

INTRODUCTION TO JOURNAL OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES (JATI 20)

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As the impact of globalization and growing anxiety generated by global markets coupled with the increasing ineffectualness of international regimes in the face of mounting security threats of a national and transnational character, this issue deals with the impact and rapidity of change in Southeast Asian development. The current edition is divided into four sections dealing with politics and security, economic development, education and media and culture. In all these social and political dimensions the impact of rapid change has left an often problematic mark.

Thus Alvin Cheng analyses the potential impact of China's economic rise in Southeast Asia and beyond. Examining China's development of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road potentially financed by a Chinese dominated Asian Investment Infrastructure Bank. Chang's paper demonstrates the enormous reach of China's proposed belt and road model and its profound implications for the political economy of Southeast Asia.

A further aspect of the rapid changes that globalization has had in Southeast Asia is the manner in which external and internal factors have transformed the governance of Myanmar in the last decade culminating in democratic elections in 2015. In this context, LEE Seo In examines how democratic change has in fact exacerbated the position of the Rohingya minority in Rakhine. Lee's paper draws attention to the disturbing coexistence of the oppression of the Rohingya and democratization in Myanmar, and further how and why the persecution of the Rohingya has continued despite or perhaps because of democratic transition. This paper concludes that political and social changes facilitated building.

In a somewhat different context, but still addressing the problem of political participation Imam-Tamim, Muhammad Kamaldeen, Najibah Mohd Zin, Norliah Ibrahim & Roslina Che Soh examine why there relatively few women participate in political decision making in Malaysia. The number of women participating in nation building, they contend 'is abysmally low'. The paper argues the need for fresh approaches to female political participation if the country wishes to achieve its millennium development goals.

Moving from the political to the economic costs of development, Nanthakumar Loganathan, Thirunaukarasu Subramaniam & Mustafa Dakian

examine the impact of Foreign Direct Investment Flows and Globalization upon Unemployment Trends in the East Asian Community. Their study highlights the fact that economic openness has 'a co-integration relationship with unemployment in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia both in the long-run and short-run.' Their overall findings could help policymakers negotiate the unemployment fluctuations faced by ASEAN-3 as it seeks to realise an ASEAN Economic Community.

In this context of evolving economic integration in Asia, N.S.F. Abdul Rahman & N.H. Zakaria discusses the economic implications of the opening of the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park and the potential for Kuantan to become an important regional hub port. Somewhat differently and moving from the regional to the micro-politics of trading Sahya Anggara examines the policing of street vendors in Bandung Square, Bandung Java. The author's research demonstrates the limited impact of the policing regime on street trader activity together with the reasons why the regime has proved ineffectual. Differently, again TSUJI Shyuji examines community-based conservation and its impact on the important sea turtle population at the Ma'Daerah sea turtle sanctuary in Malaysia.

Moving onto developments into the contemporary practice of education in South East Asia, Edward Wong Sek Khin, Ahmad Nasharuddin and Kamisah Binti Ismail examine the Malaysian graduate's perspective on educational loan repayment. The paper offers a descriptive case study based on 300 participants who graduated from one of the public universities in Malaysia. The researchers consider that the findings from their study 'could assist the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) to understand further their borrower insights in paying back loans owed'.

Meanwhile, Ava Ann P. Semorlan & Adrian P. Semorlan's paper studies the relationship between the reading and writing performance in Filipino of pre-first grade children and explores the variables that relate to their reading and writing.

The final section of this issue deals with change in the media and the arts in South East Asia. In this context, Rulli Nasrullah analyses the phenomenon of 'grief' and its management in the new social media virtual world. The paper assesses the impact of the new media upon the virtual understanding of both virtual death and life. Elsewhere Mohd Anis Md Nor examines *Zapin* and the impact of Sufi mysticism upon the remembrance of God through music and dance. This timely paper draws attention to the impact of Sufism and syncretism on the reception and evolution of a distinctive South East Asian Islamic cultural practice from at least the fifteenth century CE. To the present.