



asia magazine

2010 NO 14 A MAGAZINE BY CHALMERS STUDENTS IN ASIA



CHALMERS
Chalmers Asia - Taiwan office

asia magazine

WHAT IS CHALMERS ASIA?

Chalmers Asia was opened in March 2003 and is the result of a bilateral exchange agreement between National Chiao Tung University (NCTU) and Chalmers University of Technology. The Chalmers Asia office is strategically located at NCTU, near Hsinchu Science-based Industrial Park.

PURPOSE

- Increase awareness at Chalmers about the development in East Asia, with focus on Taiwan.
- Support mobility of students and staff between NCTU and Chalmers.
- Enhance Chalmers' visibility in Taiwan and the neighbouring region.

THE CHALMERS ASIA MAGAZINE

The purpose of this publication is to increase the awareness of Asia among the students and the staff of Chalmers. The articles are written by the Chalmers exchange students in Asia.

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In this letter I will try to describe my new-found love for a small island off the south-east coast of mainland China. The island, Taiwan, is no bigger than the Swedish provinces Skåne and Småland together and is the home to 23 million people. When the Portuguese first came here in year 1544 they named the island Ilha Formosa, which means "Beautiful Island". A perfect name for the place that now is my home.

When explorers like Christopher Columbus or Vasco da Gama discovered new parts of the world I guess their thought was: "I can't wait to go home and tell everybody about this beautiful place I found!" I get the same feeling about Taiwan; I want to tell everyone about this amazing place that I found in the middle of Asia. Fortunately, I don't have to go home to tell my story. Instead I can write about it in this magazine.

Before I came here, Taiwan was just a part of a three letter sentence: "Made in Taiwan." Little did I know that this island offer everything an adventurous traveler like myself could wish for. Outside the coastline of Taiwan there are many coral reefs perfect for scuba diving. Green Island is a little known diving paradise off the south-east coast of Taiwan that offers a tremendous amount of beautiful sea life. Mountaineering is one of the most popular activities in Taiwan. The Central Mountain Range in Taiwan consists of more than 165 peaks that rise above 3000m and at least a hundred of them are suitable for mountaineering.

My two most amazing experiences so far have been scuba diving at 30m depths outside Green Island and on top of the 3358m high QiLai Mountain in central Taiwan. I will remember those moments for the rest of my life.

Taiwan also has vibrant cities like Taipei, deep forests and of course hot springs! There might be many places in the world where you can have the same experiences, although I think Taiwan is unique regarding convenience. Because of the island's small size and well developed infrastructure you will never have to travel for more than a few hours wherever you are going.

I would say that Taiwan is the most underrated travel destination in Asia. I encourage everyone to go to Taiwan and explore it, –you won't be disappointed!

Jesper Moberg / Head of Office

Letter from Head of Office

Photo: Carl Sylow-Rynning

With a brand new team of students the Chalmers Asia office has sprung into yet another year of activity. We started, of course, with a grand opening ceremony in the beginning of the semester. A great crowd of interested students showed up and we could not have wished for a better start!

During the fall we have held many various activities at NCTU. Some has been more relaxed gatherings such as to play Nintendo Wii -games and language exchange evenings. We have also tried to introduce some Swedish culture in Taiwan. For example we have managed to present a full-fledged Lucia procession. Apart from singing, the event included the traditional snacks which were served to both staff and students at NCTU. In the same week we also invited students to the Chalmers Asia office to our own Nobel Prize celebration. Furthermore we have introduced floorball, a Swedish sport, to both exchange students and Taiwanese students at a basket court at NCTU.

Another pivotal part of the Chalmers Asia program is to visit Swedish companies in the region. Apart from exploring Taiwan we have also travelled to Malaysia, Vietnam and Japan. This makes Chalmers more visible in Asia but it is also a great way to see the exciting career opportunities Asia has to offer.

In this magazine both Chalmers Asia staff and other Chalmers students in Asia share their experiences with you. Hopefully it will increase your interest in East Asia and inspire you to either start or continue exploring this exciting part of the world.

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Photo: Carl Christofferson



Tough Conditions

Taiwan's challenges in a changing climate

Text: David Stålsmeden

Located in the warm waters of the West Pacific along the same line of latitude as the Bahamas, Taiwan is no stranger to extreme tropical weather. The island is regularly bombarded by typhoons and tropical storms.

As an exchange student in Taiwan it is hard not to notice that there are many things that are different here compared to Sweden. The food, the language and the people are only a few examples. Another difference that is very much apparent is the climate. As a Scandinavian I appreciate the sun, warmth and the light very much but unfortunately there is a downside to the climate.

Taiwan was in the beginning of August this year badly affected by the typhoon Morakot. It was the worst storm to hit the country in fifty years and the consequences were massive, both in loss of lives and structural damages. In the course of two days more than 2.5 meters of rain fell, which is roughly the amount Taiwan normally receives in a year. Hopefully no one will have to experience storms like this again but it is

quite naive to count on it. The storm is therefore a reminder of the forces of nature, our societies' vulnerability and the challenges that exist.

One of the difficulties Taiwan has to handle is that most of the precipitation, which is about two and half times the world average, is concentrated to the summer season May – October. The rainfall is in other words not distributed evenly over the year and therefore, when it rains, it rains very heavily. The precipitation that falls has to go somewhere and as a result the properties of streams and rivers are important factors.

Another difficulty that affects the rivers is that Taiwan is a very mountainous country. One third of its surface is covered with mountains higher than 1000 meters. Another third is covered with hills and plateaus with an elevation of 100 meters to 1000 meters. Compared to other rivers in the world these circumstances make the rivers in Taiwan among the steepest. This together with the concentrated intense rains make floods a big problem.

At the same time, just as in many other places in the world, the rain is the primary water supply resource. This makes it necessary to make use of as much of the water as possible. However, during the last twenty years big fluctuations in precipitation days and rain intensity has caused immense difficulties in the management of water resources. Some of the problems these fluctuations bring about are shortage of surface water supply and severe and frequent droughts and floods. The last couple of years the number of precipitation days has decreased and the rains have become more intense. Because of the climate change it is feared that this trend will continue and that extreme weather will be more frequent.

As mentioned before big parts of Taiwan are mountainous areas which make them difficult to access and exploit. Because Taiwan is also a very small country with a big population and quick development, one wants to make use of as much land as possible. In many places this means that it is necessary to build for example dams or levees in order to make land usable. A consequence of this is that streams and rivers natural paths

and flow conditions, especially in extreme weather conditions, are affected negatively.

There are not only weather storms but also political ones. One issue which is causing disagreement is the previous mentioned; whether it is best to protect oneself with dams, levees and such or if it is best to return land to nature and not change the natural conditions too much in order to mitigate the consequences of difficult weather. This is a question that has become topical even elsewhere around the world in connection with climate change. In Gothenburg for example, which has low-lying areas threatened by floods, a politician's suggestion to move the city caused big headlines.

There is no obvious solution to the challenges Taiwan is facing but the people are well aware of the difficulties. Much work has been done and there are good conditions for good solutions even in the future. The impressions I have had so far of this country and its people make me confident that Taiwan will be able to successfully cope with these questions.



Photo: Henrik Kjellgren

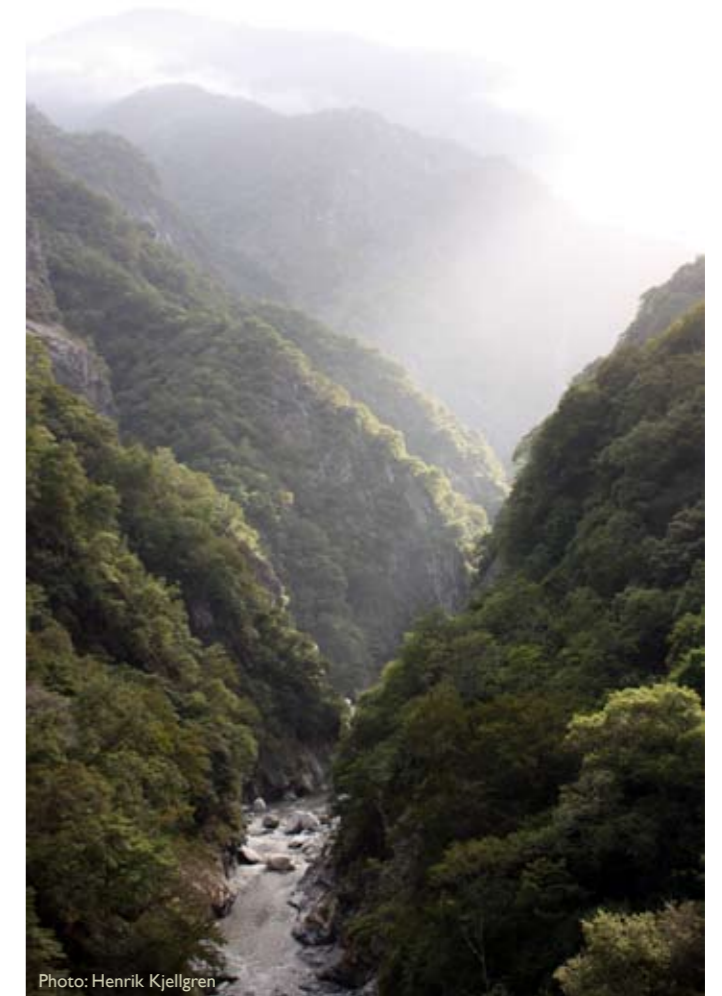


Photo: Henrik Kjellgren



Photo: Daniel Persson



Photo: Carl Sylow-Rynning

Vietnam Vroom!

