

Program for Advancing Strategic International Networks to Accelerate the Circulation of Talented Researchers  
Japan-ASEAN Collaboration Research Program on Innovative Humanosphere in Southeast Asia:  
In search of Wisdom toward Compatibility Growth and Community in the World

Report

Invitation Period: **28 January to 4 February 2017**

Place: **Kyoto University**

Name: **Professor Brenda S.A. Yeoh**

Institute/University: **Department of Geography, National University of Singapore**

**Research title: Transnational Migrations and Plural Diversities: Encounters in Global Cities**

As part of the visit, I delivered a seminar entitled “Plural diversities and the politics of encounter in the global city” on 29 January 2017 hosted by the Asian Research Center for the Intimate and Public Spheres, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University. Using Singapore as a case study, the seminar focused on contemporary postcolonial migration as a compelling force leading to increasing diversity in globalising cities, and the politics of diversity and migrant encounter across a range of public and private spaces. There was a lively discussion among the audience of about 25 students, faculty members and visitors from other universities.

I also met with a group of scholars (including Wako Asato, Koji Horinuki, Naomi Hosoda, Masako Ishii, Masaki Matsuo, Kyoko Matsukawa, Akiko Watanabe) working on the idea of neo-plural society in relation to the Arab Gulf States for an exchange of ideas on 28 January 2017. The two-hour session allowed us to discuss questions around the differential incorporation of migrants into societies characterized by a high proportion of ‘temporary’ migrants in the workforce, as is the case in the Arab Gulf States as well as Southeast Asian cities such as Singapore.

I also completed a short paper (co-authored with Shirlena Huang) on “Familialism, Foreign Domestic Workers and Eldercare in Singapore” for a volume arranged by Wako Asato under this programme. The paper discusses Singapore’s experience with rapid ageing and the implications of a welfare regime based on liberal familialism.

I was able to pay a short visit to Professor Shoji Hirata, Dean of the Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University. I also met with Professor Emiko Ochiai who hosted me to dinner, and had coffee with Julius Bautista from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Wako Asato was very generous with his time and I am very grateful to him for making all the arrangements. Finally, I was very fortunate that my visit coincided with the Setsubun Festival and I was able to join in the festivities in welcoming Spring!

