

CONTEMPORARY SOUTHEAST ASIA

A JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL AND STRATEGIC AFFAIRS

Volume 26, Number 3

December 2004

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Contemporary Southeast Asia
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
30 Heng Mui Keng Terrace
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ISSN 0129-797X

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Annual Subscription Rates for 2004

	Individuals (Print & electronic)	Institutions
Asia/Japan/Aust/N.Z.	US\$42	US\$66
Europe/North America/Africa/Mid. East	US\$51	US\$80
Singapore/Malaysia/Brunei	S\$66	S\$102

These annual rates include electronic delivery as well as the printed copy by air. *CSEA* is published three times a year, in April, August and December. Subscription orders and enquiries should be addressed to:

The Managing Editor
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
30 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Pasir Panjang
Singapore 119614
Tel: 68702483, 68702474 Fax: 6775-6259
E-mail: pubsunit@iseas.edu.sg

Electronic Access

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Contemporary Southeast Asia (CSEA) is indexed in the International Bibliography of Periodical Literature; International Bibliography of Book Reviews; Sage Public Administration Abstracts; Historical Abstracts (ABC-CLIO); America: History and Life (ABC-CLIO); PAIS International; Contents Pages on Asia (INSEAD); World Affairs Online; International Political Science Abstracts; Ingenta; EBSCO Publishing; Sociological Abstracts; ProQuest Information and Learning; Gale Group; and ISI Emerging Markets.

MICHAEL LEIFER

Memorial Prize

for the best article published in

- *ASEAN Economic Bulletin*
- *Contemporary Southeast Asia*
- *Sojourn: Social Issues in Southeast Asia*

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.

The first prize will be awarded in 2005 based on articles published in 2003 and 2004.