



Southeast Asian Studies Bulletin

I/96 (May 1996)



MOU for Academic Exchange and Cooperation Signed

Southeast Asians Promote Southeast Asian Studies

Toyota & Japan Foundations: Partners in SE Asian Studies



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Southeast Asian Studies Bulletin 1/96 May 1996

On cover photo from left:

Dr. Rolando P. Dayco, Vice-Chancellor for Administration of the University of the Philippines; **Professor Dr. M.K. Tadjuddin**, Rector of the University of Indonesia; **Y. Bhg. Dató Dr. Hj. Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad**, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malaya; **Professor Noranit Setabutr**, Rector of the Thammasat University; and Professor **Dr. Ir. Boma Wikan Tyoso**, Deputy Rector for Academic Affairs of the Gadjah Mada University.

The three-year Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the Perdana Hall 1, Perdanasiswa, University of Malaya.

Editorial Box

Editor

Maria Serena I. Diokno

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With this issue we launch the Southeast Asian Studies Bulletin, a bi-annual publication of the SEASREP Council. The Bulletin hopes to contribute to the awareness of developments in Southeast Asian studies by sharing information about academic programs on Southeast Asia, conferences and related activities.

Recently, five Southeast Asian universities formally committed themselves to the promotion of Southeast Asian studies in a multilateral agreement on academic exchange and cooperation. Alongside this formal mechanism, the Bulletin, which is published independently of the universities, seeks to expand the network of scholars within these institutions and beyond, engaging scholars from within and across regions in dialogue about their work, areas of interest and current research projects.

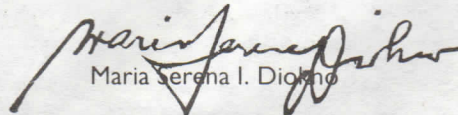
Single country specialization has long been the trend in Southeast Asian studies for several reasons. Among Southeast Asians, the focus on one's own country was in large part a response to the nationalist call for indigenous self-discovery and the assertion of national identity (as distinct from colonial studies of the region and Western interpretations of Southeast Asian cultures).

Other reasons explain why this trend has continued. The rich diversity of Southeast Asian national and regional languages presents a challenge to the Southeast Asianist. The dispersal of sources not only in the region but also in Europe and the United States makes the study of the region more difficult. Limited resources for collaborative

research with other scholars from the region pose another obstacle. Indeed one could say, and rightly, that Southeast Asian scholars do not know each other, despite their proximity and shared experiences in the region.

But much of this is changing. There is greater interest now among Southeast Asians in learning about their neighbors. More and more initiatives are being undertaken by individuals such as the members of the SEASREP Council, and institutions such as the five universities in the region, for the purpose of encouraging Southeast Asian studies. Opportunities for joint research and exchanges of faculty and students are also growing. Slowly, the language barrier is breaking down as Southeast Asians learn languages other than their own. Soon, we hope before the century comes to a close, more and more Southeast Asian scholars will meet and work with one another.

This is where the SEAS Bulletin belongs. There is much to be done and we want to be part of it. Tell us what is going on here in the region and elsewhere regarding the state of Southeast Asian studies and send us your articles, book reviews and notices of conferences. We welcome news from Southeast Asianists all over.


Maria Serena I. Dionisio

MOU FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGNED

Cooperation among Southeast Asian educational institutions was strengthened by a landmark event that formally binds five Southeast Asian universities to a collaborative agreement. On March 4, 1996, the Universities of Malaya, Indonesia, Gadjah Mada, Thammasat and the Philippines concluded a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Academic Exchange and Cooperation. The agreement was signed at the Perdana Hall 1, Perdanasiswa, University of Malaya.

Representing the five universities were Y. Bhg. Dató Dr. Hj. Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malaya; Professor Dr. M.K. Tadjuddin, Rector of the University of Indonesia; Professor Noranit Setabutr, Rector of the Thammasat University; Dr. Rolando P. Dayco, Vice-Chancellor for Administration of the University of the

Philippines; and Professor Dr. Ir. Boma Wikan Tyoso, Deputy Rector for Academic Affairs of the Gadjah Mada University.

The MOU was a result of the painstaking efforts of the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP) Council to institutionalize regional exchange in Southeast Asian studies, and is expected to give the Council's 10-year development plan for Southeast Asian studies in the region a big push.

