

There are a number of initiatives to report.

The launch of the Wm. Theodore de Bary and Ainslie T. Embree Fund for Education and Outreach.

At their March meeting, the AAS board of directors unanimously approved the creation of an AAS Fund for Education and Outreach. The goal of the fund is to increase resources for the AAS' education and outreach work and to build upon and strengthen our already significant commitment through the AAS publications *Education About Asia* and *Key Issues in Asian Studies*. I am very pleased to report that the AAS officers, with input from a number of educators, proposed naming the new fund to honor Wm. Theodore de Bary and Ainslie T. Embree, both of Columbia University. Both have now accepted. Prof. de Bary and Prof. Embree were pioneers in introducing Asia into the core curriculum and developing resources on Asia for high school and college students. The effort to raise funds for this important new endowment is now in full swing. **For information about how to make a gift to this or other initiatives, please go to the "Donate to AAS" button on the AAS website.**

End of Year Donations

Many AAS members choose to make donations at the end of the calendar year. With that in mind, we will send out an appeal in early December.

In particular, we seek donations for the new named funds launched this year. In addition to the de Bary-Embree Fund for Education and Outreach, this year the AAS launched the:

- **Bernard S. Cohn Prize for First Books in South Asian Studies**
- **A.L. Becker Southeast Asian Literary Translation Prize**
- **E. Gene Smith Inner Asia Book Prize.**

More information on these and other funds can be found on the "Donate to AAS" section of the AAS website.

Exploring the Possibility of an AAS-in-Asia Presence

The 2011 annual conference in Honolulu brought together over 5,000 scholars and others with an interest in Asia from around the world. Over 40% of the attendees came from outside the U.S., and the majority of those came from Asia. The strong representation of Asian scholars prompted the suggestion from organizations in Asia that the AAS consider exploring a new and different presence in Asia.

Beginning with conversations and meetings at the Honolulu conference and with the encouragement of the AAS Officers, I have begun to explore ideas and possibilities. Whatever form these plans may eventually take, we are clear that they must grow out of discussions with potential partner institutions in Asia and they must be of clear mutual benefit. I am seeking suggestions from a variety of universities, foundations, and institutes around Asia about the kind of connection or partnership with the AAS—if any—they would find useful. We are clear that whatever possibilities the AAS and our partners may pursue will start as small pilot projects. We are definitely *not* considering holding the traditional, large AAS annual conference in Asia at this time.

If plans move ahead, a collaborative AAS-in-Asia presence would further the goal of internationalizing the work of the AAS, make AAS services more available to institutions and scholars in Asia,

encourage increased AAS membership from Asia, and improve the likelihood of receiving support from funding sources in Asia.

Collaboration with the National Geographic Society

In 2012, *Education About Asia* (EAA) will publish a special section on Afghanistan. To make these important resources available to a much wider audience, the AAS is exploring a collaboration with the *National Geographic Society* to make the Afghanistan resources available on the National Geographic education website. The NatGeoEd.org site, currently in a beta phase, receives more than 4 million unique visitors each year. It offers audiences an expanded and updated library of *National Geographic's* education content, highlighting *National Geographic's* media and expert resources aligned with education standards. It is the first phase of a new website that will make a wide range of free educational resources available. In addition to reaching a wider audience, this collaboration will also provide increased visibility to *Education About Asia* and the AAS.

The AAS-SSRC Dissertation Workshop Program

The Henry Luce Foundation has generously funded the pilot phase of a new AAS and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) dissertation workshop program. The new workshop model builds on the experience of both organizations. The Luce grant and the partnership with the SSRC open possibilities for greater funding from other sources and increased visibility for the program. Plans for the 2012 dissertation workshop are well underway. **Applications are due by January 3, 2012.** Here is a link to more detailed information: <http://www.asian-studies.org/News/dissertation-workshop.htm>.

Annual Conference Sponsors

As in the past few years, several foundations and institutes will sponsor aspects of the annual conference. The **Korea Economic Institute (KEI)** has generously agreed to sponsor four panels at the Toronto conference. KEI will also sponsor the AAS member reception. The **Henry Luce Foundation** will sponsor a keynote address by Amitav Ghosh as well as two special, late-breaking news sessions. The **Harvard Yenping Institute** will sponsor a keynote speech by Dai Jinhua and simultaneous translation services for her speech. The Harvard Yenping Institute will also subsidize travel for selected participants at the Toronto conference. The **Ford Foundation** will fund participants from China on a special panel on current issues regarding law in China. Several other foundations and institutes have indicated that they will subsidize the cost of travel to the AAS annual conference for participants. We expect to receive confirmation of these arrangements soon. We are very grateful to all of these sponsors and supporters.

If you have questions, suggestions, or comments about any of these initiatives, please contact me at rsnow@asian-studies.org.

Bob Snow

AAS Director of Development and Strategic Planning