



OCCASIONAL REPORT No. 28

THE TOYOTA FOUNDATION

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Acting Together to Protect Wetlands

1999 International Wetlands Symposium at Wajiro

Hirofumi Yamashita, representative
Japan Wetlands Action Network

On October 2-3 the Toyota Foundation helped stage the 1999 International Wetlands Symposium at the Wajiro Tidal Flats in the city of Fukuoka. Attending the gathering from overseas were Dr. Peter Baye of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Kim Kyung-won and Nial Moores, respectively secretary general and international coordinator of the Korean Wetlands Alliance. Following the Seventh Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention, which was held in May in Costa Rica, this year's symposium sought ways to promote the recovery of wetlands and to support the joint survey of wetlands by Japan and South Korea.

The symposium proved most productive, generating many useful suggestions for protecting and conserving wetlands. It became clear that around the world the priority is shifting from exploiting tidal flats to allowing them to recover.

Dr. Baye gave a detailed, slide-assisted presentation on an ecologically balanced plan for the revival of tidal wetlands on the central California coast. It has been 25 years since the United States passed laws to protect its wetlands, and in that time development projects threatening them have become rare. Reviving wetlands is, however, still a matter of trial and error. Even so, Dr. Baye described one example of a place that used to be salt flats where, by introducing sea water, within one year salt marshes had been revitalized and clapper rails had returned. According to Baye, successful wetland recovery depends on keeping records of what kinds of plant and animal life once inhabited the area and making these benchmarks one target for recovery.

Mr. Kim from South Korea said that development and nature preservation initiatives in

Japan were influencing his country. He urged Japan and South Korea to strengthen ties in the field of nature conservation activities, for example through the exchange of data.

Next I would like to give an outline of South Korean efforts to preserve wetlands.

The Largest Tidal Wetlands in the World

The southern and western Yellow Sea coasts of South Korea are a complex expanse of ria shoreline, the largest area of tidal flats in the world. At a total area of 2,800 square kilometers, it accounts for 3% of the land of South Korea, an area about five times as large as Japan's 510 square kilometers of remaining wetlands. It is also a major stopover for many migratory birds in Asia. Moreover, with a tidal range of 3 to 9 meters these flats are vital to marine industries, such as fishing, that provide a livelihood to local people.

I accompanied members of the Kyushu-Ryukyu Wetlands Action Network on a three-day visit to South Korea from January 15, 1999. The aim was to take a look at South Korea's tidal flats, how they were being exploited, and the activities of NGOs, as well as to examine the possibility of establishing a joint Japan-South Korea wetlands conservation network.

We found that South Korea's tidal areas, like those of the Ariake Sea, consist of diverse marine ecosystems, including mud flats, sandy flats, and mixtures of both. At low tide a huge expanse of flats stretches as far as the eye can see in every direction. However, the current development situation is disastrous. The



Protesting land reclamation at the Saemankeum flats, South Korea.

difference in scale compared with Japan is immeasurable. We saw the new international airport site at Yung Jong Do, where construction work is at an advanced stage, and Shihwa Lake, which has been enclosed by a dike for land reclamation, just like Isahaya Bay in Japan. We also witnessed attempts to close off about 41,000 hectares of land for reclamation with a 33-kilometer bank at Saemankeum.

The Saemankeum land reclamation project is the biggest such scheme in the world. We met some fishermen on their way back from gathering clams, which incidentally were much larger than those found in Japan. They said that all of them are exported via Pusan to Japan. Describing the richness of the tidal flats, the fishermen explained how the money they make from fishing pays for their children's school fees. The fishermen are profoundly linked to the land that is being reclaimed, yet the government is trying to convince them to accept development. This is surprisingly similar to the current situation in Japan.

