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Colloquium on Indigenous Southeast Asian Historiography

The highlight of this year's conference of the International Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA), held in Tokyo September 5-9, was the colloquium on indigenous Southeast Asian historiography on September 5, whose main participants were historians well established in their home countries. The colloquium, which received financial support from the Toyota Foundation, was seen as a unique opportunity for Southeast Asian scholars to get together and discuss the significance of their activities. It was also hoped that a common agenda for the future might be articulated. Setsuho Ikehata, from Japan, and I shared the task of organizing the colloquium.

The colloquium's concerns

Too often in academic conferences we get locked into a kind of "truth-seeking" mode. We look for additional information to add to our bank of knowledge. Instead the focus of this colloquium seemed to be on the intersection of history and politics. Among the topics taken up were national history and identity formation, the historian as intellectual, critiques of colonial and nationalist writings, and new agendas for Southeast Asian history.

The colloquium's emphasis on the responsibilities and constraints operating upon the historians of the region was deliberate. We often forget that history is a battleground for the provisionally "true" and the partly "real." All the participants agreed that history is an arena of conflict, of unending debate and controversy, and not some progressive ascent toward truth.

Ten or twenty years ago a discussion of the politics of historical writing in a third world region called Southeast Asia would have been seen as a sign of immaturity and would have been contrasted with a discussion of "proper" history. The assumption then was that politics and the writing of history are to be kept discrete. Today it is widely acknowledged that all modes of historical writing are political in some way. They reflect certain assumptions about human nature and the world, competing discourses, academic politics, linguistic conventions, and even strategic concerns. Some modes of historical writing,

however, attempt to mute these concerns, assuming instead a universalist, value-free posture for history. The arguments of a writer who adopts this approach on the campuses of the University of the Philippines or Thammasat University will be torn to shreds.

The very use of the term "indigenous historian" had to be justified. It by no means implies a kind of neonativism; it is not even a question of East versus West. The term is loosely applied to those who write for a domestic audience, those who are enmeshed in local debates and institutional struggles.

The lasting effects of colonialism

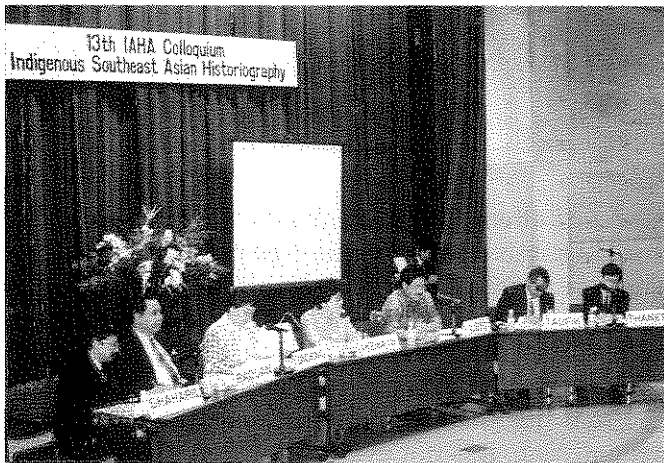
The panelists immediately introduced some of the crucial questions they are grappling with on their domestic fronts. Of paramount concern still is the lasting impact of colonial scholarship on the region. Whether in marginalizing local knowledges or justifying a "civilizing mission" and divide-and-rule policy, as Pham Duc Duong, from Vietnam, put it, or drawing lines on the map, as Shaharil Talib, from Malaysia, forcefully reminded us, colonial scholarship set into play the very dynamics that continue to provoke and inspire scholars in the region.

Often ignored in Southeast Asian historiography are the ways that indigenous scholars adapted to, modified, or even demolished the traditions established by the Dutch, Americans, French, and British. Historical writing had to be decolonized, the work of Sinologists, Indologists, and other experts scrutinized. For the Indonesians, Filipinos, and Vietnamese, at least, a counterscholarship accompanied the struggle for independence.

The decolonization process continues to this day. Maria Serena I. Diokno's critique of a group of fellow Filipino scholars seeking the authentic roots of their nationality provided a vivid example of a complex entanglement with the ghosts of colonial scholarship. The Indian historians in the audience were quick to identify parallels with their own experience of having had to set the record straight regarding imperial histories of India.

The question of national history

Linked to decolonization was the rise of the genre of national history, an important issue usually ignored



The colloquium on indigenous Southeast Asian historiography

in “universalist” Southeast Asian historiography. The colloquium speakers all made reference to the indigenous historian’s responsibility—up to a certain point, at least—to national history or the articulation of a nationalist vision and consciousness. Thanet Aphornsuvan, from Thailand, noted that even the 1970s generation of Thai scholars, veterans of the student revolution, gravitated toward reconceptualization of national history. And Diokno described the way that nationalist discourse managed to insinuate itself into all versions of the state university’s Philippine history curriculum.

Since the question of national history appeared in all the presentations, much of the open discussion took up this issue. Concerns were expressed that local voices were suppressed by hegemonic national history. Taufik Abdullah, from Indonesia, and others, however, emphasized the need for the local and the national to be engaged in a dialogue, not set against each other. Local texts and memories have in fact raised problems in national histories. Historians positioned outside the current centers have sought to be heard and represented and have succeeded in doing so in ways often obscure to outsiders.

