With the general aim of fostering knowledge about Asia in what are considered to be key subject areas, the Asia Programme is consolidating its existing areas of research, adding new spheres of study, acquiring greater capacity for dissemination and becoming linked to international networks to a greater extent. In 2006, economic studies take on special importance and analyse the evolution that financial vulnerability has traced on both continents after the 1990s crisis, with the continuation of the research work on the economic activities that, with the trans-national dimension, are carried out by the Asian communities established in Spain and with a forecast of the opportunities and risks represented by Asia's economic growth, and the increase in trade and investment flows between Asia and Latin America.

Of a more political profile is the area of research that is begin with regard to Central Asia, following an initial, general approach in 2005. Finally, with the organising of a meeting of directors of European centres devoted to East Asia, the Programme insert itself into a broader dimension of international links and raised the Programme's interest in this region, which is taking on increasingly greater importance on the international scene.

AREAS OF WORK

• Spain/EU-Latin America-Asia triangulation • The EU political agenda with Asia-Pacific • Asian communities in Europe and Spain • Regionalism in Asia • Emerging economies of Asia • The emergence of Asia and the new geopolitical horizons of the international order • Central Asia in the 21st Century

Programme Director
Seán Golden, director of the Centre d’Estudis Internacionals and Interculturals, UAB

Co-ordinator
Alex González
RESEARCH CARRIED OUT

• ASIA-SPAIN-LATIN AMERICA TRIANGULATION: A VIEW FROM COMPANIES
  Jacinto Soler Matutes, Director of Hispachina Consulting in Barcelona.

Based on a review of the theoretical foundations of triangulation laid out in 2005 and its application in the sphere of business, this research project examines the role that Spain could play in the renewed trans-Pacific movement involved in the growing exchanges between Asia and Latin America. In this context, it analyses the opportunities offered by, among others, logistic and fiscal triangulation, and it reveals the links between cultural and business triangulation, thanks to the existence of multicultural human resources that are generators of potential alliances. In addition, it considers the need to broaden the sectorial focus of business triangulation in front of the possibilities this offers in such areas as finance, telecommunications and automobile manufacturing.

• ASIAN COMMUNITIES IN SPAIN AND ECONOMICS. THE ETHNIC BUSINESS CLASS AND TRANSNATIONALISM
  Research Network on Asian Communities in Spain (RICAE-CIDOB)

After dealing with different aspects of the Asian communities in Spain since 2002, the RICAE-CIDOB has been consolidated in the second year dedicated to the study of the economic activities carried out by the Asian communities in Spain. Examples of this are the expansion of the production of the Asian communities, the increase in the number of their members in Catalonia and the Canary Islands as well as the strengthening of their relationship with the Permanent Immigration Observatory (Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs). Beyond the conference held in Barcelona to this effect, dissemination is also achieved a wider scope with the drafting of working documents and the presentation of partial results of the research in different forums held in Spain.

• THE FINANCIAL VULNERABILITY OF THE EMERGING ECONOMIES OF EAST ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA AFTER THE CRISIS OF THE 1990s
  Joan Ripoll i Alcón, Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Finance, Escola d’Estudis Empresarials del Maresme.

Bearing in mind the important role played by “financial fragility” in the configuration and consequences of the Mexican crisis in 1994 and the East Asian crisis in 1997, this research analyses the recent evolution of this vulnerability in the emerging economies of Latin America and East Asia that were most affected by the crises, comparing the process of adjustment of the East Asian countries in 1997 with the recovery processes of the economies of Mexico, Brazil and Argentina in 1994, 1997 and 2001, respectively.

• CENTRAL ASIA IN THE 21st CENTURY: FROM PERIPHERAL REGION TO EMERGING AREA
  Nora Sainz, Lecturer in International Relations, Autonomous University of Barcelona and Co-ordinator of GIRIA-CIDOB.

Central Asia has come to be a significant area in international relations, due both to its strategic situation between different civilisations and regions and to its condition as a “Great Game” space, a generator and receiver of policies on the part of international actors. After making an initial general approach in 2005, the year 2006 was devoted to the study of such aspects as regionalism, security and good government, giving support to works of the Research Group on International Relations in Asia (GIRIA-CIDOB), especially devoted to Central Asia, and also to the University of Barcelona project of creating an information system on Central Asia with an advanced cartographic support.
SEMINARS

• ASIA UNDER DEVELOPMENT: SCENARIOS OF RISK AND OPPORTUNITIES
The economic growth that a good part of the Asian economies are experiencing could raise an unjustified optimism if certain factors remain hidden that make Asia an area of uncertainties with profound transformations under way, which are decisive when it comes to calculating risks and identifying opportunities, whether they be for the Asian countries themselves or for the rest of the world in its relations with Asia. With experts on such areas as security, politics, economics and the environment, the seminar aimed to formulate hypotheses based on some of the variables at play and to configure possible scenarios, both positive and negative, in the evolution of the region over the next few years.