Failed Reclamation in the Shihwa Area

Shihwa Lake is on the Yellow Sea coast about 40 kilometers southwest of Seoul. This 6,100-hectare reservoir was created with 12.5 kilometers of embankments as part of the development of 17,300 hectares of tidal flats—an area 4.9 times as large as that reclaimed at Isahaya Bay. A total of 10,322 hectares of reclaimed land was to be developed in this massive project, including 499 hectares for agricultural use and 5,332 hectares as an urban industrial zone, and the reservoir water was to be used in those areas. The construction work began in 1987, the reservoir boundaries were closed off in 1994, and the project was completed in 1996.

Two years after being closed off, the reservoir's water quality had plummeted drastically. What is more, waste water from factories that had been built in the area was polluted with heavy metals, such as cadmium, chrome, copper, and lead. This made the water unsuitable for use in agriculture or industry. Satellite photos showed that the lake was a blackish color, making the extent of the pollution blindingly obvious. In 1997 the government had no option but to try to dilute the water by opening the sluice gate and introducing seawater; eventually, in November 1998, it formally abandoned its efforts to keep the lakewater nonsaline and usable.

Although the sluice was opened, at 50 meters across it is too narrow for such a large reservoir, and the water quality has not improved much. Damage

caused by the contaminated water has begun to appear in coastal fisheries. For this reason, nature conservation groups and fishermen have opposed the opening of the sluice, but they are without recourse, and the situation is growing ever more severe. As a result of the development project, the government is now confronted with the difficult task of cleaning the polluted lake and securing new sources of water for agriculture and industry.

Wetland Conservation Efforts in Korea

During our tour we saw that efforts to preserve tidal wetlands in South Korea are being pursued far more vigorously than in Japan. The group whose members acted as our guides, the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement, has 34 regional bases and is the largest NGO in the country. It has over 50,000 members involved in its activities, and cooperates with an extensive network of research groups.

The South Korean government is hurriedly formulating policies to conserve wetlands. In June 1998, for example, a decision was taken to halt a large-scale development scheme at Mokpo on the southwest coast. South Korea became a signatory to the Ramsar Convention in 1997, and, unlike Japan, as early as December 1998 it had enacted a wetlands protection law, which, in the spirit of the convention, clarifies the state's responsibility for preserving wetlands. The law came into force in August 1999, and a joint government-private sector committee was established to review the Saemankeum development project.

The Japanese group and the KFEM jointly adopted the Saemankeum Declaration, the main points of which are as follows:

- Korea's Saemankeum reclamation project is the largest and most destructive ongoing tidal flat reclamation project in the world. This is particularly egregious in light of recent documentation clarifying the fact that the tidal flats of the Saemankeum region are among the most valuable tidal flat ecosystems in the world.
- The tidal flats and marine ecosystems of Japan and Korea share the same species of fish, waterbirds, and benthic organisms, and the two regions have many similarities, both ecologically and culturally.
- Over the past 50 years, the once vast tidal flats of both countries have been destroyed through reclamation projects, which have thereby led to the loss of habitat for the region's fish and migratory birds. Japan's Isahaya Bay and Korea's Shihwa Lake are representative of such destructive projects.
- We call on the Korean government and Japanese

government to cancel all plans to landfill and reclaim Japan's Fujimae tidal flat and Korea's Saemankeum tidal flats, which are the most important tidal flats in the respective countries, as well as to recognize all remaining tidal flats as conservation areas. Further, we call for the opening of the Isahaya Bay seawall gates in order to restore the destroyed tidal flat there.

Taking this declaration as a starting point, Japanese and Korean NGOs have joined forces to conduct an investigation into the plight of South Korea's tidal flats. The project is attracting much attention among NGOs all over East Asia.

NGO Cooperation: the Way of the Future

At this year's Ramsar Convention conference in Costa Rica, participants adopted a historic resolution on the preservation of intertidal wetlands and their wise utilization. This resolution reaffirms the wealth of life that is found in wetlands and the fact that many people depend on the resources of the wetlands for their livelihoods, and asks the signatories to preserve the wetlands' biodiversity. Specifically, it notes that Japan and South Korea, as can be seen from the Isahaya Bay and Saemankeum cases, have shown a lack of consideration of the long-term value of wetlands. The resolution requests signatory countries to review the adverse effects their policies can have on wetlands and to implement conservation measures.