Another option was suggested during the open discussion: abandon national history altogether in favor of more challenging and satisfying historical exercises. But the point was then made that historians in Southeast Asia are also organic intellectuals. For them history is not just the uncovering of the past but an ongoing process, a liberation movement, as Taufik put it. Involvement in the making or unmaking of national history is part of their responsibility to their people. And quite often the issue of personal choice is moot. Thanet brought up the question of whether Thailand’s 1973 revolution could be accu-

rately portrayed, when the participants are still alive. How would they react? Historians are caught in a dilemma, because others, such as the Thai generals, make choices too.

Indigenous historians have to navigate through all these constraints.

New agendas for Southeast Asian history

Finally, the colloquium looked into the question of how a Southeast Asian history for consumption by people in the region might be constructed. Clearly the participants shared a sense of Southeast Asia becoming an experiential reality. There was a keen awareness that the different nation-states of Southeast Asia are moving into a new era—one of stability, prosperity, and mutual cooperation. Many economies are booming; the divisions engendered by cold war politics are slowly being dissolved; ASEAN has become a key player in global politics. And as Mohammad Raduan, from Malaysia, reminded us, in 1993 the United States Navy left Subic Bay, in the Philippines, for good.

Present concerns about regional cooperation force us to reexamine the conditions that led to the division of the region into bounded and fixed entities. Shaharil expounded on the setting of agendas for Southeast Asian studies mainly by or in the United States from the 1950s on, as the new regional power sought to create the conditions that would facilitate its expansion and hegemony. In this post-cold war age, new agendas have to be set by Southeast Asians themselves.

Mohammad Raduan presented an alternative picture of Southeast Asia—one linked by the seas and riverine systems, where people constantly moved around and identities could shift. A new look into the recesses of the past could very well produce the ingredients—such as movement, fluidity, plurality, trade, and matriarchy—for a de-emphasis on nation-state formations in favor of a regional ordering.

Coming from different national backgrounds, the colloquium participants sought to engage in a conversation among themselves. By exchanging notes, they hoped to identify common ground, and develop a common language, for a Southeast Asian historical dialogue. To the audience they were saying: these are the things that are meaningful to us and that we contend with in our everyday contexts. In the light of local or regional experiences, preoccupations, and hopes, how might another kind of Southeast Asian history be conceived? How can we do this in a way that avoids closure? For the first time, perhaps, histo-

rians from the region confidently asserted their right to collectively define "Southeast Asia." (*Reynaldo C. Ileto, Professor, Department of History and Politics, James Cook University*)

Promoting Southeast Asian Studies In Southeast Asia

For more than fifteen years, the Toyota Foundation's International Grant Program has supported research projects aimed at preserving and revitalizing the indigenous cultures of Southeast Asia. These projects are conducted by Southeast Asian researchers who study the culture, history, society, or other aspects of their own countries. Many of the researchers have pointed out that their research is circumscribed if studies are defined by present-day national boundaries and that there is a need for studies that view Southeast Asia as a region of shared cultures. These points were also raised in Bangkok in November 1990 and in Jakarta in November 1993 at international symposiums held to present the results of projects funded under the Foundation's International Grant Program.

In response, beginning in fiscal 1993 international grant making focusing on Southeast Asia emphasizes international comparative research, international joint research, and activities to lay the groundwork for such research, all conducted by Southeast Asian researchers. In the preceding year, fiscal 1992, the Incentive Grants for Young Researchers in Southeast Asian Studies had been inaugurated as a subprogram of the International Grant Program. Grants under this subprogram are made available to Southeast Asian students enrolled in graduate programs at Malaysian universities. The grants support research for theses and dissertations on countries other than the recipients' home countries.

As yet, however, few applications for International Grant Program grants involve international comparative or joint research. Although researchers have thus far conducted studies defined by national boundaries, they recognize the importance of studies of Southeast Asia as a region, yet the flow of information and networking among researchers are still inadequate for planning and carrying out studies that cross national boundaries.

It would be foolish to expect applications to flow in if we merely sit and wait for them. The Foundation therefore appointed a core committee consisting of four researchers—one each from a university or re-

search institute in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand, countries in which there is great interest in Southeast Asian studies—to discuss means of promoting Southeast Asian studies in Southeast Asia, in particular, means of promoting networking among their own universities and institutes.

The committee members are Taufik Abdullah, from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Shaharil Talib, from the University of Malaya, Maria Serena I. Diokno, from the University of the Philippines, and Charnvit Kasetsiri (represented by Thanet Aphornsuvan), from Thammasat University. The committee's first meeting was held in May in Kuala Lumpur and the second in September in Tokyo, where its members were participating in the conference of the International Association of Historians of Asia. The committee's lively discussions yielded several concrete suggestions, which are summarized below.

- Research projects that previously received grants under the International Grant Program should be categorized by theme. Projects with high potential for development as international comparative research projects could then be selected and a workshop held for the researchers who conducted the original projects. Such a workshop would give potential researchers in international comparative studies or international joint research an opportunity to exchange information. The workshop conveners could also compile existing reports of research results from the perspective of comparative studies for publication in book form.

- The Foundation's Incentive Grants for Young Researchers in Southeast Asian Studies, which are now being awarded in Malaysia, could be expanded to include other Southeast Asian countries, depending on the situation at their universities.

- Experts in specific fields from other Southeast Asian countries could be invited to lecture to undergraduate and graduate students and teaching staff, either under an existing Southeast Asian studies program or in a special series of intensive lectures on specific topics.

- A scholarship program could be established to allow students and researchers from Southeast Asia to enroll in Southeast Asian-language courses offered in Southeast Asia.