Also present during the signing ceremony were Mr. Noro Masahiko, managing director of the Japan Foundation Asia Center; Dr. Soichi Iijima, president of the Toyota Foundation; Ms. Yumiko Hiraishi Himemoto and Mr. Toichi Makita, program officers of the Toyota Foundation; members of the SEASREP

Council; faculty of the University Council of the host institution, the University of Malaya; and members of the press.

Dr. Rolando P. Dayco, recognizing the importance of the underlying objective of the agreement, said that "(t)o face the challenge of the 21st century, we need to continuously build on our knowledge of Southeast Asia as a region. It is only by nurturing the study of Southeast Asia among us that we can better understand our distinct histories and cultures, and come up with strategies for peace and development that we can pursue collectively."

The importance of studying the social and cultural aspects of the region was likewise underscored by Prof. Noranit Setabutr. He noted: "Each of our countries ha(s) been developing our universities according to models from abroad. We look West, while we need to think East. (I)t is about time that the academic community of our region combine our efforts to nurture Southeast Asian studies that view Southeast Asia as a region."

Dr. Hj. Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad presented another perspective. He linked "open regionalism in higher education in Southeast Asia" to the unprece-



mented rapid transformation in the region as shown in the flow of financial capital, technology, resources, commodities and human labor across boundaries. In this context, the MOU was "a response by the five universities to be at the cutting edge of economic development and social change in the region; a long term investment on the development of future generations of academics and researchers."

The MOU lays down the forms of cooperation among the five universities: the exchange and training of faculty, students and staff; language training; post-graduate study; the exchange of published academic materials; and regional and other conferences for the purpose of promoting Southeast Asian studies.

The signatory-universities, through their representatives, were optimistic about the future of Southeast Asian studies in the region. Referring to the MOU as the "blue print for Southeast Asian studies," Dr. Abdullah stated that "(t)he presence of teaching staff from our five universities in each of our respective faculties will enhance the exchange of experiences and dissemination of knowledge." In like fashion, Dr. Dayco maintained that such exchange "would not only foster a deep appreciation of each other's

cultures, but also result in innovations in technology, theories and methods born out of shared knowledge."

Dr. M.K. Tadjuddin believes, "cooperation and understanding between countries and peoples can develop better if our people know and understand each other better. There is no better way for developing understanding than having an exchange of people, as in this case, through an exchange of students and academics and engagement in joint programs."

Dr. Abdullah further observed that "cohesive and complementary post-graduate training will develop a larger human resource pool which our universities and the region can select from. The presence of Southeast Asian students in our respective universities will, therefore, give a new dimension and meaning to post-graduate studies."

The emphasis on the acquisition of language skills in the various forms of cooperation was also highlighted. Dr. Abdullah considered it a recognition of the cultural diversity of Southeast Asia. Dr. Dayco, in addition, saw this as "an opportunity for circulating manuscripts in their original form, thereby preserving the essence of scholarly works of South-

east Asians that tend to get lost in the process of translation."

The representatives of the five institutions were one in acknowledging their responsibility in implementing the agreement. As Dr. Dayco put it, "the real work begins in our respective campuses when the first batch of exchange faculty, students and staff arrives. The bigger responsibility lies in our universities to undertake all measures in support of and consistent with our common goal."

An exhibit of Malaysian and other Southeast Asian art and publications of the University of Malaya was viewed after the signing ceremony. As a symbol of cooperation and future growth, the representatives of the five universities joined in the planting of the *pala* (nutmeg), an indigenous tree originally found in the eastern part of Southeast Asia but now planted widely in the region.

The officials of the five universities were later joined by representatives of the Toyota and the Japan Foundations in meeting members of the Malaysian press.

Article by Conrad Flores, Research Associate, Third World Studies Center, University of the Philippines.

For more than a decade, the Toyota Foundation has, through its International Grants Program, awarded research funds to Asians doing research on a wide range of topics: Asian religion, politics, art, history, archaeology, education and others. These grants have been awarded individually and a few of the results have seen print.

