

# SEEKING ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

Edited by  
ANDREW T H TAN  
MICHAEL L R SMITH  
PROFESSOR DATO' KHOO KAY KIM

## Acknowledgement

Originally, this book project arose out of the initiative on the part of a number of scholars of Southeast Asia, many, although by no means all of them, represented in this volume, to explore different ways of understanding and explaining the history, politics, economics, and sociology of the region. In this respect, the project was also echoing the public call made by Singapore Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Dr Tony Tan, who in announcing the establishment of the new Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies, Singapore in August 1996 argued for 'new insights and new ideas' on Southeast Asia. Many of us engaged in Southeast Asian studies needed no motivation in trying to give expression to this appeal. Above all, we must thank the Perak Academy of Ipoh, Malaysia, which generously organised and sponsored a workshop and conference in Ipoh in 2001 for the paper writers and other interested scholars. The personal support lent to the project by its Chairman, Dato' Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan, and former Malaysia's Deputy Defence Minister, is very much appreciated. We found the Perak Academy's commitment and support for open, independent scholarship refreshingly laudable, and setting an example for other institutions in the region to take critical empirical regional scholarship seriously.

The editors also wish to express their thanks to Professor Wang Gung-Wu for his interest in the conference and the subsequent volume. Many people in Ipoh were responsible for the smooth running of the conference at Ipoh. We apologise for not being able to mention all those who deserve mention, but in particular, we wish to thank Janice and the team of volunteers who gave so much of their time to making the conference a success. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the sponsors of the conference, especially Mr Siva of

# - Contents -

## **Introduction:**

- 1** Seeking Alternative Perspectives – The Quest For Diversity  
*Michael L R Smith & Andrew Tan*

## **Part 1: Getting to Know Southeast Asia**

- 33** The Historians Of Southeast Asia  
*Nicholas Tarling*
- 53** What Went Wrong With Southeast Asia Studies?  
Performing A Comparative Autopsy With The Failure Of  
Soviet Studies  
*David Martin Jones & Mike Lawrence Smith*

## **Part 2: ASEAN - The Long and Winding Road**

- 99** An Imitation Community For Imitation States: The Myth  
Of Asean's Success Story  
*David Martin Jones & Mike Lawrence Smith*
- 135** ASEAN In The 21st Century  
*K Kesavapany*
- 147** Unspoken Pears: Inter-State Tensions Within ASEAN  
*Andrew Tan*
- 197** The Myth And Dogma Of Sovereignty  
*Miriam Coronel Ferrer*

## **Part 3: ASEAN - Economic Cooperation**

- 217** ASEAN Beyond The "Miracle" – Stability And Development  
*Jun Tsunekawa*
- 261** Is ASEAN A Sustainable Economic Proposition?  
*Muthi Samudran*

# Contents

## **Part 4: The Great Powers and Southeast Asia**

- 287 Southeast Asia's "Hedging" Relationship With Major Powers Of The Asia-Pacific  
*Chien-Peng (C.P.) Chung*
- 319 India's Relations With Southeast Asia: Changing Perspectives, Issues And Future Prospects  
*Lipi Ghosh*
- 353 The Indian Diaspora In Southeast Asia With Special Reference To Malaysia And Singapore  
*Mala Rajo Sathian and Wani Muthiah*

## **Part 5: Civil Society in Southeast Asia**

- 385 Political Islam In Southeast Asia: An Inquiry Into The Idea Of An Islamic State In Post-Soeharto Indonesia  
*Arskal Salim*
- 419 Civil And Political Society In East And Southeast Asia: The Contest For Political Space  
*James Gomez*
- 441 The Role Of "Arbitrariness" In Restricting Debate  
*Rukmantoro Hadi Sumukti*
- 455 From Propaganda To Pop Culture: The Changing Face Of Communication In Southeast Asia And The Rise Of The Media Stars  
*Jonathan Woodier*

## **Part 6: Life, Liberty and Property in Southeast Asia**

- 489 ASEAN And Human Rights: From Reactionary Realism To Revisionist Idealism?  
*Sinapan Samyodorai & Anbarasu Balrasan*
- 517 The Legal Systems Of Southeast Asia: A Sketch  
*R H Hickling*

## **Conclusion**

- 529 *Khoo Kay Kim*