The committee also discussed ideas for publishing, holding seminars, and improving collections of research materials. Some of these ideas can be implemented by members of the committee acting as individuals, while others will require the cooperation of universities. Likewise, some can be implemented

as part of the Foundation's grant-making activities, while others will require the assistance of governments or other foundations. The committee's third meeting is planned for January 1995 in Bangkok, and the Foundation hopes that this meeting will produce concrete plans for realizing one or more of the above proposals in fiscal 1995. (*Yumiko Himemoto, Program Officer, International Division*)

International Symposium on Plutonium in the Environment

Twenty-one experts from twelve industrial countries participated in the symposium "Plutonium in the Environment" in Ottawa, Canada, July 6-8, 1994. One aim of the symposium was to present findings from research supported under the Toyota Foundation's Research Grant Program to an audience of the world's leading researchers in the field so that the significance of these findings could be evaluated in the context of present international research. Another aim was to ensure that the findings are recorded in an authoritative publication (a special issue of the *Journal of Applied Radiation and Isotopes* to be published in book form by Pergamon Press) so that they will be available to posterity for evaluation from a historical perspective. In addition to the Toyota Foundation, the symposium's sponsors included the International Committee for Radionuclide Metrology and the National Research Council of Canada.

The focus of the symposium

The symposium was intended to stimulate candid discussion of the impact of plutonium on the environment among leading researchers in the field and to bring together findings of the past fifty years from around the world to determine directions for future research and establish an international framework promoting effective research. Thus the number of researchers presenting papers was limited to twenty-one invited speakers from various fields, and the total number of participants, including observers, was limited to forty.

To enhance the symposium's value, the schedule was carefully planned so that over meals and during breaks and tours of research laboratories the specialist participants could establish and develop cordial relations with others in their field. This was done to counterbalance recent international scholarly conferences at which the emphasis has been "bigger" rather than "better." This symposium aimed at "quality"

and "the human touch," an important aspect of the development of scholarship based on the ideas of and cumulative study by individuals that is too often forgotten of late.

The symposium venue was the Château Laurier Hotel, next to the Canadian Parliament building. The relaxed atmosphere amid stately surroundings lent the rigorously scientific meeting something of the air of a retreat devoted to discussion of plutonium in the environment.

Reports on Foundation-supported research

Three of the papers presented at the symposium were the fruit of an international joint project that received Toyota Foundation research grants in fiscal 1988, 1989, and 1990, "A Study of the Behavior of Persistent Toxic Materials in the Global Environment Using Residual Radionuclides from the Atomic Bomb Dropped on Nagasaki as Tracers," conducted by Akira Kudo and others. The first of these was "Plutonium Mass Balance Released from the Nagasaki A-Bomb and the Applicability for Future Environmental Research" by Akira Kudo, of Canada, and seven coauthors. The second was "Plutonium Released by the Nagasaki A-Bomb: Mobility in the Environment" by Yasunori Mahara, of Japan, and one coauthor. The third was "Plutonium in Tree Rings from France and Japan" by Jean-Pierre Garrec, of France, and seven coauthors.

The first paper reported on the mass balance of plutonium released into the atmosphere by the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, which was measured accurately by analyzing surface soil samples collected at the hypocenter and as far as 100 kilometers away. Measurement indicated that 1.2 kilograms of plutonium (roughly 8 percent of the total in the bomb) fissioned in the explosion, 0.038 kilogram (roughly 0.25 percent) contaminated the vicinity of the hypocenter, and 13.8 kilograms (roughly 92 percent) were dispersed globally. Although more than one thousand plutonium bombs have been detonated worldwide, these are the first data on measurement of the mass balance of plutonium in the environment.

These findings have broad application. For example, these data were used to accurately determine when the "black rain" that fell on Nagasaki after the bombing was generated. Similar precipitation follows volcanic eruptions or the launching of large rockets, when sudden updrafts cause local downpours. At Nagasaki precipitation formed in the atmosphere 195 seconds after the blast. This figure was calculated from the formation of fissile cesium-137

in the first fifty minutes after the detonation and the mass balance of plutonium. This information on Nagasaki's black rain will probably be useful data for rainmaking technology in the future.

In another application of the findings, the plutonium released at Nagasaki can be used as a tracer in studying global pollution. In April 1994 ten ice-core samples were collected from a glacier on Ellesmere Island, in the Canadian Arctic, and they are currently being analyzed for this purpose.

The second paper presented and proved a new theory. Until now it has been accepted internationally that plutonium is transported in the environment only with difficulty. The dose limits for humans have been predicated on this view, and safety parameters for subsurface disposal (one kilometer underground) of radioactive waste from nuclear power plants were also derived from it. This view was revised on the basis of data yielded by Yasunori Mahara's field research on residual plutonium at Nagasaki, which demonstrated the existence of two types of plutonium, one that is easily transported and one that is transported only with difficulty.

The data were collected by tracing the distribution and behavior of plutonium still found in surface soil, bottom sediment, and trees more than forty years after the bombing of Nagasaki, which has annual precipitation of 2,000 millimeters. These data are the world's first proof of the existence of easily transported plutonium. At this point no one knows why two types of plutonium are produced, but the data collected by Mahara and his associates reveal that in Nagasaki bottom sediment contains 10 percent plutonium, soil 3 percent, and trees 1 percent.

In the third paper Jean-Pierre Garrec, head of the Atmospheric Pollution Laboratory of the French government's Forest Research Center in Nancy, reported on the distribution of plutonium concentrations in the annual rings of cedars in Nagasaki and conifers in suburban Nancy, in northern France. As a result of recent advances in analytical technology, various trace elements have been detected in tree rings, but plutonium had never been detected before.