International cooperation in preserving wetlands has great potential for NGOs. If Japanese NGOs had known the truth about Shihwa Lake earlier, they might have had considerable impact on the Isahaya Bay land reclamation project. Now the Isahaya reclamation is serving as a model for Saemankeum. It is very important that we inform Korean NGOs and researchers of the effects of the Isahaya Bay project, including potential future effects.

The most important thing is to realize that conserving wetlands is not just about one region. It's about acting locally while thinking globally. The decline of Japan's wetlands has a direct influence on the wetlands of South Korea. This again is a problem of global scale. Migratory birds are one of the ties that bind the wetlands of Japan and South Korea. The ecological and anthropological questions raised by wetlands are among the most vital issues of human existence and survival alongside other living creatures as we enter the twenty-first century. I believe that the joint investigation project being undertaken by Japanese and Korean NGOs is full of potential for the future.

Seventh International Conference on Thai Studies

A Look at the Latest Advances in Thai Studies

Shiro Honda

Program Officer

The International Conference on Thai Studies, a forum for researchers in the field of Thai studies from all over the world, has been held in such cities as Bangkok, Kunming, London, and Chiang Mai. Amsterdam played host to this year's conference, which was the seventh such event and was, as ever, partly supported by the Toyota Foundation. In response to a request from the Academic Committee, this year the Foundation paid a portion of the air fares of those traveling from Thailand and Laos to attend. The conference was held at the University of Amsterdam from July 4 to 8, and I attended as an observer. Although I am not a specialist in Thai studies, I hope that my account of the conference will provide some insight into the discussions that took place.

Inside the university's early-seventeenth-century brick buildings the conference split into 20 panels to discuss such varied and absorbing subjects as the first decade of the AIDS epidemic, modernity and the city in Thai literature, and Buddhism, cults, and popular culture. I chose to attend two discussions with particular relevance to the Foundation: "Thai Culture as a Contested Space" and "Contesting Visions of the Thai-Lao Past."

Thai Studies Enter a New Era

At the panel discussion on Thai cultural issues I had the opportunity to hear the presentations of some Thai cultural anthropologists, ethnologists, and sociologists, both rising and established, who have recently received Toyota Foundation support. Although the phrase "Thai culture" may put one in mind of the elegant trappings of the ancient Thai royal court, the research presented focused on modern issues such as the effects of commercialization and the growth of tourism on Thai culture. Panelists cited numerous examples of these effects: the transformation of folk-dancing troops; the fusion of Thai cuisine with the Cantonese cuisine imported by Chinese immigrants; the sudden renaissance of indigenous medical treatments, such as medicinal herbs and massage; the treatment of AIDS patients in

northern Thailand with traditional remedies; and the transformation of the religion of the Karen people, who inhabit the northern highlands of Thailand. These were examples taken from the cutting edge of research into popular Thai culture and the effects of social change resulting from globalization and industrialization.

Many of the speakers drew on the activities of nongovernmental organizations to put the issues into concrete perspective, making for colorful presentations firmly grounded in real conditions. Dr. Thanet Aphornsuvan, a historian at Thammasat University, gave me an idea of the trends that characterized this year's conference: The focus of research has shifted from issues related to the state and the upper echelons of society to the highly diversified culture and wisdom of the masses; many researchers attending the conference were deeply involved with NGOs and had clear practical aims; and attention has turned to minor hill tribes and to Laos as a periphery of Thai society. Currents such as these, which were also apparent in the discussion on Thai culture, suggest that this academic field is entering a new phase in its development.

Connections with Laotian History

Top researchers in the field of Laotian studies lined up for the session dealing with Laos, Thailand's neighbor, entitled "Contesting Visions of the Thai-Laos Past." Not making a presentation of his own but adding verve to the discussion was Dr. Thongchai Winichakul of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, author of a groundbreaking book that has introduced a new concept to research of modern Thai history: *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-body of a Nation* (University of Hawaii Press, 1994). A Japanese translation of this book is scheduled to be published soon by Akashi Shoten under the Toyota Foundation's "Know Our Neighbors" Translation-Publication Program in Japan.