In 1994, the Foundation brought together four scholars from Southeast Asia doing work on the region initially to advise the Foundation regarding its funding program for Southeast Asia, particularly in terms of giving the program some direction. These four scholars were:

Dr. Charnvit Kasetseri

THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY

Dr. Shaharil Talib

University of Malaya

Dr. Taufik Abdullah

INDONESIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES

Dr. Maria Serena I. Diokno

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

In the course of their work, the scholars, who as a group compose the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP) Council, found it necessary to formulate a larger, forward-looking development plan for the promotion of Southeast Asian studies in South-

THE SEASREP COUNCIL: SOUTHEAST ASIANS PROMOTING THE STUDY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

east Asia by Southeast Asians. The basic components of the 10-year development plan formulated by the SEASREP Council are as follows:

Language training in any of the national or regional languages of Southeast Asia or European languages (such as Dutch and Spanish) needed for archival and other research, with a certificate of proficiency (not necessarily a diploma) given by the university in which the student/faculty is trained;

Post-graduate training, ranging from full study (M.A. or Ph.D.) with formal admission into a participating university other than one's own; to a sandwich scheme in which some courses are taken in the home university, and the rest in the second university; to thesis or dissertation research in a second university, with a co-promoter

(co-adviser) appointed to supervise the student's work;

Visiting Professors program to enhance undergraduate and graduate training in existing courses on or related to Southeast Asia;

Research and publications, including publication of researches previously funded by the Toyota Foundation as well as entirely new, collaborative and multi-disciplinary projects; and

Networking among Southeast Asian scholars through a bulletin and perhaps in the future, a journal.

As a result, the Toyota Foundation awarded a number of grants for language training and visiting professors in December 1995.

On March 4, 1996, the SEASREP Council witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for Academic Exchange and Cooperation among five Southeast Asian universities.

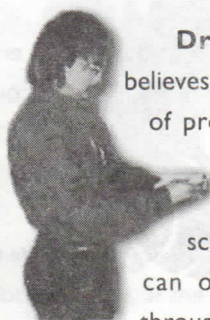
This is how the members of the Council view the MOU, the work of the Council and Southeast Asian studies in general.



Dr. Thanet Aphornsuvan, representing Dr. Charnvit Kasetseri, regards the SEASREP Council as unique because it is a product of the initiative of Southeast Asian scholars who specialize in Southeast Asian studies. "For a change," he says, "this is not the initiative of foreign funding agencies who tap foreign scholars to study Southeast Asia. This is the effort of scholars from Southeast Asia itself desiring to look at the region from their own social, political and cultural perspectives. It is amazing in that it has continued outside the confines of the scholars' respective institutions. Perhaps its virtue is that it is not restricted by formal processes and institutional requirements." Dr. Thanet adds:

"The Memorandum of Understanding provides the institutional mechanism for our efforts at promoting Southeast Asian studies. Although the Southeast Asian studies program has been sustained by the initiative of individual Southeast Asian scholars, its long-term growth and stability will require some institutional support. We hope that the MOU will provide this requirement. We hope to

foster through the MOU more formal linkages among our respective institutions."



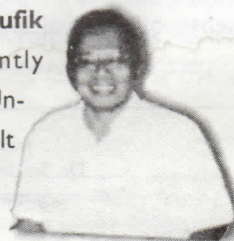
Dr. Shaharil Talib believes the Council's goal of promoting Southeast Asian studies by Southeast Asian scholars in the region can only be sustained through collaborative researches, informal networking and the initiatives of individual scholars. Dr. Shaharil hopes the Council will be able to lay the foundations for the long-term development of Southeast Asian studies through the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding. As an initial step, the MOU ensures the needed cooperation among the different signatory universities and the institutional machinery for the promotion of Southeast Asian studies.

Having been part of past initiatives to bring together Southeast Asian scholars for the promotion of Southeast Asian studies, **Dr. Taufik Abdullah** lauded the recently concluded Memorandum of Understanding as a concrete result that was never achieved in the past. He expressed optimism at the partnership forged by the five universities of which two are Indonesian.



Dr. Maria Serena I. Diokno thinks the MOU is timely, given initiatives in the region and the openness of scholars to work with one another in multi-disciplinary research. The Council's main job, in her view, is to support the cooperative agreement both within the institutional framework of the various universities and the informal network of the Council. Without individual scholars committed to Southeast Asian studies, the program cannot be sustained. Dr. Diokno, therefore, believes it is necessary to expand the network of scholars in the region who are willing to share their knowledge and learn about each other's countries.

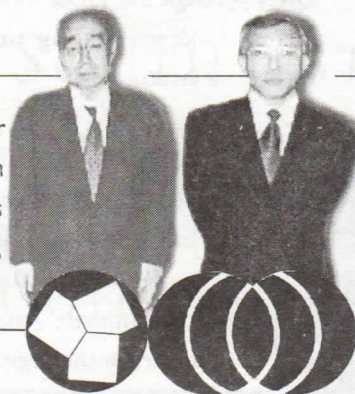
Interview by Conrad Flores and Marlon Wui, Research Associates, Third World Studies Center, University of the Philippines.