Perhaps because of high plutonium concentrations in the area, cedars from Nagasaki yielded a number of unexpected findings: only a slight plutonium spike was detected in tree rings dating around 1945; the greatest spike was detected in tree rings dating between 1965 and 1969; minute amounts of plutonium were detected in tree rings dating to the 1920s and 1930s, when there was no plutonium in nature. This last finding was also observed in the annual rings of



The symposium on plutonium in the environment

French conifers and confirms the findings of Yasunori Mahara mentioned above.

Other presentations

Other invited speakers included David M. Taylor, editor in chief of the *Journal of Applied Radiation and Isotopes*, who spoke on environmental plutonium in humans; Murdoch S. Baxter, editor of the *Journal of Environmental Radioactivity*, who discussed the behavior of plutonium in the oceans; Keith H. Lokan, who spoke on plutonium and americium contamination in Australia; Peter J. Kershaw, a research officer in Britain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, who described the present condition of the Irish Sea, contaminated by waste water from a nuclear reprocessing plant; and Gilbert Bortels, who spoke on analysis methods.

All the symposium's speakers are front-line researchers whose participation was vital to this international discussion of plutonium in the environment, and presentations and discussions were heated. The caliber of the participants was undoubtedly a key to the success of the world's first international symposium on plutonium in the environment. (Akira Kudo, Director, Division of Environmental Radioactivity, Canadian Institute of Biogeochemistry and Engineering Research)

A Study of the Life and Times of Field Marshal Phibunsongkhram

The project "The Life and Times of Field Marshal Phibunsongkhram, the Longest-Serving Prime Minister of Thailand" began during the closing months of 1990 and was completed at the end of 1992. The manuscript of the research findings, which was submitted to Oxford University Press early in 1993, is now in the last stages of publication. It is hoped that the book, titled *Thailand's Durable Premier Phibun Through*

Three Decades, 1938–1957, will be available by November 1994. Both the research and the publication were supported by international grants awarded by the Toyota Foundation in fiscal 1989, 1991, and 1992.

A challenge for researchers

The main purpose of my research on Field Marshal Phibunsongkhram (1897–1964) was to update the evaluation and analysis of his administration (spanning the years 1938–44 and 1948–57) and his contribution to the sociopolitical life of present-day Thailand. A cursory survey of the literature on Phibunsongkhram will make even a newcomer to the subject aware of the ongoing historiographic controversy concerning Thailand's longest-serving prime minister. Moreover, the mere mention of his name can arouse emotional debate on the man, his political and military role, and his claim on modern Thailand. It was my intention to rise above all such conflict and controversy and to come to grips objectively with Phibun the man and Phibun the leader who successfully steered Thailand through World War II and the crucial cold war period.

The main difficulty facing scholars wishing to make an objective study of Phibun is that he left very little in terms of writings to help one understand his thoughts and beliefs and to get to know the man behind the public façade. Compared with those of other leading post-1932 political figures, such as Pridi Phanomyong, Phibun's written works are few and far between. To make matters worse, most of his written works are in the form of official documents and materials, and most are inaccessible to the public.

It is also hard to gauge to the "real" Phibun from the records written by his contemporaries, most of whom regarded Phibun as a political opponent. These works tend to highlight the negative aspects of his character and his administration. It is not surprising therefore to discover unfavorable treatment given to Phibun by the majority of scholars, both Thai and foreign, most of whom depend on these contemporary materials for their study of Phibun.

In fact according to most of the works available, Prime Minister Phibun was blamed, particularly after he had left office, for practically everything that had gone wrong with the country. Yet in my talks with some of those who had lived through the Phibun years, most agreed that on the whole the prime minister did what was right for the country at the time, for example, declaring war on France over territorial conflicts in 1940–41 and allying the country with Japan during the Pacific War.

The availability of archival material in Washington, D.C., and London has been most gratifying for me, since it is nearly impossible to get hold of Thai official documents of the period. The material made available in the United States and United Kingdom concerning political developments in Thailand both before and after the war years has been revealing. The American archival material in particular has been helpful in filling the gap caused by the absence of Thai official documents. These materials together with my own perceptions and observations have enabled me to piece together an image of the man who not only held longest the reins of power but also was arguably the most controversial figure in Thai politics since 1932.

An image of the man

Phibun is not an easy subject to study for many reasons apart from the scarcity of written material. He was a highly controversial figure who had been branded as antiroyal, dictatorial, egoistic, and self-indulgent, to mention but the most common labels. Because of his militarist approach, he was also accused of subverting the democratic system of government in Thailand. To have discovered in the course of my research that Phibun had proved his critics wrong in many areas is quite rewarding. It is the dream of historians to be able to break new ground with new material and interpretations in order to set the record straight. My research on Field Marshal Phibunsongkhram has amply fulfilled that dream for me.

Field Marshal Phibunsongkhram became Thailand's preeminent leader in December 1938 not because he came from an elite background or had a large personal following among the elected lawmakers. He was chosen to succeed Prime Minister Phraya Phahon mainly because international political instability demanded that Thailand have a strong leader who could not only make prompt and realistic decisions but also command the respect and loyalty of the military. Again in 1948 Phibun emerged as premier mainly because he commanded the respect of the 1947 coup group and because he was the candidate acceptable to the military.

It has been speculated that in "normal" circumstances Phibun would never have been able to assume the premiership. In short, he was deemed to be the only leader of his time capable of doing what was required under adverse political conditions to save the country from chaos and disintegration.