Text: Martin Persson, Sean Long Hoang

Is Vietnam a booming economy despite the financial crisis?

This is not entirely true since the economic growth has decreased but one can speak of a slowdown of the growth instead of a recession. Vietnam has since the early 90's been one of the fastest growing economies in the world with an annual GDP growth of 7% in recent years. The government is continuously amending and improving the foreign direct investment (FDI) law to shape the economy into being more open and attractive to foreign investors. This is together with growing exports two major reasons for the increasing GDP. The major export goods are rice, coffee, oil, garment and footwear. In fact they recently passed Thailand as the world's biggest rice exporting country. Vietnam is transforming from a centrally planned economy to a more market-oriented economy, with rapid industrialization and urbanization. Deep poverty, defined as the percentage of the population living under \$1 per day, has been remarkably reduced. This has resulted in increased

imports since the fast growing middle class demand more foreign goods.

During 2009 Vietnam's economy is expected to continue to grow as one of the few economies in Asia. A natural question would then be: -Why is Vietnam doing so well while other countries' economies are bleeding and how are Swedish companies situated in Vietnam doing?

To answer these questions and to learn more about Vietnam as a country and culture we decided to travel to Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. When we arrived in Hanoi the first thing that struck us was the intense traffic. Literally there are motorbikes everywhere and none of them follows the traffic rules. After spending some time here we started questioning if there are any traffic rules at all and if it is mandatory to use your horn once every 10 seconds.

To find out how Swedish companies are doing in Vietnam we visited Ericsson, ABB and Getinge in Hanoi. Ericsson and ABB are two of the biggest Swedish companies in the country with 700 and 645 employees respectively while Getinge has just a

small sales office with two employees. Despite the differences in size all three companies answered uniformly that it is very difficult to do business in Vietnam, even though they all had different experiences behind their answers. The country has a communist regime and according to Eddie Åhman, country president for Ericsson, it is not easy to invest in such a country because of very strict legislations for foreign companies. Mats Persson, manager at ABB, mentioned the same problems. When they initiated their business in Hanoi they had to do it as a joint venture enterprise due to legislations preventing foreign company ownership in Vietnam. Doing business in Vietnam requires patience and close relationships are very important because of the huge differences in culture and ways of communication. The government has sent a clear message to investors that the rules are changing in a positive way. A significant milestone in enhancing the business environment was Vietnam's accession to the WTO in 2007.

Another big downside with the business climate is the widespread corruption. Vietnam is one of the most corrupted countries in the world. During our meeting with Eddie he explains that there is a huge amount of "grey" money circulating

in the society that is never recorded. Mats tell us that ABB has distanced themselves from corruption to the cost of some lost orders. He also says that everything takes much more time when not following the corrupt system.

Despite the downsides mentioned, both ABB and Ericsson have experienced a strong growth in recent years. Eddie mentions that Ericsson are benefitting from Vietnam's suitable state of development. The fixed telephone system is underdeveloped causing Vietnam to jump straight on to mobile telecommunication. This benefits Ericsson since they are the main supplier of the three largest mobile operators. There has been strong growth in the mobile sector with almost 70 million subscribers while the growth of the country's fixed line subscribers seems to have flattened out. Eddie also tells us that Sweden's reputation in Vietnam is very good because Sweden was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Vietnam after the Vietnam War. Sweden also helped establish Olof Palme's hospital in Hanoi and another General Hospital in Uong Bi. In some situations Ericsson has benefited from this reputation. Mats explains to us that one of the reasons why ABB is doing so well is their good reputation and well known

quality. This is important because the people in Vietnam appreciate long built up relations and that suits ABB good since they are a well established brand. Torsten Hjalmarsson on Getinge gives us a different picture of the awareness of quality importance in Vietnam. As far as he is concerned people are willing to pay a higher price for quality products when it comes to purchasing things for the family but not when it comes to buying medical technology for their hospitals.

Why is Vietnam's GDP growing despite the world financial crisis?

Vietnam is climbing up and becoming an integral part of the East Asian manufacturing network but like the rest of the world they did experience a downturn in the beginning of 2009. Exports fell by 14% year on-year during the first eight months of 2009, the number of families suffering food shortages rose by a fifth, and the value of foreign direct investment tumbled by 82%. But the contraction proved short-lived. The investment bank Credit Suisse forecasts a GDP growth of 5.3% this year and 8.5% next year. Like in other countries, Vietnam's government served up a big fiscal stimulus to restrain job losses. The central element was an interest-rate subsidy program worth 17 trillion dong (\$1 billion), which seems to have succeeded in stemming the feared tide of factory closures.

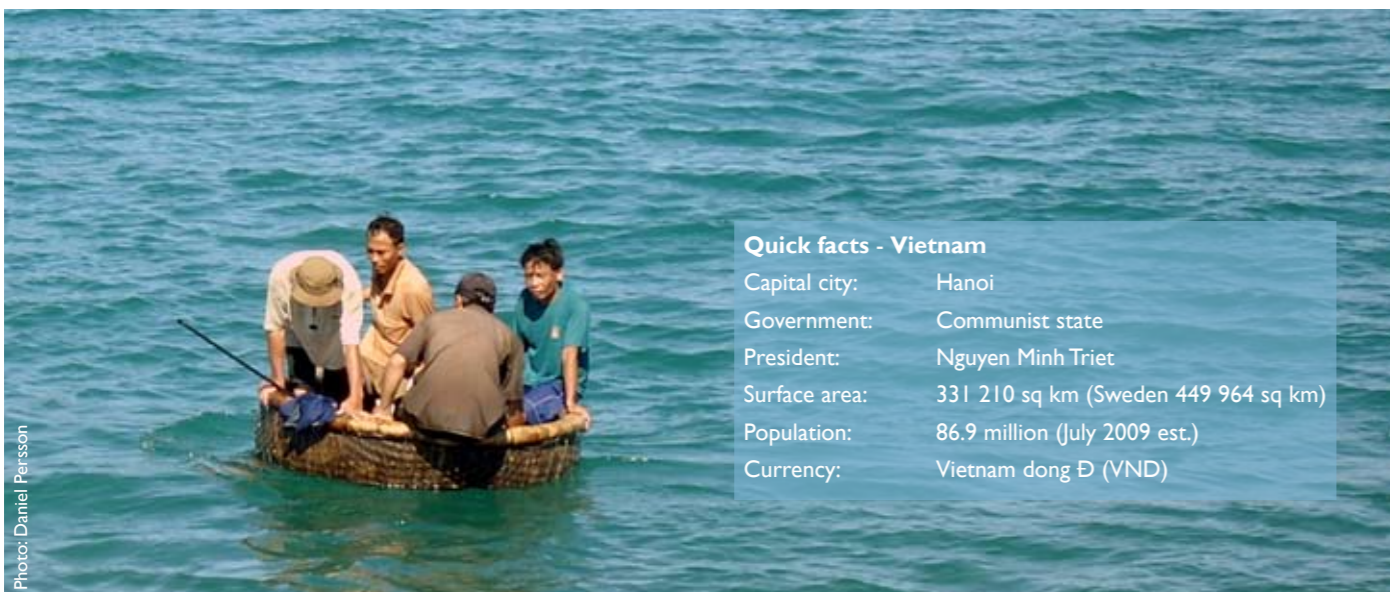
From the Swedish companies the joint answer to the question above was related to the Vietnamese people and their ability to work hard. For an underdeveloped and emerging country like Vietnam, the low manufacturing costs points them towards one direction, and that is growth. This is in turn a big incentive for companies to invest in Vietnam and site their production in the country. When discussing Vietnam's GDP with Mats he

gives a hint that the economic growth might not be as good as the numbers tell. According to him there are a lot of signed investment contracts but in some cases the actual investment never takes place and this might give a wrong picture of the economic growth.

