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Science Snippets

Book on Asia's Darwin

A NEW book on the man who came up with the theory of evolution while travelling through the deepest forests of South-east Asia in the 1800s was launched this week at the Science Centre Singapore.

Natural Selection And Beyond, The Intellectual Legacy Of Alfred Russel Wallace, is available at the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research at the National University of Singapore (NUS), and the bookshop Nature's Niche.

The new book was edited by Professor Charles H. Smith of Western Kentucky University and Dr George Beccaloni, curator at the Natural History Museum, London.

NUS' biodiversity museum director Peter Ng said the Science Centre is seeking \$1 million from a sponsor to develop an exhibit featuring the work of this scholar.

The National Parks Board said it will develop a nature trail to track the sites in Singapore which Wallace studied while he was based here.

Wallace came up with the theory of evolution while in the Malayan archipelago but did not enjoy the same acclaim as his counterpart Charles Darwin, who published The Origin Of Species. He also identified the 'Wallace Line', a physical boundary that divides Indonesia's animals into two distinct groups: those more closely related to animals of Australia, and those of Asia.