



The reform of the IFP (2003-2008): Assessment and perspectives

I approach the end of my tenure as Director of the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP) – the contract ends on 31st August, 2008 – with the feeling that the mission that was assigned to me has been fulfilled, in conformity with the objectives given in my mission letter and the Organic Law related to Finance Laws (LOLF).

At any rate, the drastic reform in the Institute's structures and ways of functioning which I put in place as soon as I took up my post (February 2003) has borne fruit: the indicators of the Institute's "performance" have kept rising in all sectors (see www.ifpindia.org/MANAGEMENT-INDICATORS.html). The rise has been almost exponential in the past two years since the projects launched at the beginning of my tenure have reached maturity. This has resulted in a strong increase in the readability and visibility of the Institute.

The results were attained despite a continuous decrease of the subsidy given by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (-27 per cent in constant euros in 5 years) and in exemplary social peace. The performance was achieved, in particular, thanks to the commitment of all staff members, the rigorous management practices of the secretariat general and the dynamism of the heads of projects who brought with them an extraordinary harvest of "external funding". This enabled the Institute to cover 70 per cent of the running costs of projects in 2007. I express my deep gratitude to my colleagues and the partners of the Institute.

The IFP has therefore demonstrated its ability to adapt its objectives and ways of functioning to the demands of the modern world and to the profound and rapid transformation that India, its host country, is experiencing. It also demonstrated that it could be a privileged instrument in the network of cooperation that unites France with India, and more generally, Europe with Asia.

The Institute nevertheless remains "structurally" fragile, particularly due to the constant decrease in the state subsidy – and the excessive "turnover" of researchers. So, any new decrease in the subsidy – given the legitimate request for a wage increase by the local staff – would be extremely detrimental: it would challenge the very fragile structural equilibrium patiently built since 2003, break the dynamism instilled in the Institute and undermine the teams' motivation to commit themselves further to the Institute's necessary evolution. It would lead to the drastic revision of a strategy encouraged by the supervisory authority and whose results have been praised both by this authority and by the partners of the IFP.

I wish the best for the future of the Institute and its personnel.

Contact: Dr. Jean-Pierre Muller
jpmuller@ifpindia.org

FOCUS

➤ A workshop on India's Special Economic Zones

India's Special Economic Zone Act 2005 has generated enthusiastic response from private sector developers and state government officials eager to attract investment. Over 400 SEZs were approved in less than two years. But the Act has also provoked severe opposition, notably in the immediate vicinity of proposed SEZs, where local people fear losing their land and livelihoods. SEZs are contested on a variety of other grounds as well, ranging from their economic rationale, excessive cost in terms of lost tax revenue, the unfair playing field they create with existing firms, to their tendency to exacerbate regional disparities in economic growth and accelerate urbanization.

The CSH recently co-sponsored with the India International Centre a workshop on *The Politics of Special Economic Zones in India*, bringing together about 50 academics, activists and students. This initiative provided a forum for debate on diverse perspectives and disciplinary approaches in the study of the discussion and SEZ policy, from its theoretical foundations to implementation in specific cases. Participants included specialists of the SEZ experience in China and elsewhere, and India-based researchers and activists following the implementation of SEZ in various states. One key objective was to help finalize the agenda for a new interdisciplinary research project that will be based at the CSH and conducted with support from the Ford Foundation in association with the Centre for Policy Studies, Delhi, and Hunter College, New York.

Some highlights included: presentations by experts on proposed legislation in land acquisition and resettlement and rehabilitation, which can be seen as a direct consequence of anti-SEZ mobilization across the country; discussions on urban and environmental issues related to SEZ implementation; a critical analysis of planned governance structures within SEZs; and brief presentations on developments in eight states (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal).

Building on the workshop proceedings, the new research project will consist of two main themes. First, the establishment of SEZs, particularly the nature and composition of movements that arise in opposition to specific SEZs, and the responses of state agencies and other political actors. Second, how SEZs will be governed, their links to wider processes of urban restructuring, and the relationship between SEZs and the many overlapping jurisdictions within which they are situated.

Contact: Dr. Loraine Kennedy
kennedy@ehess.fr

RESEARCH

CSH

➤ Living on the edge: a study of the Quraishi *biradree* of Delhi

This study is being conducted as part of the *Dynamics of Contemporary Islam in Asia* project in the CSH's International Relations division. Focusing on anthropological and sociological work on Muslim communities in South Asia, it looks at issues of caste and *Ashraafisation* among Muslims in India, the political economy of occupational groups in 'old' cities and the forms and processes of mobilization to challenge or adapt to modernization. It is based on secondary and primary sources. Apart from published

material, census data and organizational literature, it draws on interviews and relies considerably on ethnographic methods of data collection: observation of association meetings, community functions and activities in the workplace. Fieldwork is being conducted in specific pockets of Old Delhi. Field inputs show that occupation, kinship and social networks are key factors in binding the community and keeping its economic and social interests closely interlinked. Also, the community's caste association is reviving, democratizing and repositioning itself to emerge as a major actor and articulator of demands. Two papers – one on caste association, the other on relocation of the Idgah abattoir – were presented, respectively, at Hyderabad Central University and University of Pune in February 2008. The study's preliminary results were presented in the panel of Muslim Geographies at the British Association of South Asian Scholars, University of Leicester, UK, on 28th March and, later, at the Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (School of Higher Studies in Social Sciences [EHSS]/National Centre for Scientific Research [CNRS]), Paris, on 7th April 2008.