The Memorandum of Understanding for Academic Exchange and Cooperation among five Southeast Asian universities is supported by two organizations in Japan, that are both committed to the promotion of Southeast Asian studies in the region. The first, the Toyota Foundation, is a private, non-profit organization which, for more than 15 years, has provided research grants to Southeast Asian scholars. Dr. Soichi Iijima, the president of the Toyota Foundation, explains why his organization supports Southeast Asian studies.

"During the course of . . . research, those researchers (supported by the Foundation) began to think that research that takes place in a single nation within existing national borders is not always sufficient to understand their own cultural identities and that research viewing the Southeast Asian region as a region of shared cultures should take place.

In addition . . . Southeast Asian countries have begun to develop a sense of regional unity and are searching for ways to cooperate with one another. Mutual



THE TOYOTA & JAPAN FOUNDATIONS: PARTNERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

understanding is indispensable to that end; therefore, deeper study of other countries in the region is necessary."

In October last year, the Japan Foundation established the Asia Center precisely to deepen the Foundation's interest in the region. The Center pursues exchange programs that encourage regional dialogue and mutual understanding in pursuit of the following objectives:

Intellectual exchange in Asia;
Cultural advancement of Asian countries; and
Better understanding of Asia in Japan.

Together, these two Foundations have also supported the initiatives of the SEASREP Council. Through their support, foreign scholars such as Dr. Ruth McVey (specialist on Indonesia) and Dr. Ishii Yoneo (expert on Thailand) have acted as resource persons for the Council.

Article by Conrad Flores, Research Associate, Third World Studies Center, University of the Philippines.

from left Toyota Foundation's president, Dr. Soichi Iijima and Japan Foundation Asia Center's managing director, Mr. Noro Masahiko.

Thailand and Her Neighbors (II): Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. Edited by Dr. Thanet Aphornsuvan.

Proceedings of the 1994 Core University Seminar, Thammasat University, Bangkok, 231 pp.

"I have come to bury Southeast Asian studies and not to praise it," proclaimed one of the keynote speakers at the 1994 Core University seminar of the Thammasat-Kyoto Universities' joint venture. Surely, Dr. Shaharil Talib's statement of intent is meant to provoke a healthy dose of critical self-examination among his audience of academics and eventually, the Southeast Asianist reader.

But lest his statement be misconstrued by the reader of this slender volume, let me say that *Thailand and Her Neighbors* has a place in a specialist's library. If only for Dr. Shaharil's spirited exhortation to "reclaim our past" and Dr. Charnvit Kasetseri's state-of-the-art review of Southeast Asian studies in Thailand (one is not really surprised to learn that the Thais are only beginning to develop interest in other Southeast Asian countries since this remains largely a vice-versa thing), the compendium deserves reading. The scholarly papers on the Indochinese rice trade by Yoko Takada and Li Tana, and Japanese archaeologist Eiji Nitta's "Prehistoric Industries and the Mekong Civilization" can be profitably read by even the non-specialist.

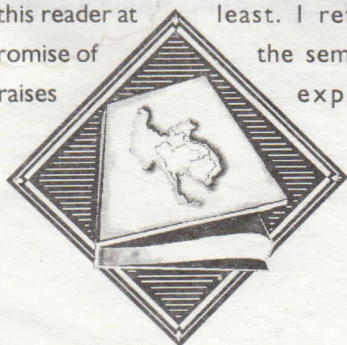
However, a more purposive effort on the part of the seminar organizers would have removed a source of unease, for this reader at least. I refer to the unfulfilled promise of the seminar's title. The latter raises

about a discussion of outstanding issues on a Thai-Indochinese regional basis. In fact, only half of the eight seminar papers developed the regionalist theme. These are Nitta's piece, Puangthong Rungswasdisab's "Siamese Invasion of Hatien in the 18th and Early 19th Centuries," Nguyen Duy Dung's "Socio-Economic Impacts of Renovation in Vietnam on Cooperative Relations with Thailand and Countries in the Region," and Khatharya Um's "Aspects and Prospects for Cooperation on Mainland Southeast Asia." The rest focus on single-country problems.