The reports and debates covered a lot of ground over the two days of this panel discussion and were mostly beyond my expertise, but I believe I did gain some important understanding of the nature of Laos. While the debate among non-Laotian historians centers on seeing the nation-state of Laos as an artificial construction of people and borders, Laotian historians naturally endeavor to describe the history of Laos as that of a real nation. So, while the current trend in the study of Southeast Asian history is to focus not on states but on regional units of varying size, Laotian historians who favor the concept of the

nation-state are still inclined to describe history in terms of nationality.

Whichever position one takes, the lifeblood of historical research is first-hand material, and for this reason since the late 1980s the Toyota Foundation has been supporting projects to preserve palm-leaf manuscripts in Laos, in the hope that it will help to foster a clearer understanding of the history of that country and the surrounding area. As one Japanese historian pointed out, the number of Laotian historians is still low, so educating the younger generations will certainly be another long-term priority. Incidentally, long after the end of the panel discussion a group of researchers on Laos continued talking well into the night, and it was even suggested that an international conference on Laotian studies should be established independent of the Thai studies gathering. It will be interesting to watch how things develop.

Although it was only a short conference, the International Conference on Thai Studies produced a rich harvest of research and insight from the front line of Thai studies. There is, as Dr. Thanet said, no doubt that the field of Thai studies stands at a turning point. More than 20 years have passed since the Toyota Foundation began providing support in Thailand. I would like us to take stock of the support we have given and examine how we can contribute to new, emerging currents in Thai studies.

Assessing SEANRP

A look at the Evaluation Process in Indonesia

Yumiko Himemoto
Program Officer

From fiscal 1977, the Southeast Asian National Research Program (formerly known as the International Grant Program) has been funding research projects by people from Southeast Asia on the theme "Preserving and Revitalizing Indigenous Cultures." In order to deepen the meaning of the 20-year-old program, from fiscal 1997 academic evaluations of the impact of the program in each country were begun.

The evaluation in Indonesia got underway in the summer of 1998 after consultations with Tsuyoshi Kato of Kyoto University and Sumio Fukami of St. Andrew's University, who have in the past been members of the program's selection committee for

Indonesia. After the results of the evaluation were received, on August 3 a discussion was held on the future direction of the program. Here I would like to present an outline of the evaluation itself, as well as the meeting to discuss the results.

Outline of Evaluation

SEANRP began substantial funding of research in Indonesia in 1980, and that support continues today. The subjects of this evaluation, however, are the results of projects supported in or before 1995. In that period the Foundation awarded grants for 91 projects, which produced 107 research reports. This evaluation focused on only 70 reports, excluding results that were published periodically or were still incomplete.

The evaluation was conducted by 38 Japanese researchers and 1 Dutch researcher. After receiving the research results the team members wrote their assessments and any problems they noticed on itemized statement sheets. They also gave basic ratings to the reports on a rough scale of A (highest quality) to D.

On receipt of the evaluation results, the August 3 meeting centered on a discussion of the impact of the Foundation's support so far, as well as any problems, the background to those problems, and their resolution. Apart from Kato and Fukami, those attending the meeting included Indonesia specialists Teruo Sekimoto of the University of Tokyo, Toru Aoyama of Kagoshima University, Yasuko Kobayashi of Aichi Gakusen University, and Yosuke Fuke of Daito Bunka University. Setsuho Ikehata of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, a former member of the selection committee for the Philippines, also participated in order to draw a comparison with other countries.

The projects which were funded can be divided roughly into two categories: data collection and research. Reports from the data collection projects were discussed first.