Contact: Dr. Zarin Ahmad
zarin@csd-delhi.com

➤ **Urban government and democracy in emerging countries: a comparative study of the role of participation in Indian and South African cities**

This new project emerged from the transversal research programme *Democratic Transformations in Emerging Countries. Comparing Africa, America, Asia, 1990-2006* (2006-2007) whose closing conference took place in Johannesburg on 11th-12th February 2008, with the participation, on behalf of the CSH team, of Dr. Marie-Hélène Zerah and Dr. Ilina Sen. The project aims to question the democratic credentials of urban governance, through scrutiny of a number of initiatives qualified as pertaining to participation and engagement with public life in six big cities in India (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata) and South Africa (Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban). The central question is: why do the urban poor, who constitute the majority of residents, fail to get their voice heard and concerns addressed, in what are celebrated democratic and democratizing polities? Two hypotheses are: first, high fragmentation of the poor, by no means a homogeneous group; second, possible subversion of democracy and its accountability mechanisms. To finalize the teams that will work on each city, Dr. Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal and Dr. Zerah organized two brainstorming workshops, in Delhi (with the Kolkata team's participation) on 30th January and in Mumbai on 28th February, 2008.

Contact: Dr. Marie-Hélène Zerah
zerah@ird.fr

Dr. Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal
tawalama@ehess.fr

IFP

➤ **The IFP, partner of an ARCUS project, Ile-de-France Region**

The IFP is partner to an Action in Region for Scientific and University Cooperation (ARCUS) project of the Ile-de-France region in France (project *Ile-de-*

France/India Collaboration in Research and Training). It will be associated with the University Paris 3-Sorbonne Nouvelle, in two sub-projects on *Indian Cultural Heritage*. One concerns the religious traditions of Jainism and will lay emphasis on the texts and practices of Jainism in South India. The other concerns previously unpublished Saiva Sanskrit texts. It will notably draw on manuscripts in the IFP's collection.

Contact: Dr. Jean-Pierre Muller
ifpdir@ifindia.org

➤ **Cross exchange on preservation techniques of graphical heritage (European project CHINDEU: China-India-Europe)**

The European Union has selected the *Cross Exchange on Preservation Techniques of Graphical Heritage: China-India-Europe* (CHINDEU) project, proposed in the framework of the *Culture* (2007-2013) programme. This project, bringing together French, Italian, British, Hungarian, Indian and Chinese teams, is led by the Centre for Book Conservation (CCL) of Arles, France. It aims to promote exchange of skills and knowhow between different agents from Europe and Asia involved in the preservation of graphical heritage, and to initiate intercultural dialogue on the conservation techniques of this heritage. The IFP, in close collaboration with the Pondicherry Centre of the French School of Asian Studies (EFEO), will be in charge of increasing awareness, with regard to its partners, of the conservation techniques, cataloguing and diffusion of manuscripts on palm leaves.

Contact: Dr. Dominic Goodall
dominicgoodall@efeo-pondicherry.org

➤ **e-GEOPOLIS: a new interdisciplinary and international research project**

The *e-Geopolis* project led by the SEDET (French National Centre for Scientific Research/University of Paris 7 Denis Diderot) has been selected by the French National Agency for Research (programme *Corpus and methods*). Its objective is to promote the building of a systematic corpus of statistical data on the evolution of population in all built-up areas on the planet reaching 10,000 inhabitants from the first censuses till date. Thanks to a unique scientific methodology that has already proved its worth over the past 15 years, each of the world's "built-up areas" is defined in the same way, whatever the official national definition in force. The *e-Geopolis* project team, whose Indian constituent – 'Indiapolis' – is based at the IFP's Geomatics department, will collect data on India. This project strengthens the insertion of the Indo-French team in the international network of laboratories involved in research on urban dynamics.

Contact: Dr. François Moriconi-Ebrard
francois.moriconi-ebard@paris7.jussieu.fr

Dr. Frédéric Borne
borne@ifindia.org

➤ **Launch of a multimedia application to identify trees of the Western Ghats**

The IFP officially launched, in Bangalore on 20th December 2007, an application that helps identify the trees of the Western Ghats forests. This application

was developed in the framework of the *Biodiversity Informatics and co-Operation in Taxonomy for Interactive shared Knowledge base* (BIOTIK) project, funded by the Asia IT&C programme and the European Commission. The French Agricultural Research Centre of International Cooperation for Development (CIRAD), the National Herbarium of Leiden, the National University of Laos and the IFP participated in this initiative in the emerging field of informatics applied to the study of biological diversity. The application will be put online and can be accessed for free on the IFP website in a few months' time. Descriptive sheets of more than 600 species will be presented in English and in South Indian languages – Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil.