One has to patiently weave through the book because of some poorly reconstituted commentaries and open forum transcriptions (asterisks in blank spaces); differing spellings (Mekong/Mekhong/Maekhong) from one text to another; the idiosyncratic use of "his" and "her" to designate Vietnam and Thailand, respectively (p.136); and not the least, the frequent resort to unedited notes.

It is regrettable that Western Asianists often pass for the global supreme authority on matters of Asian and other Third World area studies. Asian Asianists must, therefore, exert greater effort in order to lay claim to the mastery of their own scholarly (not to mention geographical) field and to go beyond single country specializations. As this admittedly critical review suggests, English as the continent's academic *lingua franca* — especially where non-anglophone countries are concerned — is part of the problem. But this is one problem that time, and determination, will eventually solve. In the meantime, the Thammasat-Kyoto seminars merit the Southeast Asianists' congratulations for keeping the flame of scholarly fora alive.

Review by Armando Malay Jr., Associate Professor, Asian Center, University of the Philippines.



Toward the Promotion of Southeast Asian Studies in Southeast Asia. Edited by Taufik Abdullah and Yekti Maunati.

Jakarta: Indonesian Institute of Sciences, 1994, 298 pp.



The book, and the November 1993 Jakarta conference it documents, evidently meant to advance a cause — the promotion of Southeast Asian studies in the region. Most of the papers by the 14 Asian and two Western contributors raised arguments why this should be. A prevalent assertion is that there are cultural, historical and geo-political bases to treat the area as a unified entity. But more pressingly optimistic reasons are the importance of the region in the global economy, the sense of regional pride and identity achieved by the ASEAN, and the interesting cases that member-countries present in studying themes like democratization, political stability and security, majority-minority relations, market reforms and social change.

Many country reports reflect the deficiencies in current initiatives in Southeast Asian studies. Anthony Reid's description of the development of Western scholarship in the area in the 1930s, its flowering as an area studies program in US universities in the 1950s-60s, and the 1980s' decline in appointments of Southeast Asian experts, enrollees and course offerings in US universities, roughly takes the shape of a bell curve. In

the region, it is clear that Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam have had the head-start. The firmly established Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore (ISEAS, founded in 1968), a lesser known counterpart in Vietnam (1973), the University of Malaya's Department of Southeast Asian studies (1989) which offers undergraduate and post-graduate degrees in Southeast Asian studies, and the National University of Singapore's undergraduate Southeast Asian Studies Program (1991) are the few jewels on the crown.

Most unenthusiastic about such a project in the region was Bruneian Dató Sharom Ahmat. He argued that there is no such geopolitical reality as Southeast Asia nor does the region evoke any sense of a great historical tradition; moreover, for a small field, it is too diverse. While the advocates of Southeast Asian studies probably winced at hearing these words, their own papers conform with the major problem areas in Southeast Asian scholarship on the region identified by Dató Ahmat: lack of integrative scholarship since local studies are mostly country-based; a narrow personnel base; a dearth in language proficiency essential in area studies; and limited financial resources to undertake a program that will most likely turn out to be high in cost but low in demand. One end-result of this unflattering situation is that, as Shamsul A.B. put it, "the 'construction of knowledge' about Southeast Asia is not based on 'Southeast Asia' as a unit of analysis."

So why have local scholars largely ended up studying and writing about their own backyards and hardly about their neighbors or the neighborhood at large? Japanese

Hayao Fukui's account of the 1991 Kyoto seminar on collaborative frameworks for Southeast Asian studies provide some explanations: the colonized states spent more time studying their ties with their respective motherlands; and it was easier for Southeast Asian students in American or European universities to write about their own countries, a practice encouraged by the host universities which are eager to tap the built-in knowledge of the nationals. In addition, Filipino Resil Mojares posits that the country-centeredness of the natives is part and parcel of the "nationalist phase" of scholarship during the stage of nation-state formation.

But precisely because these drawbacks in advancing the area study in the region were squarely dealt with, recommended approaches to the promotion of the field were sensitive to the practical costs and sensibly critical of the not-so-great tradition of Southeast Asian studies. For Ahmat, collaborative arrangements, including division of expertise and personnel exchange, can best respond to the dearth in scholarship. Malaysia's Shaharil dreams of a Post-Graduate Research Center for Southeast Asian Studies within the region where nationals can, as an added value, interact with each other. Vietnam's Pham Duc Duong stresses the need to reverse the perspectives in most studies: for example, from looking at how Southeast Asia was sinicized or indianized, to how such influences were in fact localized.

