

## **Twenty-five years of INTERNATIONALES ASIENFORUM**

This issue (1/1995) presents all articles, review articles, book reviews and conference reports that have appeared in INTERNATIONALES ASIENFORUM from 1970 to 1994. The contributions are grouped by country and, where that is impossible, by general or regional criteria, and within each group chronologically. In addition, there is an alphabetical index of authors and reviewers.

All in all, this is a welcome survey of the work and research on Asia in the past quarter-century, and as such a reflection of the processes of change and convergence that have taken place with a speed and intensity that none of us would have imagined in 1970 when the first edition stated as its purpose:

INTERNATIONALES ASIENFORUM is a journal of topical events in Asia that seeks to present the results of social scientific research to a public beyond than the small circle of regional specialists.

The contributions are published in either German or English and are intended for people who are aware of the growing interdependence between Europe and Asia.

"Growing interdependence between Europe and Asia" - international air traffic is a particularly good example. Who would have thought in 1964, a time when young Asia specialists chose to head East on ocean liners of the Messageries Maritimes or Lloyd Triestino, who would have thought that thirty years later Lufthansa's direct service to Delhi six days a week except Mondays would be booked out weeks in advance, apart from five flights a week to Bombay, two a week to Madras and even three a week to Kathmandu - not to mention the regular services to China and Vietnam.

Rapid, automated communication is just one of the ubiquitous opportunities of direct intercourse opened up by the new media: it takes not longer to fax the Nepal Research Centre in Kathmandu than it does the Department of History at the University of Kiel. The staffs of Oxford University Press in New Delhi and Weltforum Verlag in Cologne work in the same building, as it were, though four and a half time zones and different working contracts apart.

The shrinking of the world has not rendered ASIENFORUM superfluous. Quite the opposite. Given the pressure from the industrialized world to modernize and the global efficiency of northern multinationals, one might expect a conscious return to traditional cultural values in the south, precisely there where, with each passing day, the illusion of Star satellite's world of glitz and glamour grows more and more remote from the reality of the masses' world of stress and suffering. The results of regionally focused basic research are indispensable to an understanding of how processes of delimitation and distinction coexist alongside superficial adaptation and conformity.

As editors, we wish to thank the advisory committee and the editorial manager as well as all our authors and readers, for it is their interest that has made the journal into what it is today: a forum for basic research and reporting on Asia and a mirror of shifting regional pursuits and questioning conditioned by, but at times also in anticipation of shifting problem complexes.

Detlef Kantowsky

Alois Graf von Waldburg-Zeil