Contact: Dr. Raphaël Pélissier
raphael.pelissier@ifindia.org

EFEO

➤ **Early Tantra project**

The EFEO is pleased to announce that funding for a major project in tantric studies – *Early Tantra: Discovering the Interrelationships and Common Ritual Syntax of the Saiva, Buddhist, Vaishnava and Saura traditions* – has been confirmed. This project is a Franco-German collaboration directed on the French side by Dr. Dominic Goodall (EFEO) and on the German side by Dr. Harunaga Isaacson, Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Hamburg, and funded by the *Agence Nationale de Recherche* (ANR) and the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG). It aims to study tantric systems by examining a number of early sources.

The primary goal is to elucidate the interactions between early tantric traditions by studying both the similarities and differences between their ritual systems and terminology. The aim is to arrive at a better understanding of how such traditions arise and define themselves. An essential step is to make available for the first time reliable scholarly editions of a number of early texts, all hitherto unpublished. The texts selected for editing and close comparative study include two representatives from Saivism and Buddhism respectively: the *Nisvasatattvasamhita*; the *Brahmayamala*; the Nepalese manuscript of the *Manjusrimulakalpa*; and the *Trisamayarajatantra* commentary.

The project envisages the collaboration of specialists in different locations, in order to highlight connections in a range of early material, over a period of three years. This will be achieved in part through intensive reading workshops on the model of the workshop on the *Nisvasatattvasamhita* held at the EFEO's Pondicherry Centre in January 2007.

For more details, see the links at
<http://tantric-studies.org/projects/early-tantra>

Contact: Dr. Dominic Goodall
dominicgoodall@efeo-pondicherry.org

➤ **Recovery of 10th-century Kashmirian treatise on Saiva theology**

Four years ago, Kei Kataoka, Professor of Sanskrit at Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan, chanced upon the sole surviving manuscript of a forgotten 10th-century

treatise by the Kashmirian theologian Ramakantha. The *Tattvatrayanirnayavivrti* focuses on the controversial doctrine that liberation depends not upon God's will, but upon the ripening of a soul's innate 'impurity', a substance that afflicts all souls and prevents them from realizing their natural state of omnipotence. At the invitation of the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science, Dr. Dominic Goodall spent the month of March in Japan, at the universities of Kyushu, Kyoto and Tokyo, where he produced the first edition and a complete translation of this text in collaboration with Prof. Kataoka, and with Prof. Yuko Yokochi and Dr. Diwakar Acharya (both of Kyoto University).

Contact: Dr. Dominic Goodall
dominicgoodall@efeo-pondicherry.org

EVENTS

Lectures/Seminars/Round Tables/Workshops

(For more information, please consult our respective websites)

CSH

International workshop on Territorial Integration and Exclusion: Impact of Urban Policies and Law, organized by CSH and India International Centre (IIC) on 31st January-1st February 2008, at IIC, New Delhi, and financially supported by the French National Agency for Research (ANR) and the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO, Paris). The study focused on urban development in India, in the context of social and economic changes characteristic of globalization. Questions related to territorial and social integration and, conversely, segmented development and social exclusion were examined at national, regional and metropolitan levels, with special focus on the role of law and regulations in spatial transformation and urban development. This was illustrated by the case of the Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor. As for individual metropolises, issues of environmental conservation and housing needs of the poor were examined in the context of Mumbai's peri-urban forests. The issue of slums was addressed by analyzing the impact of urban policies and law in Mumbai and Delhi. The challenges India faces are not unique. Hence the comparative perspective of the workshop's last session focusing on Brazilian and West Asian cities. Research papers presented findings from two joint international projects, one on *Globalization, Urban Development and Adjustment of Law*, including a comparison between India and the Middle East; the other on *Social Exclusion, Territories and Urban Policies*, including an India-Brazil comparison.

Contact: Dr. Véronique Dupont
veronique.dupont@ird.fr

IFP

For more details, please consult our website:
<http://www.ifpindia.org/-Seminars-.html>

International seminar on Health Vulnerability in Chennai: Towards a Better Understanding of Urban Health, jointly organized by the University of Madras,

the University of Bonn and the IFP, and held at the IFP on 15th March, 2008. Its objective was to examine health vulnerability issues confronting the population of a big urban metropolis in South India, Chennai, and to debate the way populations – vulnerable slum populations in particular – are coping. The preliminary results of a cohort study of 220 households of two Chennai slums were presented. The city of Chennai was chosen for this study because of the emergence or re-emergence there of several vector-borne diseases (dengue, malaria, chikungunya) and diseases related to water pollution (diarrhoea, leptospirosis, etc).

Contact: Thomas Seyler
thomas.seyler@gmail.com

Patrick Sakdapolrak
sakdapolrak@giub.uni-bonn.de

International seminar on Literary Translation in South India, jointly organized by the Indology department of IFP and the United States Education Foundation in India (USEFI), and held at the IFP on 14th March, 2008. In the presence of students, authors and translators took stock of an activity of which the art and practice are often neglected. They tackled in particular specific theoretical and practical problems arising from the translation of Sanskrit and Tamil texts into the English and French languages. The seminar, funded by USEFI, will lead to a joint publication.

