

OCCASIONAL REPORT No. 23

THE TOYOTA FOUNDATION July 1997

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A Dictionary of Old Northern Thai

Studies of the Lan Na culture of northern Thailand, including its palm-leaf manuscripts, became popular in Thailand about 25 years ago. Chiangmai University, Payap University, and Chiangmai Teachers College (now the Chiangmai Rajabhat Institute) introduced undergraduate and graduate courses in Lan Na studies and encouraged teachers to undertake research in this field.

The genesis of the project

One important study of palm-leaf manuscripts was a project conducted by the staff of Chiangmai University, which produced the *Catalogue of Palm-leaf Texts on Microfilm at the Social Science Research Institute, Chiangmai University, 1978–1990*. Another project, "Historical and Textual Studies of Old Northern Thai Palm-leaf Manuscripts," conducted by Dr. Anan Ganjanapan and me, was supported by grants from the Toyota Foundation in fiscal 1980 and 1981. That project generated 1,000 pages of translation into

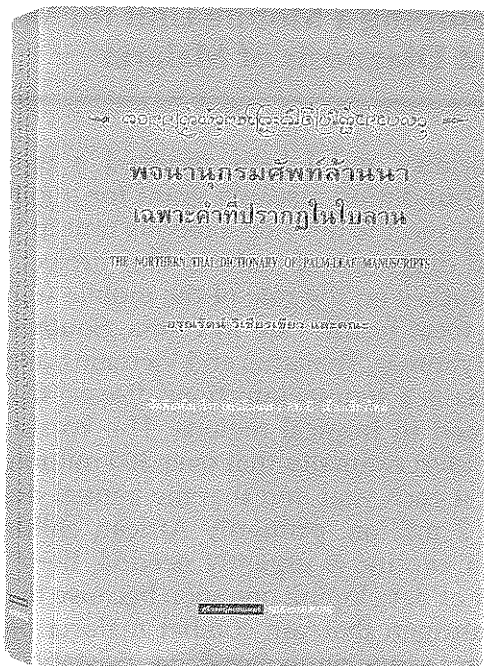
modern Thai of texts from 16 palm-leaf manuscripts.

The latter research made us realize that we needed to compile a dictionary of words found in palm-leaf manuscripts, since none existed. There were many old words we had difficulty in understanding, since they were no longer in common use or had changed in meaning. So we agreed to apply to the Toyota Foundation for grants to support compilation of such a dictionary. We received grants for this project, "Compilation and Publication of an Ancient Northern Thai Vocabulary from Palm-leaf Manuscripts," in fiscal 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1989, for which we will be forever grateful to the Foundation. The dictionary was finally published in 1997.

The process of compilation

First Dr. Anan and I thought about the scholars who could collaborate with us. We invited 16 scholars, including researchers from Chiangmai University, Payap University, and Chiangmai Teachers College, as well as local scholars. We formed two committees. The first, with 17 members, was the working group, and the second, with 18 members, was a supervisory group. Professor Prasert Na Nagara accepted our invitation to head both committees, and we greatly appreciate his help. The committee members included experts in phonetics, old scripts, the meanings of archaic words, and English translation.

We discussed the project with the committees, including the content and organization of the dictionary, and Dr. Anan offered to make a survey of dictionaries to determine the best content and organization. We eventually agreed that each entry would include the original word found in palm-leaf texts in boldface; the word in Lan Na script; the word in modern Thai script; pronunciation and phonetic transcription; function and meaning or meanings in Thai and English; sentences from palm-leaf texts; titles and page numbers of the texts used; and the word's root, such as Shan, Lao, or Burmese. The entries were to be in modern Thai alphabetical order. Dr. Hans Pentz of the Social Science Research Institute of Chiangmai University, a member of the supervisory committee, has praised the finished work as an ideal dictionary—or, as he would prefer, thesaurus.



