

**Reconceptualizing the “Global” in Global Education
A Collaborative Meeting for Discussion of Strategies and “Best Practices”
September 16-22, 2007**

Participant Biographies

Muhamad Ali

Muhamad Ali is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California, Riverside. He received his B.A. in Islamic Studies from the State Islamic University, Indonesia, an M.Sc. from the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, the University of Edinburgh, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. His dissertation examines the varying impacts of Dutch, British, and Japanese colonial powers on the production and transmission of knowledge in Islamic sermons and curricula in colonial Indonesia and Malaysia. During his studies at the University of Hawai'i, Ali was also a fellow at the East-West Center, where he undertook a research assistantship on ethnic conflict and participated in the Center's International Cultural Studies.

Ali has taught Qur'an exegesis, Islam and international relations, Orientalism, and Muslim politics, has spoken on interfaith dialogue in various countries, and has worked with U.S. high school teachers on Islam in Southeast Asia. His recent publications include a book *Multicultural-Pluralist Theology* (Kompas, 2003), articles on women and *jihad* for the *Encyclopaedia of Women and Islamic Culture* (Brill, 2004), and on the Liberal Islam Network in Indonesia in the *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* (2005). His research interests include Islamic social movements and politics, comparative Muslim societies, religious pluralism, and Islam in Southeast Asia. In the past several years, Ali has worked with American and Asian teachers taking part in the East-West Center's AsiaPacificEd “best practice” institutes.

Richard Baker

Richard Baker has been Special Assistant to East-West Center President Charles Morrison since March 2003. He joined the East-West Center's research staff in 1988, following a 20-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service, and has served in a variety of positions including as interim director of the Center's research program in 2000. His Foreign Service assignments included Singapore, Indonesia, and Australia, and various positions at the Department of State in Washington. Richard's areas of interest include U.S. foreign policy making, Asia Pacific regionalism, Southeast Asia (with a special focus on Indonesia), Australia/New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands. Among other current duties, he coordinates the Center's Islamic Initiative. He has presented or led sessions at many AsiaPacificEd workshops and institutes.

Baker was the principal editor of 'Indonesia: The Challenge of Change' (1999) and a co-editor and co-author of the 1997-2005 Asia Pacific Security Outlook series (he now leads the successor Asia Pacific Security Survey). Baker holds a Master of Public Affairs degree in International Relations from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

Ha Xuan Trung

Ha Xuan Trung has over 40 years of experience in finance, management, and business education in the public and private sector in Vietnam and the United States. Ha, who has an MA in Economics from Yale University and an MBA from the Harvard Business School, is Advisor for Policy and Business Development to OPV Group. In this capacity, he directs OPV's business development activities in the distribution and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals in Vietnam, including the building of a GMP pharmaceutical factory with an investment of US\$ 20 million. During the 1970's, Ha was South Vietnam's Minister of Finance.

Ha also teaches as well as advises a number of programs in business education in Vietnam, including the University of Hawai'i Executive MBA Program in Ho Chi Minh City; the

Executive MBA Program of the Maastricht School of Management (Netherlands) at the University of Technology in Ho Chi Minh City; and the Hanoi School of Business at Vietnam National University, Hanoi. Ha facilitated a field visit for the 2005 AsiaPacificEd travel seminar in Vietnam for American teachers.

Somnieng Hoeurn

Venerable Somnieng Hoeurn is the Second Head Monk of Wat Damnak in Siem Reap, Cambodia. In 2005 Hoeurn founded the Life and Hope Association (LHA) and continues to lead the Association as the Executive Director. LHA is a Siem Reap-based nonprofit, nonpolitical organization that works to improve the lives of disadvantaged Cambodians, particularly children and women, through non-formal education, vocational training, and health services. LHA also provides local families in need with basic needs support, such as food and shelter, as well as runs an orphanage in the outskirts of Siem Reap.

In addition to his work at LHA, Hoeurn heads the NGO Network in Siem Reap Province as well as the Chamber of Social Service Network Against Child Labor and is a founding member of Siem Reap's Rotary Club. Prior to his affiliation with Wat Damnak, Hoeurn worked as program manager of the Salvation Center Cambodia, where he worked on issues related to HIV/AIDS and as provincial monk core trainer on HIV/AIDS and drug prevention programs. Earlier this year, Hoeurn conducted discussion sessions with the AsiaPacificEd "Travel and Teach" and "Partnership for Youth" programs and worked alongside AsiaPacificEd participants at a tree planting event in Kampong Kleang, Siem Reap.

