



ASEAN ECONOMIC BULLETIN

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ISEAS Michael Leifer Memorial Prize

Congratulations to Chan Kwok Bun and Seet Chia Sing for having won the 2005 ISEAS Michael Leifer Memorial Prize for their article “Migrant Family Drama Revisited: Mainland Chinese Immigrants in Singapore”, published in the October 2003 issue of the ISEAS journal *SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*.

Dr Chan is Head and Professor, Department of Sociology, and Director, David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University, while Dr Seet is Statistician, Singapore Department of Statistics, Government of Singapore.

The prize worth S\$3,000 is given once every two years to the best scholarly work published in any of the three academic journals published by ISEAS, namely, the *ASEAN Economic Bulletin*, *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, and *SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*. It was set up to commemorate the late Professor Michael Leifer of the London School of Economics whose works have represented the best of scholarship on Southeast Asia.

About the article “Migrant Family Drama Revisited: Mainland Chinese Immigrants in Singapore”

It unfolds the drama of mainland Chinese migrant families in Singapore in terms of their gender and generation politics — the interpersonal as well as role conflicts within the domestic domain as they were engendered and negotiated during the migration process. The “better life” promise of migration for each and every family member was scrutinized — each time gazing at a different member in the context of his or her institutionalized position in the family. As it happened, divided rather than common interests emerged. Not all benefited from moving. Yet all were convinced of the family having made “the right move”. The social construction of the family was further strengthened by transnationalism, which reproduced the “reality” of family solidarity through mundane everyday life activities acted out across borders. But when internalized as a construct, an ideal, the family bonded its members — thus its internal cohesiveness. It also bound and controlled the self. Sure there were gains, but there were also losses, especially on the part of the less powerful. Globalization and transnationalism have yet to fulfil their promises.

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Submissions of articles to *ASEAN Economic Bulletin* are welcome. We particularly encourage article submissions from young professionals, including those who have recently completed their Ph.D. or are at an advanced stage in their doctoral research.

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Articles submitted to the journal should be original contributions and should not be under consideration by any other publication. They are subject to external blind refereeing. Electronic submissions are preferred and should be sent as an e-mail attachment to: aeb@iseas.edu.sg. Alternatively, articles can be sent by post, in duplicate, together with a soft copy in a diskette to:

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