As Vietnam opened up to the world, it also benefited from a booming tourism industry. The rich natural landscape, diverse ecology and multi-ethnic culture have come to attract foreign visitors as well as Vietnamese people living overseas, especially since the tourism infrastructure has improved. In 2007, 2.6 million international tourists visited Vietnam, an increase of 26% compared to 2006 statistics. The tourism industry will continue to provide employment opportunities in the service sector and promote domestic consumption as well as FDI projects.

Vietnam suffers from growing pains in some areas. According to Mats and Eddie the infrastructure is the biggest problem. Several Korean and Japanese companies have invested in reconstructing Vietnam's infrastructure but it is still substandard.

Finally we want to get back to the question stated in the beginning: Is Vietnam a booming economy despite the financial crisis? There is no uniform answer to this question but Vietnam is for sure doing much better than many other countries. But whether it depends on governmental motions or a suitable state of development is hard to say. What can be said is that it is a vivid country on its way towards a higher grade of development. If you like good food and are not too afraid of getting run over by a motorbike you should definitely pay a visit to Vietnam.



Quick facts - Vietnam	
Capital city:	Hanoi
Government:	Communist state
President:	Nguyen Minh Triet
Surface area:	331 210 sq km (Sweden 449 964 sq km)
Population:	86.9 million (July 2009 est.)
Currency:	Vietnam dong Đ (VND)

Photo: Daniel Persson



Does Your Shampoo Cause Deforestation?

Text: Jesper Moberg Photos courtesy of AAK

In one of my courses at Chalmers I studied the controversy regarding the palm oil business and how it is the main cause of deforestation in South-East Asia. Recently I got very surprised when I read an article in Dagens Nyheter about how Swedish companies such as Coop Sverige and Axfood got among the lowest rankings on WWF Palm Oils Buyers' Scorecard for 2009. The scorecard is an assessment of the palm oil purchasing practices of major European companies that produce or sell everyday consumer products.

I decided to research the subject further. How come Swedish companies are among the worst in Europe when it comes to striving for a sustainable future? I thought Swedes were good at this!

Palm oil has surpassed soy oil as the world's most popular vegetable oil and is used in about 50% of all packaged food products in supermarkets today. In 2008 palm oil accounted for a third of the entire volume of vegetable oil produced

worldwide. This day you have probably already consumed some products with ingredients that originate from palm oil.

Palm oil is produced from the oil palm that grows +/- 12 degrees from the Equator in South-East Asia, Central and West Africa, and Central America. The world's two largest producers of palm oil are Indonesia and Malaysia. The problem with the extensive use of palm oil is that the oil palms use the same land area as high-diversity tropical rainforest. Palm oil is the leading cause of rainforest destruction in Malaysia and Indonesia according to a report published by United Nations Environment Programme in 2007. The rainforest in Malaysia and Indonesia is the habitat of many critically endangered species, for example the Sumatran tiger and the Sumatran orangutan.

The deforestation in modern times has taken place in Indonesia and East Malaysia i.e. Sabah and Sarawak. About 90% of all oil palm plantations on the peninsular Malaysia are converted from old rubber plantations that were established during the late 19th century and the early 20th century.



On a trip to Malaysia I decide to meet up with Jörgen Torp at AarhusKarlshamn AB (AAK) to talk about the Malaysian palm oil business and hopefully get some insight. Jörgen came to Malaysia in 1980 and is today a senior advisor at AAK. He has worked in Malaysia and in the palm oil business for many years and he is the former managing director of AarhusKarlshamn Asia-Pacific Sdn. Bhd.

As we are getting ready to land at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, I look out through my window and see the perfectly aligned palm trees. No rainforest can be sighted –only plantations as far as I can see. I have only read about the extensive plantations but now when I get to see it with my own eyes, I must say that it is incredible. The rainforest is often called the lungs of the earth and this is where those lungs used to be a century ago.

Malaysia is located near the Equator and borders to Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei. The country has a population of 28 million people and the capital Kuala Lumpur is an important hub for trade in South-East Asia. The palm oil industry is one of Malaysia's most important industries.

I meet Jörgen at AAK's office in Kuala Lumpur, located on the 26th floor in a building close to Petronas Towers. The conference room has a spectacular view over the Kuala Lumpur city centre.

AAK is a Swedish company that refine vegetable oils that are used in a wide range of products. Many of them are food products such as confectionery, margarine, baby food and ice cream but vegetable oils are also used in cosmetics and shampoo. AAK is today the main supplier of vegetable oils in the Nordic countries and palm oil is one of AAK's main raw materials.

AAK is one of the founders of Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) together with Golden Hope Plantations Berhad, Migros, Malaysian Palm Oil Association, Sainsbury's, Unilever and WWF. RSPO is a non-profit organisation that unites stakeholders to develop and implement global standards for sustainable palm oil. RSPO was formed in 2004 with the objective of promoting the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders. United Plantations (UP), AAK's main supplier of palm oil, was the first plantation to get certified according to RSPO.

I ask Jörgen if he sees any hope for a sustainable palm oil business in the future. He replies with a confident "yes". He believes that all the palm oil imported to Europe will be RSPO certified within three to five years. Jörgen further explains that the demand is growing for RSPO certified palm oil but the supply is still larger than the demand.

Jörgen says that the palm oil business strongly is regulated in Malaysia and that rain forest clearance is strongly forbidden.

He explains that nowadays the companies in Malaysia understand that slash and burn¹ is not a sustainable way of palm oil production and that there is a strong focus on RSPO within the industry. "The consumers in the western world are enlightened and the demand for sustainable products is increasing."

However, Jörgen also mentions that RSPO means an extra cost that the consumer must be ready to pay. One reason for the higher cost is the certification process. "There is still a large market consisting of China and India that are not demanding sustainable products and where the price is the only deciding factor."

In Indonesia where the business is not as regulated there are many producers that use unsustainable methods to cut the costs in production. For example, some critics believe that plantation owners start forest fires on purpose in the region to clear areas for plantations.

Jörgen asks me if I am ready to pay extra for a chocolate bar

made from RSPO palm oil. I reply: "Probably not."

I leave Malaysia with many thoughts but not that many answers. Talking to Jörgen gave me a good insight into the palm oil business and also some hope about the future. The development in Malaysia seems to be on the right track. But I know that it's up to us consumers to demand the sustainable products and this is where I get worried. Most consumers are like me; price sensitive and therefore choose the cheaper product.

I have promised myself that I will try to be more aware when I consume products in the future. Hopefully you will too after reading my article.

¹**Slash and burn** consists of cutting and burning of forests or woodlands to create fields for agriculture and the abandonment of fields as productivity declines.





Frank Isaksson, general manager at SHL



The Swedish Injection

Text: Hugo Af Klint Photos courtesy of SHL

SHL (Scandinavian Health Limited) is the world's largest manufacturer, developer and designer of advanced drug delivery devices, primarily for self-injection and inhalation of drugs.

Scandinavian Health was established in 1989 by the Swedes Roger Samuelsson and Martin Gelf who were two early entrepreneurs in Taiwan. Another Swede, Frank Isaksson joined the company five years later and is nowadays the general manager. Frank described their business model and showed the state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities when I met him at the corporate headquarter in Taoyuan, Taiwan.

The SHL organization consists of three different companies: SHL Medical, SHL Healthcare and SHL Technologies. SHL Medical develops and manufacture high-end drug delivery devices, SHL Healthcare manufacture rehabilitation equipment and SHL Technologies produce medtech and industrial products. The manufacturing facilities are based in Taiwan and China while

R&D and marketing are situated in Taiwan, Sweden and the United States.

So what's the secret behind their success? A close relationship with both small and large global customers along with strictly controlled pharmaceutical product approval gives SHL a lock-in like effect. The injectors, which are one of their main products, are customized to fit their customer's drug container and to get an approval for the combined product takes many years. They have implemented a high-automated assembly with a long-term perspective. Instead of outsourcing, which has become more common lately, SHL have insourced capabilities to increase quality and control over the projects. The fact that they also design, develop and manufacture advanced testing and assembly equipment makes them a market leading manufacturer of drug delivery devices. These factors along with several recently signed long-term supply agreements are the reasons why SHL can continue to expand their business despite the current global economic crisis.

SHL have employees from many industries and cultures, who speak different languages. This is seen as competitive advantages to better understand their customers' needs. They also try to commit their workforce by combining education with opportunity to advancement. Also "outing-days" are implemented where employees travels together with the intention to increase the unity among them.

Furthermore, Frank explained why Taiwan is a suitable place for manufacturing business opportunities. Its geographical location provides easy access for suppliers and there are lots of qualified workers. Moreover are the salaries, income taxes, costs of insurance and general payroll taxes lower in Taiwan compared to Sweden. "Taiwanese employees are fast, flexible and reliable to do business with," says Frank. He reckons that one of the biggest differences between Swedish and Taiwanese employees is that Swedes focus on their family and leisure while Taiwanese prioritize their work.

