeffrey Williamson) which was later published as a NBER working paper.

Dr Xiaodong Gong mainly worked on the Chinese migrant worker project. He monitored the conduct of the survey, and data from the first wave were collected. An output from that is a chapter in the book published and presented at the China Update. He also worked on child development in Australia. The joint paper with Andrew Leigh, ‘Does parental age affect children’s test scores?’ was submitted to Australian Economic Review. Dr Gong was on sabbatical leave from October. Dr Gong was on the supervisory panel of PhD students Cathy Gong and Russell Thomson, and supervised one student for the course Econometrics Case Study.

**POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

**Doctoral Degrees Conferred and Thesis Topics**

**Dang, N T**  
Choice between exchange rate band and corner solutions with imperfect credibility

**Hill, S C**  
Foreign direct investment and economic growth: The role of host country policies

**Machmud, A**  
Determinants of inflation in Indonesia: An econometric analysis

**Miranti, R**  
The determinants of regional poverty in Indonesia 1984–2002
Nashihin, M

Posso, A
Trade liberalisation and labour market outcomes: A comparative study of Latin America and Asia

Ruangkajorn, J
The determinants of private investment in Thailand

Temenggung, D
Foreign direct investment and industrial transformation in Indonesia

Vidyattama, Y
Patterns of provincial economic growth in Indonesia

Yamashita, N
International fragmentation of production, trade patterns and the labour market adjustments in Japanese manufacturing

Yusuf, A
Distributional impact of environmental policies in Indonesia

**Doctoral Students and Research Topics**

Abdurohman, R
Impact of fiscal policy on income distribution and poverty

Amornkitvikai, Y
Financial development, reform and growth: Thailand

Anas, T
Factors affecting the poor performance of Indonesian exports in the post crisis

Burke, P
Essays of the impacts of economic growth

Chuah, L L
Private investments in Malaysia

Gong, C H
Inequality and economic growth in China

Gupta, N
Strategic competition for foreign direct investment

Kam, A
International trade and technology transfers in Southeast Asian countries

Lee, M
Trade liberalisation and inequality

Liu, X
Monetary policy regime in developing countries

Matsui, M
Marriage, employment and happiness: The work life balance of Japanese women
Nishitateno, S
International production fragmentation and exchange rate pass-through: Evidence from Japan

Nurdiyanto, D A
Toward an integrated ASEAN: Perspectives on energy trade and agreements

Purnagunawan, R M
Employment, productivity and labour regulation in Indonesia

Rosdaniah, S I
State enterprises and privatisation in Indonesia

Soejachmoen, M P
Global production networks: Case of Japanese automotive industry

Suphannachart, W
Research and productivity in Thailand agricultural

Taborda, R
Structural reforms and industrial adjustment in Columbia

Thomson, R
The determinants of technological innovation

Wagle, S
Trade blocs in the Asia Pacific

Yee Chong San, L P K F
The use of alternative financial instruments for monetary policy in developed countries

Yeo, C
Healthcare utilisation, saving and retirement decisions in response to health system reforms in China

Zhang, D
Employment, inequality and poverty in China

Publications

In-house Publications

ASARC Working Papers
http://rspas.anu.edu.au/economics/publications.php#asarc

Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies
Ross McLeod (Editor)
www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=1472-7234

Working Papers in Trade and Development
http://rspas.anu.edu.au/economics/publications.php#working-papers

Aswicahyono, H*, D Narjoko* and H Hill
Athukorala, P C

Athukorala, P C and N Yamashita

Balisacan, A M*, H Hill and S F Piza*

Basri, M C* and H Hill

Bhattacharyya, S
Bhattacharyya, S, S Dowrick# and J Golley#
Institutions and Trade: Competitors or Complements in Economic Development?

Bhattacharyya, S and R Hodler#

Bird, K* and H Hill

Bird, K*, H Hill and S Cuthbertson*

Breunig, R#, D A Cobb-Clark# and X Gong
‘Improving the modeling of couples’ labour supply’, The Economic Record 84(267), 466–85.

Chowdhury, A* and Y Vidyattama

Fane, G and P Warr

Garnaut, R
— ‘Will climate change bring an end to the Platinum Age?’ Asian-Pacific Economic Literature 22(1), 1–14.

Garnaut, R, S Howes#, F Jotzo and P Sheehan#

Garnaut, R, F Jotzo and S Howes#

Garnaut, R, L Song# and Y Yao#
Division of Economics

Gong, X, S T Kong#, S Li# and X Meng#

Hartono, D* and B P Resosudarmo

Hill, H
— ‘Strongman of southeast Asia slowly lost his grip’, Australian Financial Review 29 January; reprinted as ‘Suharto’s divided legacy’, in B Nelson and R Jeffrey (eds), Capturing the Year 2008, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, Canberra, 29–32.