History seems to confirm that Phibun operated extraordinarily and effectively under such circum-

stances. For example, one of his most controversial wartime policies, total commitment to Japan, not only saved Thailand from the hardship and devastation of war but also provided the kingdom with a substantial fund in gold in Tokyo for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the postwar society and economy. With a major portion of its assets in Great Britain seized for war damage claims by Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries, Thailand would have found itself in a quandary in its attempts to revive its economy without that gold.

Conclusions

The fruit of my research emphasizes the fact that Prime Minister Phibun should and must be viewed in the context of his time and sociopolitical environment. It is my conclusion that Phibun the man and Phibun the leader clearly made a far greater contribution to Thailand than any other post-1932 leader. He gave the kingdom a firm sociopolitical footing in its course of modernization. He likewise provided it with a relatively peaceful and harmonious period in its history despite political instability and disturbances in the outside world and intense rivalries and conflicts among the top echelons within the country. In the final analysis, the benefits accruing to Thailand as a result of Phibun's policies far outweigh the negative aspects or implications of those policies. (*Kobkua Suwannathat-Pian, Associate Professor, Department of History, National University of Malaysia*)

Toyota Foundation Twentieth-Anniversary Activities

Chartered on October 15, 1974, the Toyota Foundation celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year. A number of activities have been planned to commemorate the occasion.

A traveling exhibition

The exhibition "The Maritime Silk Road: Artifacts and Culture of the Champa Kingdom" will travel in Japan from September 1994 through February 1995. The kingdom of Champa, which extended over central and southern Vietnam, flourished as a center of maritime trade from around the fourth century through the end of the seventeenth century and was strongly influenced by Indian culture.

At its height Champa was one of Southeast Asia's major kingdoms, together with the Khmer kingdom of Cambodia, centered at Angkor, and the Shailen-



Tsuneho Asada

The main shrine (left) and treasure house of the restored Champa site Po Kloong Garai, near Phan Rang

dra dynasty of Java, builders of the great stupa of Borobudur.

The Cham, who established the Champa kingdom, speak a language of the Malayo-Polynesian family, as do many ethnic groups in Malaysia and Indonesia. Today the Cham are a minority group in Vietnam (where they number around 20,000) and in Cambodia (where they number well over 100,000). Some of the Cham in Vietnam are Muslims and some are Hindu.

This traveling exhibition is chiefly a presentation of the results of a project awarded an International Grant Program grant in fiscal 1993, "A Study of the Arts and Civilization of the Ancient Kingdom of Champa," conducted by Tran Ky Phoung, curator at the Museum of Champa Sculpture, in Danang. Included in the exhibition are some one hundred photographs of structures in Vietnam, including roughly one hundred brick towers; two models of Champa sites; two Cham looms; and traditional Cham clothing. Detailed maps of the sites surveyed in the project increase the scholarly value of the presentation.

The Foundation chose to organize this exhibition of ancient Champa artifacts, which had never been seen in Japan, because it offers a visual introduction to Southeast Asian culture designed for the general public. Although there had been an exhibition of Champa artifacts in Paris when Vietnam was still a colony of France, the present exhibition is the first of its kind anywhere since Vietnam's independence. The exhibition was curated by Yutaka Shigeeda, of the Department of Architecture of Nihon University, who collaborated with Tran Ky Phuong on his proj-

ect. Shiro Momoki, of the Faculty of Letters of Osaka University, participated in the overall planning.

The exhibition opened in Nagoya and will travel to Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Tokyo, and Osaka, in that order. In each city except Tokyo, the opening of the exhibition will be preceded by a lecture, forum, or symposium. In Nagoya there was a lecture on the history of exchange between the Chubu district of Honshu and central Vietnam, focusing on Hoi An, which once had a flourishing Japanese community. The lecture in Fukuoka explored the history of relations between Kyushu and central Vietnam and attempted to produce a fuller picture of the maritime Silk Road by focusing on trade in the ceramic wares that have been excavated recently in both Kyushu and central Vietnam. In Hiroshima a forum discussed the restoration and preservation of Champa sites and the wooden structures of Hue. Finally, in Osaka a symposium will take a fresh look at Southeast Asian history in the light of a better understanding of the Champa kingdom. This symposium is expected to draw a new image of Southeast Asia from the perspective of a maritime nation.

A symposium series

The Foundation is holding a series of three symposiums on the culture of the Asia-Pacific region.

A symposium on the theme "Thailand and Cultural Change" will be held November 15–16, 1994, in Nongkhai, Thailand, near the Laotian border. The first bridge over the Mekong River was recently built in this town.

A symposium on the theme "Social and Cultural Development in the Context of Economic Growth in Asia" will be held November 24–26, 1994, in Hanoi.

And finally, a symposium on the theme "Cultural Issues in Asia and the Pacific in the Twenty-first Century" will be held January 9–11, 1994, in Tokyo.

Reports on these symposiums will appear in the May 1995 issue of the *Occasional Report*. (Toichi Makita, Program Officer, International Division)

Changes in Incentive Grants for Young Indonesian Researchers

The Incentive Grants for Young Indonesian Researchers Program was inaugurated in 1987 with the aim of providing opportunities for young Indonesian researchers to conduct research and improve their research abilities. Two broad research themes were established: research leading to a reappraisal of Indo-

nesia's indigenous cultures, traditions, and history and research contributing to an understanding of the rapid social and cultural changes occurring in the country. Applications are publicly solicited, and application forms may be completed in the Indonesian language.

