

ASEAN-EU RELATIONS ON THE EVE OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Guest editor's preface

The following articles are the thoroughly revised and updated versions of papers first presented at the European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EUROSEAS) conference "Looking Forward, Looking Back", 3-6 September 1998, in Hamburg. The authors wish to thank Prof. Rainer Carle and the entire EUROSEAS team for their excellent achievement in organizing the conference and making it a most significant academic contribution as well as a long-memorable success. Without their outstanding commitment neither the panel on "Southeast Asia-Europe Relations: Achievements and Challenges" nor this publication would have been possible. I am most grateful to Christina Heinisch and Julia Hurtzig for their superb assistance during the editing process. John O'Brien did a great job improving the articles' language and style. Last but not least I like to show my gratitude to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Asienkunde (DGA) and especially Dr. Günter Schucher for publishing the papers in this issue of ASIEN.

A brief remark on the selection of the articles: It is certainly not surprising that a publication dealing with ASEAN-EU relations focuses on organizational aspects, the political dynamic, trade exchange and development cooperation. The first four articles by Jörn Dosch, Yeo Lay Hwee, Tobias Schumacher/Michael Hampe, and Alfredo C. Robles extensively address these and other issues. One might not expect a contribution on Czech-Vietnamese relations. At first glance, Petra Müllerova's article does not seem to fit perfectly into the framework of a German journal on Asian affairs. However, the reader will immediately notice its relevance since it deals with a wide range of general problems concerning the interchange between states and even more importantly between societies of different continents. If there is any lesson to learn on the eve of the millennium it is that: the cultural element in international relations is much more significant than most of us originally thought when a new world order loomed large on the horizon some ten years ago.

Jörn Dosch
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