The dictionary, published this year

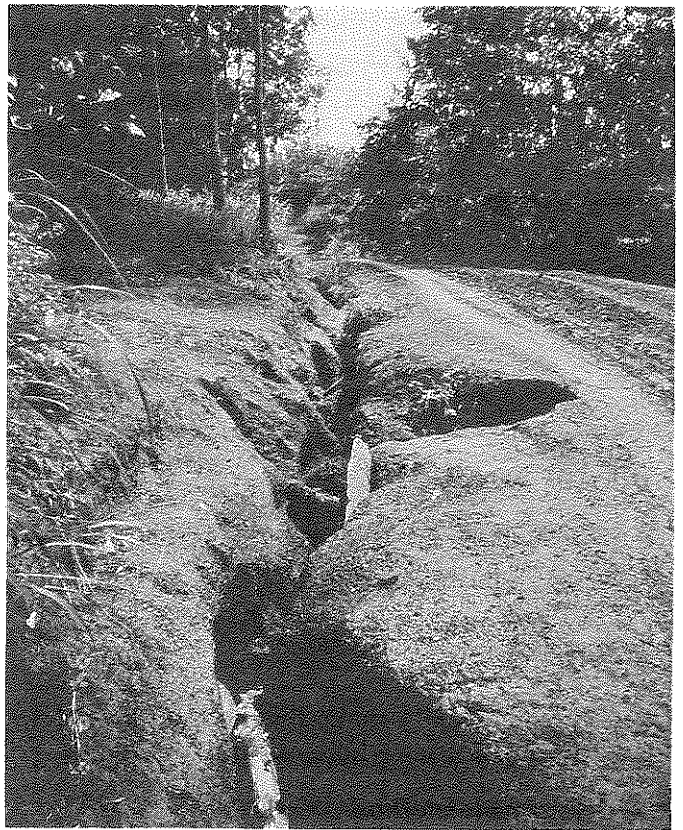
ferred to as a "counterattack" by malaria. This has forced WHO to abandon its malaria-eradication program and switch to a strategy of early diagnosis and treatment with drugs.

Impediments to rapid diagnosis

In malaria-endemic regions, however, the only available method of diagnosis has been Giemsa staining, a century-old technique that makes early diagnosis difficult. This technique requires skilled laboratory technicians. Training in this method is time consuming, making it difficult to obtain the number of personnel needed. What is more, villages where malaria is prevalent frequently have neither nurses nor lab technicians, let alone doctors and microscopes. It is futile to urge early diagnosis in such places.

Where blood tests cannot be performed, patients are given antimalarial drugs simply on the basis of clinical symptoms (fever). The patients themselves believe that any fever is caused by malaria, and I have often seen patients get angry when they are not given antimalarial drugs. But administering such drugs for fevers from other causes may lead to the development of drug-resistant malaria parasites, thus creating another a major problem.

Even if a village is lucky enough to have a malaria clinic and a lab technician, the clinic is swamped with patients. Diagnosis may take a day or more, and patients are frequently simply given medicine without ever receiving their test results, which means that antimalarial drugs are administered to patients who have tested negative.



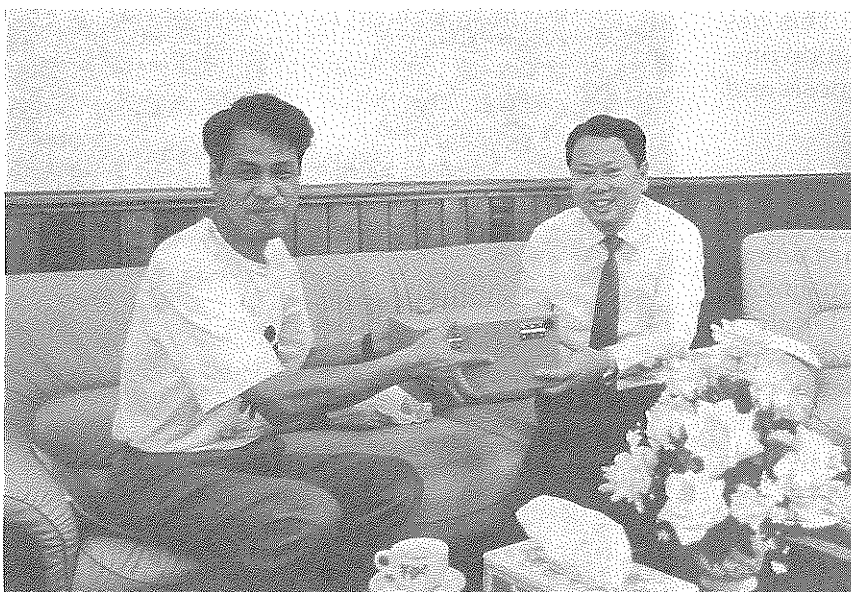
A road in a mountainous area of Vietnam during the monsoon season