You may ask yourself why Taiwanese employees work so hard. It's a difficult question to answer but as far as I perceive after speaking with Taiwanese employees, it seems to be a mixture of tradition and certain unwritten rules. Every employee would like to be as good as their workmates and therefore no one leaves their work before the managers goes home at the end of the day. Employees don't talk about their salaries but instead work very hard to receive bonuses, given around Chinese New Year. They also work hard in order to provide a good education for their children and to have a prosperous life.

I believe that the combination of Swedish management thinking together with the hard working morality is a winning concept for a successful business in Taiwan.



President Chen: From Power to Prison

Text: Henrik Kjellgren

Chen Shui-bian, the president of Taiwan from 2000 to 2008, has been sentenced to prison for life after being found guilty of corruption and money laundering. It is a harsh punishment considering the crime and the question arises whether it is a backlash or a sign of health of the Taiwanese democracy.

President Chen was the first Taiwanese president belonging to the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). Except from the Chen presidency, Taiwan has been solely ruled by the party Kuomintang (KMT) since the Japanese left the island in 1945. The first democratic president election in Taiwan was held as late as 1996. The DPP and the KMT are now the two dominating political parties in Taiwan.

The investigation of Chen's economic affairs began as soon as he left the presidential office in 2008. But so did also a series of controversies in the judicial process. Before the prosecutors investigating Chen even had presented an indictment, they held a press conference where they declared that they would resign if the case didn't lead to a conviction. Also, a panel of judges at first decided that there was no need to detain Chen before the trial and that he could be released on bail. Shortly

after that, the panel was unprecedentedly switched and the new panel immediately decided to put Chen behind bars – a remarkable treatment of someone accused only of economic crimes. A third questionable occasion was when prosecutors involved in the Chen trial also took part in a skit where they mocked Chen for his statements of being a political prisoner.

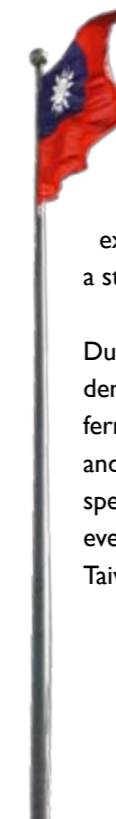
To find out more about how the Chen debacle affects the Taiwanese society I meet with Richard Hazeldine, the deputy news editor of Taipei Times. Richard says that many Taiwanese are disappointed of the corrupt behavior of President Chen. Among Chen's supporters, the disappointment is of course a lot greater concerning the flaws in the trial. But Richard then adds that he think Taiwanese people tend to talk less about politics now in fear of stirring up fierce arguments about the Chen trial. "Taiwanese are practical people." – meaning that most of them prefer to avoid upsetting each other over politics.

President Chen was a polarizing character even before the corruption scandal. For example, Chen's rhetoric for a more independent Taiwan further iced the frosty relations with mainland China. The DPP never had a majority in Taiwan's



legislature which limited their power even though they controlled the executive power. One thing they although managed to do was to further separate the political power from the leading news media and thereby increasing Taiwan's press freedom.

So will the imprisonment of the first DPP – president forever keep the Taiwanese from voting DPP again? "No," is the answer according to Richard. Although it seldom leads to indictments, Taiwanese politicians are in general notorious for being corrupt. Therefore voters also tend to forget corruption scandals rather quick and the DPP already shows signs of recovery in the opinion polls. The DPP also tries to distance themselves from Chen whom for a long time has been a charismatic front figure of the party. But Richard also says that the political playing field might have changed a bit now. Due to their long grip of the power, the KMT used to be "the corrupt party" whereas the DPP used to be perceived as the more honest underdog. Now the Chen verdict probably makes such a statement less valid to the public.



Many Taiwanese and especially the KMT think that the imprisonment of Chen marks the strong rule of law in Taiwan. If even the head of state can be imprisoned, then, they argue, no one is above the law. I think that statement is troubled by the remarkably harsh treatment of Chen during the case investigation and his excessive punishment. It might, as many believe, instead mark a strong KMT influence over the Taiwanese judicial system.

During my stay in Taiwan I have been impressed by the strong democratic spirit here and how fast the country has transferred to a freer society. Everyone is very aware of their rights and no one is afraid to express their true opinions. In that perspective I think the Chen debacle is mostly a series of tragic events and I hope they don't mark the future political road of Taiwan.

Large Scale Symbiosis

Text & photo: Richard Abrahamsson



The modern China; Downtown Shenzhen.

Not unlike the relationship between flowering plants and bees, the trade relations between Hong Kong and Shenzhen are products of symbiosis. Closely located but very different, the contrast amazes visitors from everywhere.

In only thirty years, Shenzhen has developed into the third largest city in China. Shenzhen has through its suitable location and by being part of China's first Special Economic Zone, grown to twice the population size of its neighbouring giant, Hong Kong. This zone that the Chinese government created in the southern part of the country basically constituted a liberalization of the otherwise strict rules governing foreign investments.

The location of this zone made Hong Kong the obvious gateway. This friendly and English-speaking former British colony made a convenient partner for the outside capital. No longer able to compete industrially with China, Hong Kong made the successful transition to a service oriented city, serving both China and the outside world.

The fact that Shenzhen has grown up under these circumstances might give the notion that the city shares most of its traits with Hong Kong. Most visitors would however claim that Shenzhen have more similarities with other Chinese megacities, such as Shanghai. This is neither a good nor bad thing. What it does mean is that there exists not only a great flux of goods and money, but also a contrast in the culture, language and way of life.

Except for the last twelve years, Hong Kong hasn't been under Chinese rule during the entire modern time. It still retains much control over itself. This Cantonese speaking outpost has therefore taken a different path of development than the rest of China. Apart from having a higher standard of living, the people in Hong Kong live more like people in the western parts of the world. The influence from the British, and thereby the rest of Europe and America, is obvious.

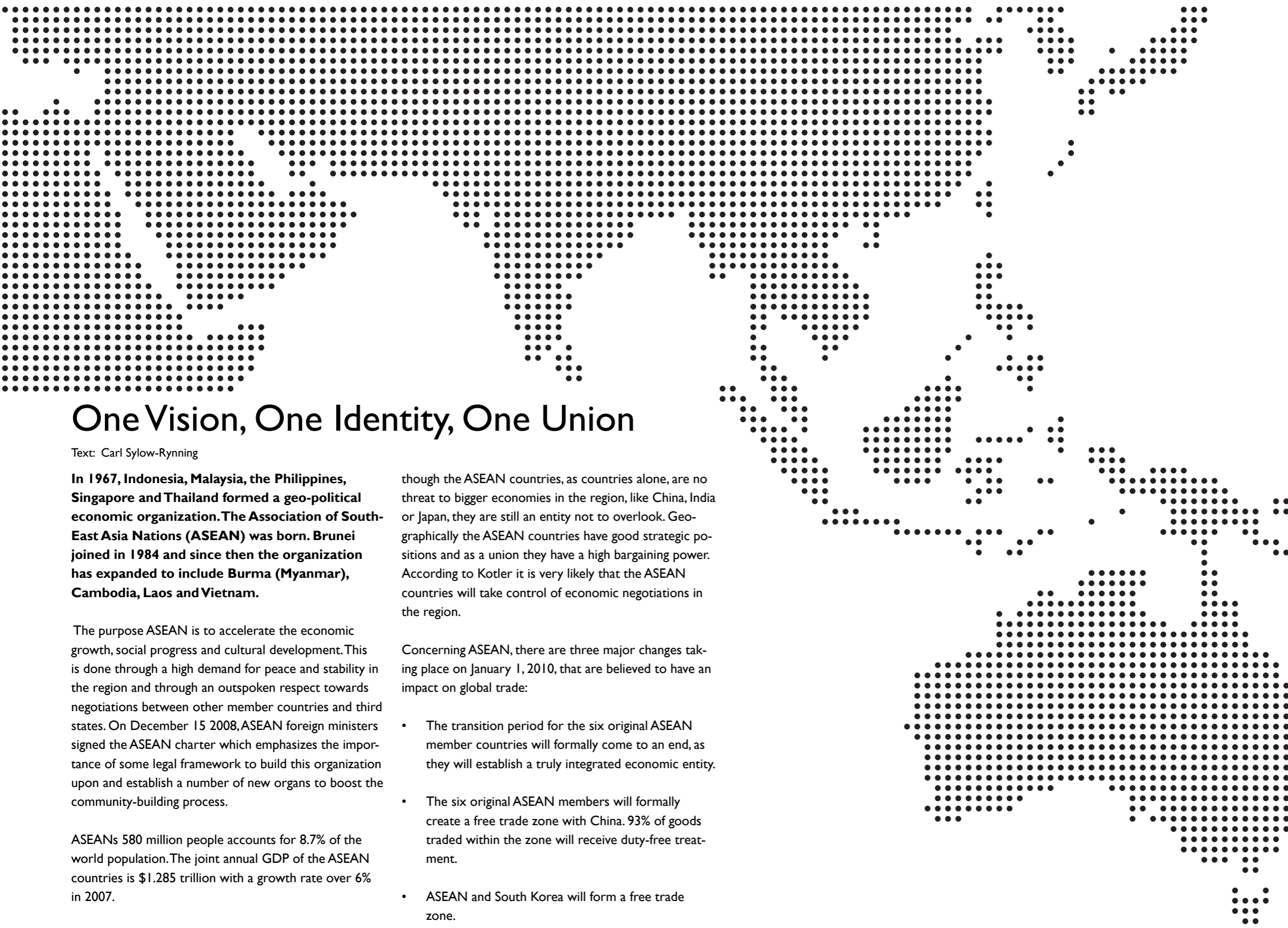
The impressions of Shenzhen are somewhat different. Because of its youth the city lacks much of the Chinese cultural heritage, there are for example not many temples. Instead the city feels very modern. The atmosphere shrieks of business and the city is very busy. This description tends to label the city culturally penurious, and yes, some people would also consider Shenzhen as being a shallow city. The upside is that it has great shopping places, an exciting night life, and an abundance of opportunities.