Hill, H, T Ito*, A Kojima*, C McKenzie* and S Urata*

Hill, H, B Resosudarmo and Y Vidyattama

Jha, R
— ‘Investors punish the poor’, The Australian 8 August; reprinted in B Nelson and R Jeffrey (eds), Capturing the Year 2008, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, Canberra, 80–2.

Jha, R (ed.)

Jha, R, K V Bhanu Murthy* and A Sharma*

Jha, R and U N Bhati*
Jha, R, S Bhattacharyya, R Gaiha* and S Shankar*

Jha, R and T Dang

Jha, R, T Dang and K L Sharma*

Jha, R, T Dang and Y Tashrifov*

Jha, R, R Gaiha* and S Shankar*
‘Reviewing the national rural employment guarantee programme’, *Economic and Political Weekly* 41(11), 44–8.

Jha, R, K S Imai* and R Gaiha*

Jha, R and I S Longjam*

Jotzo, F
see Resource Management in Asia-Pacific Program, Non-Divisional Groups
Kong, T and A Ramayandi*
‘Survey of recent developments’, Bulletin of Indonesian Economics Studies 44(1), 7–32.

Manning, C and K Bird*
‘Minimum wages and poverty in a developing country: Simulations from Indonesia’s household survey’, World Development 36(5), 916–33.

Manning, C and A Posso

McCawley, Peter

McLeod, R
‘Inadequate budgets and salaries as instruments for institutionalizing public sector corruption in Indonesia’, South East Asia Research 16(2), 199–223.

Menon, J* and P Warr

Pursell, G* and P Warr

Resosudarmo, B P

Resosudarmo, B P and M Irhamni*

Resosudarmo, B P, C Sugiyanto* and A Kuncoro*
Warr, P

Yamashita, N

Yamazaki, S* and B P Resosudarmo
‘Does sending farmers back to school have an impact? Revisiting the issue’, The Developing Economies 46(2), 135–50.

Yusuf, A A* and B P Resosudarmo

* author does not belong to ANU
# author belongs to another part of ANU

STAFF

Convener and John Crawford Professor of Agricultural Economics
P G Warr, BSc(Syd), MSc(Lond), PhD(Stan), FASSA

Deputy Convener and Professor of South Asian Economics
R Jha, BA(Hons), MA(Delhi), MPhil, PhD(Col)

Divisional Administrator
C Kavanagh

Professors
P Athukorala, BComm(Hons)(Ceylon), PhD(LaTrobe), FASSA
R G Garnaut, AO, BA, PhD(ANU), FASSA
H Hill, BEcon(Monash), DipEd(La Trobe), MEc(Monash), PhD(ANU)
R Jha, BA(Hons), MA(Delhi), MPhil, PhD(Col)
P G Warr, BSc(Syd), MSc(Lond), PhD(Stan), FASSA
Adjunct Professors
G Fane, BA(Oxf), PhD(Harv)
H Soesastro, BAeroEng(TAachen), PhD(Rand), Centre for Strategic and
International Studies, Jakarta

Emeritus Professors
H Hughes, AO, MA(Melb), PhD(Lond), FASSA
J A C Mackie, BA(Hons)(Melb and Oxf), MA(Oxf)

Associate Professors
C Manning, BA(ANU), MEcon(Monash), PhD(ANU)
R McLeod, BEng/BA(Melb), PhD(ANU)

Fellows
X Gong, BSc(Fudan), MA(RenminUniChina), PhD(Tilburg)
B P Resosudarmo, BSc, MSc(Indonesia), PhD(Cornell)

Research Fellows
F Jotzo, Dipl-VWL(Humboldt), MEcDev, PhD(ANU) [joint appointment with
RMAP]
S Bhattacharyya, BSc(Calc), MA(Delhi), PhD(ANU)

Information Technology Officers
G Luttrell

Administrative Staff
K Nulty
S Zec

Personal Assistant to Ross Garnaut
V Webster

Visiting Fellows and Divisional Visitors
Mr Z S Ahmed, School of Humanities, University of New England
Professor I Coxhead, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Mr E Elgar, Edward Elgar Publishing
Dr K Imai, visiting fellow, ASARC
Ms M Irhamni, visiting student, Indonesia Project
Dr K Komara, Economics Coordinating Ministry
Professor M Krongkaew, National Anti-Corruption Commission, Thailand
Dr A Kuncoro, University of Indonesia
Dr H Lee, Osaka University
Dr M Mahendrarajah, visiting fellow
Dr P McCawley, Indonesia Project
Dr N McCulloch, Asia Foundation
Ms S Narain, Centre for Science and Environment, Delhi
Dr R Oktaviani, Bogor Agricultural University
Dr G G Pursell, visiting fellow, ASARC
Professor R Sally, London School of Economics
Professor H Soesastro, Centre for Strategic and International Studies
Dr C Sugiyanto, Gadjah Mada University
Australia South Asia Research Centre

The Australia South Asia Research Centre (ASARC) is at the forefront of research into South Asian economies in the Australia-New Zealand region. ASARC continued its work on the ARC Linkage grant project with AusAID, entitled ‘Social Safety Nets in India: Effectiveness, Nutritional Impact and Political Economy’. Work also continued on a project from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), entitled ‘Risk, Vulnerability and Poverty in Central Asia and Pacific Island Countries—Emerging Challenges and Policy Priorities’. Summary results from this work were invited for presentation at a major conference in Manila. ASARC was invited to speak on the topic ‘New India’ at a conference organised by the Japan Center for Economic Research.

