

December 18, 2012



**The 1st Asia Cosmopolitan Awards Awarding Ceremony held
today at *NARA FORUM 2012* in Japan**

~ Prize winners receive Prizes and make commemorative speeches ~

Today on December 18, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and Nara Prefecture of Japan held an awarding ceremony at the awards commemorative forum called *NARA FORUM 2012* at *Nara Prefectural New Public Hall* in Nara City in Japan.

The Asia Cosmopolitan Awards aims to recognize on a biennial basis individuals or organizations that have made substantial and significant contributions to the development of a peaceful and stable East Asian Community, to narrow the developmental gaps in the region, as well as to establish the sustainable social growth towards economic and cultural integration within East Asia. This event marks the first time for the awards to be presented.

The *NARA FORUM 2012* featured commemorative speeches by the Grand Prize winner Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi (Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD]), the Economic and Social Science Prize winner Prof. Benedict Anderson (Professor Emeritus of Cornell University), and the Cultural Prize winner Mr. Takehiko Inoue (Japanese manga artist), as well as keynote speeches by Dr. Surin Pitsuwan (Secretary-General of ASEAN) and Dr. Takashi Shiraishi (President of the Institute of Developing Economies Japan External Trade Organization [IDE-JETRO]).

Tomorrow, December 19, Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi and Prof. Benedict Anderson will offer special lectures at Tezukayama University (Higashi Ikoma Campus) and Nara Women's University, respectively.

Below described comments by individual winners of prizes.

❖ Winner of the Grand Prize: Supachai Panitchpakdi (Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD])

It was the happiest moment for me and my wife, who accompanied me here to Nara. I am also deeply impressed that the Prize gave me an opportunity to visit Nara for the first time in the past 25 years. Since I have studied Buddhism, I believe that everything in life is meaningful. We humans are imperfect, and we have different values from one another. Yet, I believe that we can bridge the gap between people of different values by asking questions each other and building trusting relationship. I once served as a banker, and I believed that my mission as a banker was to develop human resources and to link people. I will continue to devote myself to studies of economics, in which I have been specializing, while remembering the essence of my mission is

linking people with people. Moreover, I will make my utmost efforts to build an East Asian Community.

❖ **Winner of the Economic and Social Science Prize: Benedict Anderson (Professor emeritus at Cornell University, USA)**

Cosmopolitan was originally used to describe a person that was indifferent to their homeland and had a distasteful admiration of foreign customs. However, I would like to redefine the word cosmopolitan as a person whose experience living abroad has changed their understanding of the world. I have studied in four countries, and at times, was driven out of those countries. My experience led me to pursue research in nationalism. The love of your homeland is the door to learning about the world. This is the message I would like to convey.

❖ **Winner of the Cultural Prize: Takehiko Inoue (*manga* artist)**

Although I feel as cartoon artist is undeserving of this award, I was very surprised and truly honored. Cartoon illustrators, as artists, are not in the forefront. So, when children I meet overseas tell me they are reading Slam Dunk, it is an unexpected, happy surprise. I don't know if I am worthy of being called a cosmopolitan but I feel that I must be connecting with my readers and viewers at some level. Some of my works tend to lack explanation but I continue to produce them, trusting deep in my heart, that there is a certain something that is intrinsically shared among humans.

❖ **Winner of the Memorable Prize (Special Acknowledgement): Rizal Sukma, Executive Director of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (on behalf of the late Hadi Soesastro)**

I am truly honored to accept this award today on behalf of Dr. Rizal Sukma. I was a student of Dr. Sukma. I am sad that he could not be here today. But, I am very happy that he is receiving this award as the world will now recognize his achievements. He was a great man who contributed to the economic development of regions throughout East Asia. I am a specialist in defense policies, which is a different field than that of my teacher. However, I learned many things from him. Two weeks before he passed away, I visited him in the hospital. As usual, he was pondering the issue of regional economic cooperation. I plan to carry on Dr. Hadi's magnificent work and principles as I believe it is the responsibility of those of us here to carry on Dr. Hadi's legacy and see how we can contribute to the stability and development of the East Asia.