It is interesting to notice that Hong Kong is and remains the unique modern oriental city people worldwide picture it to be. It's impossible, especially comparing to Shenzhen, to consider Hong Kong as shallow or soulless.

The local Hong Kong people's attitude towards Shenzhen is quite surprising. The remarks are often not very positive. One reason seems to be due to many reports of violence and crime. This fear is probably exaggerated, but the crime level is a little elevated compared to the rest of China due to Shenzhen's unique situation. Shenzhen tends to attract fortune hunters searching for opportunities to make a living.

The extremely successful concept of economic zones has spread not only all over China, but also to countries worldwide. This competition doesn't seem to halt the rapid growth of Shenzhen and as for now, the Hong Kong Western-like business methods seems to be desired still.





One Vision, One Identity, One Union

Text: Carl Sylow-Rynning

In 1967, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand formed a geo-political economic organization. The Association of South-East Asia Nations (ASEAN) was born. Brunei joined in 1984 and since then the organization has expanded to include Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

The purpose ASEAN is to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development. This is done through a high demand for peace and stability in the region and through an outspoken respect towards negotiations between other member countries and third states. On December 15 2008, ASEAN foreign ministers signed the ASEAN charter which emphasizes the importance of some legal framework to build this organization upon and establish a number of new organs to boost the community-building process.

ASEANs 580 million people accounts for 8.7% of the world population. The joint annual GDP of the ASEAN countries is \$1.285 trillion with a growth rate over 6% in 2007.

This geographically and economically large region is assumed to play an important part in the future endeavors in global trade.

Two years ago the management guru Philip Kotler released the book "Think ASEAN!". He states that even

though the ASEAN countries, as countries alone, are no threat to bigger economies in the region, like China, India or Japan, they are still an entity not to overlook. Geographically the ASEAN countries have good strategic positions and as a union they have a high bargaining power. According to Kotler it is very likely that the ASEAN countries will take control of economic negotiations in the region.

Concerning ASEAN, there are three major changes taking place on January 1, 2010, that are believed to have an impact on global trade:

- The transition period for the six original ASEAN member countries will formally come to an end, as they will establish a truly integrated economic entity.
- The six original ASEAN members will formally create a free trade zone with China. 93% of goods traded within the zone will receive duty-free treatment.
- ASEAN and South Korea will form a free trade zone.

The free trade zone will let Chinese enterprises move goods across the ASEAN countries more cost effective. This is believed to be a huge contributor to even higher economic growth in the region.

So how will this affect Taiwan? Initially one might believe that the free trade zone between ASEAN and, primarily, China would make Taiwanese export suffer and that Taiwan will be left out and suppressed by ASEAN countries. In fact, there are lot of things that indicates else. In 2007, the ASEAN countries surpassed the United States as Taiwan's second leading export market. If the ASEAN countries can strengthen their economic position, it is highly possible that Taiwan will as well. According to a study done by UBS, 50-70% of China's imports from ASEAN countries are used for domestic consumption. The same number for imports from Taiwan is 30%. The other 70% of the Taiwan export is mainly used in products that then are shipped overseas. This indicates that after ASEAN and China set up a free trade zone, Taiwanese enterprises might increase their share of China's domestic market by investing in export capacity in ASEAN countries. So the future of Taiwanese companies is not at all endangered if they manage to seize the opportunity.

In the next five years the agenda of ASEAN is to expand the integration even further with India, Australia and New Zealand in mind. This expansion will make the free trade zone of East Asia consist of half the population of the world. Recently The World Bank presented a regional report for Asia where they wrote that there are only three meaningful trade blocks in the world, with Asia's block representing the largest population and fastest growth. They also estimate that by the year 2020, Asia will account for half the world economy.

Many things indicate that the ASEAN will be a force to be cognizant of. As time goes by this economic union will find new partners and strengthen their position. If the more poor countries within the ASEAN strengthen their economies in the next ten years, so will the union as a whole. From now on one can't think of doing global business without considering South-East Asia.

Parametrics on the Rise

In search of new architectural developments in Japan

Text: Carl Christofferson, Hanna Mangs Photos courtesy of Noiz Architects

When it comes to “Tech-savvy” Japan, one could believe that the use of computers in designing new architecture would be steadily implemented. However, rumors were heard this might not be the case. We therefore decided to go to Japan to find out by ourselves.

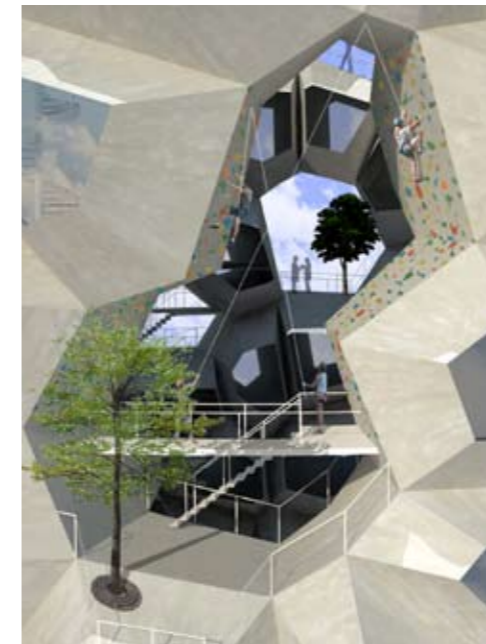
Ever since the dawn of the computer age, architects and designers have picked up new ways of using digital tools, seeking to evolve the way one works. In the field of architecture, one way of working with computers, often referred to as “parametric design”, has been on the rise for several years. This working method goes beyond using the computer merely as a tool for presenting architecture but also using new software to assist in the design process of buildings interactively.

In the west, architectural schools and offices have begun to embrace these new technologies. Seminars and workshops are

held on a frequent basis throughout the US and Europe. However in Japan, words were heard saying that the usage of these kinds of techniques would not be as widespread.

Had the country of robots and high-tech toilets turned its face away from computerized architectural trends? Why would Japan, pictured in the west as the capital of futuristic cyber-punk fashion, not be interested in parametric design? To investigate this matter further we started by visiting Yokohama Graduate School of Architecture.

