

the benefit of both sides. The conference was held in a friendly, cordial atmosphere and discussions were lively and at times controversial. The proceedings of this conference are to be published soon.

#### Notes

- (1) The author's participation was made possible through a travel grant by the German Volkswagen Foundation as part of a research project on ASEAN.
- (2) The proceedings of this conference see: Robert A. Scalapino and Jusuf Wanandi (eds.), *Economic, Political and Security Issues in Southeast Asia in the 1980s*. Berkely, CA.: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, 1982.
- (3) The proceedings of this conference see: Karl D. Jackson/M. Hadi Soesastro (eds.), *ASEAN Security and Economic Developments*. Berkeley, CA.: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, 1984.

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#### Southeast Asia Days in Passau

In early January (10.-12.1.) 1985 the first "Southeast Asia Days" at the University of Passau (Bavaria) took place. They were organized by the newly founded chair of Southeast Asia Studies in Passau and they included a cultural evening and a scientific symposium on Modern Southeast Asian Studies. The idea was to introduce the Southeast Asian region, its cultural tradition, some of its modern problems as well as topics of scholarly debate to the academic community in Passau and to a broader public in Lower Bavaria which, as yet, is not so familiar with this new field of studies.

The cultural evening was performed by folkloristic groups from Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam. The program was arranged in cooperation with the diplomatic missions of the various Southeast Asian nations in Bonn. An audience of about 700 people watched with fascination the dances and musical performances of more than 70 actors who succeeded in making the public aware of the variations in the cultural traditions but also of their beauty and their charm.

The symposium - which could convene thanks to a generous grant from the Volkswagen-Foundation, Hannover - discussed the problem of "Theory and Empiricism in Modern Southeast Asia Studies". More than 30 Southeast Asia specialists from

Germany and neighbouring countries met for discussions in four sessions. In the first session representatives of various disciplines characterized the situation in their respective field of specialization. Professor D. Rothermund (University of Heidelberg) spoke about "Regional Studies in General" from the perspective of a historian, Professor W. Marschall (University of Bern) focussed on the relationship between "Theory and Empiricism in the Anthropology of Southeast Asia", Professor H.D. Evers (University of Bielefeld) discussed the same topic with regard to the Sociology of Southeast Asia, Professor B. Nothofer (University of Frankfurt) spoke about the situation in the field of Linguistics and Professor A. Teeuw (University of Leiden) concluded the first session with observations on "Theory and Empiricism in the Literature of Southeast Asia".

The second session focussed on the relevance of theory and empiricism in "Political and Economic Projects" in Southeast Asia. Dr. R. Machetzki (Institute of Asian Affairs, Hamburg) spoke about "Development Policy in Southeast Asia", Dr. D. Kebschull (Institute of International Economics, Hamburg) discussed "Transmigration Projects in Indonesia", Professor W. Röhl (University of Kassel) spoke about "Agricultural Problems in Indonesia" and Professor K.D. Rohde (University of Bonn) about "Foreign Investments in ASEAN-Countries".

The third session tried to tackle the problem of "Theory and Empiricism in Specific Research Projects". Professor J. Röpke (University of Marburg) read a paper on "Problems of Southeast Asian Economic History", Professor K. Tauchmann (University of Köln) on "Specific Aspects of Ethnology in Southeast Asia", Mme. C. Salmon (University of Paris) on the "Chinese Minority in Southeast Asia", Professor H. Kulke (University of Heidelberg) on the "Origins of the State in Southeast Asia", Professor W. Wagner (University of Bremen) on "Problems of Regional History in Indonesia" and Professor B. Dahm (University of Passau) on "Boundaries of Cultural Regions in Southeast Asia".

The fourth and final session was devoted to the "Evaluation of Social Change in Southeast Asia". Professor O.v.d. Muijzenberg (University of Amsterdam) discussed "Western Developmental Concepts and Southeast Asia", Dr. W. Wolters (University of Rotterdam) "Stage Theories in Southeast Asia", Dr. F. Tichelman (Institute of Social History, Amsterdam) "Stagnation and Change in Southeast Asia" and Dr. T. Schiel (University of Bielefeld) "Modes of Production in Theory and Practice".

Besides the speakers there were also a number of guests interested in the topic from various German universities, from the University of Vienna and the Ludwig-Boltzmann-Institute in Vienna who participated in the discussions. Mainly because of the interdisciplinary character of the symposium the exchange of thoughts and ideas was rewarding for all participants. For the students of Southeast Asia Studies in Passau it was a good introduction to their new field of study. They learned a lot not only about the problem of the region but they got also an insight into the relativity of scientific positions, if they are dominated by either theoretical concepts or the exclusive reference to empirical data.

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### **International Conference on South Asian Regional Cooperation: Socio-Economic Approach to Peace and Stability in South Asia**

14.-16. Januar 1985, Dhaka

Die Konferenz, die von dem 1978 gegründeten, regierungsnahe Bangladesch Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) in Dhaka organisiert und durchgeführt wurde, versammelte eine bemerkenswerte Zahl von Südasienexperten. Vertreten waren alle Staaten dieser Region - meist durch mehrköpfige Delegationen -, die ASEAN-Staaten, China und die UdSSR durch je einen Teilnehmer, die USA durch fünf und Westeuropa durch den Verfasser. Darunter waren bekannte Namen der Wissenschaft und Politikberatung: Robert Scalapino, Norman Palmer, Leo Rose, Howard Wriggins (USA), K. Subrahmanyam, K.P. Misra, Gran Chopra (Indien) u.a.

An drei Konferenztagen wurden 22 Konferenzbeiträge vorgestellt und diskutiert, die sich zumeist mit den Chancen südasiatischer Kooperation befaßten, aber auch mit Einzelaspekten der bilateralen Beziehungen, wobei den Interessen des Gastgeberlandes durch Betonung der politisch brisanten Wasserfrage (Ganges-Brahmaputra) Rechnung getragen wurde. Die Positionen auswärtiger Mächte (USA, UdSSR, China) wurden markiert und teilweise kontrovers diskutiert. Die wichtigsten allgemeinen Ergebnisse wurden in einem Final Document zusammengefaßt, worin auch die Gründung eines South Asia Institute vorgeschlagen wurde.