If these problems are to be solved, it is necessary to develop simple diagnostic tests that do not require a microscope, as well as systems for getting the results and proper medication to patients promptly. One apparently promising approach is the dipstick method of diagnosing falciparum malaria without a microscope. It has, however, turned out to be problematic. For one thing, it is costly. For another, it cannot diagnose the other three types of malaria. Moreover, it causes false negative responses in over 5% of falciparum malaria cases and false positive responses in nearly 20% of patients who have completed treatment, making it necessary to go back to the microscope to determine whether the person has been infected by a drug-resistant falciparum malaria parasite.

Recent progress in molecular biology has established genetic methodology for diagnosing malaria. We have also proposed a simple, highly refined method of genetic diagnosis, but it is expensive and takes at least five hours. Moreover, mutant strains may cause false negative test results, necessitating examination under a microscope again.



A prototype of the mobile malaria diagnostic unit in the field in Thailand, manned by laboratory technician Niphon Chuanak



The author (left) presenting a portable fluorescence microscopy system to Ponmek Dalaloy, Laotian minister of public health

Cost and complexity make this method unsuitable for tropical countries where malaria is endemic.

A quick, simple method

We have now developed a fluorochrome staining method for rapid diagnosis of malaria. With this fluorescence microscopy system, all malaria parasites emit fluorescence against a dark background, making them easy to detect within minutes. This means that patients can receive their test results immediately. What is more, the method is simple, so technicians can be trained far more quickly than with the Giemsa technique. A standard light microscope combined with an interference filter is sufficient for this system, obviating the need for an expensive fluorescence microscope. Recently a Japanese optical equipment manufacturer developed a fluorescence microscopy unit consisting of a light microscope, interference filter, and halogen light source. This can be operated on an automobile battery.

We have frequently visited many malaria-endemic countries to introduce this method and simultaneously study the molecular epidemiology of malaria. In all these countries the rainy season brings large malaria outbreaks and also creates bad road conditions that impede access to malaria-infested areas. Poor transportation, lack of electricity, and the absence of facilities to test for malaria make for inferior health care in the very areas that have the largest numbers of malaria sufferers.

This has inspired us to develop a mobile unit

using the rapid diagnostic method for malaria, housed in a large four-wheel-drive vehicle. The rear portion of the vehicle will be equipped with a desk and chairs, a microscope, and a simple fluorescence microscopy system for immediate diagnosis. This mobile unit will be able to make the rounds of villages during the rainy season despite poor road conditions, facilitating early diagnosis and treatment. We are confident that it will be very useful in improving local health care. We would like to stress the innovative nature of this method, which is the outgrowth of our long and anguished experience.

The Foundation research grant will cover the travel and living expenses of the researchers in each target country as well as miscellaneous costs, such as gratuities to those who cooperate in the project and to drivers. A Grant-in-Aid for International Scientific Research: Field Survey from the Japanese Ministry of Education will cover the travel and living expenses of the Japanese researchers. (*Fumihiko Kawamoto, lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, Nagoya University*)

Symposium on the Future of Culture

The Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, with support from the Toyota Foundation and the Asahi Shimbun, sponsored a symposium, "The Future of Cultures," on March 15 and 16 at Hamarikyu Asahi Hall, Tokyo. Initially proposed by Junzo Kawada, a professor at the Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, the symposium was designed as a follow-up to the January 1995 Toyota Foundation twentieth-anniversary symposium "Cultural Issues in the Asia-Pacific Region in the Twenty-first Century: Prospects for International Cooperation," at which Professor Kawada had delivered the keynote address.

The program included four sessions, dealing with the topics "Migration: Hybridization and Creation," "Development: Globalization and Nationalism," "Minority: Identity and Diversity," and "Language:

Unification and Multiplication." These were followed by a general discussion and a special lecture, "Whither Cultures?" by Yale University Professor Sara Suleri Goodyear. The discussants included 17 faculty members of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, whose fields of specialization ranged the gamut of global cultures and languages, including those of North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. In addition, 11 specialists were invited from other universities. Their handling of the various topics was professional, interdisciplinary, and flexible.