At Y-GSA, a prominent Japanese school of architecture, small groups of students are led by some of the most renowned architecture professors in the country. We met up with Rita Topas who studies for her graduate degree. She explained to us that most of the work at Y-GSA is based upon building physical models, and that the students typically use the computer only very late in the working process. They rarely, if



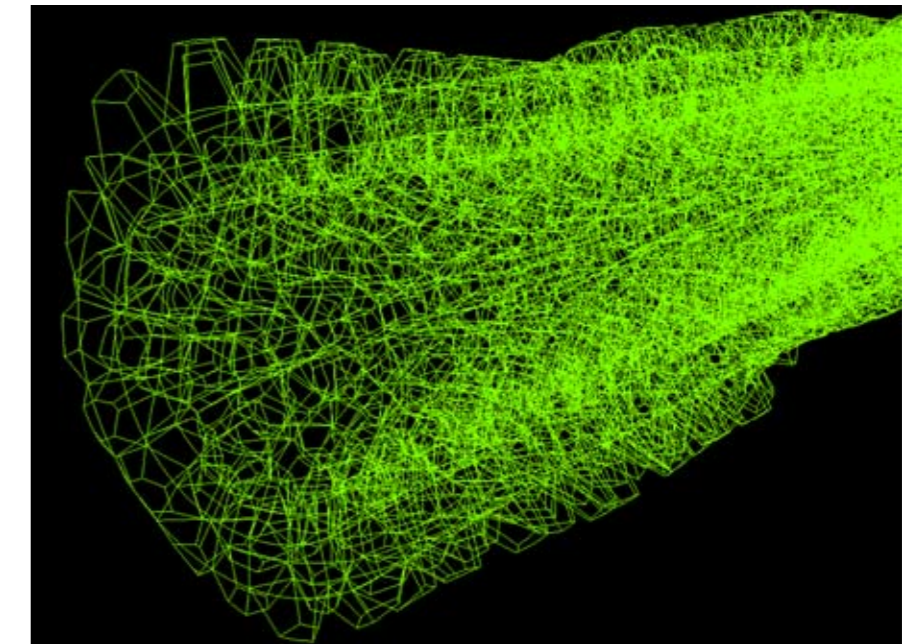
Mega Nanotube Project by Noiz Architects

ever, use software developed to aid with more than layout- and presentational techniques. This traditional and well established working method has shown to sprout a great deal of skilled architects, but it was not what we were looking for. No cutting edge usages of digital tools were here to be found. It seemed like the rumors were not only rumors...

We went to follow our next clue. We had heard a certain “buzz” about a small office in southwest Tokyo, by the name of Noiz Architects. For some time now, the people at Noiz have been hosting a series of minor events. –They invite architects and designers to discuss the latest in what they call computational architecture and fabrication. This truly seemed like an office dedicated to exploring the architectural techniques of tomorrow. Fortunately, we had been invited to their next meeting.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by the friendly smile of Keisuke Toyoda, cofounder of Noiz. He gave us a quick tour of the office-slash-apartment and talked happily about their ongoing projects. One important statement they like to make is that it’s quite uninteresting to talk about “digital”- or “parametric” design without considering, or even putting the focus on, how to fabricate it. In fact, it is probably there the greatest potential lies when taking advantage of new digital tools.

During the evening many interesting thoughts were discussed. One of them, which touched upon the core of our question, is rooted within the differences of western and eastern architecture. Maybe eastern architects are intimidated by the way architects in the west, for example Zaha Hadid and Frank Gehry, are using digital tools for free form explorations. Their specific styles are quite far from what most Japanese architects would consider the essence of their own architecture to be.



Another interesting thought was concerning craftsmanship. In Japan, there lies great honor in well executed fabrication by hand. This view might be traced back in history, for example to the process of welding samurai swords. Still today, craftsmen like carpenters and metalworkers prefer working by hand. Therefore the interest in using robotic assistance (laser cutters, milling machines) is somewhat shallow. This also affects the usage of computerized production chains.

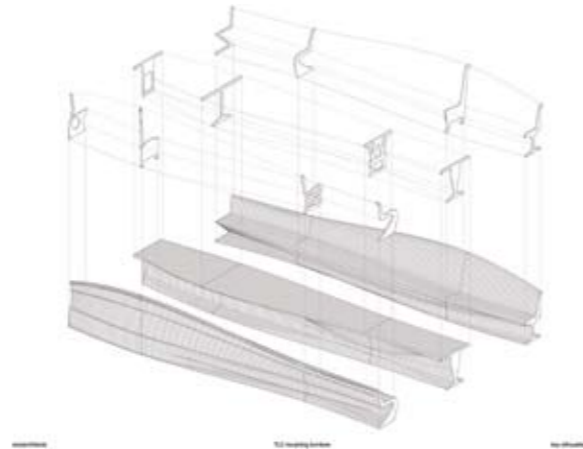
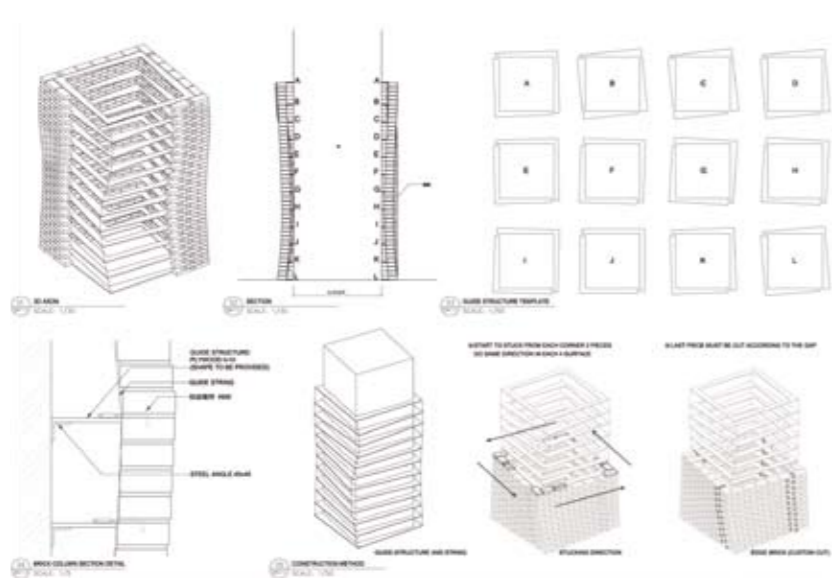
The challenge for architects and students in Japan would then be to overcome these obstacles, and to discover their own ways of using the computer as an architectural tool. When one figure out that computerized design goes beyond free form modeling, a very interesting adaption certainly is possible without creating architecture that disconnects from its Japanese roots.

When gathering our thoughts, we realized that our first surprised reactions had perhaps been misguided due to unhealthy intakes of technocratic science magazines. Most famous Japanese architects of today have shown to be very strong in either a minimalistic sense or in skillfully exploring materials. This would imply that the architectural ties to the traditions of craftsmanship are far greater than those trying to establish a connection with the “digital” era. However, we were happy to find out that there are things going on beneath the surface of already established architectural craftsmanship. The interest in meetings such as the one hosted by Noiz is growing by the minute. In Japan, a new generation of architects is on the rise.

[par’o•met’ric] - An object in a CAD (Computer Aided Design) model that can be modified simply by changing the parameters used to create it (dimensions, design constraints, etc).

TDC Art Center by Noiz Architects

Location: Taipei, Taiwan
 Completed: Nov 2009



All photos courtesy of Noiz Architects

Face to Face

Text: Lars Andrén Photos: Carl Christofferson

The law of Jante, “Jantelagen”. A traditional value system that promotes the exact opposite of what American children are taught. Sit down, be quiet, do not think that you are better than anyone else. In Asia it is said that people are afraid of losing their face. So Scandinavians are afraid of having one?

Taipei city, Friday night. A female friend, Chianne Hu and her male friend, Eric Chang, are coming over for dinner. The three of us are headed for a local Vietnamese place just around the corner, I recommend it because it is affordable and the food is good. We talk, we eat. Time to pay the bill. Mine is 120, but no, Eric insists on paying for all of us. The grand total is not small and he does not owe me anything. Am I missing something here? Eric is a man and wants to maintain face in front of Chianne, a woman, and gain face in front of me; a new friend. Little does he know that I do not think more of him now than if I had paid myself. But hey, thanks for the dinner. Let us go back to my place, shall we?

The view from my place is really nice, and public transportation very convenient. Convenient, by the way, is a fine word in

Taiwan which can be used to describe a location, a city, or a whole country. What do you like most about your home? Why go to this university instead of that one? How come you work in that company? Why do you eat in this restaurant so often? What is it like to live here? –It is very convenient.

My place feels rather crowded with three people inside, there is no way we can spend the rest of the evening here. An American friend calls and suggests that we go have a beer together. Around here, it is hard to be more than a hundred meters away from an always-open convenience store, so at times we tend to use this luxury and go there to have a beer or three together. Eric and Chianne are going to continue the evening at a fancy lounge bar and ask me to join them. I tell them about my other plans. They start out by looking very surprised, moves on to laugh at my joke, and finally realise that I am serious.

“You are seriously going to go to have a beer at 7Eleven?”
 Yes, it is close and has beer. Convenient. Two stunned looks and a sound. What is that sound? Is it the sound of someone who regrets buying that hobo a dinner?

Taipei city, Wednesday night. Ladies' night. Girls get in for free pretty much everywhere. An important American guest of the company wants to go party; so we go partying. I bump into some girls I know and tell them that the guy over there - no, him - that 29 year old strikingly handsome guy over there, just sold his company for a hundred million dollars. How convenient. "Hello hello I am Becky, Sally, Candy, welcome to Taiwan!"