The program aroused intense interest among young Indonesian researchers. In fiscal 1987 a total of 237 applications were received. In fiscal 1993 the number reached 1,144, and 64 grants were awarded. Researchers have been given opportunities to announce their research findings, and some reports have been of very high caliber.

Priority topics introduced

Although the program has grown smoothly thus far, the Foundation decided to introduce four priority topics this fiscal year and accept applications for projects that focus on those topics. The topics are land-use and -ownership issues, labor issues, changes in religious consciousness, and development of urban cultures. In addition to applications for research on these topics, applications for research for M.A. theses and doctoral dissertations were accepted as in the past.

One reason for introducing priority topics was that the increased number of grant applications had overwhelmed the Foundation's clerical staff. It was hoped that tightening the program's focus would reduce the number of applications received. Another aim in tightening the program's focus was to make it easier to give the grantees more guidance, since it is clear that having senior researchers guide grantees greatly improves the quality of their final reports.

The four topics chosen represent recent trends in the research themes of grant applications, social issues that have attracted attention recently in Indonesia, and socially oriented topics on which research can be concluded within one year. Land-use and -ownership issues encompasses research that addresses problems related to land expropriated in conjunction with economic development, problems related to land that has been owned according to customary law but whose ownership is not registered, and problems of determining ownership of land held in common. Research on labor issues addresses a variety of problems, for example, the protection of workers as industrialization and technological innovation proceed. Research under the topic changes in religious consciousness deals with changes in religious attitudes at various levels of society resulting from modernization. Finally, research on the development of

urban cultures explores the new cultures developing in cities as a result of modernization.

Fiscal 1994 grant awards

Applications for fiscal 1994 were accepted from April 1 to June 1, and a total of 1,049 were received. Of these, 221 were for research on land-use and -ownership issues, 155 for labor issues, 181 for changes in religious consciousness, 253 for the development of urban cultures, 197 for M.A. thesis research, and 42 for doctoral dissertation research. The number of applications received was somewhat lower than last year. Yet because the development of urban cultures encompasses a broad range of research and because some researchers submitted applications for research on themes allied to the priority topics, even though such research lay outside their disciplines, the number of applications did not decrease as much as expected. It is anticipated that applications for research in areas outside the researchers' disciplines will decline in the future.

The applications were screened by a selection committee consisting of Indonesian researchers and two Japanese researchers. Two committee members were assigned to each topic and evaluated every application under their respective topics individually. The applications were then reviewed by the entire committee and the final recommendations for grant awards decided, with a view to maintaining balance among the topics. A total of ¥12.2 million was awarded for 64 research projects: 10 each in the areas of land-use and -ownership issues and changes in religious consciousness, 11 each for labor issues and the development of urban cultures, 19 for M.A. thesis research, and 3 for doctoral dissertation research.

Because priority topics were defined, the research themes of the applications were more focused than in the past. Many themes were socially significant and highly interesting. The quality of the research, however, remained about the same as in previous years, and a number of applications were poorly thought out, lacked tight focus, or had unclear methodology. For these reasons the Foundation decided that beginning this year, grant recipients will be invited to a seminar two months after the beginning of the grant period to receive advice on research plans.

An evaluation of this program, including review of the use of priority topics and of the choice of topics, will be undertaken in two or three years. In the meantime we will monitor the effectiveness of this new approach. (*Yumiko Himemoto, Program Officer, International Division*)

"Know Our Neighbors" Books

Following are brief reviews of two books recently published under the Toyota Foundation's "Know Our Neighbors" Translation-Publication Program in Japan, which supports the translation and publication in Japanese of Southeast and South Asian works of literary, scholarly, and social significance.

Nuskahhae-wafa. Faiz Ahmad Faiz. Trans. Koji Kataoka. Published in Japanese as *Faizu Shishu* (The Poetry of Faiz). Tokyo: Kashinsha, 1994. 204 pp. ISBN 4-7602-1268-x.

Faiz Ahmad Faiz was born in 1911 in India and died in 1984 in Pakistan. During his lifetime seven anthologies and one complete collection of his poems were published, and all are still popular in Pakistan.



A street scene in Karachi, former capital of Pakistan

Although his works have been translated into many languages, including English, French, and German, this is the first appearance of his work in Japanese.

Faiz's poetry expresses his aspiration for freedom, depicts the sufferings of his compatriots, and protests social injustice in the hope of ending poverty, hunger, and inequality. His poems evoke readers' sympathy because they reflect his opposition to neocolonialism and his understanding of the anguish of oppressed peoples and those banished from their countries in Asia, Palestine, and Africa. Indeed, these are the people for whom he wrote.

In translating his work into Japanese, care was taken to preserve the distinctive qualities and imagery of Faiz's poetry and to avoid unnatural expressions arising from differences in manners and customs.

Nhung Thien duong mu. Duong Thu Huong. Trans. Sakae Kato. Published in Japanese as *Kyoko no Rakuen* (Paradise of the Blind). Tokyo: Dandansha Co., Ltd., 1994. 344 pp. ISBN 4-7952-6509-7.

This work is a novel about despotism and family ties in Vietnam. Its protagonist, Hang, is a Vietnamese woman sent to work in a small city in the former Soviet Union. The story unfolds in the form of reminiscences as Hang travels to Moscow by train to meet her uncle, her mother's younger brother, a senior member of the Communist Party.

The story flashes back to the land reform of the 1950s, when Hang's uncle, who headed a reform brigade, denounced her father's family as landlords. Though born later, Hang too is swept up in the tide of the times, and, in a land where blood ties are strong, each member of her family is carried to an unforeseen fate.

