total recurrent receipts (p. 44)." On the whole, the fee structure has exhibited relative stability while "others" have contributed only negligible amounts.

In Chapter 5 he considers financing options for development of higher education after an informative digression into methods of planning for higher education, namely: cost-benefit, free market and manpower planning. "While manpower planning is the predominant system in Singapore, the possibility of individuals enrolling in higher education institutions abroad has also meant an additional avenue for pursuing tertiary education along essentially free market lines (p. 54)."

After considering the arguments for and against, Asher rejects the self-financing option because "this will restrict social and economic mobility and allow subjective as opposed to objective criteria to determine access to higher education". Some readers, however, may disagree with his classification of "income and family status" as subjective factors while classifying "scholastic performance" as an objective factor.

Full state-financing option is likewise considered but the author concludes that this is more likely to be adopted at the primary and secondary levels than at the tertiary level. "The more usual case... is substantial... but not total support by the state for tertiary level education... [I]n Singapore predominant state support is combined with manpower planning of higher education."

Finally, Mukul Asher suggests that an increase in the share of tuition fees may merit consideration in view of changing requirements and demands for higher education. He likewise suggests that "there should be greater cooperation and coordination between industry and higher education institutions ... especially concerning research and certain types of specialised training". He suggests further that increasing donations and endowments be explored. It should be possible to get larger financial resources from an increasing number of affluent alumni. On the whole, the tone of his recommendations for the financing of higher education in Singapore is subdued. Moreover, the relative affluence of Singapore would probably limit the applicability of his study in other less developed countries. Of this, RIHED must be aware.

The book adequately achieves its modest objectives and narrow focus but many readers might expect Dr Asher to undertake an expanded study to include not only institutional costs as he has done but also an analysis of private costs and broader social costs and benefits. Meanwhile, there is a need for other economists to undertake similar country-specific studies of the region.

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ASEAN Energy Issues, Proceedings of the Sixth Conference of the Federation of ASEAN Economic Associations, Bangkok, Thailand, 12–14 November 1981. **Edited by Praipol Koomsup.** Bangkok: Thammasat University Press for the Thai Economic Society, 1984. Pp. 152.

Each year the Economic Associations of the ASEAN countries meet in one of the member countries for a conference, generally with a thematic focus. In 1981 the Thai Economic Society hosted the Sixth Conference of the Federation of ASEAN Economic Associations to examine ASEAN energy issues. The papers and proceedings have now been published by the Thai Economic Society under the editorship of Praipol Koomsup.

There seems to be a common difficulty with the publications emanating from this kind of conference. Either one permits the revision of papers in the light of the discussions that have taken place and attempts to form the results into a coherent and comprehensive treatment of the subject in hand. This puts a great load in terms of responsibility and work on the shoulder of the editor and frequently leads to long delays before final publication results. The alternative is to

publish the papers presented more or less in the form they were submitted and to add summaries of the discussions. The disadvantage is a lack of homogeneity of the final product and the inclusion of much material that could be dispensed with. Summarizing the discussion entails judgments of the relative importance of various contributions. This means publishing all comments irrespective of merit, or reducing the summary of discussion to vague generalizations.

Praipol has clearly taken the latter course, that is, to print all the papers presented in substantially unaltered form and to add largely unspecified summaries of the discussion that ensued, such as the statement: "Then participants took turns in the discussion on the possibility of alternative sources of energy and oil pricing policy." Since these summaries were distributed during the conference itself, it is inconceivable why three years were needed to bring out this volume.

As in many preceding conferences of the Federation of ASEAN Economic Associations, the Philippine delegate, Jesus P. Estanislao, presents an overview of the development of ASEAN in the current year. It is interesting to note that the projections made by Estanislao in 1981 turned out to be largely correct. However, in calculating weighted ASEAN averages, he has introduced a novel but dubious method. Although it must be conceded that some form of weighting is required in obtaining figures for ASEAN as a whole, the weights used by Estanislao appear inappropriate. The point, although discussed at some length at the conference, is not mentioned in the summary of discussions, nor has it been taken account of by a revision of the paper.

Hadi Soesastro has done an excellent analysis of the resource transfers between the OPEC countries and the non-OPEC developing countries. The pricing of petroleum products in Malaysia and Thailand is examined by S. Meyanathan and R.J.G. Wells for Malaysia and Praipol Koomsup for Thailand. Francis Chan examines the role of Singapore as ASEAN's refining centre for petroleum products, while an analysis of the economic prospects for alternative sources of energy in the ASEAN region is undertaken by Gary S. Makasiar.

The volume contains an appendix with the conference programme, the list of participants and observers, and so on. Unfortunately, the very readable address by the President of the Thai Economic Society, Dr Snoh Unakul, on "The Energy Plan and Natural Gas Utilization Programme of Thailand" has also been relegated to this appendix.

All in all, this is a useful volume for all persons interested in ASEAN's energy problems. Its main purpose, however, is as a souvenir for those who attended the conference.

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Socialism in a Subsistence Economy: The Laotian Way: An Analysis of Development Patterns in Laos after 1975. **By Hans U. Luther.** Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Press, 1983. Pp. 65.

Luther's paper comprises three parts in addition to 35 pages of footnotes, bibliography, and two appendices. Part One, entitled "Country profile of Laos", depicts the social and economic aspects of underdeveloped Laos: a rural economy with the preponderance of subsistence agriculture, weak manpower, low productivity, and lack of unity.

Part Two deals with the socialist transformation and development policies in post-war Laos. It emphasizes the difficulties in carrying out a socialist policy due to the lack of experienced cadres in administrative and productive sectors. Non-experienced cadres of the Laotian Communist Party took to coercion instead of relying on "the gentle way" in the mobilization of the peasants. The process of collectivization encountered insuperable difficulties. The Laotian communist regime was thus unable to reach the main target prescribed by its successive plans since 1976, that is, self-sufficiency in rice and