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Kakazu and Hirokazu Shiode have contributed two very illuminating articles on that region that explain the very slow progress towards mutual development in the Tumen River area. The next few years may provide further details on the scheme.

*Growth Triangles in Asia* is a valuable addition to our understanding of regional economic dynamism. All the articles provide depth of analysis and information as well as useful references, all neatly packaged. The project leaders should be commended for assembling such a rich and diverse group of contributors focusing on a common theme while the technical editors ought to be complimented for presenting the volume in a clear manner.

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***Malaysian Development: A Retrospective.* By Martin Rudner. Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1994. Pp. 406.**

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This volume brings together 14 essays on Malaysian development, originally published by the author in scholarly journals and edited books between 1971 and 1987, surrounded by a short introduction and conclusion. The essays have been reproduced with few changes other than minor textual clarifications. The time coverage spans from the closing years of colonialism in the 1950s through to the late 1970s and the emphasis is by and large on the experience of Peninsular Malaysia.

The topics covered include economic policy making during the post-war reconstruction years (Chapter 1), rural development policy (Chapters 2–4), policy initiatives to modernize the rubber industry and to broaden its ownership structure through the promotion of peasant involvement (Chapters 5–7), the evolution and modalities of Malaysian development planning with emphasis

on agricultural policy (Chapters 8–10), education policy (chapters 11 and 12) and labour relations (chapters 13 and 14). All in all, the subject coverage of the book is much narrower than what is implied by the title. In particular, little attention has been paid to some key themes of the Malaysian policy debate such as trade policy, industrialization, and the role of foreign direct investment.

The author's approach is predominantly non-technical with focus on the political economy of policy making. The impact of politically driven paradigm shifts upon the national development policy is examined by combining macro-level policy analysis with policy details and related institutional aspects at the micro level. Among the noteworthy contributions in the volume, Chapter 1 provides an interesting account of changes in the role of the colonial government in economic affairs from that of guardian over law and order to a more positive involvement in economic development during the post-war reconstruction years.

Chapter 4 contains a comprehensive analysis of the rural development policy under the First and Second Five-Year Plans. The chapter brings into sharp focus the pivotal role played by the rural development policy in Malaysia's success in achieving growth with racial harmony. It is convincingly argued that the capacity of the government to deal with rural Malay poverty as the *quid pro quo* for Chinese political rights proved to be the ultimate test of inter-communal relationships in Malaysia. Chapters 5 and 6 taken together provide a comprehensive analysis of the role of government policy (centred around an aggressive replanting subsidy scheme) in placing the Malaysian rubber industry in a comparatively advantageous long-run competitive position in international rubber trade. The Malaysian rubber story as told in these two chapters serves to dispel convincingly the conventional export pessimist's view that growth of primary exports from developing countries depends predominantly, if not totally, on the world market factors over which they have no control. What the Malaysian experience in fact suggests is that,

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while external demand certainly plays an important role, a country can expand its exports under given world market conditions, provided it pursues appropriate domestic economic policies. Chapter 12 contains a useful survey of the post-independence education policy and its labour market implications.

The volume suffers from a number of limitations, relating largely to the compilation and overall presentation. First, the rather short introductory chapter fails to provide the reader with adequate prior understanding about the purpose and scope of individual chapters; the subject coverage of the entire volume of nearly 400 pages is touched upon in a short single paragraph! Nor does it contain sufficient background on the Malaysian economy for those who are not already familiar with the country. These limitations, coupled with the omission of a subject index, hamper the user-friendliness of the volume. Second, the straight reproduction of a set of articles on related topics written over a long period of time has invariably led to considerable overlap among individual chapters. While the author has opted for this simple compilation procedure "in order to retain the contemporary perspective", one wishes that Occam's razor had been brought to bear on this material to produce a much shorter, yet more readable and useful, book. Third, the final chapter is rather disappointing. It fails to effectively tie together the somewhat disparate treatments in individual chapters with a view to deriving lessons from the Malaysian experience for other developing countries. As well, the brief discussion on future growth prospects for the Malaysian economy is poorly informed by the sizable body of recent literature on Malaysian development. There is no guidance for further reading.

Despite these limitations, this book should be of some interest to the Malaysia specialist as a means of easy access to a collection of studies which provides a useful, though partial, historical perspective on the Malaysian development process. However, I have my doubts about its pedagogical usefulness. Malaysia is one of the most heavily researched countries in the developing world, and there are better volumes of essays,

introductory texts and monographs on specific topics available for designing a well-balanced course of study on Malaysian development.

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***Vietnam and Japan: Japanese Investment and Aid Strategies in Vietnam: Implications for Development Directions.* Edited by Barbara Duffield.** Victoria, British Columbia, Canada: UVic Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria, 1995. Pp. 343.

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*Vietnam and Japan: Japanese Investment and Aid Strategies in Vietnam* is a compilation of 16 papers presented at a conference organized by the University of Victoria (British Columbia) on 17–19 November 1994, and funded by the Japan Foundation and the Canadian International Development Agency. The papers are ordered in three core categories: economic, social, legal and environment issues incorporated in Vietnam's development model; Japan's trade, investment, and aid strategies towards Vietnam; and sector analysis of human resource development, export-led growth, and public infrastructure.

After the editor, Barbara Duffield, introduces the volume with a short overview essay, the first conference paper, Dr Do Duc Dinh's "Vietnam's National Development Strategy: Growth with Equity" is presented. This article offers an optimistic perspective on the re-orientation of Vietnam's socio-economic model, comparing the economic achievements of the present reform decade favourably with the earlier socialist transformation period. In addition to its positive assessment of structural adjustment, stabilization and other reformed areas of the macroeconomy, Do Duc Dinh's article looks at the effects of reform on social welfare, which he finds less reassuring. On the "reverse side of the coin", he sees rising gaps in social stratification; mounting unemployment; reduced governmental emphasis