ASARC posted eight working papers, four of which were either authored or co-authored directly by ASARC staff. These papers are posted on the ASARC web site (http://rspas.anu.edu.au/economics/asarc/). ASARC staff also contributed seven working papers to the Arndt-Corden Division of Economics Working Paper series.

ASARC’s edited volume The Indian Economy Sixty Years after Independence (Palgrave Macmillan) was launched in New Delhi on 12 December by Dr C Rangarajan, member of the Indian Parliament, former chair, Panel of Economic Advisors to the Prime Minister of India and former governor of the Reserve Bank of India. ASARC also held a workshop in December on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Publications this past year include the 2008 K R Narayanan Oration, Why Environment Needs Equity: Learning from the Environmentalism of the Poor to Build our Common Future by Ms Sunita Narain, Director, Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi. As with previous years, this year’s oration has been posted on the ASARC website and is available for purchase as a booklet from the RSPAS bookshop. ASARC received a grant to support the 2008 Narayanan Oration from the Australia-India Council.

ASARC presented several seminars this year. Speakers included Dr Garry Pursell, a visiting fellow with ASARC and former senior consultant to The World Bank.

ASARC delivered a lecture on the topic ‘Indian economy: Current and future prospects’ to the Australian Defence College Defence and Strategic Studies Course, South Asia and Beyond. A lecture was presented to the India Update held at the University of Canberra. Further, ASARC presented lectures at Toad Hall, ANU, as well as at a panel discussion on the Asia Pacific economies during the financial crisis.

Publications

see divisional publications, above
STAFF

Executive Director and Professor of South Asian Economics
R Jha, BA(Hons), MA(Delhi), MPhil, PhD(Col)

Administrative Staff
S Hancock

INDONESIA PROJECT
The project continued to focus on core activities as well as starting a number of new initiatives. The core activities include publishing the *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies* and organising the Indonesia Update and related ‘mini’ updates with the Lowy Institute in Sydney and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Jakarta, a regular Indonesia Study Group seminar series, and a visitors program for Indonesian academics. In April, the *Bulletin* featured a special issue on rice production, marketing and policy. In addition to commissioning the popular ‘Survey of recent developments’, a range of papers on the Indonesian economy, authored by Indonesian, Australian and other international authors was in each of the three journal numbers published in 2008. The Indonesia Update entitled Beyond the Waters Edge: Managing an Archipelagic State was coordinated by Robert Cribb and featured key policymakers on maritime affairs from Indonesia and Holland, as well as academics from a range of Australian universities (New South Wales, Melbourne, Griffith and Sydney). The update book based on the 2007 conference *Expressing Islam: Religious Life and Politics in Indonesia* was launched in August at a lively half-day seminar in Jakarta held at CSIS. The Indonesia Study Group continues to thrive: it held over 25 meetings on a range of political, economic, social and cultural topics.

New activities in 2008 included support for a training program for high-level officials from the Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs run by Peter McCawley and the Crawford School; a special seminar on rice policy held at CSIS; and a special lecture in the Sadli series in honour of Moh. Sadli who sadly passed away in January. The project continues to receive significant support from AusAID for most activities and was recently rewarded with renewal of the ongoing grant for another four years at a significantly larger level than in the past. Academics attached to the project expanded their deep interest in empirical and policy-related studies in the areas of macroeconomics, trade and investment, the political economy, the environment and climate change, migration and labour markets.

PUBLICATIONS
see divisional publications, above

STAFF

Executive Director
C Manning, BA(ANU), MEcon(Monash), PhD(ANU)

Fellow
B P Resosudarmo, BSc, MSc(Indonesia), PhD(Cornell)
POVERTY RESEARCH CENTRE
Research during 2008 dealt primarily with the relationship between trade policy and poverty reduction in Southeast Asia, especially in Thailand and Indonesia, and progress toward the Millennium Development Goals in Southeast Asia. A large project on agricultural productivity growth and poverty reduction in Thailand and Indonesia was largely completed.

A new research project was initiated on the effect that international food price increases have on poverty incidence, with a paper in a major symposium organised by the International Association of Agricultural Economists published by the journal of that association at the end of the year.

PUBLICATIONS
see divisional publications, above

STAFF

Executive Director and John Crawford Professor of Agricultural Economics
P G Warr, BSc(Syd), MSc(Lond), PhD(Stan), FASSA