REPORT OF THE APMRN SECRETARIAT
(and Business Meeting Outcomes in italics)

Robyn Iredale
8th APMRN conference
28 May, 2007
Fujian Normal University, Fuzhou,
Fujian, PRC

1. Location of the Secretariat
The Secretariat is now located in the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute, at the Australian National University, Canberra. I am a Visiting Fellow at ADSRI.

A/P Siew-Ean Khoo is one of our Australian APMRN coordinators, along with Graeme Hugo, Fei Guo and Sallie Yea. She has been very supportive of the Secretariat and has offered a great deal of assistance with managing the website, mailing out publications, assisting with grant applications and discussing issues for the APMRN. Financial support for the network has come from other project accounts.

2. Funding
Since 2005, there have been no funds received by the Secretariat from UNESCO.

3. Personnel
Namuunda Mutombo, a PHD student at the ANU, took over the role of coordinator in mid-2005 and continued in this role till mid-2006 when he went to Africa for fieldwork. Since then we have had no coordinator but we do have someone maintaining the website at the ANU.

4. Membership of the APMRN
The membership now stands at 17:
NE Asia: Japan, Korea, China, Mongolia, Chinese Taipei,
SE Asia: Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand
S Asia: India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka
Pacific: Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands

Nepal and Laos are still possibilities but we have not pursued these options. There are multiple coordinators in most places as per the attached sheet. I would like to thank you all for your continued efforts – this is what keeps the APMRN functioning as a viable network.

It was agreed at the meeting that Laos should become a member of the APMRN and two coordinators were appointed. Welcome to Mr Inthasone Phetsiriseng of UNIFEM and Ms. Kabmanivanh Phouxay, National University of Laos.
5. Achievements of the APMRN Secretariat (individual country coordinators to provide their own reports)

Research in 2005-07
No research has been conducted by the Secretariat. Funds (USD10,000) that had been promised by UNESCO Beijing for a further project on Obstacles to Ratification of the 1990 UN Convention in Australia were reallocated elsewhere.

UNESCO Beijing has now advised us that these funds were allocated to South Korea to help promote ratification of the 1990 UN Convention.

Publications of the APMRN 2005-07
A) Recent Working Papers:

B) Journal Articles and Special Editions from Singapore conference, 2005


Introduction: Transnationalizing the 'Asian' family: imaginaries, intimacies and strategic intents
BRENDA S. A.YEOH, SHIRLENA HUANG AND THEODORA LAM; pages 307–315

Long distance intimacy: class, gender and intergenerational relations between mothers and children in Filipino transnational families
RHACEL PARREÑAS; pages 317–336

Changing family structures of Nepalese transmigrants in Japan: split-households and dual-wage earners
KEIKO YAMANAKA; pages 337–358

Transnational family strategies and education in the contemporary Chinese diaspora
JOHANNA L. WATERS; pages 359–377
Transnational families and their children's education: China's 'study mothers' in Singapore  
SHIRLENA HUANG AND BRENDA S. A.YEOH; pages 379–400

'Knowing one's place': gender, mobility and shifting subjectivity in Eastern Indonesia  
CATHARINA PURWANI WILLIAMS; pages 401–417

'The first Taiwanese wives' and 'the Chinese mistresses': the international division of labour in familial and intimate relations across the Taiwan Strait  
HSIU-HUA SHEN; pages 419–437

(2) Global Networks, 6(1): 23-40, 2006  
Consuming the transnational family: Indonesian migrant domestic workers to Saudi Arabia  
RACHEL SILVEY; pages 23–40

(3) International Migration, forthcoming, 2007

C) IOM’s World Migration Reports, 2005 and 2007 – include invited papers by Robyn Iredale.

Conferences/Meetings 2005-07

A) APMRN conferences and business meetings over the last 10 years: Manila, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Japan, Fiji (2002), Singapore (Feb 2005), Seoul (Oct 2005) and Fuzhou, China (May 2007).

B) Metropolis conferences  
APMRN members have organised and participated in the annual Metropolis conferences – in Oslo (2002), Vienna (2003), Geneva (2004), Toronto (2005) and Lisbon (2006). We have conducted workshops on Asia Pacific topics of interest or wider topics.

The 2007 conference will be held in Melbourne, Australia in October and various members of the APMRN will be keynote speakers and running workshops.