Drinking, smiling, dancing, flirting, phone numbers, touching, kissing and nothing. Nothing? The guest is perplexed. "These things usually go well when I party in Las Vegas; we were practically out of the door! What happened?"

Let me see. The girls with names ending with 'y' were three, remember? "Yes."

You were taking one of them back for a glass of Bollinger at your penthouse suite at the Sheraton? "Yes."

And the other two y-girls were sitting right over there? "Yes?"

There you have it. If she leaves with you, no matter how filthy rich and handsome you may be, she looks like a slut in front of her friends and loses face.

"So what was I supposed to do?"

Ask her out for dinner tomorrow night. You will be surprised how a harmless dinner for two can awaken the thirst for champagne.

Taidong city, Tuesday afternoon. "Buddha head"-fruit. In Taiwan, food is extremely important and treated with outmost respect. Any area of considerable size, be it town or county, can be identified with its local specialty. If you go travelling, it is expected of you to bring back some of this specialty to your family or colleagues. Each exit point; bus station, airport, or in this case train station, is surrounded by stores selling the specialty. Convenient. The southeast coast is so warm in April that the Buddha



heads we get our hands on are ripe to the point where they are literally falling apart as we try to eat them. We are heading west. The man at the ticket counter is called Mr. Wu. He is nervous. He tries to speak to us in English, which is a remarkable effort considering that his vocabulary is limited to "hello", "train" and "thank you". People are lining up behind us. The guy next in line tries to help out, because he knows how to say the word "go". We figure out the name of our destination, and buy two tickets. Mr. Wu then stands up, walks around the back and shows up by our side. He proceeds to walk us to the platform and wait with us to make sure that we get on the correct train. No one in the long queue express any kind of discomfort with this.

Making a fuss about Mr. Wu spending time on these lost foreigners would make you lose face in front of all these people. Did your parents never teach you the high virtue of hospitality? Such a brute! If we had left and gone to the wrong platform - not that there was more than one - or missed the train Mr. Wu would have lost his face in front of his boss, other passengers and the whole Taiwan Railway Association. "Who told you to handle your job in this awful manner? I have never heard of such negligence!"

Arlanda airport, Sweden, Friday morning. The daily flight from Bangkok has just arrived, delayed. Drowsy looking passengers are lining up at the immigration. Is it the weather of December, the lack of sleep or the realisation that vacation is over that makes everyone look like inmates returning to the mental asylum? For most people, the dark and gloomy Stockholm is the depressing end

of the journey anyway, so the delay is not important. For a foreign lady, wearing a coat that seems to have finally made the Siberian snow leopard extinct, it is. Dragging her oversized Luis Vuitton carry-on luggage she speeds past the line and explains to Stina, who is checking passports at the counter, that she has a flight to catch, and needs to pass through immediately. Immediately as in now. Stina calmly and sternly tells her to go back and line up just like everyone else. Welcome to Sweden. An air of spiteful agreement awakens the line of inmates. "Who do you think you are? Get. Back. In. Line."

In a hierarchical society, where having money, merits or traditional manners place you on top of the pyramid, you do your best to display one of these virtues. In a society where equilibrium is the ideal, flaunting your assets, monetary or other, does not open any doors. Literally, it seems. Face simply means respect. Gained, maintained, lost. You do not make the rules. All you can do is choose which rules to play the game with.



Day Off with a Singapore Sling?

Text & photos: Karl Wackeberg

Sooner or later, every engineer will have at least one day in Singapore. If it is because of a business trip, plane change or for vacation purpose doesn't matter. What does matter is that you should enjoy your valuable time in one of the most vibrant cities in the world and definitively in Asia.

Singapore is The Country and City of diversity. Singapore has the best of South-East Asia including China and at the same time the best of the west. Going into a bar you will feel the hospitality and warmth of the South-East Asians, entering the dance floor and you will meet Asian beauties and when you finally order the German beer there isn't really much you can complain about.



I have spent four months in Singapore without a day off but I finally managed to get one, so what did I do?

Breakfast at Starbucks: Starbucks can be found everywhere in Singapore and is a safe place for breakfast. I had an Americano (in short: espresso with more water) and a chicken sandwich.

Active morning: Singapore has the most beautiful orchid garden (called National Orchid Garden) I have seen. There are plenty of flowers to watch for more than four hours and it is absolutely stunning.

Lunch: Food Junction is situated in the Bugis Junction shopping mall. They serve all kind of food at reasonable prices. Just go to the third floor and there are a lot of small food outlets. You should try to find the frog porridge, by many considered as the best real Singaporean food.

Shop till you drop: Walking around at Bugis Junction trying to catch some good bargains. It is easy to spend an afternoon looking at clothes, shoes, bags and other accessories so make sure to know what you are looking for. Compared to Orchard Road and the more upper class shopping center (Millenia Walk, Harbour Front) Bugis Junction has reasonable prices. Bugis Junction is frequently visited by the Singaporeans, the atmosphere is trendy and the place is crowded.

Dining: Singaporeans loves food and that is easy to understand. I have been to Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Taipei, New Delhi and Mumbai but there is no place in Asia where you can get as good food as in Singapore. You will get food from the whole Asia with the same taste as in the originating country or even better. I had my dinner in India Town at a really good restaurant called Apollo Banana Leaf. Most Indian taxi drivers know

the place and I can highly recommend it if you like Indian food. They serve good north Indian rice and you should try something which have been cooked long and that is served with gravy. If you want a beer or a glass of wine to your Indian food this is where you should go. In India Town you will also find the only 24 hour open shopping center called Mustafa's. They have all kind of stuff except for trendy clothes and shoes.

Clubbing: Make sure to leave all your shopping bags wherever you live, because starting a night at New Asia Bar couldn't go anywhere else than to a great party! New Asia Bar is situated in the Swissôtel, Raffles Place, at the 71st floor. The view is stunning and it feels like being trapped in a TV-show! The bar is stylish as few and attracts a diverse crowd, from elderly people wanting to enjoy the view as well as a younger crowd wanting to move their bodies to the music. Before 9 PM a bottle of Möet, drinks and beer are at affordable prices and there is no cover fee. New Asia Bar is not the place to be for the whole evening; leave around 11 PM and aim for the Esplanade, Singapore Concert Hall, designed like the beloved (and hated) Durian-fruit. At the top of the Esplanade you will find Orgo, a quiet open roof bar with a nice view over Marina Bay. Orgo serves really good martini drinks and tapas (small side dishes). I recommend the vegetarian Lasagna a la Espanole which among others is stuffed with olives, pimento and anchovies. After spending an hour or so sipping on my martini I headed towards the clubs. I would recommend that you head towards Clarke Quay where many clubs are located and try to find Attica unless you are out on a Wednesday when there is ladies' night which means crazy party and free flow for the girls at Double O.

I hope you will get a pleasant day in Singapore – my day couldn't have been better!

Have We Become Singaporeans?

The true city-state lifestyle from a Swedish perspective

Text & photo: Anna Larsson, Mona Johansson

Moving abroad often means that you in some way have to change your lifestyle. The most significant changes are often speaking another language, adapting to a new food culture and getting used to a different climate. Moving to the city-state Singapore is in many ways easy since it is a mix of western and Asian culture. All good in one! But nevertheless we have faced changes in our lifestyle that we never could have expected.

One of the most evident and essential differences between Sweden and Singapore is the weather condition. Singapore has a tropical climate characterized by high temperature, high humidity and abundant rainfall. The temperature is usually between 22 and 34 degrees, and the humidity is around 90% in the morning and about 60% in the afternoon. Comparing these figures to Sweden, the contrast is enormous. Of course we were aware of the big temperature differences and the humidity before leaving Sweden, but we were not prepared for how to deal with it.



We never imagined that we would always carry around a sweater to put on inside to keep ourselves from freezing because of the air-conditioning and that we would start complaining when the temperature is approaching “only” 25° C outside. Also, we did not expect to be carrying around an umbrella that keeps you dry from the abundant rainfall, but also provide you with shade from the hot sun. We also didn’t know that we would start to appreciate the elevator so much. If it’s one floor and you see the elevator you happily wait in the line to the elevator for a minute instead of taking the stairs, all because you want to prevent yourself from getting sweaty. The few times you choose to walk, it is never more than 500m. You would rather wait for the bus or take a cab, even if it is just a 10 minute walk.

About 50% of the Singaporean population are daily users of

the public transport system. The reason is a combination of the fact that it is very cheap, the buses and MRT are always clean, the system is well developed and finally of course because of the weather conditions. It is not only the public transport system which is widely used, but also the taxis. In the taxis, you can often see something dangling around the rear view mirror – namely a see-through plastic bag used as a takeaway cup. These bags are used both for both hot and cold drinks and together with a straw and handle, the drink is ready to go.

