

A COLLOQUIUM ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

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A COLLOQUIUM ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

Proceedings of an International Conference
Held at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
22-26 November 1977

Edited by
TUNKU SHAMSUL BAHRIN
CHANDRAN JESHURUN
A. TERRY RAMBO

Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

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Foreword

It gives me much delight to contribute a Foreword to this publication which represents the efforts of an excellent example of academic cooperation and organization in the area of Southeast Asian Studies in the region itself.

An academic conference may be judged by the content of the papers presented and by the quality of exchanges during the ensuing discussions. The breadth and depth of these two aspects are demonstrated by the contents of this book. Although the ambience and superb physical and domestic aspects of the conference are not mentioned, allow me to record the consensus of opinion that they were of the usual level of Sabah hospitality which ranks in the upper echelons of regional and international generosity. For all this, the academic, professional, administrative and political worlds are greatly indebted to the Sabah Foundation which exceeded itself in making the necessary funds available and in keeping the hospitality at its warmest throughout the conference. We are also grateful to the Sabah Government which supported the organizers at every turn.

After all that, what is there to say? There are two serious aspects of the publication of these proceedings that deserve our attention.

Firstly, these papers should be extremely useful to universities that have developed courses in Southeast Asian Studies and to other institutions where such courses are being contemplated. Furthermore, we are provided with a sound body of factual material as well as theoretical expositions that should prove most helpful to teachers in this area.

Secondly, to me personally, this conference represents a stage further in the realization of the need for a regional university where many aspects of specific knowledge can be studied through a regional orientation in an institution that is thoroughly imbued with a regional prospect.

The participants, the supporters and the readers owe a heavy debt of gratitude to Professor Tunku Shamsul Bahrin and Professor J Chandran for their untiring efforts in successfully inviting a galaxy of writers and participants and for managing the conference so efficiently and pleasantly.



ROYAL PROFESSOR UNGKU A. AZIZ
Vice-Chancellor
University of Malaya

Preface

The Institute of Southeast Asian Studies is an autonomous research centre for scholars and other specialists concerned with modern Southeast Asia, particularly the multifaceted problems of development and modernization, and political and social change. The Institute is supported by annual grants from Singapore and other governments, as well as donations from international and private organizations and individuals. It has neither students nor teaching functions, being purely a research body. In addition to support staff, the Institute has 25 to 30 academics and other specialists working at the Institute at any one time. About half of these are Southeast Asians, including Burmese, Indonesians, Malaysians, Filipinos, Singaporeans, Thais, and Vietnamese, and others come from as far afield as Europe, Japan and North America. Though from different disciplinary and national backgrounds, all these scholars share a common concern, that is, an interest in the problems of Southeast Asia. They function as a community of scholars and interact among themselves and with the public at large through a series of seminars and professional meetings. Their research findings are published through various outlets of the Institute and distributed all over the world. In other words, the Institute is not the proverbial ivory tower. Its involvement in the region's affairs is both direct and contemporary. It seeks to be not only a research organization devoted to nurturing a scholarly environment conducive to maximum intellectual creativity, but also one that is keenly alive to public issues and needs. In this light it was quite natural that we should get involved in an effort to take stock of some of the critical areas of concern necessary to a proper understanding of Southeast Asia. The setting for this occasion was the Sabah Conference on Southeast Asian Studies held in Kota Kinabalu in 1977.

The Conference attracted a large number of scholars and other specialists from both within and outside the region, and the volume that follows is based on papers specially written for the meeting. Though the editorial process has taken much longer than originally anticipated, Professor Tunku Shamsul Bahrin and his co-editor, Professor Chandran Jeshurun, are to be congratulated for persevering with their task and seeing the papers through to publication stage. This is especially so as the papers retain their significance despite the passage of time. Moreover, the Conference itself represented a bench-mark in Southeast Asian Studies in the region in that, *inter-alia*, it was the first attempt of its kind in the

region on the status of Southeast Asian Studies. The Sabah Government and other supporters of the Conference can, therefore, quite rightly feel all the more pleased with making the meeting possible. Let us hope this is just but a beginning in their interest in the matter and that we can look forward to their continued assistance and involvement in Southeast Asian Studies. In the meantime it is to be hoped too that these papers will circulate widely amongst all those concerned with Southeast Asian Studies. Finally, in wishing *A Colloquium on Southeast Asian Studies* all the best, it is, of course, clearly understood that the responsibility for facts and opinions expressed in it rests exclusively with the authors and their interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of the Institute or its supporters.

KERNIAL S. SANDHU
Director
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

Acknowledgements

The organizers of the Conference on Southeast Asian Studies would not have succeeded in their pioneering effort, particularly in view of the bold step they took in holding it in Sabah, without the assistance and support of numerous persons and institutions. A special vote of thanks must be recorded to the Honourable Datuk Harris Salleh, Chief Minister of Sabah, and his Deputy, the Honourable Datuk James P. Ongkili, for without their enthusiastic approval and active interest in the Conference it is unlikely that such a major enterprise would have been staged at all. At the University of Malaya itself the organizers were fortunate in having had the expert and dedicated administrative help of Mrs. Rita Sreenivasan, Assistant Registrar in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, who with her team of workers from the Dean's Office handled all the vital paper work and correspondence. Special mention must also be made of the assistance rendered by Dr. K. K. Nair, Dr. Nik Safiah Karim and Dr. Tjoa Hock Guan. At the Sabah end, the organizers were given every possible support and advice by a Committee that had been set up by the State Government under the Chairmanship of Mr. Kamaruddin Lingam (up to September 1977) and Mr. Fred Solibun (from October 1977). The organizers are indeed indebted to Mr. Lingam and Mr. Solibun and their efficient assistants and colleagues who rendered yeoman service and saw to every detail of the Conference in Kota Kinabalu.