Gwen Johnson

Gwen Johnson teaches World History, Advanced Placement Comparative Government, and Public Policy at Scarsdale High School, New York. She has coordinated courses for the Scarsdale Teachers Institute on World History initiatives, Indochina with focus on Cambodia, Chinese literature and film, and Islamic art among others. She initiated a mentor-mentee program for new international students at Scarsdale to help them integrate into the school community, coordinated the international segment of a three day school-wide symposium entitled “Beyond Fear and Hatred,” and has developed and coordinated school-wide “teach-ins” on war, conflict, and human rights. Johnson also serves on the Scarsdale School District's Interdependence Committee, which supports Scarsdale's strategic plan for preparing students for an interdependent world, fostering a love of learning, and encouraging a life of contribution. Through her involvement in AsiaPacificEd programs, both as a participant and as a program consultant, she has actively supported teachers in deepening their leadership skills and knowledge of Asia across the curriculum.

Johnson previously taught American History at the International School of Bangkok, and World Cultures in Lexington, MA, and has studied and traveled widely in Asia. She has worked on curriculum units on India for the Asia Society, presented workshops on various aspects of Asian Studies, was consultant for the high school text *India, Its Culture and History*, and has helped develop teaching units on Southeast Asia, India, and China for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Education Department. Johnson is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for *Education About Asia*, and was recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Independent Study Grant to study Thai politics. She has a B.A. from the University of Vermont in American History and Far Eastern Philosophy, and M.A.'s from the University of Colorado in Diplomatic History, and from New York University in their graduate off-campus summer program in Asian Studies in India and Southeast Asia.

Peter Nien-chu Kiang

Peter Nien-chu Kiang is Professor of Education and Director of the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts Boston where he has taught since 1987. Under his leadership, UMass Boston has developed the most Asian American Studies courses, faculty, and community linkages of any university in New England and has been recognized by the Association of American Colleges and Universities as a national model in integrating culturally-responsive instruction in the classroom with holistic practices of mentoring,

service-learning, and advocacy to address the social and academic needs of students as well as the capacity-building needs of local Asian American communities.

Kiang’s recent research commitments have included documenting race-related trauma and post-traumatic stress experienced by Asian American Vietnam veterans and constructing pathways for education and community development with Cambodian and Vietnamese American populations in Massachusetts. Kiang currently serves as co-president of the Chinese Historical Society of New England and chair of the Massachusetts Advisory Committee for the US Commission on Civil Rights. He holds a B.A., Ed.M., and Ed.D. from Harvard University and is a former Community Fellow in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT. In 2007, he received the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award at UMass Boston. Kiang has been involved with the AsiaPacificEd Program since 2003 as a presenter and facilitator.

June Murray

June Murray has been a social studies teacher for 18 years. She has taught in a variety of locations from Boston, Massachusetts, to Cali, Colombia. For the last 11 years she has taught World Cultures, an elective class for 10th, 11th, and 12th graders at Hudson High School in Hudson, MA. The World Cultures courses were created when Murray’s students requested that she design a class that would engage them in study about the world beyond their Eurocentric World History curriculum. Murray has led student trips to the Peruvian Amazon, where her students delivered school and medical supplies to rural villages, designed curriculum with Cultural Survival, a nonprofit whose objective is to promote the voices of the indigenous communities of the world, and is serving her second term as President of the Hudson Education Association. Murray has also served as faculty advisor for the Global Studies Association.

Murray has traveled extensively and has worked to bring each new destination into her classroom for her students to experience. She has worked with educators at Escuela Americana in El Salvador to work with educators, taught songs to three-year-olds at the Xian Children’s Palace in China, and has traveled to Benin and Ghana and Western Europe. Murray received her B.A. from Villanova University and her MA from Simmons College. In 2006, two of Murray’s students participated in the AsiaPacificEd Program’s “Partnership for Youth: Building Disaster-Resilient Communities” Program.

Deane Neubauer

Deane Neubauer is currently Senior Advisor to the East-West Center’s Education Program. Neubauer was educated at the University of California, Riverside (BA) and Yale University (MA, Ph.D.). He has taught at the University of California (Berkeley and Irvine), Waikato University (NZ) and served as a distinguished external faculty affiliate to the School of Health Science, University of Sydney. From 1970-2004 he taught in the Department of Political Science, University of Hawai’i (UH) Manoa. His research interests lie in health policy, political economy, education and globalization. His work explores globalization phenomena as a major vector of social change throughout the world. In 1980, he became the founding dean of the College of Social Sciences at UH, a position he held through August 1988.