In the last and most critical piece that aptly serves as the last word, Shamsul A.B. warned against the threat of bureaucratizing knowledge production in Southeast Asian Studies institutions, most of which are government-funded.

Indeed, political considerations and government interference can detrimentally dictate on thrusts and substance, or simply lead to stagnation. Shamsul likewise showed disdain for two types of scholars: the parochial Southeast Asians, on the one hand, and the condescending non-Southeast Asians, on the other. His forecast of the end of the dominance of the "metropolitan" languages in scholarship in Southeast Asia, emphasizes the need to seriously instill proficiency in the various languages of the region, or at least, produce a pool of expert translators.

While fairly comprehensive in content, the book could use more rigor in its organization; for instance, what were essentially country reports can fall under one section. The introductory article could have done some of the synthesizing so the reader immediately gets the whole picture before zeroing in on one report after another. Certainly, the book needs better binding so that the pages do not fall off, and harsher editing to weed out incongruous phrases. But for these aggravations, the conference papers taken altogether provide a good starting point for moving forward the cause of Southeast Asian studies in the region.

Review by Miriam Coronel Ferrer, Deputy Director, Third World Studies Center, University of the Philippines.



SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

"Outside of Southeast Asia, Australia is the most dynamic place to study Southeast Asia as an area of scholarship and interest," asserts Dr. Ben Kerkvliet in a roundtable discussion on the state of Southeast Asian studies in Australian universities held at the University of the Philippines last April.

Dr. Kerkvliet, professor and chair of the Department of Political and Social Change at the Australian National University's Research School of Pacific Studies, explains why this is so. Aside from Australia's geographic position, the country has in the past two decades shown a shift in its foreign policy orientation towards Asia. The increase, too, in the number of Southeast Asian immigrants has contributed to this interest. These developments have, in turn, had an impact on the Australian academic community.

In Perth, Murdoch University has an Asia Research Center. Several faculty members work on Vietnam and Indonesia at the University of Western Australia. Flinders University in Adelaide also has a Center on Southeast Asia, though its main interest is Indonesia.

In Melbourne, Monash University has an active Southeast Asian studies program and an extensive library on the region, particularly on Malaysia and Indonesia. La Trobe University concentrates on Thai and Indonesian studies.

The Australian National University offers area studies degrees in Southeast Asia as well as disciplinary degrees with concentration on the region. The faculty holds regular updates on political and economic trends in Southeast Asia, with the theme and country varying from year to year.

Macquarie University in Sydney has an active Southeast Asian studies group. The Universities of Sydney and New South Wales do not have Asian centers yet but

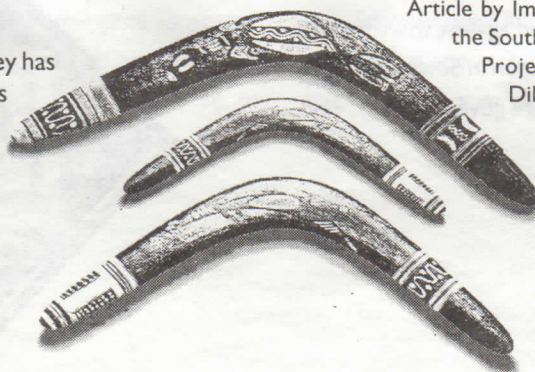
New South Wales, in particular, has done research on Thailand. Griffith University in Brisbane has a Center for Asian Studies.

Aside from these universities, there is the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA) whose emphasis has largely been on Southeast Asia, unlike its counterpart in the United States which tends to focus on China, India and Japan. There are, too, study groups on the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand, some of which come out with newsletters and updates on their respective fields of interest; for example, the Monash Working Paper Series, and the Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand Updates and the Journal of Austronesian Languages at the ANU.

However, despite the favorable climate for SEAS in Australia, funding for graduate study and research on Southeast Asia is insufficient. The Overseas Post-Graduate Award, which is distributed to various universities, only covers tuition fees. Students therefore need to seek other grants for their living expenses. There are other funding agencies outside of state allocations that give assistance to higher education, but some specify the types of study they will support.

Thus far, Southeast Asian studies in Australian universities have focused on single countries across disciplines. On the other hand, a number of collaborative projects on Southeast Asia are being done, such as the regional and comparative economic history of Southeast Asia led by Anthony Reid of ANU. New research themes include environmental history, rural change, emergence of the middle class or 'new rich', gender and labor in selected Southeast Asian countries.