Published in Vietnam in 1988, this novel has already been published in translation in France, the United States, Germany, and the Netherlands. It will be published in translation in Italy this year. Most of its foreign publishers are well-known major houses, and it has been widely reviewed in leading newspapers and magazines.

Perhaps the book is so popular because it deals with the land reform program, a subject that has been taboo. Its lyricism must also explain why it struck a chord among readers. Western readers find its descriptions of life on the outskirts of Hanoi, traditional manners and customs in rural communities, and scenes in Russia fresh and exotic. A reviewer for the *Los Angeles Times* called it an "astonishingly powerful and overwhelmingly sad novel."

The author was jailed for seven months in 1991 for antiestablishment speech and activities and was expelled from both the Communist Party and the Writers' Association. Recently, however, her situation has been improving.

This is the most recent translation of a Vietnamese novel into Japanese.

Recent Publications Based on Foundation-Supported Research

Zarzuelang Iloko: Mga Salin sa Filipino (Zarzuela of the Ilokano: Translations in Pilipino). Mario G. R. Rosal, ed. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 1994. 434 pp. ISBN 971-550-100-1. In Pilipino.

In this work zarzuela, traditional Spanish musical plays, transmitted by the Ilokano people are trans-

lated into Pilipino, the national language of the Philippines.

Understanding of their cultural heritage is essential in the Filipino people's efforts to build a nation and establish a national identity. The main elements of the Filipino cultural heritage are literatures in diverse languages. In establishing Tagalog-based Pilipino as the national language, care must be taken to preserve the literary traditions of other languages as well.

Ateneo de Manila University Press is conducting a project to translate and publish in Pilipino works of literature written or orally transmitted in the languages of the Philippines' eight major non-Tagalog-speaking ethnic groups. This is one of the twelve books to be published under that project to enable people throughout the Philippines to partake of the richness of local literatures.

The Cultivation of Vorstenlands Tobacco in Surakarta Residency and Besuki Tobacco in Besuki Residency and Its Impact on the Peasant Economy and Society: 1860-1960. Soegijanto Padmo. Yogyakarta: Aditya Media, 1994. 259 pp. ISBN 979-539-043-0. In English.

From the nineteenth through the early twentieth century, colonial rule by the Dutch and the growth of plantation-based industry caused major changes in Java's agricultural economy and rural society. Case studies using primary historical sources in the General State Archives and other archives in the Netherlands have clarified the local histories of these changes. The majority of such studies, however, focus on the impact of the sugar industry, and studies of other plantation crops are rare.

The present book deals with tobacco plantations in several areas of central and eastern Java that were strongly affected by the tobacco industry, concentrating on Surakarta and Besuki residencies, where the impact of tobacco plantations on the rural economy was as strong as that of sugar cane plantations. Through case studies of these residencies, the book elucidates the effect of tobacco plantations on the economy and society of Java.

In this book the author demonstrates that in these residencies cash earnings from the rental of laborers' land for cash-crop cultivation and wages earned by laborers' wives and children working on the plantations contributed to the development of both agriculture and nonagricultural sectors, such as the retailing of agricultural products and food processing.

This book is the fruit of a project that was supported by international grants in fiscal 1988, 1989, and

1990. Publication of the book was supported by an international grant in fiscal 1993.

Amerika ni Ikiru Nihon-teki Seisan Shisutemu: Genchi Kojo no "Tekiyo" to "Tekio." Tetsuo Abo et al. Tokyo: Toyo Keizai Shimposha, 1991. 294 pp. ISBN 4-492-52066-x. In Japanese.

Hybrid Factory: The Japanese Production System in the United States. Tetsuo Abo, comp. London: Oxford University Press, 1994. 318 pp. ISBN 0-19-507974-4. In English.

Nihon Kigyo no Amerika Genchi Seisan—Jidosha, Denki: Nihon-teki Keiei no "Tekiyo" to "Tekio" (Local Production of Japanese Automobile and Electrical Manufacturers in the United States: The "Application" and "Adaptation" of Japanese-Style Management), compiled by Tetsuo Abo and coresearchers, was published by Toyo Keizai Shimposha, Tokyo, in 1988. *Amerika ni Ikiru Nihon-teki Seisan Shisutemu: Genchi Kojo no "Tekiyo" to "Tekio"* and its English adaptation *Hybrid Factory: The Japanese Production System in the United States* are the fruit of research conducted under a fiscal 1987 research grant that expanded the scope of the original study, presented in the earlier book.

The research examined thirty-four Japanese automobile and electrical manufacturers in the United States. Five researchers conducted extensive interviews and on-site observation. Each manufacturer's degree of "adaptation" and "application" was evaluated in six areas, using a model of international management-system transfer developed by the research team. The researchers quantified and analyzed the degree of adaptation of Japanese-style management and its local application to work organization and administration, production control, procurement, group consciousness, labor relations, and parent-subsidiary relations. The evaluation criteria had been developed earlier through on-site surveys of Japanese factories in Japan and American factories in the United States.

Through concrete quantitative analyses of manufacturers' degree of hybridization (or local application, with 0 representing total adaptation and 5 total application), the researchers examined the extent to which manufacturers' characteristics and activities reflect their degree of hybridization. This unique approach is a significant feature of their study. The average degree of hybridization of Japanese manufacturers in the United States was determined to be 3.3. The researchers give Japanese manufacturers high marks for their efforts in application.