Data Collection: In evaluating projects in this field, many panelists expressed the opinion that it was essential for research to be in keeping with the aim of the program, the promotion of indigenous cultures. For example, in the case of several projects relating to the compilation of palm-leaf manuscripts in Bali, since large numbers of palm-leaf manuscripts are scattered all over Bali, sponsoring their collection and cataloging was deemed to be in line with the program's objectives. A project that recorded oral literature in Riau Province was judged to have collected the disappearing oral traditions of the Petalangan people. The results therefore represented

a precious primary resource and demonstrated the passion and dedication of the researchers. A transliteration and translation project on *Suluk*, the mystical poetry of Javanese Muslims, was judged to be important material documenting the process by which Islam was accepted on that island.

On the other hand, in the fields of compiling vocabulary lists and catalogs, problems regarding the selection of subject data were pointed out. For example, in some cases researchers had not specified the criteria for selection of vocabulary or data to be recorded. In other cases panel members found fundamental academic problems in the way data was collected and presented. In a few projects, researchers had failed to discuss how to arrange and categorize their catalog data, or had not specified the sources of data.

Research: In the field of historical research, certain projects were well received because the researchers were able to use materials and data that could only be obtained in field investigations by local people. Many local researchers made use of unique perspectives not available to outsiders, better enabling them to present the history of their native land and its connection to the people there.

There were some problems, however. In many instances researchers did not base their work firmly on prior studies, record bibliographical details of source material, subject their material to critical analysis, record the dates of interviews, or fully develop the analysis of and discussion relating to their projects.

In linguistics, research was carried out on important data that had not been previously studied, but the volume of data concerned was small, and it was not analyzed in sufficient detail.

In cultural anthropology, meanwhile, there were several excellent projects, such as research on the development and meaning of contemporary *wayang* performance on Java. In many other projects, however, researchers failed to clearly define anthropological time frames, did not collect sufficient data, or used improper sampling methods.

Problems and Potential Improvements

Taking into account reports from each individual project, as well as the overall research situation in Indonesia, the question now is how to formulate measures to improve the program in the future. The evaluation team indicated four key issues: (1) How can the Foundation attract better researchers? (2) How should the research process be supported? (3)

How can we ensure that the results of research are reported in a persuasive manner? and (4) How should results be disseminated?

Through this meeting process the Foundation produced many worthwhile and practical proposals for the future direction of the program, although they cannot be introduced here due to space limitations.

At the meeting, it was pointed out that some research can have a ripple effect on that field of study even if its results are not entirely successful. The meeting also raised questions about what makes the Toyota Foundation's grant program distinctive. Some suggested that if the evaluation had been done by Indonesian researchers or through interviewing the grantees, the results might have been different. These opinions made me realize once again that scholastic evaluation of results has its limitations, and that a more comprehensive assessment of the program is necessary.

Grants Awarded for Fiscal 1999

At the eighty-ninth meeting of its Board of Directors, held on September 17, 1999, the Toyota Foundation approved a total of ¥309.96 million to be awarded in fiscal 1999, including ¥200 million for Research Grants. This brings the total amount awarded in fiscal 1999 to ¥381.84 million, including those grants approved at the June 1999 Board of Directors meeting.

Following these meetings, a grant award ceremony was held on October 18 at the Keio Plaza Hotel in Shinjuku, Tokyo. Foundation President Shosaburo Kimura presented awards to grant recipients.

Research Grant Program: 78 grants, ¥200 million

Grant applications were solicited from April 1 to May 20, 1999. As in earlier years, the Foundation looked for proposals relating to the program's core theme, "Creating a Society with Pluralistic Values," and focusing on one of 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. Research grants were divided into two categories, individual research projects (Category A grants) and joint research projects (Category B grants). This year saw ¥50 mil-



Director Ichiro Kato proposes a toast at the awards ceremony.

lion awarded for a total of 38 Category A grants and ¥150 million for 40 Category B grants, making a total of ¥200 million for 78 projects.

The Foundation received a total of 940 applications this year, 5 more than the previous year; 8.3% of applications gained approval. Although this was a 0.7 point increase from the previous year, competition remained as fierce as ever.