Neubauer served as the first director of the Globalization Research Center at the University of Hawai’i, Manoa (UHM) in 1999 and subsequently the Globalization Research Network, a collaboration between the University of South Florida, the University of California at Los Angeles, the George Washington University and the University of Hawai’i. He also served as Interim Chancellor of UHM from July 2001-August 2002 and as Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs for the University of Hawai’i System from September 2001-July 2004. In August 2004 he became Emeritus Professor of Political Science at UHM. Neubauer has also been active in the field of higher education accreditation for over 20 years.

Victor Ordonez

Victor Ordonez is a Senior Education Fellow at the East-West Center. Within the Center Ordonez works intensely on the International Forum for Education 2020 which is focused on meeting the enormous challenges that will face education in the Asia-Pacific region over the next 15 years.

Ordonez’s previous work has been with UNESCO, first as Director of the Basic Education Division in Paris, and then as Director of its Principal Regional Office for the Asia Pacific. Prior to this, he has been a visiting professor at UCLA, Dean of the Graduate Schools of Education and Business, De La Salle University, Manila, and in senior positions within the Philippine government including Undersecretary, Department of Education Culture and Sports and Chair of the Presidential Commission on Education Reform. His education includes seven academic degrees, including a Ph.D. in Oriental Philosophy from the University of Santo Tomas. Ordonez is a frequent presenter and discussant at AsiaPacificEd institutes and workshops for teachers.

Kayla Rosenfeld

Kayla Rosenfeld is News Director at Hawai'i Public Radio and an award winning radio journalist. Rosenfeld manages a 13-person staff of part and full-time reporters, interns, volunteer talk show hosts, neighbor island stringers and commentators. She also produces a daily Asia report, and is senior producer for two local talk shows. Rosenfeld has also freelanced for National Public Radio, Voice of America, Radio Australia, BBC, and Radio New Zealand. She recently worked with high school students going to Cambodia as part of AsiaPacificEd’s “Partnership for Youth: Reporting for Change” program.

Rosenfeld’s professional history includes serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Panama, a committee clerk for the Hawai'i State Legislature, and an aquaculture information specialist. Rosenfeld received her Environmental Journalism degree from the University of Hawaii in 1992.

Rebecca Weldon Sithiwong

Rebecca Weldon Sithiwong is the curator of Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park, under the patronage of the King of Thailand. As the curator, Sithiwong oversees a living, evolving collection of Lanna culture while also shepherding Mae Fah Luang’s role as a sustainable museum that serves local people, especially youth. As part of her work at the museum Sithiwong has established the Friends of Rai Mae Fah Luang volunteer organization, designed and implemented the museums systems, trained her staff in the functions of a museum, and established the museums membership in ASEMUS, the Asia-Europe Museum Network. Sithiwong applies a practical approach to museology working in line with Thai traditions and methods of management, documentation, preservation and communication.

Sithiwong completed her Masters in Museology at the Reinwardt Academy Amsterdam, Netherlands in 2001 and received her prior education Belgium, France and the United States. She grew up in Laos, and has had a varied career inside and outside of Southeast Asia including working for CARE and USAID establishing textile cooperatives in Haiti, interviewing Laotian refugees in the Nongkhai Camp in Thailand, preparing congressional reports on LAO PDR, and opening Chiang Rai's first travel agency, guesthouse, and art gallery. She also established an American University Alumni (AUA) branch in Chiang Rai that offers English classes and a small library along the lines of the parent institution in Bangkok and a sister branch in Chiang Mai. Sithiwong is currently on the Board of Directors for Board of Directors of Alliance Francaise, Chiang Rai. She has worked with AsiaPacificEd’s travel seminars for teachers in Thailand since 2004.

Namji Steinemann

Namji Steinemann is Director of the East-West Center’s AsiaPacificEd Program, which offers professional development programs in Honolulu and other U.S. cities as well as in Southeast Asia for American and Asian teachers and field studies for American high school students in Southeast Asia and in Honolulu for Asian students. Prior to joining the East-West Center, Steinemann was Vice President of Education Programs at the Asia Society in New York City. Formerly, she was a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand.