Foundation Grants for Fiscal 1994

At its seventy-second meeting, held on September 22, the Toyota Foundation's Board of Directors approved 259 grants, totaling ¥381.43 million, for fiscal 1994. (The total is expected to rise to ¥465 million when further projects are approved by the Board of Directors next March.) Following is a breakdown of the grants by program.

Research Grant Program: The key theme under which this program has awarded grants for the past ten years was changed this fiscal year. The new key theme is "Creating a Society with Pluralistic Values." Under this key theme, the program focuses on four subthemes: (1) mutual understanding and coexistence of diverse cultures; (2) proposals for a new social system: building a civil society; (3) the global environment and the potential for human survival; and (4) science and technology in the age of civil society.

There are two categories of research grant: Category A for individual research and Category B for joint research. A total of 788 applications were received, and 51 grants, totaling ¥182.7 million, were approved.

In Category A, 27 grants were approved. In Category B, 24 grants were approved: 8 under subtheme 1, 8 under subtheme 2, and a total of 8 under subthemes 3 and 4. The percentage of applications approved was 6.5 percent, continuing the intense competition seen in previous years. As a result of establishing four subthemes, most project proposals were tightly focused.

Grant Program for Citizen Activities: Applications for citizen-activity grants are accepted, reviewed, and approved twice a year, in September and March. In the first period this year 117 applications were received, and 9 grants, totaling ¥17 million, were approved.

International Grant Program: This program awards grants for research projects aimed at preserving and encouraging the indigenous cultures of Southeast Asia and conducted by indigenous researchers. A total of 94 grants, worth ¥95.5 million, were approved, including 9 incentive grants for young researchers in Southeast Asian studies.

Incentive Grants for Young Indonesian Researchers Program: This program awards grants to Indonesian researchers under thirty-six years of age for research in the social sciences, broadly defined. Beginning this fiscal year, applications are solicited under two basic themes. A total of 1,049 applications were received, and 64 grants, worth ¥12.17 million, were approved. See page 9 for further details.

"Know Our Neighbors" Programs: These programs award grants to assist the translation and publication of Southeast and South Asian books in Japanese and of Southeast and South Asian as well as Japanese books in Southeast and South Asian languages. Of the 23 grants, totaling ¥31.4 million, approved this year, 9 were for the Program in Japan and 14 for the Program in Other Asian Countries.

Other grant-making activities: A total of ¥27.08 million was approved for 18 grants in the Foundation Initiative Grant Program and the Communications-Supplement Grant Program.

Announcement

At the nineteenth meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Toyota Foundation, held on June 29, 1994, thirteen directors were appointed, and at the seventy-first meeting of the Board of Directors, held on the same day, the chairman, president, and managing director were elected. The members of the new Board of Directors are as follows:

Eiji Toyoda, Chairman

Honorary Chairman of the Board, Toyota Motor Corp.

Soichi Iijima, President

President, Aichi Arts Center; Professor Emeritus, Nagoya University and Hiroshima University

Chimaki Kurokawa, Managing Director

Isao Amagi, Director

Special Adviser to the Minister of Education, Science, and Culture

Yoneo Ishii, Director

Professor, Sophia University; Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University

Hideo Kamio, Director

Chairman of the Board, The Chiyoda Fire and Marine Insurance Co., Ltd.

Ichiro Kato, Director

Principal, Seijo Gakuen; Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo

Toshiro Kusaba, Director

Senior Adviser to the Board, The Sakura Bank, Ltd.

Kiyoshi Matsumoto, Director

Counsellor, Toyota Motor Corp.

Masamitsu Oshima, Director

Counsellor, The Medical Information System Development Center

Seimi Tominaga, Director

Honorary Chairman of the Board, The Japanese Council of Traffic Science

Tatsuro Toyoda, Director

President, Toyota Motor Corp.

Hideo Yamaguchi, Director

Executive Director, Foundation Library Center of Japan

About the Foundation

The Toyota Foundation, a private nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to the goals of realizing greater human fulfillment and contributing to the development of a human-oriented society, was endowed in October 1974 by the Toyota Motor Corporation.

The Foundation's total endowment is approximately ¥11.4 billion (roughly \$110 million). Chartered by the Prime Minister's Office, the Foundation relies on its endowment income. The decision making of the Foundation, governed by its Board of Directors, is independent of the corporate policies of the subscribing corporation or of any other institution.

Through various programs the Foundation provides grants for research and projects related to the human and natural environments, social welfare, education and culture, and other fields. Among the programs is the Research Grant Program, which is responsible for projects that try to identify and solve problems faced by contemporary society and that focus on the following four priority areas: mutual understanding and coexistence of diverse cultures; proposals for a new social system: building a civil society; the global environment and the potential for human survival; and science and technology in the age of civil society.

The International Grant Program: Southeast Asia Program awards grants for projects that are aimed at preserving and encouraging the indigenous cultures of Southeast Asia and are conducted by indigenous researchers. This program also encourages international joint research projects conducted by Southeast Asian researchers to nurture Southeast Asian studies. The "Know Our Neighbors" Programs support the translation and publication of Southeast and South Asian works in Japanese and vice versa, and of Southeast and South Asian works in other Southeast and South Asian languages.

The Toyota Foundation welcomes response from readers of the *Occasional Report*. Comments and questions should be addressed to the International Division, The Toyota Foundation, Shinjuku Mitsui Building 37F, 2-1-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-04, Japan. The articles in the *Occasional Report* reflect the authors' opinions and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Foundation.

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