Southeast Asian National Research Program: 64 grants, \$556,000

This program supports research in Southeast Asia that comes under the theme "Cultural Issues in Contemporary Society." The Foundation receives inquiries throughout the year, and this year there were more than 500 applications. Initial selections were made by the selection committee members responsible for each country. At the end of July, the selection committee met to further screen the applications. At the following Board of Directors meeting grants totalling \$556,000 were approved for 64 projects.

By country, grants were awarded to 5 projects in Cambodia, 12 in Indonesia, 6 in Laos, 2 in Malaysia, 1 in Nepal, 9 in the Philippines, 6 in Thailand, and 23 in Vietnam. For a number of years now Vietnamese researchers have received the largest number of project grants.

Young Indonesian Researchers Program: 30 grants, 230.75 million rupiah (\$32,000)

Following a fiscal 1998 overhaul of this program, grants were only awarded for research for M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations. The key themes were "Reconstructing Indigenous Culture and History" and "Scientific Analysis of a Changing Society."

A total of 457 applications were received via the liaison desk in Indonesia. The selection committee

met in Jakarta in August and approved 30 grants (25 for M.A. theses and 5 for Ph.D. dissertations), totaling 230.75 million rupiah. The selection committee noted that increased freedom of speech in Indonesia seemed to have contributed to rise in the quality of submissions.

"Know Our Neighbors" Translation and Publication Programs: Japan, 7 grants, ¥147.60 million; other Asian countries, 21 grants, \$117,600

These programs aim to promote mutual understanding among Japan and South and Southeast Asian countries through the translation and publication of a wide range of books in fields including history, culture, politics, economics, and literature. With the original five-year plan for books translated into Japanese complete, this year saw the public solicitation of applications for the program in Japan; 12 applications were received. The selection committee examined the proposals, 7 of which were awarded grants at the following Board of Directors meeting.

The Foundation received 29 applications for grants under the program in other Asian countries; 21 were approved by the Board of Directors. By country, 1 project is based in Indonesia, 2 in Malaysia, 5 in Thailand, 3 in Vietnam, 4 in Nepal, 3 in Pakistan, 2 in Sri Lanka, and 1 in Mongolia. In the past many projects have involved using English as an intermediary language. This year, however, there were also direct translations in native languages, for example from Malay to Thai and from Burmese to Vietnamese, suggesting that talented translators are gradually honing their skills.

Foundation Initiative and Research Report Grant Programs

Applications are not publicly solicited for the Foundation Initiative Grant Program, but are selected by the Board of Directors on the basis of internal Foundation assessments. This year the Directors awarded 5 grants totaling ¥17.58 million.

Research Report Grants are intended to bring the benefits of completed research to a broader range of society through follow-up activities including publication of research results and sponsorship of symposiums. This year 3 grants worth a total of ¥7.10 million were selected by Foundation staff members and announced at the Board meeting.

Award Ceremony

At the grant award ceremony the chair and members of each selection committee gave their impressions of

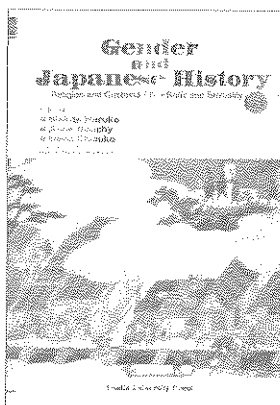
this year's activities. Their speeches covered the surprises and agonizing deliberations of the selection process, as well as present and future trends in their academic fields. Each talk stood out in its own way, and all of them aroused the interest of the audience.

The committee members made a range of comments: "I envy everyone who gained a grant"; "I have applied to programs like this, but my applications have never received grants"; "I am not sure if these are hobbies or research topics." They also described the fierce debate in which they engaged and the difficulty of selecting grant recipients from among so many promising applications. Their openness soon brought smiles to what was at first glance a solemn occasion, and at the same time conveyed the strict fairness of the selection process and the sincerity of the committee members, according to one grant recipient who also spoke at the ceremony.