Steinemann has conceived and developed many programs to support K-12 studies of Asia, including the award-winning AskAsia website (www.AskAsia.org); the long-running National Endowment for the Humanities-sponsored Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop on Pearl Harbor; the “Partnership for Youth” exchange program; and the Asia in the School initiative, a ten-year effort launched in 1999 with a \$10 million grant. In 2001 Steinemann co-authored the blue-ribbon National Commission on Asia in the School report, which outlined recommendations for U.S. schools to better prepare young Americans for the interconnected world of the 21st century. Widely endorsed by leading educators and educational organizations along with policymakers, including then U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige, the report has served as a blueprint for the Asia Society as it implements many of the Commission’s recommendations through its international education initiatives. Steinemann is chair of the Committee on Teaching about Asia, a multi-council committee of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS); editor and editorial advisory board member of *Education About Asia*, an official teaching publication of AAS; and an elected executive committee member of the board of the Hawaii Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Margaret Sullivan

Margaret Sullivan has over 40 years’ experience in international public education and information program development and management, intercultural communications, and writing/editing. Sullivan is currently the Project Coordinator for the United States Indonesia Society Aceh School Project, which is collaborating with Syiah Kuala University (UNSYIAH), Banda Aceh, to build a community-based, model laboratory high school—the UNSYIAH Lab School—as part of the reconstruction following the December 26, 2004 earthquake and tsunami. The school, which opened in July 2007, is designed to introduce active, multi-sensory learning and teaching methods that will provide its students with an outstanding education and offer pre-service practice teaching for students at the University’s College of Education and Teaching. The longer range goal is the improvement of standards in education in Aceh and Indonesia more broadly.

Sullivan’s career has included directing the Philippine Festival, the first nationally coordinated set of events showcasing Philippine and Filipino American culture in the United States, conducting two long-term oral history projects focusing on Philippine elective politics, researching at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, and working as the Associate Director of the Asia Society’s Washington Center from 1979-81. Sullivan has also taught English at the University of Indonesia and was part of the small parent teacher team that managed the change of the Joint Embassy School in Jakarta to the Jakarta International School and reorganized the Cebu International School. Sullivan has written numerous articles on Southeast Asia and on women’s issues, including a critically acclaimed children’s book, *The Philippines: Crossroads of the Pacific*, and an award winning book on Singaporean life, *“Can Survive, La” Cottage Industries in High-rise Singapore*. Sullivan has facilitated the involvement of participants from Bandeh Aceh in the 2006 AsiaPacificEd’s “Best Practice” teaching institute.

Iwan Syahril

Iwan Syahril is a teacher/educator and a Fulbright scholar from Indonesia currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Curriculum and Teaching at Teachers’ College, Columbia University. Syahril has taught English as a Foreign Language and English as a Second Language (ESL) to children and adults for over 12 years. He has taught Indonesian language to English-speakers. Prior to coming to Teachers College, Syahril worked as a program manager, consultant and trainer, where he was mainly involved in designing a learning community, which included the school community, educational research and development, community outreach, and a teacher training institute.

Iwan has sought to implement alternative approaches to improving the education system in Indonesia, by utilizing Howard Gardner’s theory of multiple intelligences as the main framework of this learning community. Syahril’s main professional interests are education reform, teacher education, progressive education, multiliteracies, multiple intelligences, constructivism, authentic assessment, integrated curriculum, multiculturalism, teaching large multilevel classroom, and communicative language teaching. Syahril has joined the AsiaPacificEd Program’s Southeast Asia institute as a participant, and in subsequent programs as a presenter and facilitator.

John Thatcher

John Thatcher is the Principal of Connections Public Charter School in Hilo, Hawai’i. Thatcher worked as an elementary teacher at schools on Oahu and the Big Island from 1978 until 2002 when he assumed his current role at Connections, which began as a school-within-a-school in 1995. Five years later, the program converted to become the first start-up charter school in the State of Hawai’i. The curricula at Connections are constructivist based with a focus on developing multiple modalities of learning. As well as implementing an innovative curriculum that incorporates internationally sourced learning techniques, Connections successfully worked to engage the broader community with the school as demonstrated by the community partnership formed in East Hawai’i.

Thatcher has a BA in Liberal Studies from Sonoma State University, an MEd in Educational Communications and Technology from the University of Hawai’i, Manoa, and an MEd in Educational Supervision and Administration from Arizona State’s Leadership for Educational Entrepreneurs (LEE) program. LEE was a federally funded national model Master’s program for charter school leaders who wanted both educational administration and business skills. This interdisciplinary program bridged the College of Teacher Education and Leadership MEd and the School of Global Management and Leadership business degrees. As the former president of the Hawai’i Charter Schools Network, Thatcher is a firm believer in the potential for charter schools to lead the way towards true reform in Hawai’i. He is also the president of the Hawai’i Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. Thatcher is affiliated with the AsiaPacificEd Program through the participation of one of his students in the 2007 "Partnership for Youth" program in Cambodia and his ongoing collaboration with the newly formed Global Youth Center, the educational nonprofit organization that works closely with AsiaPacificEd.

