

ism which, for its part, turned to landlordism (certainly in a situation still free from rural population pressure), – or, to give another example, the remark that big irrigation systems "presuppose a stable social organization" (p. 54), a view widely held since Wittfogel's penetrating studies (mentioned p. 64).

At any rate, there has been a strong expansion of the cultivated area in all parts of the country. Not only has the acreage alone increased more than fivefold since 1930 (accompanied by the introduction of a broad variety of crops), but also the padi producing area (making Thailand one of the world's main rice exporters) has nearly tripled in the meantime (p. 70). On the other hand, the days of large-scale "pioneering" seem to be over since 1970: Chapter 3 discusses problems of growing population pressure, swidden practices (p. 71 ff.), traditional and recent land use (p. 83 ff.), rural squatting and legal counter-measures (p. 93 ff.), customary land inheritance in face of dwindling solidarities (p. 98 ff.), and so on. – Another important part of this chapter (p. 119 ff.) deals with the more recent development of co-operatives, credit institutions, marketing organization, agricultural advice and research, "Community Development", land-opening projects, and also casts some light on the rural labour and income situation.

Chapter 4 (p. 187 ff.) gives a detailed analysis of the agricultural development – cultivated areas, number and size of farms, production figures – of the country's four main regions (i.e. the Central Region, the North, the North-East, and the South). Finally, the most important crops – rice, maize, kenaf, cassava, sugar cane, cotton, beans, and rubber – are systematically examined so that the trends during the last decades can easily be compared.

As said above, the concluding "Outlook" (p. 273) proves to be unexpectedly short. Advice for the future is scarce, prophecies are missing altogether. – Why? To cite the author's own words: "Unfortunately, there is no ready-made formula; solutions how to structure the optimal farming systems will have to be worked out not only by regions but by districts and even subdistricts, where natural conditions make it necessary" (p. 311). This argument is convincing.

All in all, a solid book based partly on the author's own field work, partly on sources not always available to the interested reader.

*Dietrich Kühne*

**Wolf Donner:** Thailand ohne Tempel. Lebensfragen eines Tropenlandes. Frankfurt/M.: R.G. Fischer Verlag, 1984. 204 pp.; DM 24,80.-

Donner's book reads like a travel guide that does not focus on the exotic but rather on the problems which are the unwanted side effects of modernisation. These

social, ecological and political problems have now become questions of life and death. It is not just Donner's purpose to depict another aspect of an exotic developing country frequently visited by German tourists as well; what he aims at is demonstrating the typical problems of most developing countries as exemplified by Thailand, and at promoting understanding of their difficulties.

Thailand's first vital problem is undoubtedly Bangkok, a city with a population of some 6 million, showing no sign of any "limit of growth". Bangkok is gradually sinking into the Gulf of Siam, is becoming suffocated by the fumes from the vast number of cars that block the streets, and there is a great scarcity of accommodation for the rapidly increasing population (c. 240000 per year). Whereas no solution has been found to date for the first two problems, the housing problem is being solved by the initiative of the people concerned. Slums, the result of this initiative, are more of a solution than a problem.

Nor are the rural areas an idyll. Land is scarce and reclamation of jungle (the traditional method of extending the cultivatable area) is reaching its limits. Reclamation of the remaining land is leading to erosion and destruction of the forests, which are being further depleted as a result of the slash and burn techniques adopted by the hill tribes. It will not be long before Thailand is more or less completely deforested.

The industrialisation of Thailand must doubtless be considered successful as regards economic growth, but the cost is the pollution of the rivers – nor does one feel tempted to bathe in the Gulf of Siam any longer. The fishermen and crab farmers are paying the price of a policy that destroys nature which it regards as "free resources". Yet another price of industrialisation is the over exploitation of manpower through minimal wages, women's and children's work.

Without temples, without the exotic Thailand is no longer "the smiling country". Nevertheless, Donner does not confine himself to Cassandra-like prophecies. He cites cases of solutions which show that in Thailand there is the potential to prevent catastrophe. Thailand is probably the only developing country where the population increase could be reduced from over 3 % to under 2 %, without recourse to compulsory measures. "In view of such a successful population policy it should be possible to arrest the destruction of the environment by the beginning of the next century" (p. 186).

The solution to Thailand's problems is not merely the application of the appropriate technology. What is needed are political decisions to alter priorities. That this is inevitably a long process is true not only for Thailand but also for the Federal Republic. Nevertheless, in my opinion Donner does not take the political context sufficiently into account. The individual problems tend to be seen more in juxtaposition than in reference to each other. The treatment of Bangkok also seems to me to be too cursory even though he devotes 3 chapters to it (the



sinking city, air to live, a roof over one's head). But in none of the three chapters is it made clear how important Bangkok is for Thailand, both politically and socially, i.e. the solution to Thailand's vital problems depends on decisions made in Bangkok and the constellation of power there.

Donner aims at depicting an aspect of Thailand which tends to be overlooked by the average tourist. He succeeds in doing so thanks to the pleasantly readable language of the book and also to the fact that it is not steeped in dry statistics and scientific analyses. Every visitor to Thailand should take Donner's book with him.

*Rüdiger Korff*

**Ricardo G. Abad / Elisabeth U. Eviota:** *Philippine Poverty. An Annotated Bibliography, 1970 – 1983.* (IPC Papers No 15/PIDS Monograph Series No 6). Manila: Philippine Institute for Development Studies/Institute of Philippine Culture, 1985. 75.- Phil. Peso

To review a book of 220 pages with about 630 entries is next to impossible. However, anybody concerned with Philippine social reality is well advised to have this bibliography on his/her bookshelf, for it will save many an hour in the search for appropriate material about the Philippine poverty situation. Both compilers have succeeded in providing sensitive and fair summaries of the many studies they present. Additionally, in their introduction they share worthwhile reflections on the state of research on Philippine poverty. It also shows how comparatively advanced the Philippine discussion is with regard to roots and causes, indicators and measurements of poverty. Social policy makers in the Philippines and those responsible for foreign aid programs will have to consult this bibliography constantly. The areas where further research is needed, e.g. the combination of factors leading to or sustaining poverty, are well delineated in the introduction. Most helpful is an index of authors and a location index to the libraries in the Philippines where the various reports can be found.

Since it is not possible to go into the individual reports, here are the main subdivisions of the bibliography: I General Works (overview and frameworks/indicators), II Social Institutions and Poverty (agriculture and agrarian reform/commodities and the transnational corporations/economy: labour and unemployment agencies/economy: income and wages/education/health and nutrition/housing/energy and infrastructure/law/mass media), III Disadvantaged Groups and Communities (ethnic groups/women/fishing communities/upland areas and social forestry/urban areas and relocation), IV Social Processes and Social Psychological