Although a host of institutions within the public and private sectors was involved in the Conference in one way or another, it is with much pleasure that the organizers would like to express their gratitude to the following for their generous financial support:

Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Malaysia
Sabah State Government
The Sabah Foundation
International Development Research Centre
The Ford Foundation
The Asia Foundation
Lee Foundation
Pernas Trading Sdn. Bhd.
Sime Darby (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.
Messrs. Sperry Univac (Hong Kong)
Cycle and Carriage Bintang Bhd.

In the publication of this volume of the proceedings of the Conference the editors were greatly assisted by the advice and comments of the Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Professor Kernial S. Sandhu. They would also like to record their appreciation of the help that was given by Mrs. Triena Ong and Ms. Ooi Guat Kuan, the Editors of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. We are particularly grateful to Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz, Vice Chancellor of the University of Malaya, for the continued interest he has shown in the introduction of Southeast Asian Studies in Malaysia and for doing us the honour of writing the Foreword. In typing the manuscripts and for general administrative assistance, we would like to thank the following: Mrs. Chan Chi Hong, Mrs. Yap Gaik Lean and Miss Kamsiah Ali of the Department of Geography, and Mrs. Lau Beng Thye of the Department of History, University of Malaya.

This publication was made possible by a generous grant for that purpose from The Asia Foundation in Kuala Lumpur whose support is gratefully acknowledged.

Last but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to the contributors in this volume for their forbearance and patience during the long wait before actual publication. Needless to say, the editors must assume full responsibility for the overall structure and the editing of the contents of this book.

Pantai Valley
Kuala Lumpur
June 1981

Tunku Shamsul Bahrin
Chandran Jeshurun

Introduction

The University of Malaya can be justly proud in having pioneered the teaching of Southeast Asian Studies as an undergraduate programme in its Faculty of Arts and Social Science in 1976. The degree of Bachelor of Arts in Southeast Asian Studies has now been awarded annually since 1979 and the Faculty of Arts and Social Science is actively developing a number of other fields of studies partly as a follow-up of the successful introduction of the multi-disciplinary Southeast Asian Studies programme. In order to commemorate the launching of the University of Malaya Southeast Asian Studies programme as well as to consider the "State of the Art" internationally, so to speak, the Faculty of Arts and Social Science organised a Conference on Southeast Asian Studies from 22 — 26 November 1977. It was an unique Malaysian event in more than one way for the organisers selected Kota Kinabalu, the capital of the State of Sabah in Malaysia, as the venue for such a select academic gathering. On the international plane, too, it was felt that Kota Kinabalu would ideally represent the 'hub' of Southeast Asia and offer foreign scholars who have long worked on various corners of the region a rare opportunity of visiting the island of Borneo. As it turned out the organisers were more than gratified by the spontaneous response of both benefactors as well as participants to the idea of such a Conference and it was with much reluctance that the actual number attending had to be limited. As one foreign scholar at least remarked subsequently, the timely nature of the meeting was further enhanced by the appropriateness of the venue at the foot of Mt. Kinabalu, the highest point in Southeast Asia.

The Conference itself was divided into several levels:-

(i) a number of distinguished individuals were specially invited to deliver key-note addresses on selected topics encompassing the entire range of what Southeast Asian Studies constitute; a concerted attempt was also made to obtain a comprehensive account of the individual experiences of Southeast Asian Studies in different countries and their Country Reports formed an important element of documentation at the meeting;

(ii) in response to the many requests from individual scholars Panels were also organised to enable them to discuss their own specializations and an impressive range of 50 papers based on original research was presented; and

(iii) special workshops were held to probe into various details of teaching, research and library aspects of Southeast Asian Studies.

Thus, by its very nature, the complete proceedings of the Conference did not lend themselves easily to early publication and both problems of communication with individual authors as well as the technical difficulties of editing effectively prevented the organisers from embarking upon an immediate publication. Subsequently, it was found that most of the academic research papers were better published in the many journals that deal with Southeast Asian Studies and the organizers took a decision in 1978 to edit only two sets of papers each of which has its own intrinsic value and relevance to the development of Southeast Asian Studies.

The first set that the organizers felt was imperative for publication comprised the Country Reports detailing the practices and institutions involved in Southeast Asian Studies in a number of countries. After much deliberation the editors feel that the compilation presented in this volume is a fair and accurate survey of the situation as it obtained in 1978 in ten countries, five of which are within the region itself. It must be stressed that their publication serves mainly as a useful record for reference purposes and does not pretend to be an up-to-date picture of the situation at the current moment. Incorporated in this section is also a number of serious works which the editors feel will serve to stimulate a more meaningful discussion of Southeast Asian Studies programmes in the future. The second set presented here in Part II grew out of the efforts of Dr. A. Terry Rambo, who was then a lecturer in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science at the University of Malaya in gathering together specialists interested primarily in ecological and environmental issues as they relate to the development of Southeast Asian Studies. Dr. Rambo's personal endeavours in the compilation of these papers is duly recognised.

Although the editors of Part I have had to pursue their task in rather inadequate circumstances and with little time at their disposal, they are nevertheless somewhat grateful of the fact that this book will commemorate the convening of the Sabah Conference and hopefully lead to great exchanges between institutions and individuals interested in Southeast Asian Studies. While Dr. Rambo was responsible for the initial stages of editing Part II the editors of Part I must, however, assume a certain degree of responsibility for the final preparation of the entire manuscript for publication. It is their profound belief that Southeast Asian Studies must ideally grow from within the region but with the fullest cooperation and assistance from major centres of learning outside Southeast Asia which are the historically earlier origins of this multidisciplinary field of studies.

Pantai Valley
Kuala Lumpur
July 1981

Tunku Shamsul Bahrin
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