Article by Imelda Adante, Research Associate of the Southeast Asian Studies Research Agenda Project, University of the Philippines, Diliman.



THE INSTITUTE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES IN VIETNAM

The Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Vietnam was founded in 1973. As one of 20 institutes under the National Center for the Social Sciences and Humanities of Vietnam, the ISEAS assists the Center in managing and conducting research on Southeast Asia all over Vietnam. The ISEAS separately conducts scientific research under various disciplines on Southeast Asia. These researches provide scientific bases for formulating development strategies not only for Vietnam but for other countries in the region as well.

Southeast Asian studies undertaken by the ISEAS focus on two main concerns:

1 Southeast Asia as a historico-cultural area shaped by a concrete historical context and set of circumstances. Southeast Asian countries share common geographical conditions, cultural origins, value systems, and the same historical status. These are the main focus of research in the Humanities.

2 Southeast Asia as a strategic military, political, economic area. Despite differences in socio-political systems and development levels, Southeast Asian countries share a common interest in the development of national identities and regional cooperation.

The ISEAS, in collaboration with other scholars, has identified five areas of pursuit, namely, ancient Southeast Asian civilization distinct from that of China or India; formation of nation states in Southeast Asia; development from traditional to modern society in Southeast Asia; relations between Vietnam and Southeast Asian countries throughout the course of history; and, the prospects and challenges

of integration in the region. Presently, the ISEAS does research on the following:

ethnic groups & religions in Southeast Asia;
cultural contacts between the East & West;
environment & social patterns in Southeast Asia; and
security & development in the ASEAN.

The ISEAS comes out with *The Review Southeast Asian Studies* and the magazine *Vietnam and Southeast Asia Today* where academic articles, research findings and general information about Southeast Asia are published.

Other publications of the ISEAS include university textbooks for courses in Southeast Asian archaeology, anthropology, ethnography, linguistics and languages, literature, geography and economies. The ISEAS also publishes monographs on various topics, M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations and documentary and reference books including dictionaries of Southeast Asian languages.

The Institute maintains a library collection of 40,000 books and documents, and 100 titles of periodicals in various disciplines and languages. The ISEAS library has formal linkages with other libraries in Southeast Asia, the United States Library of Congress and libraries in different universities in the United States, France, Australia and Japan.



For more information about the ISEAS, write:

**The Institute for
Southeast Asian Studies**
27 Tran Xuan Soan St.
Hanoi, Vietnam

Tel. No. 84-4-261629 / 267817
Fax No. 84-4-245966 / 259071

Visiting

Professor Grantees

The visiting professor grantees under the Toyota Foundation's SEASREP Program for fiscal year 1995 are:

Dr. Taufik Abdullah, Research Professor at the Indonesian Institute for Sciences, will lecture on Government in Southeast Asia at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Malaya.

Dr. Adrian Lapien of the University of Indonesia and the Indonesian Institute for Sciences will lecture on Maritime Southeast Asia at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Malaya, and Indonesian History and Maritime Southeast Asia at the History Department, Thammasat University.

Dr. Serafin Quiazon of the National Historical Institute in the Philippines will lecture on the Sulu Seas at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Malaya.

Dr. Consuelo J. Paz of the Department of Linguistics, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines will lecture on Language and Culture at the University of Indonesia.

Dr. Djoko Surya of Gadjah Mada University will lecture on the Social and Economic History of Java and Bali at the History Department, Thammasat University.

Dr. Sukanya of the History Department at Thammasat University will lecture on Thai history at the Faculty of Letters, Gadjah Mada University.



Dr. Maria Luisa Camagay of the History Department, University of the Philippines will lecture on the 1896 Philippine Revolution at the Faculty of Letters, Gadjah Mada University.

Dr. Ibrahim Alfian of the History Department, Gadjah Mada University will lecture on island Southeast Asia at the History Department, University of the Philippines.

Dr. Thanet Aphornsuvan of the History Department, Thammasat University will lecture on mainland Southeast Asia at the History Department, University of the Philippines.

Language

Training Grantees

The Southeast Asian Language Training Grantees of the Toyota Foundation for the fiscal year 1995 are:

Hanizah Bte Idris, Ph.D. student at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya, will study Dutch at the University of Indonesia for eight months.

Hanafi Bin Hussin, Ph.D. student at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya, will study Thai at the Thammasat University for four months.