A full schedule, keen debate, and many questions from the more than 300 people attending made this a most lively symposium. (*Toichi Makita, Program Officer*)

Conference of Asian Foundations And Organizations

The Conference of Asian Foundations and Organizations was held in Tokyo February 13–15 under the joint sponsorship of 18 foundations and nongovernmental organizations from Japan and other Asian countries. Attending were representatives of grant-making foundations (both private and government related), other foundations, research institutes, NGOs, and other Asian nonprofit organizations engaged in international activities. The objectives of the conference were to provide a forum for networking among the program staffs of similar organizations in the Asian region and to explore possibilities for joint projects.

The participants included 72 delegates—36 from Japan and 36 from other Asian countries—and 13 observers from six countries, among them Australia, Japan, and the United States. In principle, participants paid their own travel expenses, while the cost of their stay in Japan was covered by the Japan Foundation Asia Center. The Toyota Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation provided travel grants for NGO representatives and others unable to pay their own way.

The conference built on a survey of Asian international nonprofit organizations undertaken in February and March 1996. The survey, conducted under the leadership of the program staffs of the Japanese foundations cosponsoring the conference,

covered 10 Asian countries and regions. It examined the current state of Asian philanthropy and explored the possibilities for cooperation among foundations. (A limited number of copies of the survey report, in Japanese, are available from the Toyota Foundation.)

Three areas for cooperation

On the basis of a preparatory meeting in Bangkok, three areas were delineated for assessing the feasibility of cooperation among foundations and NGOs in Asia: environmental issues, civil society, and cultural exchange and cooperation. The conference participants divided into three groups to consider specific joint projects. Following are the results of the groups' discussions.

Environmental issues: The environment group decided to conduct two joint projects. The first is a study and evaluation of environmental policies and action programs already implemented in Asia. The second is a three-year project to consider an integrated approach to sustainable development that also addresses the questions of fairness, the environment and development, and quality of life. The project will stress the relationship of water, solid waste, ecotourism, climate change, energy, recyclable resources, and other issues rather than treat them as separate issues, examining them in an integrated fashion from the above three perspectives.

Civil society: The civil society group also decided to carry out two joint projects. The first, a research and survey program, aims to elucidate the state of existing projects related to citizen activities in individual countries. The group will also undertake case studies of the involvement of government, business, and citizen organizations in the creation of a civil society.

The second project is a program to reinforce citizen organizations. Its goals are to strengthen "intermediaries" and improve the ability of citizen organizations to procure funds and train personnel. In addition, an information network-building project will be undertaken.

Cultural exchange and cooperation: Discussion in the culture group focused on the economic base for ongoing cultural activities. Participants arrived at a common perception that some groups engaging in cultural activities (groups of artists and groups preserving and transmitting community cultural tradi-

tions) are at a disadvantage within the broad framework of national policies and market forces. It was agreed that when these cultural activities are judged to be valuable to society, foundations and NGOs should act as facilitators or enablers so that these groups can survive in the face of policy frameworks and market forces.

The group decided to commission a survey of about 18 months' duration to study survival strategies and assistance projects of Asian cultural groups. Between 10 and 20 case studies will be conducted to examine the approaches taken to problem solving and analyze the reasons for success or failure.

The future of the conference

The conference closed with a general session at which networking among the conference participants was discussed. It was decided to consider holding a second conference, probably in an Asian country other than Japan, depending on the progress made on the above projects.

It was agreed that the committee that had organized the Tokyo conference would meet again in six months' time to assess the progress of the projects and consider convening a second conference; until a decision was reached, executive functions would rest with the Japanese side under the leadership of Tatsuya Tanami of the International House of Japan, who served as coordinator of the Tokyo conference. (*Toichi Makita, Program Officer*)

Reports on Joint Research With Vietnam

Four Japanese recipients of Toyota Foundation grants for joint research with Vietnamese counterparts reported on their projects at a research symposium in Tokyo on March 26. The aim was to use reports on specific joint research projects with Vietnam as the basis for information exchange among researchers and others interested in that country. Some 50 people attended, including scholars of Vietnam and representatives of grant-making foundations and nongovernmental organizations active there.

