Southeast Asia Center To Be Established at IUPUI

Building upon the Indiana University’s long involvement in Asia, the Southeast Asia Center (SEAC) is being established on the IUPUI campus in order to link the academic and business communities of the Midwest with one of the most dynamic world areas of economic growth and sociological change. The creation of the Center was first proposed as an initiative of SEACOM, a committee formed in 1991 and chaired by former IU president John Ryan, to explore the feasibility and potential of such linkage programs. This year, a steering committee composed of regional specialists and professionals was created to formalize the center’s establishment. This committee, chaired by Professor Marjorie Lyles of the IU School of Business, will include a business advisory group as well, and there will also be an International Board composed of representatives from business, industry, and education from each of the countries represented by the center. The focus of the Southeast Asia Center will be the creation, implementation, and administration of a series of ongoing programs, research projects, and interchanges to link Southeast Asia with the Midwest culturally, educationally, and economically. The non-profit resource center will offer information and assistance to academic institutions and business organizations interested in the development of projects and programs focusing on Southeast Asia.

As an educational institution built upon the combined strengths of Indiana and Purdue universities, IUPUI is a particularly rich site for such a center, possessing these universities’ combined resources of educators and professionals knowledgeable and interested in Southeast Asia. The IUPUI center will focus on the Southeast Asian countries of Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, and in the future may include Australia and New Zealand as well.

As one of the most dynamic areas of the world in terms of business development and sociological change, Southeast Asia’s diverse cultures and economies are facing the challenge of maximizing the positive aspects of rapid growth while seeking to minimize the social costs of such development. SEAC’s mission will be the promotion of quality growth and development within the distant and contrasting regions of Southeast Asia and the midwestern U.S. The Center plans to implement this goal through projects, programs, partnerships, interchanges, and resources which draw upon the combined strengths of individuals from the government, university, professional, and business communities of Southeast Asia and the Midwest.

The Southeast Asia Center’s primary objectives are: the exchange of faculty and students; collaborative research and analysis of shared problems in fields ranging from medicine to environmental concerns; the invention and discovery of new mechanisms for promoting the quality of life; and the provision of information and assistance to leaders in business, education, health sciences, and other fields of activity. To meet these objectives, the IUPUI Center will build upon existing relationships with alumni, business enterprises, and policy makers here and abroad.

Planned activities for the Southeast Asia Center include: executive development programs; information on market environments; faculty and business leader exchanges; student exchanges and internships; and the application of new communication and information technologies in order to promote greater understanding through interaction. The Center will also serve as a catalyst for collaboration on issues of mutual concern to Southeast Asian countries and midwestern states through conferences, research, and programs in the key areas of environmental protection, urban development, international trade, medical technologies, health policy, philanthropy, technological expansion, journalism, education, and social welfare.

Founders of the IUPUI Southeast Asia Center consider this new initiative to be expressive of U.S. universities’ tripartite vision of teaching, research, and service. Within this perspective, the university does not remain isolated and sheltered from its surrounding social and economic environment, but seeks to participate as an active, positive contributor to the affairs of that environment. Such a role projects the university into the applied affairs of business and society in a variety of ways. The Southeast Asia Center is being developed in order to embrace such opportunities and challenges.

CIBER Offers Language Courses

From September 10 to November 19, IU-Bloomington’s Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) offered non-credit language instruction in beginning Spanish and German for School of Business graduate students, faculty and staff. In the first week in January 1994, they plan again to offer, on demand and for a fee, intensive week-long courses in Spanish and German for those having prior language exposure. More information on these courses is available from Shelley Arnold (tel: 855-5944; VAX:sarnold) at the School of Business International Programs Office, BU 463).