Participants
Narcís Serra, President of the CIDOB Foundation; Fernando Delage, Director of the Centre for Education and Documentation, Casa Asia; Manuel Montobbio, Spanish Ambassador to Albania; Seán Golden, CIDOB Foundation, Director of the Centre for International and Intercultural Studies, Autonomous University of Barcelona; Roberta Zavoretti, Independent researcher associated with the European Institute of Asian Studies, Brussels; Fred Halliday, Lecturer in International Relations at the London School of Economics and IBEI; Sanjay Peters, Lecturer in Economics at ESADE; Amadeo Jensana, Director of the Business Circle, Casa Asia; Murat Arsel, Lecturer at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague; Max Spoor, Co-ordinator of the Centre for the Study of Transition and Development at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, and Lecturer at IBEI; Josep Maria Cervera, Director of the Area of Business Internationalisation, Barcelona Chamber of Commerce.

Organised by
Consorci Universitat Internacional Menéndez Pelayo de Barcelona-Centre Ernest Lluch and CIDOB Foundation.

With sponsorship from the Institute of Social Studies (The Netherlands) and Casa Asia.

July 3 and 4. Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB)
MEETING OF EUROPEAN CENTRES.
“TOWARDS A EUROPEAN RESEARCH AGENDA FOR EAST ASIA”

On the occasion of the executive meeting of the European Research Network for Contemporary East Asian Studies (EastAsiaNet), the objective of this encounter was to debate and bring together the research priorities of the European academic centres that are references in East Asian studies. At a time marked by the construction of a European area of higher education, the initiative aimed to favour working in networks and to serve as a platform for establishing a common research agenda.

Participants
Flemming Christiansen, White Rose East Asia Centre, University of Leeds; Caroline Rose, White Rose East Asia Centre, University of Leeds; Glenn Hook, White Rose East Asia Centre, University of Sheffield; Karen Shire, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen; Helmut Demes, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen; Winfried Flüchter, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen; Thomas Heberer, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen; Werner Pascha, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen; Roger Greatrex, Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University; Stefan Brehm, Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University; Cecilia Milwertz, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies; Kjeld Brodsgaard, Asia Research Centre, Copenhagen Business School; Eric Seizelet, Institute of East Asian Studies, Université Lumière Lyon 2; Gregory Lee, Institute of Slavic and Asian Languages and Cultures, Université Jean Moulin - Lyon 3; Magda Abbiati, Ca’ Foscari University, Venice; Federico Greselin, Ca’ Foscari University, Venice; Dora Martins, Observatory of Chinese Politics / Technical University of Lisbon; Manuel Carlos Serrano Pinto, University of Aveiro (Portugal); Ana M. Goy Yamamoto, Centre for East Asian Studies, Autonomous University of Madrid; Louis Lemkow, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona; Seán Golden, CIDOB Foundation, Centre for International and Intercultural Studies, Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Organised by
Asia Programme of the CIDOB Foundation
With the collaboration of Centre for International and Intercultural Studies (UAB) and the Institute of East Asian Studies (University of Duisburg-Essen).

October 25. CIDOB Foundation
• TRANSNATIONALISM AND THE ASIAN BUSINESS CLASS. SPAIN, GIBRALTAR AND ANDORRA

Beyond presenting Catalonia with the progress made by RICAE-CIDOB in the research project, “Asian Communities in Spain and Economics. The Ethnic Business Class and Transnationalism”, the conference had the objective of disseminating research projects and putting them into contact with other ones that are devoted to the study of different aspects of Asian communities. As its sphere of study, it includes (in addition to Spain in general and the Mediterranean with a note on the role of the Sindhis) Gibraltar, Andorra and especially Catalonia, through the contribution of different local case studies.

Participants
Josep Ribera, Director of the CIDOB Foundation; Joaquín Beltrán, RICAE-CIDOB, Autonomous University of Barcelona; Débora Betrisey, RICAE-CIDOB, Universidad Complutense de Madrid; Amelia Sáiz, RICAE-CIDOB, Autonomous University of Barcelona; Ana María López, RICAE-CIDOB, University of La Laguna; Mònica Tolsanas, University of Barcelona; Mark Anthony Falzon, University of Malta; Josep Palacios, Commissioner for the Mataró City Government Plan for New Citizenship; Meritxell Borra, University of Barcelona; Anna Farjas, IES La Garrotxa, Olot.