The symposium began with progress reports on four projects. Akemi Itagaki, a lecturer at Yokohama City University, reported on "An Anthropological

Study of the Role of Indigenous Medical Care in a Time of Sociocultural Change in Vietnam." Tsuyoshi Kawakami, senior researcher at the Institute for Labor Science, discussed "Participatory Approaches to Improving Vietnamese Farmers' Working Conditions and Quality of Life." Yutaka Shigeeda, a lecturer at Nihon University, spoke on "Preservation and Restoration of Historical Monuments at the Mausoleum of Emperor Minh Mang." And Yoshihiko Tokumaru, a professor at Ochanomizu University, talked about "An Investigation into the Past, Present, and Future of the *Nha Nhac* Court Music of Vietnam."

The reports were followed by a general discussion moderated by Yoshiharu Tsuboi, then a professor at Hokkaido University (since April a professor at Waseda University). The wide variety of opinions expressed and questions raised made the symposium a great success. (*Kyoichi Tanaka, Program Officer*)

A Decade of Incentive Grants for Young Indonesian Researchers

For 10 years the Toyota Foundation's Incentive Grants for Young Indonesian Researchers Program has provided small grants for individual research in the social sciences and humanities, fields where research opportunities and opportunities are limited in Indonesia. Applications for fiscal 1997 were solicited in March and April, and 886 were received. The selection committee is due to meet in August, with final approval by the Foundation's Board of Directors scheduled for September.

Following is a brief review of the program's development so far and a report on a follow-up survey of past grant recipients conducted last year.

Program trends

When the program was launched in fiscal 1987, there were 273 applicants. The number rose steadily thereafter, peaking at 1,034 in fiscal 1996. This seems to reflect the difficult environment facing Indonesian researchers, especially with regard to funding, coupled with a rapid growth in the number of graduate students. That the program is open to researchers in nongovernmental organizations as well as at universities and that applications may be submitted in Indonesian are other factors behind the increase. As the number of applicants has risen, so of course has

the number of grant recipients. In fiscal 1987 grants totaling Rp 56,545,000 were awarded to 17 researchers; last fiscal year 56 researchers received a total of Rp 248,228,000 in grants.

During this decade the Foundation has not only expanded the program but also reviewed and revised its administration. First, to facilitate processing of the large number of applications it was decided that beginning in fiscal 1993 the program would be administered in cooperation with the Yayasan Ilmu Ilmu Sosial (Foundation for Social Sciences) in Jakarta. Until then recipients had been selected in Japan by a committee of Japanese researchers. This function was shifted to a committee in Indonesia made up primarily of Indonesian researchers.

Second, it was decided to hold frequent workshops for grant recipients beginning in fiscal 1998. These provide young researchers with opportunities to benefit from the advice of more experienced researchers, which is indispensable to the success of the grant recipients' research projects. Two- or three-day workshops are currently held twice a year.

Third, in fiscal 1994 the focus of the program's two key themes, "Reevaluation of Indigenous Culture and History" and "Scholarly Analysis of Rapidly Changing Society," was sharpened, with priority being given to four subthemes: land use and ownership issues, labor issues, changes in religious attitudes, and development of culture in urban society.

Follow-up survey

After a decade, the program is approaching a turning point. The Foundation is now undertaking a comprehensive evaluation to provide a basis for considering future directions. As part of this endeavor, last year follow-up questionnaires were sent to 314 researchers who had received grants between fiscal 1987 and 1994. Responses were received from 117, or about 40%.

The questionnaire stressed three areas. The first focused on reasons for applying. Nearly half the respondents said that, given the nature of their research, it would have been difficult to obtain other funding or that research grants they had already received from other sources were inadequate. Many respondents pointed to the difficulty Indonesians face in getting funding for research in the social sciences and humanities, an indication that the situation has changed little since the program was inaugurated.

The second area had to do with research activities. Over 90% of respondents said that the workshops

had been very helpful to their research. This underscores the importance of guidance for young researchers.

The third area dealt with research results. The replies indicated that 70% of respondents felt they had achieved their research goals. For nearly 50%, the project for which they had received a grant had enabled them to earn a master's degree or doctorate. On the other hand, 30% of respondents were unable to determine whether their research goals had been achieved. One factor behind this uncertainty may be the recipients' awareness of their weakness in research theory, something that has also been pointed out by senior researchers serving as commentators at workshops.

