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ISEAS Perspective

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The Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) was established in 1968. It is an autonomous regional research centre for scholars and specialists concerned with modern Southeast Asia. The Institute’s research is structured under Regional Economic Studies (RES), Regional Social and Cultural Studies (RSPS) and Regional Strategic and Political Studies (RSPS), and through country-based programmes. It also houses the ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC), Singapore’s APEC Study Centre, as well as the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre (NSC) and its Archaeology Unit.
Selections
2012-2013

EDITED BY OOI KEE BENG

INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES
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Foreword

The Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) launched its electronic publication **ISEAS Perspective** in mid-2012.

The main function of this new product is to act as a platform for short and succinct articles analysing current events in the region, and written by researchers affiliated to ISEAS. The publication’s production process has been structured for speed and for maximal distribution by electronic means.

Kept between 2000 and 3000 words, this publication format has since then proven to be a success. The feedback from members of the public has been very encouraging, as has the huge number of contributions sent in by ISEAS researchers. For subjects where in-house expertise is lacking, ISEAS invites guest writers to fill the gap.

During its first year in existence, 58 internally reviewed issues were produced. These were distributed in steady fashion by email to addresses registered with the Institute. Needless to say, the mailing list for this publication has been growing steadily. Those interested to get onto it should register by writing to isears_perspective@iseas.edu.sg.

All past and present issues of **ISEAS Perspective** can be downloaded from our website for free [www.iseas.edu.sg], and will remain so for the foreseeable future. However, ISEAS has deemed it a worthy public service to have selected articles from that first year published in a single printed volume at cost price.

This is the book that you now hold in your hand.

Articles herein were chosen according to strict criteria such as analytical strength; continued salience of the subject discussed; referential potential; literary quality in general; *et cetera*.

ISEAS intends to print such annual selections in the coming years. We are certain that you, the reader, will find them informative and stimulating.

**TAN CHIN TIONG**

*Director, ISEAS*

*A special word of thanks to Ms Li Shufen for help rendered during the editing process, and to ISEAS colleagues who participated in the selection process.*