

Preface

This special issue of *Tonan Ajia Kenkyu* has been published in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University.

The Center celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation on February 14 and 15, 1991, the celebrations being attended by more than two hundred scholars from Kyoto University and other institutions. Besides a ceremony, a symposium was held on the theme of "Question put by Southeast Asia" as a special event commemorating the anniversary.

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies is a multidisciplinary research institute attached to Kyoto University, which was established in 1965 for the purpose of carrying out systematic and integrated "Area Studies" of contemporary Southeast Asia. The Center's staff of scholars in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences collaborate on various problems of the region. Their research projects have also involved intra-and extra-mural affiliates.

As of March 1991, the Center comprises the five research divisions of Ecological Studies, Socio-Cultural Studies, Integrative Processes, Development Studies, and Human Environment; three visiting scholars' sections to accommodate six scholars from abroad and two from Japanese universities and research institutions, who undertake collaborative research with the staff of the Center; a documentation department, which consists of an editorial office, library, and computer unit; an administration department; and two overseas liaison offices, one in Bangkok and one in Jakarta.

This special issue, which contains twelve articles exclusively contributed by the staff members of the Center, aims to cover the whole spectrum of the research areas in which the Center's staff are currently engaged. The field of political science is represented by two papers by Prof. Tamada and Prof. Tsuchiya, while sociology and anthropology are represented by papers by Prof. Tsubouchi and Prof. Maeda. Papers by Prof. Takaya, Prof. Kono, Prof. Fukui, Prof. Furukawa and Prof. Tanaka together manifest how the natural sciences are important as the basis of the Center's own methodology of Area Studies. Three other papers by Prof. Kaida, Prof. Ezaki and Prof. Kohsaka are presentations of our keen concern with developmental studies.

The Center has celebrated its anniversary not only by holding ceremonies and publishing this special issue, but also by publishing through Kobundo Publishing Co. a series of ten volume entitled "Koza Tonan-Ajia Gaku" (Southeast Asian Studies Series). Being an unprecedented venture in the field of Area Studies in Japan, the books in this series are edited and supervised by senior professors of the Center.

Together with this series, this special issue will provide a good reference to those readers who are interested in learning about the general trends of Southeast Asian studies conducted at the Center as well as Japan's academic society in general today.

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Director