Contact: Kannan. M
kannan.m@ifpindia.org

International seminar on Faults and Flaws in Therapeutic Practices in South Asia, at the IFP on 7th-9th March, 2008. IFP and the Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (CNRS-EHES), Paris, jointly organized this symposium. The transversal programme *Democratic Transformations* of the French Research Institutes Abroad (IFRE) and the Nomad Research Unit, participated in funding the event. A group of specialists thus met to study issues related to social and medical legitimacy with an "in negative" approach favouring the analysis of everything considered contrary to rules, values and codes of conduct. The issue of faults and flaws within therapeutic practices has helped initiate a large pool of thought on the relation between lie and truth, error and correctness, fraud and authenticity, legality and illegality, orthodoxy and heterodoxy. The results will figure in a special edition of an international journal.

Contact: Dr. Laurent Pordié
laurent.pordie@ifpindia.org

National seminar, marking the official completion of the *Historical Atlas of South India* project, held at the IFP from 4th to 6th April, 2008. Several Indian historians of international repute were among its 50 participants. Four South Indian universities (Tamil University, Thanjavur; Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam; Mangalore University, Mangalore; Hyderabad Central University, Hyderabad) partnered the IFP in this ambitious project whose objective is to make available on the Internet and on CD-ROM an atlas of South India's historical configurations (dating from prehistoric times to the 17th century). The project, launched in 2005 and led by the IFP, was entirely funded by the Ford Foundation. A "beta" version of the CD-ROM was presented during this

seminar. The *Atlas* will be incorporated in a digital database in 2 or 3 months. It will then be available for consultation on the Institute's website.

Contact: Prof. Subbarayal
ysray@ifpindia.org

Summer School of the School of Higher Studies in Social Sciences (EHES) in Pondicherry on *Public health, medicine, bioethics, medical practices*, held at the IFP from 29th February to 4th March, 2008. The EHES and the IFP organized and co-funded this summer school on the theme of health for Indian and European students at the Masters level and above. Different aspects of the theme, which was not confined to the Indian context, were explored: health and well-being, medicine, health legislation and bioethics, medical practices and institutions, both ancient and modern. EHES teachers and researchers and IFP researchers met Indian teachers and researchers for a week of intensive seminars and workshops. The objective was to reinforce Indo-French scientific cooperation. The project was led in Paris (EHES) by Dr. Francis Zimmermann and in Pondicherry (IFP) by Dr. Laurent Pordié, head of the IFP's Social Sciences department.

Contact: Dr. Francis Zimmermann
zimmermann@ehess.fr

Dr. Laurent Pordié
laurent.pordie@ifpindia.org

Lecture on Vegetational and climatic changes in the Himalayas and Trans-Himalayas, at the IFP on 16th January, 2008. Dr. Parminder Singh Ranhotra (Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow) briefly presented his PhD thesis on vegetational and climatic changes in the Himalayan and Trans-Himalayan region. Using several proxy data related to pollen, environmental magnetism and carbon isotopes, he traced the long climatic history of four sites, three under the Greater Himalayas and the fourth in Ladakh, the Trans-Himalayan region. A comparatively longer climatic reconstruction covering a major part of the last glacial period from Ladakh suggests that this site, at least since the last 35,000 yr B.P., has been experiencing a predominantly semiarid climatic condition, punctuated by short episodes of increased moisture. In the Greater Himalayan region, an abrupt transition is observed from a cool, dry phase prior to 11,600 cal yr B.P. to a warm-moist transitional phase of Pleistocene to Holocene, around 12,136 cal yr B.P. correlated with the "Younger Dryas" frequently reported in different parts of the world.

Contact: Dr. Parminder Singh Ranhotra
pranhotra@yahoo.com

Lecture on Revisiting the concept of Karma: Lessons from a Dhanvantri Homa, at the IFP on 25th January, 2008. In an earlier paper on the Kyasanur forest, Dr. Marc Nichter had demonstrated how multiple frames of reference and ideas about misfortune (epidemic disease) are called into play at different points in a community's narrative on Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) guiding actions and serving as possible explanations related to different spheres of responsibility for disease as a sign of imbalance in the land. Karma was noted to be one explanation as the ultimate cause of the misfortune. In this presentation, he considers a case where karmic reasoning is more

central to the actions of an Ayurvedic *vaidya* who is in the process of conducting a *Dhanvantri homa*. This is an elaborate, costly ritual for the patron deity of Ayurveda, requiring six priests and the invitation and feeding of former patients and family members. The reasons why he conducts this ritual make one reconsider the importance of two Hindu concepts – *karma vipaka* (fruits of karma) and *ma* (debts) that one owes that at once characterize life (social enmeshment) and the necessity of reducing and managing karmic debts as an ethical principle directly affecting one's life and family.

