

cessions to meet the development objectives, but he finds that the instrument deployed is weak from the point of efficient resource management.

This follows from the econometric model he develops to examine the supply and demand relationships of Malaysian wood products and their future potential, and forestry's capacity to sustain and expand employment. Kumar finds that contrary to the expectations of economic theory, supply is price inelastic — it does not respond quickly to world market price fluctuations. He attributes the slow response to the system of concessions. When prices rise the supply cannot increase correspondingly because of the political barriers to bidding and obtaining concessions; when prices fall, the short leases of forest contracts do not encourage an operator to reduce the rate of cutting down of trees.

He also finds that the employment-output elasticity is high in the logging and plywood industries. They have a greater tendency than other industries to engage and shed labour. Thus, assuming the stability of elasticity estimates, the prospects of employment in the sector can continue to be bright only if it continues to thrive. Also if changes in technology occur that are less labour-intensive rapid labour displacement can occur.

It is only towards the very end of the book that the author examines more closely the crucial issue of conservation. However, he appears to identify it as a complementary aspect of development.

There is need for planners to be sensitive to the demands of conservation. It is the author's belief that economic development need not necessarily be at the expense of conservation and vice versa.

Conservation and development are actually more intimately interlinked. Can there be sustained economic development without conservation? Kumar himself recognizes early in his book that "the tree is simultaneously both the capital plant and the finished product". He also acknowledges that this "has special implications in forest accounting and planning of invest-

ment". However, this insight is not reflected in his econometric model.

In the first place the proper management of any industry cannot involve the degradation of its capital plant without threatening its long-term viability. Secondly the call "to develop our resources" by governments is often designed to develop resource-based industries and the economy *without* resource development. Kumar himself provides ample documentation of the degradation of Malaysia's forest resources. The development of the resource *per se* calls for a whole new econometric approach — one that takes into account the depletion of environment capital as the resource degrades. It is this broader econometric perspective that Kumar has yet to formulate. Nevertheless, in spite of this limitation, his study is without doubt a significant contribution to the literature on forest resource development in the region.

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***Industrialisation and Labour Force Processes: A Case Study of Peninsular Malaysia.*** By T.G. Mcgee with Chi Seck Choo, G.J.R. Linge, Geoff Missen, Kamal Salih, Michael Taylor, Mei Ling Young, Peter Warr. Research Papers on Development in East Java and West Malaysia No. 1. Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, 1986.

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This book contains a set of papers on the industrialization process in Malaysia, presented at a workshop sponsored by the Department of Geography, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, in November 1985. The authors offer a wide spectrum of views on the process of industrialization, ranging across the theoretical discussion of the meaning of industrialization, the cost-benefit analysis of the Free Trade Zones, the industrial sociology of Lower Kelang Valley, and the analysis of the

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different impacts of industrialization on employment in different sectors, in selected regions, and among racial groups.

As is pointed out by T.G. Mcgee in the Introduction, the contributors were encouraged to explore the broad dimensions of industrialization as a social process rather than to provide a set of definitive analyses concentrating upon its economic aspects.

The first paper by G.J.R. Linge focuses on developments in the international economy as they relate to the industrialization process in less developed countries. He also discusses the problems of arriving at a satisfactory definition of industrialization and points out the limitation of equating industrialization with the development of the manufacturing sector. He argues that the service sector should also be included, and he sees prospects for Malaysia in shifting emphasis from manufacturing to on-shore services.

The second paper by T.G. Mcgee deals with the role of multinational semiconductor manufacturers in the industrialization process. He demonstrates that the export-oriented industrialization strategy adopted since 1970 has been effective in achieving one of the key goals of the New Economic Policy (NEP), namely drawing more Malays into the urban sector in the west coast regions. He questions, however, the strategy's contribution to long-term industrial growth, and to long-term development policy. He argues that short-term growth in industrial employment has entailed significant economic and social costs, including the creation of a labour force subject to employment instability, the development of an industry which has few linkages with other economic sectors in Malaysia, and the growth of an urban labour force which places a great pressure on urban services.

The chapter by Geoff Missen shows that the expansion of capitalist relations in the rural sector has made wage opportunities there less attractive than in urban areas, hence the migration of Malays to urban centres. Increased education and changing values also have a part to play in encouraging young Malays to migrate. Like Mcgee, Missen stresses the cost in terms of

the creation of an unstable labour force due to the heavy emphasis in the industrial development strategy on attracting the footloose types of industries in the seventies.

