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Introduction

In 1989 the Regional Strategic Studies Programme (RSSP) of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies launched its first major research project on the wider security scenario in the Asian-Pacific region entitled "Major Asian Powers and the Security of Southeast Asia". It is aimed at forming a better understanding of the emerging role of the Asian giants, China, India and Japan, and the changing strategic relationships that are the result of shifts in both the global and regional power structures. Some of the studies that were undertaken in the first phase of the project have been assembled as articles in this special focus issue, while two special contributions from a leading Indonesian statesman and a Cambodian official have also been included. The project has benefited greatly from a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. ISEAS would like to thank the MacArthur Foundation for this most welcome and timely assistance. However, the conclusions of the present study remain the responsibility of the authors and their views do not necessarily reflect those of the MacArthur Foundation or ISEAS.

The Editors

ERRATUM: The Editorial Committee would like to apologize for the inadvertent error in the international boundaries of Malaysia and Indonesia in Kalimantan as given in the map entitled "The South China Sea Islands" that appeared on p. 21 of Volume 12, no. 1 (June 1990).

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