Willem van de Put

Willem van de Put is a medical anthropologist and is presently working on a PhD thesis on collective trauma and rehabilitation in Cambodia. In the early 1990’s, after field assignments as a medical anthropologist in Nicaragua, Uganda, and Cambodia, he became a staff member of the medical department of Médecins sans Frontières (MSF-Holland), responsible for introducing applied medical anthropology and mental health and psycho-social intervention models in the organization. In 1994, van de Put left for Cambodia, where he was program director for the Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), building up a community mental health program throughout Cambodia. While in Cambodia, he was elected Chairman of the Steering Committee of MEDICAM, a Cambodian platform for some 90 international and local NGOs working in the field of health.

Van de Put was a visiting professor in Medical Anthropology at the University of Phnom Penh 1997-1998, and has since returned to the Netherlands to assume the position of general director of HealthNet-TPO, an independent non-governmental organization working towards the re-establishment of health care in situations of chronic conflict and post-war development. The agency works in some 16 countries in Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe, and focuses in health systems development, disease control, and trans-cultural psychiatry. He is co-author of the films *The Incident*, which examines civil casualties in the war on terror in Afghanistan, and *Deacon of Death*, a documentary about the search for justice in Cambodia, which won a ‘Gouden Kalf’ at the Dutch Film Festival 2004. Among other assignments, he is a member of the World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Advisory Committee for Health Research, and of the Scientific Advisory Council of the War Trauma Foundation. Van de Put studied history, philosophy, and cultural anthropology at the University of Amsterdam. His affiliation with AsiaPacificEd began through the program’s use of *Deacon of Death* with its participants in the travel seminar for teachers.

Phil Wendel

Phil Wendel is the Middle Learning Principal at The Galloway School in Atlanta Georgia. Wendel graduated from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where he majored in Psychology, minored in History and Economics, and played basketball for four years. Upon graduation, Wendel taught American History for four years at Jasper High School in Indiana. He began his graduate studies in 1990 at the Georgia State University and obtained his Masters degree in August of 1993.

Wendel has taught at The Galloway School in Atlanta since 1993, and has been the Middle Learning Principal for the last five years. Wendel has presented at the Georgia Independent School Association Annual Conference, the International Congress of School Effectiveness and Improvement Conference (San Antonio, Texas), and has participated in education and school management conferences throughout his career, including the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) School Leadership Institute (San Jose, CA), the Fortieth Westtown Seminar on Teacher (Philadelphia, PA), the International Educator’s Exchange Program, (Dahlonega, GA & Exeter, United Kingdom) and Stanford University’s Summer Institute for School Leaders (Palo Alto, CA). Most recently, Wendel was a participant in the AsiaPacificEd “Travel and Teach: Cambodia and Thailand” program. Wendel is also actively engaged in the national community of educators and is a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), the National Middle School Association (NMSA), the Principal’s Center, Georgia State University and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).

Emma Wixted

Emma Wixted has been teaching American History to 7th and 8th grade students at Scarsdale Middle School for the past eighteen years. Wixted's belief that global understanding is essential for young students as they learn to manage life in an increasingly interdependent world has been manifested in the many projects she has established. Wixted has co-designed and implemented a school wide Human Rights curriculum and designed a Human Rights Conference for all the students at Scarsdale Middle School. The curriculum touches on important themes such as Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, the global water crisis, AIDS awareness, the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, refugee rights, and the importance of being an active member of the global community. As part of this course, Scarsdale Middle School students have had the opportunity to speak with people from organizations such as Doctors Without borders, Players for Peace, and Free the Children, to name only a few, as well as the opportunity hear from speakers such as Bol Riiny, a lost boy of the Sudan. In 2006 Meghan and her co-designer received the United Nations “Best Practices Award” for their efforts.

Wixted is also sponsor of Scarsdale Middle School’s Human Rights Club and has overseen the Club’s success in transforming their concerns on global issues into the establishment of successful fund-raising initiatives. Last year the Club raised funds to place and maintain a working water pump and storage system at the Chongwe Community School in Zambia through a film-festival and other initiatives. Wixted has taught numerous workshops for the Westchester Council for the Social Studies, The Westchester Holocaust Education Center, and for the Scarsdale Teachers’ Institute. She received a B.A. in History from the University of Connecticut, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa, and earned a Masters in Social Studies in Education from Teachers’ College, Columbia University. Prior to living in the United States, Wixted lived in England, South Africa and France.