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Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
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Introduction

This special issue of the journal with its focus on “Leadership Succession and Security in Southeast Asia” is the outcome of the second year of research conducted under the “Leadership and Security in Southeast Asia” project at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. The original papers were discussed in some detail at a workshop held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 6–7 March 1989, and Dr Yong Mun Cheong was then appointed as Guest Editor to produce this special focus issue. The project itself had earlier dealt with the question of leadership perceptions of security and how national security was managed in Southeast Asia. It has since moved on to looking into the institutional aspects of the linkages between leadership and security. The research that is currently being undertaken on this subject will also be disseminated in the near future. However, the currency of succession issues in the politics of the region deemed it fit to publish these papers without delay and the journal serves this purpose admirably.

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Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Pasir Panjang
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