November 28. CIDOB Foundation
LECTURES AND DEBATES

• “IMAGINING ASIA. THE NEW ASIAN DISCOURSE POST 1997, ITS RELATIONS WITH 19TH-20TH CENTURY IDEAS OF ASIA, AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE”
  Wang Hui, Qinghua University, Beijing.

In the context of growing Asian regional co-operation, Wang Hui reflected on the historical conditions for the apparition of a new discourse on Asia. Wang, one of the most renowned intellectuals in China, stands out as an analyst of the social movement of the 1980s, as a critic of the unbalancing effects of the neo-liberal reforms that have been carried out in China, as a critic of globalisation and as a defender of the democratisation of his country. His critical analysis of global capitalism and his proposal for improving the concept of democracy held implications that went beyond China’s borders.

March 2. CIDOB Foundation

• 2nd ASIAN CAREER WORKSHOP
  The second of these workshops renewed the idea of putting supply and demand together in regard to jobs relating to Asia in a framework of growing relations with this continent. It was established as an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge about the projects and human resource needs of the different companies and institutions with interests in Asia. With this initiative, participants are offered the chance to come into direct contact with each company or institution present, which presents the fundamental traits of their organisation and the possibilities of collaborating with it.

Participants
  Amadeo Jensana, Director of the Business Circle at Casa Asia; Alex González, CIDOB Foundation; Carlos Zazurca, Headhunters; Sergi González, China Consultants; Lijing Ye, Asian Resources; María Naranjo, Director of Scholarships, ICEX; Alfonso Arias, Head of Training at the ICO Foundation; Wang Zhiwei, Councillor of Education in the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Spain; Timothy Crook, Director of the SE-ABRE Programme; Anna Solé, Ficosa Internacional; Tommie Ozawa, Hebron SA.

Organised by
  Asia Programme of the CIDOB Foundation and Casa Asia

May 17. Casa Asia, Barcelona
CENTRAL ASIA: GOVERNMENT, CO-OPERATION AND SECURITY

Three significant thematic areas in Central Asia constituted the object of analysis of this conference, in which the Research Group on International Relations in Asia (GIRIA-CIDOB), promoted by the Asia Programme, was presented. They were, concretely, the issue of governance/governability in the area, with special attention on Uzbekistan, co-operation relations among the states in the area, including external actors with capacity to exert influence on the area, and security, from the sphere of energy resources and with special emphasis on Turkmenistan, due to its exceptionality in the area of foreign policy.

Participants

Josep Ribera, Director of the CIDOB Foundation; Nora Sainz, Lecturer in International Relations, Autonomous University of Barcelona and Coordinator of GIRIA-CIDOB; Roger Serra, GIRIA-CIDOB and Lecturer in International Relations, Autonomous University of Barcelona; Lluc López, GIRIA-CIDOB and Lecturer in Political Science, Open University of Catalonia, Pompeu Fabra University; Anahita Nasirossadat, Doctoral student in International Relations, Autonomous University of Barcelona and Casa Asia; Eduardo Feldman, Lecturer in Political Science, Autonomous University of Barcelona.

EXTERNAL PARTICIPATION

10th IMMIGRATION CONGRESS, “GLOBALISATION AND TRANSNATIONAL MOVEMENTS”
April 21. University of Almería

1st SPANISH RESEARCH FORUM ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION
September 18-20. University of Granada

SEMINAR, “TRANSITION AND REFORM”
October 10. Eurasian National University, Astana (Kazakhstan)
• 11TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE SPANISH ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN STUDIES, “IDENTITIES IN EVOLUTION: MIGRATIONS AND CULTURAL DYNAMICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY”
November 17-18. Miraflores de la Sierra, Madrid

NETWORKS TO WHICH THE PROGRAMME BELONGS

• RICAE
Network for the study of Asian communities in Spain in their different facets (economic activities, associations, etc.).
www.cidob.org

• MEDASIA
Network of European experts and centres on the Asia-Pacific region.

• EUROPE-CHINA ACADEMIC NETWORK (ECAN)
http://www.ec-an.eu

• EUROPEAN RESEARCH CENTRE NETWORK FOR CONTEMPORARY EAST ASIAN STUDIES (EASTASIANET)
EastAsiaNet brings together European research centres that study contemporary East Asia.

• ASEM EDUCATION HUB (AEH), ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION
http://www.aeh.asef.org