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Contents

Articles

- The European Market for ASEAN Agricultural Exports:
Estimates of Income and Price Elasticities
JYRKI NIEMI 261
- Foreign Direct Investment, Economic Growth, and
Financial Sector Development: A Comparative Analysis
CHEE-KEONG CHOONG, ZULKORNAIN YUSOP, and SIEW-CHOO SOO 278
- Assessing Indonesia's Sustainable Development: Long-Run Trend,
Impact of the Crisis, and Adjustment during the Recovery Period
ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA and ARIEF ANSHORY YUSUF 290
- The Impact of Corporate Governance Practices on Firms' Financial Performance:
Evidence from Malaysian Companies
ALLAN CHANG AIK LENG 308
- The Determinants of Innovation in the Malaysian Manufacturing Sector:
An Econometric Analysis at the Firm Level
CASSEY LEE 319
- Book Reviews*
Whither Free Trade Agreements? Proliferation, Evaluation and Multilateralization,
edited by Jiro Okamoto.
Reviewed by Rahul Sen 330

<i>Beyond Late Development: Taiwan's Upgrading Policies,</i> by Alice H. Amsden and Wan-wen Chu. Reviewed by Kim Ong-Giger	331
<i>The Future of Foreign Investment in Southeast Asia,</i> edited by Nick J. Freeman and Frank L. Bartels. Reviewed by Renuka Mahadevan	333
<i>The Economic Development of Southeast Asia, vols. I to IV,</i> edited by Hal Hill. Reviewed by Linda Low	334
<i>Autonomy and Disintegration in Indonesia,</i> edited by Damien Kingsbury and Harry Aveling. Reviewed by Anthony L. Smith	336
<i>East Asia Integrates: A Trade Policy Agenda for Shared Growth,</i> edited by Kathie Krumm and Homi Kharas. Reviewed by Agnes Koh	338

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MICHAEL LEIFER

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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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