Kamal Salih and Mei Ling Young look at the impact of the national industrial development strategy in the seventies on a particular region — Penang State. The result of the policy has been, as Mcgee puts it, a “repositioning” of Penang in the international and national economy. Penang became dependent on narrow fields of investment (electronics and textiles) which are subject to the vagaries of international demand and investment climate. The authors call for an integration of a much more balanced and comprehensive development for Penang in the new industrial policy, emphasizing development of a sound manpower policy and industrial relations and an increasing awareness of the social implications of industrialization.

Chi Seck Choo and Michael Taylor look at the business organization in the industrial sector. They show how the different types of industrial enterprises in the Lower Kelang Valley provide different types of labour demand.

Peter Warr makes a careful economic analysis of the Free Trade Zones and Licenced Manufacturing Warehouses. His conclusion is that they have been effective in increasing Malaysian manufacturing exports and in providing employment for unskilled and semi-skilled labour. However, he questions the rate of return to the state for the encouragement of this type of industry, and points out its modest contribution to the government's long-term development goal. The Free Trade Zones and the Licenced Manufacturing Warehouses have limited linkages to the rest of the domestic economy.

Benjamin Higgins, in the postscript, points out three main elements in government policy which help explain the success of Malaysian industry; the government's clear-cut preference for the private enterprise system; the management of public enterprises along the line of efficient private enterprise; and the preference for relatively free international trade and international capital movements.

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The book gives a careful analysis of the impact of the NEP on the industrialization policy, the role of the Free Trade Zones, and the employment generation of the industrialization strategy. It does not, despite its title, give much attention to the effects of the industrialization on the labour processes. The book also discusses the problems and prospects for the Malaysian economy as it faces the recession of the mid-1980s.

On this last point contributors are, as a whole, gloomy about the prospects for the Malaysian economy to sustain anything close to the rate of growth of recent years or to overcome the structural problems which have resulted from the strategy of export-oriented industrialization of the seventies. Yet the contributors seem to have failed to anticipate two major developments in the international economy in the eighteen months since the papers were finalized. The first is the dramatic rise of the yen and the consequent repercussions on the industrial relocation strategies of Japan and other developed countries. The second is the return to an upward trend in oil prices. Perhaps it is unfair to criticize the contributors for failing to foresee these important influences on the Malaysian economy. Yet the extent to which they invalidate many of the authors' predictions of the future indicates how vulnerable Malaysia remains to externally generated influences, and how rapidly these influences can change.

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*Energy Policy Experience of Asian Countries.* By Asian Development Bank. Manila: ADB, 1987. Pp. 186.

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This collection of nine papers prepared by energy experts includes analyses on Bangladesh, India, the Republic of Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Republic of China (Taipei), and Thailand.

The book aims to review the responses of the nine countries to the two oil crises of 1973 and 1979 and to discuss the energy policy issues facing these countries in the late 1980s. It describes the past energy demand, supply, trade and energy intensities, changes in macro-economic energy relationships and various policy measures adopted by the countries in the region in response to the two oil crises. Demand management policies are discussed in greater detail. The book also discusses the policy choices that must be made in a period of uncertain international oil prices. The experience of Japan's energy policy is also provided for the purpose of comparison. Since the responses of different countries to the two oil crises were different, the countries studied were divided into three groups — the low-income group (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka), the lower middle-income group (the Philippines and Thailand), and the high and upper middle-income group (Republic of Korea and Republic of China) — for the analysis.

Countries of the Asian region have recorded high economic growth over the last two decades. The high economic growth was followed by high growth in energy demand. In future, both the economy as well as the energy consumption in most of the countries in the Asian region are expected to grow at a faster rate than that of most countries of other regions. Interest in the Asian energy situation is growing. However, on the other hand there is a lack of books that give comprehensive analyses of policy responses of developing countries and that explain what policy alternatives are available that may improve market response.

In providing a comprehensive analysis of energy policy experience of some selected Asian countries, this book should prove to be a significant addition to the literature on energy policies of developing countries. It is useful not only to the researcher but also to planners and policy-makers of developing countries.

However, there are a few shortcomings in the book. The title itself is misleading. The book does not analyse the energy policy experience of