Jesus Federico C. Hernandez, M.A. student at the Department of Linguistics and Asian Languages, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines, will study Thai at the Thammasat University for eight months.

Ferdinand Philip F. Victoria, M.A. student at the Department of History, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines, will study Bahasa Indonesia for four months.

Songyote Waeohongsa, professor at the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, will study the Indonesian national language for four months.

Irwan Martua Hidayana, professor at the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia, will study Tagalog at the University of the Philippines for four months.

Letmiros, M.A. student at the University of Indonesia, will study Thai at the Thammasat University for four months.

Akhmad Nugroho, from the University of Indonesia, will study Thai at the Thammasat University for four months.

1996 Grants for the Promotion of Southeast Asian Studies

The Toyota Foundation and the Japan Foundation Asia Center jointly announce the availability of grants for the promotion of Southeast Asian studies in Southeast Asia for fiscal year 1996.

Eligible are Southeast Asian nationals enrolled in graduate programs in the Social Sciences or Humanities or who teach in these fields in any of the following universities: University of Indonesia, University of Malaya, University of the Philippines, Gadjah Mada University, and Thammasat University.

1 M.A./Ph.D. Incentive Grants for Young Researchers in Southeast Asian Studies for a period of one year beginning 1 December 1996 and may be extended.

Applicants must be under the age of 40 as of 30 September 1996, but those applying for extensions may be over 40 years of age.

2 Southeast Asian Language Training Grants for the study of a Southeast Asian language other than the applicant's for a period of 4-12 months during the one year grant period beginning 1 December 1996.

3 Visiting Professorship Grants for at least 15 lecture hours in a semester within the one year grant period starting 1 December 1996.

Applicants may invite professors from any of the universities above to lecture in the applicant's university.

For further inquiries and application forms, write to:

SEASREP Program
The Toyota Foundation
Shinjuku Mitsui Bldg. 37F
2-1-1 Nishi Shinjuku
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-04
Japan

Tel. No. 81-3-3344-1701
Fax No. 81-3-3342-6911

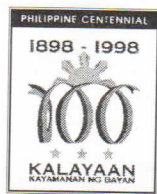


14th International Association of Historians of Asia Conference

The Fourteenth International Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA) Conference will be held on 20-24 May 1996 at the Boromrajakumari Building, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. The Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University will host the conference.

For further information, write:

Department of History
Faculty of Arts
Chulalongkorn University
Bangkok 10330, Thailand



International Conference on the Centennial of the 1896 Philippine Revolution

The Philippine Centennial Commission and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts will hold the International Conference on the Centennial of the 1896 Revolution on 21-23 August 1996 at the Manila Hotel.

About 800 historians, scholars, professionals, researchers and graduate students are expected to attend the conference.

Those interested in presenting a paper on any of the following topics must submit abstracts before **May 1, 1996**: American era (1898-1946), Commonwealth period (1936-1946), Japanese occupation (1942-1946), Post-liberation and beyond (1946-present).

For more information, write:

National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)
NCCA Building
633 General Luna Street,
Intramuros, Manila, Philippines

Tel. Nos. (632) 5272197;
(632) 5272217
Fax No. (632) 5272194



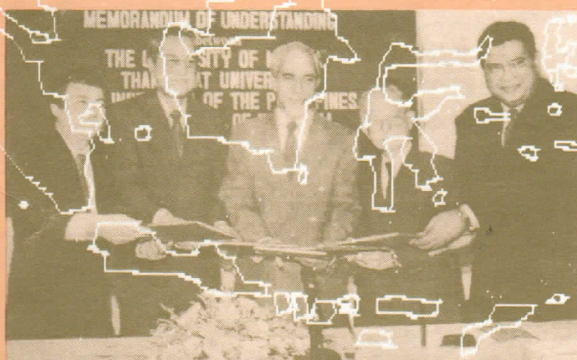
1st International Conference on Khmer Studies

The Department of History, Phnom Penh University will hold the first International Conference on Khmer Studies from 26-30 August 1996 at the Campus II of the University. The theme of the conference is "Khmer Studies: Knowledge of the Past and its Contributions to the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia."

Participants are invited to write papers on history, archaeology, ethnology, linguistics, literature, inscription studies and other aspects of Khmer culture.

Address all inquiries to:

The Organizing Committee
Phnom Penh University
Department of History
P.O. Box 2070
Phnom Penh 3, Cambodia



Woravit Subabutr

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