Contact: Prof. Mark Nichter
mnichter@u.arizona.edu

Lecture on *Market Threats to Charity in Medicine. The Everyday Logic of Business and Technology in Kerala*, at the IFP on 8th February, 2008. Since the early 1990s, 'five-star' hospitals have sprouted in small towns and cities across Kerala. Equipped with expensive diagnostic technologies and super-specialist consultants, these institutions are now leading players in the booming local health care industry, setting norms and values across the entire health care system. This paper examined their business strategies and daily practices in order to understand the ways different hospitals compete to attract patients. Earlier approaches to corruption in medicine emphasized the over-use and misuse of technology and 'unethical practices of doctors' characteristic of a more informal health care market. In Kerala, marketization has produced a competitive health care market, whereby use of technology has become central to the organization, ethos and practice of 'for profit' institutions.

Contact: Caroline Wilson
c.h.wilson@sussex.ac.uk

Lecture on *Bees, Pests and Coffee. An ecosystem service approach to coffee production in a complex landscape mosaic of the Western Ghats*, at the IFP on 1st April, 2008. Focusing on two ecosystem services provided by the landscape of Kodagu district, pollination and pest control, the links between landscape features, drivers of change, provision of the ES and coffee production were explored. The methodology and preliminary results were presented. Data shows huge inter-annual variability in terms of pollinator activity, and indicates that fruit set seems to correlate poorly with pollinators' visitations. The project *Managing Biodiversity in Mountain Landscapes*, to which Virginie Boreux is affiliated, aims to assess the ecosystem services provided by the coffee agroforestry landscape and developing public policies, including market schemes and geographical indications, to link biodiversity conservation and economic development.

Contact: Virginie Boreux
virginie.boreux@env.ethz.ch

Lecture on *Insights from the phylogenetic structure of plant communities: Application to Western Ghats*, at the IFP on 8th April, 2008. Community phylogenetic structuring seeks an association between distribution of species within and among local communities and their position in the phylogeny. A key question: are species co-occurring within a site more (or less) related on average than species found in distinct sites? A phylogenetic signal may result from ecological

sorting and reveal the ecological gradients that are most significant in the evolution of species. Absence of a phylogenetic signal may indicate communities driven mostly by neutral processes. This approach was applied to forest inventories from the Western Ghats.

Contact: Olivier Hardy
ohardy@ulb.ac.be

Lecture on *A spatially implicit neutral model for studying forest tree diversity: An application to the Western Ghats forests of Karnataka*, at the IFP on 9th April, 2008. The neutral theory of biodiversity continues to arouse great interest in community ecology. However, robust estimations of the basic parameters of Hubbell's spatially implicit model remain difficult and still hinder testing of the theory against real field data. Two simple and robust methods of estimation were proposed, which could be applied to a network of small sampling plots spread over space, a usual practice in forest ecology. Results from the application of these methods to the study of forest tree diversity in 50 1-ha plots of the Western Ghats of Karnataka were then presented.

Contact: François Munoz
pipistrelle01@gmail.com

Lecture on *Estimation of neutral parameters and a spatially explicit approach to analyze dispersal limitation*, at the IFP on 9th April, 2008. As follow-up to an earlier lecture on the parameter estimation techniques of Hubbell's spatially implicit neutral model, some preliminary results were presented on the performance of the estimation of the neutral parameters. These results based on simulations show how size of plot samples, species diversity in the regional pool and a spatially implicit measure of species migration can produce bias or undesired variance in estimation. A spatially explicit approach to understand the effects of dispersal limitation and migration limitation and further application to datasets available from the Western Ghats were briefly defined.

Contact: Champak Beeravolu Reddy
champak.br@ifpindia.org

EFE0

The sixth Classical Tamil Winter School, organized by Dr. Eva Wilden (EFE0) at the EFE0's Pondicherry Centre from 11th February to 7th March 2008. As in 2005, there were two levels – for beginners and advanced students. The text read during the first two weeks was the well-known *Kampa Ramayanam*, presented by T.S. Gangadharan. The third week was dedicated to the 7th decade of the *Patirrupattu*, the small Cankam anthology dealing with the deeds of the Cera dynasty. The last week focused on a little known Akam anthology in Venpaa meter, *Aintinai Aimpatu*, one of the *Patinenkizkkanakku*, 18 minor classics. Prof. Thomas Lehmann (South Asia Institute, [SAI], Heidelberg) and Prof. Takanobu Takahashi (University of Tokyo) were invited to conduct classes. Participants from Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and New Zealand attended. The programme included two extra lectures: one by Dr. Torsten Tschacher (University of Heidelberg) on *Studying the Prologues of Islamic Tamil Literature (1572-1842)* on 28th February; the other by Dr. Rick Weiss (Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand) on *Identifying the*

Siddhars, with a focus on Tirumalar, on 4th March.

