

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

I. Workshop on Developmental Issues in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar

The main objective of this workshop was to discuss the developmental issues of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar within the larger context of Southeast Asia and beyond. The workshop was attended by high officials, researchers, and business executives from these countries as well as from ASEAN nations. The workshop, held in Singapore from 19–21 March 1991, was organized by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) and was supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF), and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The programme of the workshop was as follows:

19 MARCH 1991

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Session I Laos

Statement by H. E. Phao Bounnaphol

Economic Transformation in Lao PDR: Recent Performance and Medium Term Program

Chanthavong Saigasith

Session II Myanmar

Recent Development Policy Changes in Myanmar

Aung Tun Thet

Investment Climate in Myanmar

Daw Khine Khine

20 MARCH 1991

Session III Vietnam

Recent Economic, Political and Development Policy Changes in Vietnam

Nguyen Van Hung

Foreign Investment in Vietnam

Pham Chi Lan

Rising Economic Opportunities in Vietnam

Luong Van Tu

Session IV Cambodia

Political and Economic Developments in Cambodia

Sina Than

21 MARCH 1991

Session V Indochina

Indochina: From Swords to Ploughshares?

Tan Kee Wee

II. Vietnam Update: Profiting from Emerging Opportunities

The main objective of this conference was to share practical experiences of doing business

in Vietnam. The Conference, held in Singapore from 7–8 February 1991, was organized by the Institute for International Research. The programme of the conference was as follows:

7 FEBRUARY 1991

Chairman's Introduction

Christopher F. Bruton
Director, DATACONSULT, Bangkok
Director, VIETCONSULT, Hong Kong & Hanoi
Director, BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL, Thailand & Indochina

NEW INVESTMENT, BANKING AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Welcome Address

Luong Van Tu
Head of Vietnam Trade Office

Reforms, Progress & Opportunities in Vietnam

Do Hoang Phu, General Director
Department for Foreign Investment
Ministry of Commerce, Hanoi

Commentary by Bryan d Weir, Partner
Freehill, Hollingdale & Page

A Comparative Risk Analysis of Indochina

Count George Popkowski Leszczyc
Adviser, INVESTIP
Adviser, UNCTAD-GATT

Shift from Centralised to Commercial Banking: Implications of the New Banking Decrees

John Brinsden, Manager, Vietnam
Standard Chartered Bank,
Ho Chi Minh

Understanding the Legal Framework and Identifying Problem Areas

Bryan d Weir, Partner
Freehill, Hollingdale & Page

THE TRADING REALITIES

Selling to Vietnam via Countertrade

Thierry Forichon/Fabio Galardi
Major Countertrader in Vietnam

Establishment of a Representative Office

John Dick, Solicitor
Freehill, Hollingdale & Page, Singapore

Trade Financing: What are the Viable Options?

Pascal Becker, Vice President
Banque Francaise du Commerce Extérieur

8 FEBRUARY 1991

Chairman's Remarks

Count George Popkowski Leszczyc
Adviser, INVESTIP
Adviser, UNCTAD-GATT

CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES

Some Practical Considerations on the Joint-Venture Process

Brian Walker, Chief Executive
Tootal Thread Asia Pacific

Tapping Opportunities in the Food Processing Industries

Christopher F Bruton
Director, DATACONSULT, Bangkok

Container Shipping in Vietnam

G. H. Maupome, Chairman
Gemartrans (Asia) Co Ltd, Hong Kong

An Overview of the Opportunities for Supply & Service Companies in the Petroleum Exploration & Production Industry

A. David Melzer, Managing Director
Premier Oil Pacific Ltd, Singapore

Profiting from the Redevelopment & Refurbishment of Major Hotels

Christopher F. Bruton
Director, DATACONSULT, Bangkok

Upgrading Telecommunications: Its Impact on Investment

David Wicks, General Manager
OTC International Limited, Indochina

Dr Supote Chunanuntatham, Faculty of
Economics, Thammasat University

*Panel Discussion on How to Overcome the Bottle-
necks in Doing Business in Vietnam*

Panelists

Count George Popkowski Leszczyc
Adviser, UNCTAD-GATT
Bryan D Weir, Partner
Freehill, Hollingdale & Page

22 MARCH 1991

*Session II Japan's ODA and Asian Developing
Economies*

Chairperson

Mr Phan Wannamethee
Director, International Studies Center,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

**III. Japan's ODA and Asian Developing
Economies**

The focus of this conference, jointly organized by the Institute of East Asian Studies, Thammasat University, Bangkok and the Japan Foundation, Japan, was on the role of Japan's economic assistance to developing countries in Asia. The conference was held in Petchburi, Thailand from 21-22 March, and the programme was as follows:

21 MARCH 1991

*Session I Japan's ODA and Global Economy in
the 1990s*

Chairperson

Dr Chulacheeb Chinwanno
Director, Institute of East Asian Studies,
Thammasat University

Keynote Speech

The Role of Japan in World Development

Professor Ezra Vogel
US-Japan Relations Program
Harvard University, U.S.A.

*Japan's Official Development Assistance: Japa-
nese Perspective*

Dr Toru Yanagihara
Hosei University, Japan

Discussants

Dr Likhit Dhiravegin, Faculty of Political
Science, Thammasat University

*Japan's ODA and Thai Development: A Successful
Story?*

Dr Pranee Tinakorn, Thammasat University
Dr Patcharee Siroros, Thammasat University

*Japan's ODA and Indonesia: Resource Security
Aid?*

Dr Hadi Soesastro
Center for Strategic and International Studies
Indonesia

Discussants

Assoc. Prof Prasert Chittiwantanapong
Faculty of Political Science,
Thammasat University
Assoc. Prof Surichai Wungaeo
Faculty of Political Science,
Chulalongkorn University

*Session III Japan's ODA and Asian Developing
Economies*

Chairperson

Dr Wilaiwan Wannitikul
Associate Director, Institute of East Asian
Studies, Thammasat University

Japan's ODA in Burma: Friendship or Profit?

Dr Donald M. Seekins
University of the Ryukyus
Japan

Japan's ODA and PRC: Strategic Aid?

Tong Xianguo
Development Planning Division
ESCAP

Discussants
Dr Moeljono Partosoedarso
Chief, Technical Operation Division, ESCAP
Dr Surachai Sirikrai
Faculty of Political Science,
Thammasat University

Concluding
Mr Yoichi Aki

Remarks
Chief Representative
Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund

Closing Ceremony

IV. Asian Natural Gas II: New Markets & Distribution Methods

The main objective of this seminar was to discuss marketing and distribution related issues

of natural gas in Asia. The seminar, held in Singapore from 13–15 May, was organized by the Institute of Gas Technology, Chicago and was supported by Tokyo Gas Company, Tokyo and Osaka Gas Company, Osaka. The seminar covered the following areas:

a. Development of Asian Natural Gas Resources

- Natural Gas Markets
- Financing Natural Gas Projects
- LNG's Future in Asia

b. Natural Gas Distribution

- Economic and Technologies
- Safety and Environmental Issues

c. Natural Gas Utilization

- Transportation Fuels