Recent Publications Based on Foundation-Supported Research

Gender and Japanese History. Vol. 1: Religion and Customs/The Body and Sexuality; Vol. 2: The Self and Expression/Work and Life. Haruko Wakita, Anne Bouchy, and Chizuko Ueno, eds. Garry Yokota-Murakami, trans. Osaka: Osaka University Press, 1999. Vol. 1 ISBN 4-87259-058-9; Vol. 2 ISBN 4-87259-059-7.

The Toyota Foundation supported a five-year international joint research project led by Haruko Wakita through two research grants in fiscal 1990 and 1991. The result of this project, titled "A Historical Study of Sexual Division of Labor in Japan: Female Culture in a Male-Dominated Society," was a two-volume work entitled *Jenda no Nihonshi* (Gender in Japanese History), published by University of Tokyo Press in 1994 and 1995. This collection of well-researched essays produced jointly by scholars of Japanese history from Japan, the United States, and Europe is already gaining quite a reputation. Its translation into English will ac-



comply with one of the goals of the original project—the sharing of the joint research results with a broader international audience.

Volume 1 contains six essays on the theme “Religion and Customs” and seven on “The Body and Sexuality.” Volume 2 contains eight essays on “The Subject and Expression” and nine on “Work and Life.” A total of 30 essays on the four themes are presented. The English translation published in 1999 was partially funded by the Foundation’s Research Report Grant Program.

A Comparison Between Distribution in China and Japan.
Feng Zhaokui, Shuzo Koyama, Qin Yi, eds. Zhigong:
China Zhigong Publishing House, 1999. ISBN 7-
80096-623-2/F6

This book is the result of a joint study on distribution in China and Japan carried out by a team of researchers from both countries, led by Feng Zhaokui from the Japanese Studies Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The Toyota Foundation gave grants to the project in fiscal 1992 and 1993, at around the time when a “distribution revolution” was taking place in China against a background of reform policies.

The results of the research were published in 1996 in Chinese, and the book was well received in the People’s Republic. An English translation, *A Comparison Between Distribution in China and Japan*, has now been published. Its seven chapters cover comparisons between China and Japan on a variety of topics, such as the position of the distribution sector in the national economy, distribution systems and organization, the increasing use of information technology in the sector, and policies affecting distribution.

SEASREP Transfers Some Operations to Manila

The Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program, which fosters Southeast Asian studies addressing the region as a whole, is administered jointly by the SEASREP Council, a group made up of Southeast Asian researchers; the Toyota Foundation; and the Japan Foundation Asia Center.

Until now all stages of the grant process, from so-

liciting applications to awarding grants, have been undertaken by the Tokyo Joint Secretariat for SEASREP in the Toyota Foundation. The SEASREP Council secretariat in Manila was responsible for organizing meetings among the three parties and publishing a semiannual newsletter, the *Southeast Asian Studies Bulletin*.

The program has been managed in this way for five years, and it seems that the system has worked well. Beginning with the applications process for fiscal 2000, however, responsibility for administering three of SEASREP’s four subprograms—Language Training Grants, Visiting Professorship Grants, and M.A. and Ph.D. Incentive Grants for young researchers in Southeast Asian Studies—will pass to the SEASREP Council Secretariat in Manila.

Inquiries and application forms for the above subprograms in fiscal 2000 will be accepted from December 1, 1999, to February 29, 2000, and should be directed to:

The Manila Secretariat
Unit E, La Milagrosa Townhouse
10 Valley View Street
Alta Vista, Loyola Heights
Quezon City 1108, Philippines
Tel: +63-2-912-8783
Fax: +63-2-437-3859
E-mail: seasrep@maynila.com.ph

The Toyota Foundation’s Tokyo Joint Secretariat for SEASREP will continue to administer Regional Collaboration Project Grants. Inquiries and applications for this subprogram should be directed to:

The Tokyo Joint Secretariat for SEASREP,
E-mail: seasrep@toyotafound.or.jp
Website: <http://www.toyotafound.or.jp/etop.htm>

The Toyota Foundation welcomes responses 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 163-0437, 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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