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# **SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS 1976**

**SOUTHEAST  
ASIAN  
AFFAIRS  
1976**

INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES  
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## FOREWORD

*Southeast Asian Affairs 1976*, third in the series, places special emphasis on the ASEAN countries, while other countries in the Southeast Asian region and topics pertaining to them are not entirely neglected. The publication aims primarily at giving the enquiring reader and student a broad grasp of current regional affairs. Readable and easily understood analyses are made of the major political, economic, social and strategic developments within Southeast Asia. The result has been a collection of essays in which the facts and the accompanying analyses are presented in a simple and interesting fashion.

The contributions can be divided into two broad categories. There are those of a background nature, which attempt to review and where necessary comment upon and explain major developments during 1975 in each of the Southeast Asian countries and for the region generally. Then there are the articles of more specialized current interest. These are not necessarily focused on events in 1975 alone. They deal with topical problems of concern to those who desire to know more about the region and its affairs than is possible from the background articles.

As in previous issues, authors have been encouraged to aim at accuracy, simplicity and readability and to handle their subjects in a direct manner. Footnotes and bibliographical and other references have been dispensed with and a conscious effort made to avoid too ponderous a style. If the publication helps to generate an enlivened interest in the affairs of the region, then its purpose would have been well served.

I take this opportunity to thank the authors and the editors, as well as all others who have, in one way or another, helped to make this publication possible. While wishing them all the best, I have to emphasize that the individual authors are exclusively responsible for the facts and opinions expressed in their respective contributions; and that their interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Institute itself or its supporters.

15 January 1976

Kernal S. Sandhu  
*Director*  
*Institute of Southeast Asian Studies*

## PREFACE

*Southeast Asian Affairs 1976* presents two broad groups of contributions. There are those which highlight and, if necessary, explain the main political, economic and social events and developments of the year in individual countries and for the region as a whole. These papers are supported by a collection of articles dealing with issues of current interest but not necessarily relating to the calendar year 1975. The content of each contribution and its emphasis and analytical method are those of the writers concerned. Contributors to the volume represent a broad spectrum of disciplines and come from a wide diversity of countries, but the majority are Southeast Asian.

Although the subject matter is quite extensive in range, the articles generally focus on the more important questions in the political, economic and social fields that have been of relevance to the region. These questions refer, for instance, to the Vietnam War and its aftermath—including the changing balance of political power in the region and its security aspects, the relationship between the Southeast Asian countries and the People's Republic of China, great-power influences in the region, and maritime problems and policy. A relevant question that has been examined is that of the "Overseas Chinese". In conformity with the prevailing mood of many governments of the region, problems of national unity and of national language, and economic and social developments have been treated at length in some of the articles.

Regional co-operation, a widely discussed issue in the post-Vietnam situation which has touched off governmental consultations among the ASEAN countries, is the subject of two of the articles. There is mirrored in these articles as well as in comments made in some others the need for a regional consensus on economic and other matters. The economic recession, the effects of which were severely felt in the region as elsewhere, are dealt with in the analyses of the economic problems in the different countries. Where possible, some writers have attempted to relate these to social and other questions. The status of women—an issue that was highlighted in 1975, the International Women's Year—is the theme of a separate article. The pervasive effect on the region of the spectacular end of the Vietnam War has made unavoidable a certain degree of overlap in coverage by several authors. The contributions should be regarded as both informative and analytic though not necessarily definitive works in themselves.

Lim Joo-Jock  
S. B. D. de Silva

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