You can also get take away food from the hawker centres. A hawker centre or food centre is an open-air complex that houses many stalls that sell a variety of inexpensive food. They are often found near estates, bus interchanges or train stations. The low prices, the large variety of the meals and the direct connection to the public stations make it so convenient to eat there that you never cook by yourself anymore. The only meal you might eat at home is breakfast, and that is also the only time during the day you are able to eat with a fork and knife since all the rice and noodles dishes are eaten with a fork and a spoon.

The few times you eat dinner at home, it is more common that you order home delivery than do your own cooking. Within 45 minutes you can get fast food like McDonalds and pizza, but also well prepared meals such as Mexican and Indian food delivered to your door for only a few Singapore dollars. It is not only the fast-food companies that provide home delivery. Daily, you see the IKEA-truck and the gas-provider delivering outside your window. It seems like many of these companies really fulfil the concept of being serviced minded. Maybe it is because Singapore is a state with an extremely hard working population. Working 24/7 is very common, and you can often see people taking powernaps at the MRT or on one of the shaded benches in the parks.

Since Singapore is a meeting point for different cultures, ethnic groups and visitors from all around the world, English is important. Since the independence, English has been launched as the country’s administrative language, and it is spoken by the majority of the population. But nevertheless you have to face the local version of English: Singlish – “yes” and “no” is replaced with “cancan” and “cannot” and “-la” is unconsciously added at the end of most sentences.

All the above are just example of things which are typical for Singaporeans and we will probably discover even more of them during our next six months. We live by the belief that to fully understand and experience a country and a culture you have to adapt to the way they live and be open to new things. So in order to test how well you have adapted to the Singaporean lifestyle you can do this test and simply answer “yes” or “no” to the statements.

QUIZ - How Singaporean are you?

- | YES | NO | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You take the bus or a taxi even though it is just a 10 minute walk. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You always bring your umbrella with you no matter what the weather is like. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You only eat breakfast at home. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You never use a knife during dinner. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You take the elevator even though it is just one floor to go. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You walk slower than your grandma to not get sweaty. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You are freezing when the temperature is below 25° C. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You only do outdoor sports in the late evening or in the early morning. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You buy home delivery more often than you cook by yourself. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You take your sweater on when you get in and take it off when you go out. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You don't have any problems working 24/7. If you are tired you just take a 20 min powernap! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You drink your take-away coffee in a plastic bag. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | -You say cancan/cannot instead of yes/no and add -la at the end of every sentence. |

Results:

9-13 Yes: Congratulation you can be considered a true Singaporean.

5-8 Yes: You can do better but you are on a good way of turning into a Singaporean.

0-4 Yes: You should come and enjoy Singapore more.

Note: The majority of the answers from the Chalmers exchange Students at National University of Singapore were of course YES. All of them can be considered true Singaporeans.



National Chiao Tung University

Photo: Carl Christofferson

Chalmers Asienprogram

National Chiao Tung University (NCTU) är det främsta tekniska universitet i Taiwan. Universitetet har sin starkaste profil inom elektronik och informationsteknologi. I samarbete med National Tsing Hua University täcker utbytet alla civilingenjörsprogram på Chalmers. Utbildning ges på engelska för studenter från Chalmers genom anpassning av de kurser som utbytet omfattar. Utbudet på kurser som kan ges på engelska ökar men det är en fördel att kunna en del kinesiska varför företrädare ges till de studenter som genomgått språkkursen i kinesiska föregående sommar.

Ekonomierna i östra Asien har visat en enastående ekonomisk utveckling under slutet av 1900-talet. Japan har fått sällskap av Kina bland världens ekonomiska giganter. Regionen är intres-

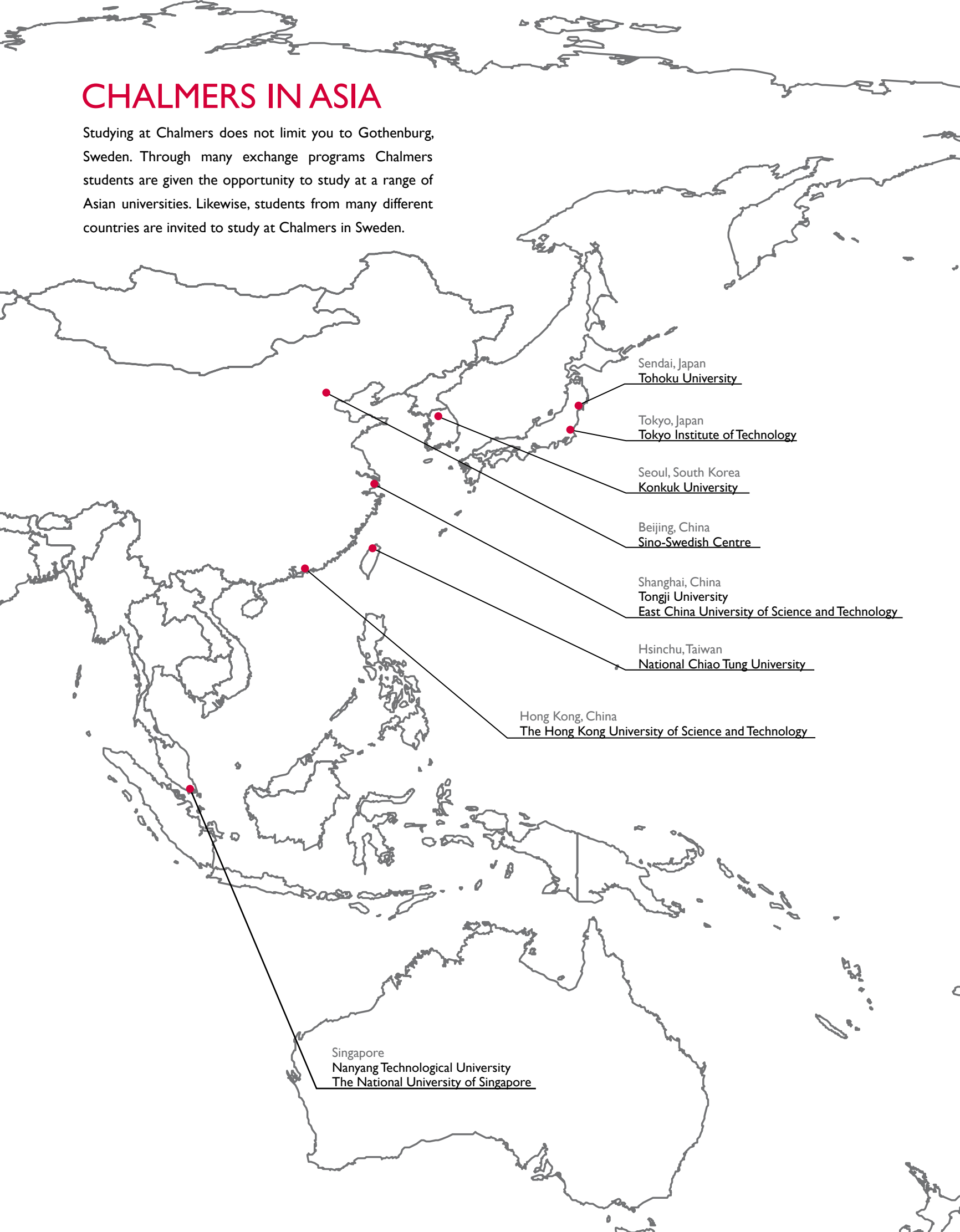
sant, dynamisk och utmanade. Allt fler med teknisk utbildning kommer att i sitt yrkesliv ha kontakter i hela området från Japan till Singapore. Därför har Chalmers utvecklat ett specialprogram som ger studenter möjligheter till studier och erfarenheter från dessa ekonomier.

Programmet består av följande delar:

- * Intensivkurs i kinesiska, 6 veckor i juli – augusti 2010. Kursen är förlagd till Hsinchu, Taiwan.
- * Studerandeutbyte med National Chiao Tung University
- * Utbyten med andra partneruniversitet i Asien: Japan, Singapore och Hong Kong.

CHALMERS IN ASIA

Studying at Chalmers does not limit you to Gothenburg, Sweden. Through many exchange programs Chalmers students are given the opportunity to study at a range of Asian universities. Likewise, students from many different countries are invited to study at Chalmers in Sweden.



Sendai, Japan
Tohoku University

Tokyo, Japan
Tokyo Institute of Technology

Seoul, South Korea
Konkuk University

Beijing, China
Sino-Swedish Centre

Shanghai, China
Tongji University
East China University of Science and Technology

Hsinchu, Taiwan
National Chiao Tung University

Hong Kong, China
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Singapore
Nanyang Technological University
The National University of Singapore



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