The results of the survey suggested that the program has achieved some success in its aim of fostering young Indonesian researchers in the social sciences and humanities. It also reminded the program staff of the indispensability of careful guidance for young researchers in addition to the provision of grants and of the need to devise measures to further improve guidance. (*Yumiko Himemoto, Program Officer, International Division*)

Grant Activities for Fiscal 1997 And Endowment Increase

At its eightieth meeting, held on March 25, the Toyota Foundation's Board of Directors approved the Foundation's grant activity program and budget for fiscal 1997. At the end of March it was decided that the Foundation's endowment would be increased by the Toyota Motor Corporation. Because this is to be done in phases, however, there are no major changes to existing grant programs in fiscal 1997.

As in fiscal 1996, a tight budget was approved. The ¥429 million allocated for grants represents a slight increase over last fiscal year's ¥407 million, allowing the effects of yen depreciation to be reflected in programs related to Southeast Asia, including the International Grant Program, the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program, the Incentive Grants for Young Indonesian Researchers Program, and the "Know Our Neighbors" Translation-Publication Programs. The budget for foundation initiative grants has also been raised by ¥10 million, bringing it to ¥50 million. The Research Grant Program, programs

related to citizen activities, and communications-supplement grants remain at last fiscal year's level.

Building information infrastructure

Since the introduction of word processors in the early 1980s the Foundation has been gradually computerizing office procedures. Improvement of information infrastructure was made a separate budget item in fiscal 1995, and since then the Foundation has been steadily upgrading its information infrastructure. All staff members are now provided with top-end personal computers, which are linked through a local area network that enables the joint administration of documents.

Accounting and directory-management programs developed by the Foundation have been in operation for several years. Now database applications for the various grant-making programs will be enhanced so that applications, selection, postselection handling, and other procedures can be administered more efficiently. This should also enable significant cuts in costs for outsourcing tasks in connection with the compilation of newsletters, the annual report, and other publications.

Specific objectives in fiscal 1997 include improving the bibliography of publications based on Foundation-supported research and creating an intranet that will facilitate LAN access to grant-related information.

Significance of a larger endowment

The low interest rates that have prevailed for the past several years have presented serious financial problems for all Japanese grant-making foundations that depend on endowment income for their operating funds. According to data released by the Japan Foundation Center in January, total expenditures for grants by 179 foundations peaked in fiscal 1992, after which they declined every year through fiscal 1995. The figure for fiscal 1996 will almost certainly be even lower. In keeping with this trend, the Foundation's budget for grant activities has been declining for the past few years, hindering the Foundation from meeting the high expectations of people both at home and overseas.

The decision by the Foundation's subscribing corporation to strengthen the Foundation's financial base by increasing the endowment calls for successive contributions that will eventually total ¥20 billion, raising the endowment from the present ¥11.4 billion to ¥31.4 billion. We at the Foundation intend to take this opportunity to build on the cumulative

accomplishment of the past 22 years and develop further. (*Naomichi Kamezawa, Secretary*)

Recent Publication Based on Foundation-Supported Research

Indonesia Senryoki Bunken Mokuroku (A Bibliography on the Japanese Occupation of Indonesia). Forum for Research Materials on the Japanese Occupation of Indonesia, ed. Tokyo: Ryukei Shyosha, 1996. ISBN 4-8447-8454-4.

This is a comprehensive bibliography of materials covering the period of Japanese occupation of Indonesia, March 1942 to August 1945. It includes not only books (academic and general works, memoirs, and so on), magazine articles, editorials, and essays but also testimonies and reminiscences published in the journals of Japanese comrades' societies and social organizations related to Indonesia and documents and records in the collection of the War History Department Library of the Japanese Defense Agency's National Institute for Defense Studies. English translations of the titles of all materials in the bibliography are provided, which should stimulate further research in an area that has so far been inaccessible to most non-Japanese historians.

The Forum for Research Materials on the Japanese Occupation of Indonesia, which compiled the bibliography, comprises Indonesian specialists and librarians in Japan and has been active since 1986. The forum has received several Toyota Foundation grants since fiscal 1985. Earlier it compiled a collection of interviews published as *Shogenshu: Nihongun Senroka no Indonesia* (Testimonies: Japanese Military Occupation in Indonesia) by Ryukei Shyosha in 1991. (*Masaaki Kusumi, Program Officer*)

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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