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Contents

Articles

Comparative Borderland Developments in Thailand
CHUTHATIP MANEEPONG and CHUNG-TONG WU 135

Impact of Regional Trade Liberalization on Emerging Economies:
The Case of Vietnam
TOH MUN HENG and VASUDEVAN GAYATHRI 167

Fertility Transition in South and Southeast Asia
ANU RAMMOHAN 183

Is There Non-linear Real Exchange Rate Adjustment for
the Asian Economies?
MARK J. HOLMES 198

Competitive Devaluations — Bitter Pill or Bad Medicine?
The Case of Thailand
TRACY YANG and JAMUS JEROME LIM 213

Research Notes

The IPS-NTU ASEAN 9+1 Economic Competitiveness Ranking Indices
TAN KHEE GIAP 234

Fuelling Southeast Asia's Growth: The Energy Challenge
ANDREW SYMON 239

Book Reviews

- Development and Structural Change in Asia-Pacific: Globalising Miracles or End of a Model?* edited by Martin Andersson and Christer Gunnarsson.
Reviewed by Linda Low 249
- The Asian Development Experience: Overcoming Crises and Adjusting to Change*, by Seiji F. Naya.
Reviewed by Robert L. Curry, Jr. 250
- Vietnam: A Transition Tiger?* by Brian Van Arkadie and Raymond Mallon, and *The Vietnamese Economy: Awakening the Dormant Dragon*, edited by Binh Tran-Nam and Chi Do Pham.
Reviewed by Nick J. Freeman 252
- The Economy of the Philippines: Elites, Inequalities and Economic Restructuring*, by Peter Krinks.
Reviewed by Aladdin D. Rillo 254
- The Philippine Economy: Development, Policies, and Challenges*, edited by Arsenio M. Balisacan and Hal Hill.
Reviewed by Ramonette B. Serafica 255
- Law and Development in East and Southeast Asia*, edited by Christoph Antons.
Reviewed by Rajenthiran Arumugam 257

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MICHAEL LEIFER

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for the best article published in

- *ASEAN Economic Bulletin*
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The Michael Leifer Memorial Prize is awarded by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in memory of the late Michael Leifer (1933–2001), Professor Emeritus in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science and the founding Director of the School's Asia Research Centre.

Professor Leifer has rightly been described as the doyen of Southeast Asian Studies. He wrote and edited over 20 books and published over 150 scholarly articles on the international relations and domestic politics of Southeast Asia. His analysis of contemporary regional developments reached a worldwide audience through his regular broadcasts over the BBC. At the LSE he nurtured a generation of Southeast Asianists from all over the world, most significantly from Southeast Asia itself. Many of them became prominent in academe, think-tanks, media and government. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the region was masterfully displayed in his *Dictionary of the Modern Politics of Southeast Asia*, which has gone through three editions. During one of his sojourns at ISEAS he brought his editorial skills to bear on the speedy publication of David Marshall's *Letters from Mao's China*. Professor Leifer's last book, *Singapore's Foreign Policy: Coping with Vulnerabilities*, remains an unrivalled study on Singapore, the place that was his first steppingstone in a lifetime of academic journeying into Southeast Asian Studies.

Professor Leifer first visited Singapore in 1963 as a young lecturer from the University of Adelaide. During a professional life spanning nearly 40 years he paid numerous visits to Singapore where his considered views and analysis were much sought after by academics, the media and policy-makers alike. Appointed Senior Professorial Fellow at ISEAS between 1995 and 1997, he made many valuable contributions to the work of the Institute. He also served on the international advisory committee for *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, a major journal of ISEAS.

In recognition of Professor Leifer's valuable contributions to scholarship in Southeast Asian Studies and the unstinting encouragement he gave to aspiring young scholars in the field, ISEAS is instituting the Michael Leifer Memorial Prize. An award of S\$3,000 will be given biennially for the best article published in one of ISEAS' three journals namely, the *ASEAN Economic Bulletin*, *Contemporary Southeast Asia* and *Sojourn: Social Issues in Southeast Asia*. A Prize Committee, made up of the editors of the three journals, eminent scholars, and the Director of ISEAS, will be tasked with selecting the article on the basis of its analytical rigour, conceptual clarity and soundness, and general contribution to Southeast Asian scholarship.

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