Weitere Beiträge beleuchten diese Einbindung internationaler Großbergbauprojekte in entwicklungspolitische Strategien am Beispiel Deutschlands und der EU oder die Frage nach Verantwortung von Staaten und Unternehmen sowie den Handlungsmöglichkeiten diese international zur Rechenschaft zu ziehen.

Man hätte sich den einen oder anderen weiteren konzeptionellen Beitrag mehr gewünscht, etwa eine ausführlichere Thematisierung des Begriffs der Entwicklungsaggression und dessen Verhältnis zu anderen Post-Development Ansätzen. So bleibt die theoretische Konzeption zuweilen etwas unscharf. Dennoch bietet die Broschüre einen sehr guten und aktuellen Überblick über eines der zentralen gesellschaftlichen Konfliktfelder der Philippinen, zwischen einem auf neoliberale Modernisierung zielenden Zentralstaat und lokalen Gesellschaften deren Entwicklungs- und Modernisierungsvorstellungen von diesen oftmals stark abweichen, bzw. die sich im klaren darüber sind, dass sie nur sehr wenig von diesen staatlich protegierten Projekten profitieren würden.

Boris Michel

Michael D. Barr, Zlatko Skrbiš: Constructing Singapore, Elitism, Ethnicity and the Nation-Building Project

Democracy in Asia series, no. 11, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies. Copenhagen: NIAS Press, 2008. 304 S., EUR 28,99

Singapore has been frequently held up as a how-to-do-it example of successful development planning and organization. A country with few natural resources and a daunting economic prospect at independence, Singapore has been able to develop into an economic power-house with a competent leadership and a peaceful multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society. Yet Barr and Skrbiš

set out to show that behind the persistent efforts of the Singapore leadership to establish a true sense of Singaporean citizenship lies a hidden agenda of creating and maintaining the basic dominance of the Chinese population over the Indian and Malayan ethnic minorities. This is achieved by various measures that ostensibly place the ethnic groups on an equal footing, such as giving ethnic minorities the choice of setting up their own schools and providing for the teaching of the respective mother tongue. The quality of such private schools will obviously depend on the resources that the ethnic groups can mobilize, so that initial resource endowments will influence outcomes.

While multi-culturalism is to be generally applauded, it can also lead to discrimination. In Singapore, the talent streaming process that selects children and assigns them to various education paths has been continuously brought forward, so that it now includes kindergarten and proceeds throughout the education system. While there may be permeability between the individual strands, this works more often downwards than upwards. Since the achievers are continuously provided with better learning facilities and generous scholarships, early selection is a precondition for rising to the top, so that parents spare no efforts or expense to give their kindergarten kids a head start over their cohorts or, alternatively, to prevent their exclusion from the avenues that are required to achieve status and wealth. The system thus favours children of well-to-do parents at every stage of selecting "talent" from the pool of kindergarten and pre-school children, school children, college students and academic scholars. The affluent Chinese intellectuals and businessmen have been able to exploit their initial advantage in this rat race and the dominant political party has done its bit by funding special schools and providing educational facilities through scholarships abroad. The process of talent selection continues during military service, in which the selection of officers frequently

proceeds along ethnic lines or at least with regard to school performance assessments, and in the recruitment for government service and leadership. Barr and Skrbiš make an excellent job of arguing their point that the system is badly skewed in favour of affluent Chinese and that it continues to be self-perpetuating. And they back their argument up with a wealth of statistical documentation, interview quotes and anecdotal evidence.

This book will serve as an eye-opener to all those who have previously accepted at face value the outwardly harmonious relationship between Singapore's main ethnic groups, and to the many admirers of the apparently rational structure of the country's education system for grooming the upcoming elite. It is consequently recommended as an important source book to all serious students of the Singapore system of nation-building and social development.

Nevertheless, there remains an uneasy feeling with regard to the authors' interpretation of the day-to-day changes and developments of the system from the early beginnings after independence to what it has become today. They occasionally give the impression that the many policy shifts and experiments through time were part of a pre-determined and planned process to bring about racial preferences for the Chinese majority. This is underlined by the frequent reference to the "Nation-Building Project" from the subtitle of the book to the "official nation-building project" in its last sentence. True, under Lee Kuan Yew the leadership may be convinced that the Chinese alone are capable of embodying those "Asian values" that the country needs to continue its successful economic course. Yet a careful reading of the book shows that many of the tacks from one measure to the next were more the result of "muddling through" and of reacting to visible excesses, than steps along a pre-determined project course. The development of the Singapore system of elitism and ethnicity can be interpreted as the result of steering by the rocks rather than by the stars. Of course, this does not absolve Singapore's leaders from their responsibility for the elitist and ethnically skewed results of past policies, and it is hoped that they will be the ones to profit most from reading this exciting book.

Hans Christoph Rieger

Kazuki Iwanaga (ed.): Women in Politics in Thailand. Continuity and Change

Copenhagen: NIAS Press, 2008. 284 S., EUR 22

Der Sammelband *Women in Politics in Thailand. Continuity and Change* erschließt einen bislang kaum untersuchten Bereich: Frauen in der thailändischen Politik. Frauen sind im politischen Entscheidungsprozess stark unterrepräsentiert, sowohl im Parlament, in den lokalen Entscheidungsgremien als auch in hohen bürokratischen Funktionen. Historisch war die Beteiligung der Frauen in der Politik durch die lang anhaltende Dominanz des Militärs stark eingeschränkt. Gesetzliche und institutionelle Hürden versperrten Frauen ebenso den Weg in die Politik wie kulturelle und soziale Barrieren. Ziel des Buches ist es, den Status der Frau in Thailand zu analysieren, sowohl Veränderungen als auch die Beständigkeit von sozialen Kategorien und Stereotypen. Dabei werden verschiedene Formen der politischen Partizipation und des Engagements der Frauen in Thailand aufgezeigt: Frauen in NROs, in der lokalen sowie nationalen Politik, in der Bürokratie und der thailändischen Mittelschicht.

Frauen bilden in vielen Bereichen politischer Aktivität zwar das Rückgrat der Organisationen, schaffen aber es kaum an die Spitze dieser und sind keine Entscheidungsträgerinnen. Juree Vichit-Vadakan analysiert in ihrem Beitrag die sozio-kulturellen Barrieren für Frauen, die sie als Hauptgrund für den