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<The Nara Forum - Asia Cosmopolitan Awards>

- 1. Date:** December 18 (Tue), 2012
- 2. Venue:** The Nara New Prefectural Public Hall
- 3. Organizer:** ERIA (Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia), Nara Prefecture
- 4. Guest:** **Laureate Speech**
 - Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
 - Benedict Anderson, Professor Emeritus of International Studies, Government and Asian Studies at Cornell University, USA
 - Takehiko Inoue, Japanese manga artist
 - Rizal Sukma, Executive Director of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia (for the late Hadi Soesastro)

Complimentary Address

- H.R.H. Norodom Sirvudh, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace
- Akito Arima, President of Musashi Gakuen, Former Minister of Education, Japan

Keynote speeches and other speeches

- Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN
- Takashi Shiraishi, President of Institute of Developing Economies Japan External Trade Organization
- Shogo Arai, Mayor of Nara Prefecture
- Hidetoshi Nishimura, Executive Director of ERIA

<The Asia Cosmopolitan Awards>

❖ Background

Known as the center of global growth and home to a number of very active and growing economies, East Asia is experiencing rapid regional economic integration, mainly among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In such a move toward East Asia economic integration, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) analyzes regional issues, plans policies, and provides policy guidance.

The ASEAN Community is targeting its integration by 2015 based upon three pillars: Political-Security Community, Economic Community and Socio-Cultural Community. This indicates that for the realization of a 21st century community it is necessary to pursue policy coordination by the whole of Asia in terms of economy, intra-regional disparities, and environmental issues and also to seek regional integration that takes advantage of national individuality and identity, while also taking into consideration cultural diversity.

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), recognizing a need to promote further efforts toward the development of a peaceful and stable East Asia has taken the opportunity of the ERIA NARA Regional Network Forum held in Nara in 2010—in commemoration of the 1300th anniversary of the transfer to Heijokyo, one of the first cosmopolitan cities in East Asia—to decide to establish the Asia Cosmopolitan Awards to evaluate and honor persons and/or organizations making substantial and significant contributions to the development of a peaceful and stable East Asian Community. Qualifying individuals and/or organizations will have contributed to the cultural and economic integration of the region in order to narrow the developmental gaps in the region, and establish sustainable social growth.

❖ Outline and Categories

The Asia Cosmopolitan Awards consists of three prizes: the Grand Prize, the Economic and Social Science Prize, and the Cultural Prize. Other prizes may be added as necessary. Main criteria for selection are as follows.

- **Grand Prize:** Awarded to an individual and/or organization making the most distinguished achievements in economic, social science, or cultural fields.
- **Economic and Social Science Prize:** Awarded to an individual and/or organization contributing to the betterment of Asia in the economic or social science fields through eminent achievements in scholarly research, business innovation, industrial technology, smart consumption activities, security/safety, social security, politics, philosophy, or other general social sciences
- **Cultural Prize:** Awarded to an individual and/or organization contributing to the betterment of Asia in the cultural fields through eminent achievements in the arts, literature, content, cultural academic research or other cultural fields.

<Laureates of the 1st Asia Cosmopolitan Awards>

❖ Grand Prize



Supachai Panitchpakdi

A Thai national. His first four-year term as Secretary-General of UNCTAD began in 2005, and his second term will run from 2009. He previously served as Director-General of the World Trade Organization and as Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce. As Deputy Prime Minister, he was in charge of the country's economic and trade policy-making, signing the Uruguay Round Agreement in 1994 and contributing to the formulation of regional agreements.

❖ Economic and Social Science Prize



Benedict Anderson

Born in Kunming, China. BA in Classics from Cambridge University, PhD from Cornell's Government Department. Taught at Cornell from 1967-2001. He specializes on Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines, and has written books on each of these countries. He is best-known internationally because of the book entitled *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (1983) which has been translated into 34 languages.

❖ Cultural Prize



Takehiko Inoue

Slam Dunk, Takehiko Inoue's representative work, has sold more than 100 million volumes in Japan. His currently ongoing manga series include *Real* and *Vagabond*. Inoue has won the Japanese Cultural Affairs Agency's Art Encouragement Award in the category of Best New Artist and many other prizes. His attempts to push the limits have received much attention. A prominent museum used its entire facility for a special program called *Takehiko Inoue: the Last Manga Exhibition*, and the Higashi Hongan-ji temple, the religious base of the Otani faction of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhism sect, commissioned him to produce a folding screen painting of the 13th century Japanese Buddhist monk Shinran.

❖ Memorable Prize (Special Acknowledgement)



The late Hadi Soesastro

An Indonesian economist, Hadi Soesastro was one of the founders and executive director of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Indonesia. From 1999 to 2000, he served as economic advisor to Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. As a prominent academic and intellectual, he was involved in the establishment of many regional agencies and frameworks. He played a key role not only in the development of the Indonesian economy but in the formation of the ASEAN economic community as well.