Contact: Dr. Eva Wilden
eva.wilden@gmail.com

International conference on Tamil grammar, *Towards an Internal Chronology of Theories in Ilakkanam*, organized by the EFE0 with financial assistance from the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, from 29th February to 2nd March 2008. It was inaugurated by Madame Joëlle Rayet, Consul General of France in Pondicherry. Presentation of papers was followed by lively discussion on the founding texts of the Tamil grammatical tradition and their commentaries. The participants were Prof. S. Arokianathan (Pondicherry University), Dr. J.-L. Chevillard (CNRS, Paris), Pandit T.S. Gangadharan (EFE0), R. Ilakkuvan (Tamil Pulavar Kalluri, Thanjavur), Prof. A. Kamatcinathan (Chidambaram), Dr. Th. Lehmann (SAI, Heidelberg), Dr. P. Marudanayagam (CIIL, Mysore), Prof. K. Nachimuthu (JNU, Delhi), Dr. T. Rajeswari (EFE0), Professor S.V. Shanmugam (Chidambaram), Dr. R. Sudarsan (PILC, Puducherry), Prof. T. Takahashi (Tokyo University), Prof. G. Vijayavenugopal (EFE0), and Dr. E. Wilden (EFE0). Questions of chronology arouse much passion, for they can have wide implications for the understanding of history. This is particularly true of the age-old Indian grammatical tradition, unrivalled in its sophistication – particularly in the areas of phonetics and morphology – since study of grammar is the cornerstone of Indian intellectual traditions. Furthermore, the Tamil grammatical tradition incorporates rich and detailed treatment of poetics and thus contains crucial evidence about what is arguably the earliest surviving literature in a Dravidian language.

Contact: Dr. Eva Wilden
eva.wilden@gmail.com



...At the CSH

Manpreet SETHI, research fellow, Centre for Air Power Studies, Delhi, joined the International Relations division of the CSH in March 2008.

Rémi DE BERCEGOL, PhD student in Geography, joined the CSH as Scientific Secretary in February 2008.

Jean-Yves MICHAUD joined the CSH as webmaster and systems administrator in April 2008.

Marc **FLEPP**, Camille **BLAUDIN DE THE**, Loïc **WATINE** and Florian **BERSIER**, students, *Ecole Polytechnique*, joined the CSH as interns in April 2008.

...at the IFP

Roman SIELER, PhD candidate from the University of Heidelberg, Germany, joined the *Societies and Medicines in South Asia* project from 1st February to 31st July 2008, to work on The "vital spots"-*ethnography of a South Indian healing tradition*, under the supervision of Dr. Laurent PORDIE.

Damien BASQUE, student from the University of Bordeaux III, France, joined the *Built-Up Areas in India (e-GEOPOLIS)* project from 1st February to 1st May 2008, as a trainee, to work on *Rurality versus urbanity*

in Tamil Nadu: the case of Kanyakumari district, under the supervision of Dr. Kamala MARIUS-GNANOU.

Gabriel HMIMINA, student in Agronomy from AgroParisTech, France, joined the *Ordybio* project from 10th January to 10th August 2008, as a trainee, to work on the *Architectural analysis of natural forest in the Western Ghats of India*, under the supervision of Dr. Raphaël PELLISSIER.

Sylvain ROPITAL, PhD candidate from EHESS, France, joined the *Labour, Finance and Social Dynamics* project from 2nd January to 31st December 2008, to work on *Globalization, post-2004 tsunami reconstruction and differentiated dynamics of social change in the coastal villages of the district of Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu*, under the supervision of Dr. Marc ROESCH.

...At the EFEO

Eva **WILDEN** visited Pondicherry to organize the 6th Classical Tamil Winter School, held at the EFEO Centre from 11th February to 7th March 2008.

Charlotte **SCHMID**, in Pondicherry from 21st February to 8th March 2008, visited several Pallava sites and participated in the Classical Tamil Winter School.

Marco **FRANCESCHINI**, on a scholarship from University of Bologna, spent three months (16th January to 16th April 2008) at the Pondicherry Centre to continue his translation into English and Italian of a poetical account of the Buddha's life, the *Padyacudamani* by Buddhaghosa, which he read with H.N. BHAT and Dr. Dominic GOODALL.

Marzena **CZERNIAK-DROZDOWICZ**, from Jagellonian University of Cracow, visited the Centre for one month beginning 26th January 2008 to read *Vaisnava agama*.

Alberta **FERRARIO**, PhD student at the University of Pennsylvania, came to Pondicherry on 4th February 2008 to study Saiva texts with Dr. Dominic GOODALL. She received a two-year fellowship from the American Institute of India Studies for her project *The descent of the power of grace (saktipata) in Tantric Saivism*. She will be officially affiliated to the EFEO's Pondicherry Centre during this period.

Nirajan **KAFLE** joined the Pondicherry Centre for three years to work on a doctorate on Saivism within the framework of the Franco-German programme *Early Tantra* headed by Dr. Dominic GOODALL and Dr. Harunaga ISAACSON.

Alexis **AVDEEFF**, doctoral student in Social Anthropology at EHESS, LISST-Centre d'Anthropologie Sociale de Toulouse, is on a 3-month scholarship from EFEO to continue research at the Pondicherry Centre. He arrived in Pondicherry on 1st April 2008.

GOODBYE

...At the CSH

Swaran SINGH, senior fellow, left the CSH in December 2007.

