

# Correspondence

The Editor.  
Journal of Southeast Asian Studies.

Dear Sir,

I noticed in your March 1971 issue (Volume II, No. I) in an article by Nicholas Tarling on "Southeast Asia in Australasian Universities" a brief mention of the University of Western Australia. The statement being "that at Western Australia is focused on South Asia" (page 83). This is not entirely true. Our Centre is the Centre for Asian Studies and we are involved in teaching, research and seminars dealing with East, Southeast and South Asia. In our early stages we placed emphasis on South Asia but this was only a beginning. Also the University has a Japanese Studies programme and a Professor of Japanese Studies. Thus we are *not* a South Asian oriented Centre.

I thought I should draw this situation to your attention as we do wish people to know of our true orientation. We are interested in the three regions mentioned above and have courses covering all three areas, as well as holding seminars involving all three regions. Members of the Centre are also active in carrying out research in all three areas at present.

Yours very sincerely,

Dr. Wayne T. Frank,  
Director,  
Centre for Asian Studies.

We publish below a copy of reply by Nicholas Tarling addressed to the above correspondent (Editor).

Dr Wayne T. Frank,  
University of Western Australia,  
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Dear Dr Frank,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 4 June 1971 to the Editor of the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* about my article therein.

I am glad to have the further information you give me about the activities of the Centre. But the phrase I used comes from a report Dr Owen sent me on 25/8/70. This read: 'The Centre for Asian Studies' main research interests are, for the time being, focussed upon South Asia ...'

He also stated that 'no Asian languages are taught formally as yet at this university ...' It would still seem to be the case that no Southeast Asian language is taught.

Yours sincerely,

NICHOLAS TARLING  
*Professor of History*

c. The Editor,  
*JSEAS*.