Robyn, Paul and Dick sit on the Metropolis International Steering Committee. Robyn also sat on the Policy Research Committee of Metropolis, which assesses applications for research funding, till 2006. Richard Bedford is now on this committee. The APMRN reached the short list on two occasions with research grant applications but we were not successful on either occasion.

C) UN Global Commission on Migration (GMC) Final Consultation Processes in 2005  
Robyn was invited to a seminar to discuss the findings in Hong Kong in December, 2005.
6. Stocktake from Seoul CONFERENCE

A discussion about the future style of operations of the APMRN was held in Seoul. The following is taken from the notes of the Business Meeting.

'Should the APMRN become more formal or remain as an informal network? After some time it was agreed that the informality of the APMRN is best at the international level but that some changes could be introduced:

(a) Secretariat to supply each coordinator with a letter stating their position and responsibilities in the APMRN – Robyn to do;
(b) A leaflet about the APMRN to be prepared and placed on the web so that individuals can download it and print it out for distribution. In this way it can be updated readily and the cost of printing is minimized – Robyn and Siew-Ean to do;
(c) The roles of chair and deputy chairs should be retained even though they do not have clear sets of responsibilities attached to them. (This means we need to revisit the list and appoint new people where necessary. Paul Spoonley is the current chair and Binod Khadria is a deputy chair but we need a deputy for NE Asia and SE Asia. Could people please advise the Secretariat if they wish to become a deputy chair in their region?).’

Both (a) and (b) were completed. No responses were received on (c).

7. Funding situation

The amount of funding was to be US$10,000 for 2006-07 for a project in Australia on Obstacles to Ratification of the ICMR and a slight possibility of extra funds for continuing with work started in Mongolia on the same topic. No monies were received from UNESCO for 2006-07.

8. Location of the Secretariat

From the Minutes of the Seoul Business Meeting:

'Perhaps a gradual transition to another country is the best option but we need another location to be put forward at some time in the near future. In the meantime it was put to Robyn that she continue to run the Secretariat, with support from the ANU. She agreed to do this.’

Robyn and Siew-Ean decided that they could not continue running the Secretariat on the current basis and Coordinators were asked if anyone else was willing to take over this role. The coordinators in Fiji expressed an interest, as did Yu Zhu. It was decided that when Professor Vijay Naidu returned to Fiji in early 2007 they would prepare an application for UNESCO. This has been done and we have been advised by UNESCO in Paris that any funding would be ‘project-based’.

It was agreed at the Fuzhou meeting that Fiji would take over the Secretariat in the near future, with some support being offered by
the NZ Coordinators. Most of the meeting was dedicated to discussing possible strategies for future funding of the APMRN.

9. Discussion of Future Activities
   • Suggestions for projects, publications, etc?

10. Vote of Thanks
Thanks are especially due to Professor Yu Zhu. He has done an excellent job in a situation where he is new to the APMRN. He has had valuable support from his University. This conference has been one of our biggest to date and thanks to Yu Zhu’s success in getting a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation we have been able to involve a wide range of people, especially from the Greater Mekong Subregion.

I would also like to acknowledge the role of Paul de Gutcheneire (Chief Migration Division, UNESCO, Paris) for his consistent input into the APMRN. Genevieve Chich-Domenach left the Beijing office in 2006 and so far we have had no replacement for her.

I would also like to thank Professor Paul Spoonley the Chair of the APMRN from February 2005 till May 2007. He has liaised with Metropolis, along with Prof Dick Bedford.

As is our usual practice, we will have a new Chair from this conference.

Professor Yu Zhu became the new Chair and Dr Fei Guo became Deputy Chair.

11. Farewell
As I have indicated previously, I am no longer able to continue to be responsible for the Secretariat. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your wonderful support and friendship over the 12 years that I have been associated with the APMRN. It has had its difficulties but it has mostly been a pleasurable and very rewarding experience. I have enjoyed the interactions that I have had with you all, especially at conferences and during the various research projects. Keep up the good work and keep in touch.

12. Conference Report
The 2 days of APMRN Conference were extremely interesting thanks to the wide range of papers, the good presenters and the lively discussions. We also had a half day workshop on the Mobility of Scientists in the AP region – this was new research and it stimulated a lot of discussion.

The social events around the conference were exceptional and included a visit to Fuqing, and formal and informal dinners.