Rongili BISWAS, post-doctoral fellow in Economics, left the CSH in April 2008.

Cédric BUISSART, webmaster and systems administrator, left the CSH in March 2008.

Uma RAMACHANDRA, librarian-documentalist, left the CSH in April 2008.

...at the EFEO

Aude BERTHOMIER, student at the *Ecole du Louvre*, on a scholarship from the EFEO and the *Fondation Jeunesse Internationale* to work in the photo archives of the Pondicherry Centre, left in April after a stay of four months.

MILESTONES

Tribute to the IFP Director

IFP

The entire staff of the IFP paid tribute to their Director, Dr. Jean-Pierre MULLER, on 3rd March 2008, for the remarkable work he has done during his five-year tenure in terms of promoting the visibility, scientific output and overall recognition of the Institute as a centre of excellence for cooperative research. The staff praised his sense of initiative and dynamism, and the several reforms he has carried out. They also thanked him for his personal commitment to their welfare, which resulted in the long overdue revision of their pay scales. This tribute came a few months away from Dr. Muller's end of tenure, on 31st August 2008.

CSH

Dr. Jean-Pierre Muller retires from public service this year, after a long, distinguished career as a scientist and then as an outstanding administrator of two major research establishments, the *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (IRD) in Paris, and the IFP. In this message of friendship we highlight, on behalf of the community of scholars who know him, some outstanding qualities that have made him a highly respected leader in the French research establishment.

Before taking up his post in Pondicherry, Jean-Pierre Muller did something very unusual for a senior administrator and professional. He rang up a number of research scholars in France, many much younger and less experienced than he was, and invited them to meet him individually, to give him their opinion and analysis of India, and also to share with them his own ideas on the management of research institutions. This is very rare, and though Jean-Pierre's stature and self-assurance could lead one to think otherwise, his humility in listening to younger colleagues is really one of his exceptional qualities. This is combined with genuine humanity and concern for others, especially his colleagues and staff, which he has shown time and again. This humanity is personal, but also reflects deep concern for what happens in developing countries around the world.

All colleagues and friends wish Jean-Pierre and his wife Sita a wonderful time in the years to come, and look forward to their continued stay in India!

Basudeb Chaudhuri, Director, CSH
basudeb.chaudhuri@csh-delhi.com

Bon vent to Himanshu

Dr. Himanshu finished two years as a research fellow at the CSH and has joined the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, as Assistant Professor of Economics. He contributed, through his extensive research output on inequality, poverty, macroeconomics, labour markets and agricultural issues, to building the CSH's reputation and visibility. He acquired several distinctions in the process, such as the Sanjay Thakur Young Economist Award for the best article published in 2006 in the *Indian Journal of Labour Economics* and selection for the 2007 *Personnalités d'avenir* ('future personalities') programme of the Centre for Analysis and Forecasts of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which includes a stay in France. He is also local coordinator for the Palanpur project conducted in collaboration with Prof. Nicolas Stern, with support from the London School of Economics. Two student trainees from *Ecole Polytechnique* of France will participate in this project under his supervision. The CSH looks forward to carrying on its collaboration with Himanshu. He is not only an outstanding economist, his personal qualities – warmth, modesty, willingness to work with others – also endear him to all his colleagues.

PUBLICATIONS

CSH

Patterns of Middle Class Consumption in India and China

Edited by Christophe Jaffrelot & Peter van der Veer
Sage Publications, 2008, 300 p, Rs 695



This book explores the complex history and sociology of the middle class from a comparative perspective. It has papers written by sociologists, anthropologists and political scientists rather than economists, so the emphasis is on cultural shifts rather than economic statistics. The two emerging powers in Asia are not, as is usual, compared to the West but with each other. The focus is on the social and political implications of new consumption patterns among the middle classes of India and China in the context of economic growth, market liberalization and globalization. Critically engaging with traditional sociological notions on which definitions of the middle class have been based, the book analyzes the intermingling of these notions with new attitudes in the wake of the consumer revolution. An entire gamut of aspects of consumer culture are explored – tourism, leisure activities and the entertainment industry, and the consumption of experiences through these. These phenomena have particular Indian and Chinese incarnations, needing to be analyzed in a manner that does not privilege a limited western experience of globalization. The book will appeal to students of anthropology, sociology, political science, media studies and cultural studies. It will also be useful for market research professionals.

Keywords: consumption, middle class, India, China

Between Citizens and Institutions: The Dynamics of the Integration of Water Supply and Sanitation Services in Hyderabad

Agnès Huchon & Guillaume Tricot
CSH Occasional Paper 22, New Delhi, 2008, 135 p



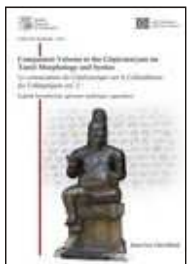
This study of Hyderabad's water supply and sanitation services focuses on institutional changes with regard to the main service providers – the Hyderabad Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board and the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad – and provides a critical analysis of restructuring and policies ostensibly aimed at providing uniform service across the metropolitan region. Two distinct areas of the city were selected for field surveys. The spatial dimension of urban service delivery, including deployment of physical infrastructure networks and social infrastructure, was examined to analyze the city's relative integration and determine the main factors of segregation. The findings dispel certain conventional ideas about unequal service levels between the city's old and new parts and between different income groups, offering a more nuanced explanation for differential access using both social and spatial variables. The paper also addresses the demand side of the water supply and sanitation equation, analyzing the ways users try to improve access or service. The authors explore user expectations and the means deployed to channel grievances, which reveal different modes of democratic interaction between the public and the authorities. This study contributes to debates on urban governance and decentralization in India's cities.

Keywords: water supply, sanitation, integration, urban service delivery

IFP/EFEQ

Companion Volume to the Cenavaraiyam on Tamil Morphology and Syntax. Le commentaire de Cenavaraiyam sur le Collatikaram du Tolkappiyam Vol. 2 : English Introduction, glossaire analytique, appendices

Jean-Luc Chevillard. Collection Indologie N° 84.2, IFP/EFEQ, 2008, 526 p
Language: English, French. Rs 900 (32€)



This companion volume to a French translation of the *Cenavaraiyam*, also intended as an aid to the reading of similar texts, is part of an endeavour to document the development of the Tamil scholarly tradition. The central part of the book is an analytic glossary of all technical words and phrases used by Cenavaraiyar while commenting on the *Collatikaram*, a task which required him to describe the Tamil language and at the same time explain what the author of the *Tolkappiyam* had revealed about it. The original approach chosen by Jean-Luc Chevillard, a historian of linguistics, devotes as much attention to metagrammatical items as to grammatical ones. The focus is not on finding truths about language, but on examining for itself that most ancient and interesting of human rational activities: the building of grammars.

Keywords: Tamil, Tolkappiyam, Cenavaraiyar, metagrammatical

INSTITUTES

CENTRE DE SCIENCES HUMAINES

2 Aurangzeb Road
New Delhi 110 011
Tel : (91) 11 3041 00 70
Fax : (011) 11 3041 00 79
info@csh-delhi.com
<http://www.csh-delhi.com>

+ (from France): CSH abs.
Valise Diplomatique pour
L'Ambassade de France en
Inde, 128 bis rue de
l'Université, 75351
Paris 07 SP

Director

Dr. Basudeb CHAUDHURI
basudeb.chaudhuri@csh-delhi.com

Administration

Jean-Luc GOURMELEN
secretary general/financial officer
jean-luc.gourmelen@csh-delhi.com

Rupa SENGUPTA
publications in-charge
publications@csh-delhi.com

Rémi DE BERCEGOL
scientific secretary
remfi@hotmail.com

Research Divisions

Dr. Laurent GAYER
head, international relations division
laurent.gayer@csh-delhi.com

Dr. Loraine KENNEDY
head, economics division
kennedy@ehess.fr

Dr. Stéphanie TAWA LAMA-REWAL
head, political science division
tawalawa@ehess.fr

Dr. Marie-Hélène ZERAH
head, urban dynamics division
zerah@ird.fr

ECOLE FRANÇAISE D'EXTREME-ORIENT

Director: Prof. Franciscus VERELLEN
Secretary General: Valérie LIGER-BELAIR
(EFEQ, 22 Avenue du Pdt. Wilson, F-75116)

The Pondicherry Centre

16 & 19 Dumas Street
Pondicherry 605 001
Tel: (91) 413 233 2504 / 233 4539 / 222 5689
Fax: (91) 413 233 0886 / 233 5538
administration@efeo-pondicherry.org
<http://www.efeo.fr>

The Pune Antenna

C/o Deccan College
Yerawada, Pune 6

Pondicherry Head

Dr. Dominic GOODALL
sanskrit, saivism
dominicgoodall@efeo-pondicherry.org

Administration

Prerana Sathi PATEL
executive assistant
preranapatel@efeo-pondicherry.org

For further details, please visit our website:

<http://www.efeo.fr/recherche/indologie.shtml>

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DE PONDICHÉRY

11 Saint Louis Street
PB 33, Pondicherry 605001
Tel: (91) 413 2334168
Fax: (91) 413 2339534
<http://www.ifpindia.org>

Director

Dr. Jean-Pierre MULLER
ifpdir@ifpindia.org

Administration

Yvan PRIKHODIKO
secretary general
yvan.prikhodiko@ifpindia.org

Anand PAKIAM
communications in-charge
ifpcom@ifpindia.org

Scientific Departments

Dr. Raphaël PELISSIER
head, dept of ecology
raphael.pelissier@ifpindia.org

Dr. Laurent PORDIE
head, dept of social sciences
laurent.pordie@ifpindia.org

Other services

Dr. Frédéric BORNE
head, Lab of Geomatics and Applied Informatics
borne@ifpindia.org

Anurupa NAIK
head, Centre for Documentary Resources
anurupa.n@ifpindia.org

For information on Pattrika & Publications, please contact:

Rupa Sengupta
publications@csh-delhi.com

Anand Pakiam
ifpcom@ifpindia.org