

acteristic conditions distinguishing the current levels of the retail trade are analysed. The fourth chapter of the book summarizes the theses.

Long before the Second World war, Japan suffered from a high population growth rate which persisted in the form of latent unemployment in the area of agriculture. The Japanese government succeeded in accelerating industrialisation and inducing the population to make the transition from the primary to the secondary and tertiary sectors of the economy by enforcing economic and population policies. Today, Japan is generally proud of the fact that robots are increasingly employed working in factories and that the majority of the population is engaged in the tertiary sector. However, per capita worker productivity is lower there. Small family business predominate; commodity distribution is very labour-intensive. The moral obligations of shopkeepers towards wholesale firms are great. But the latter can and must offer certain protection in difficult circumstances.

The characteristics mentioned may seem "unclear" to Europeans and may create the impression that at some point the Japanese consumer will realize that the distribution system must adapt to western models. In Japan, however, most consumers share the opinion that in the end they derive many benefits from this system. The consumer wouldn't dream of doing without home delivery of beverages, vegetables, meat and warm meals, etc. Laumer himself doubts that significant changes will occur. For it is clear that in Japan's wholesale and retail trade traditional values such as harmony and willingness to oblige (*wa no seishin, otagaisama*) have left deep impressions.

Yoko Teichler-Urata

HI-YOUNG CHO: Die Bedeutung des Bankensystems für die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung Südkoreas. (Schriftenreihe zur Industrie- und Entwicklungspolitik, Band 22). Berlin-München: Duncker und Humblot, 1977. 219 pages, DM 68. -

The book, printed with the support of the "Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung" and of the West-German Ministry of Development and Cooperation - contains a lot of facts about the South Korean banking system (on most issues unfortunately only until 1971). The author does not present a theoretical framework that would help to situate the information provided in a specific context.

Of the four chapters the first gives a survey of the social and economic background and the second the historical development as well as the present form of the banking system in Korea. Chapter III investigates the quantitative and qualitative influences of the banking system on economic development in South

Korea, especially to what extent the banking system has been made use of as an active instrument for supporting the national development process. The last chapter contains a number of suggestions on how the task of the banking system, i. e. the mobilization of savings to finance development, could be fulfilled more efficiently (development of a wide-spread savings-bank system, liberal money and credit policy, more competition among banks, development of a domestic capital market).

The reader who is eager to find a discussion of the function of the banking system in a developing country strongly oriented towards export markets will be very disappointed. The specific development model of South Korea is not dealt with. Neither is the problem of the functioning of a banking system in a dependent, developing country: the fact that South Korea is a developing country is hardly mentioned. What "economic development" means or could mean is not discussed.

Few readers will read the book from beginning to end. Others will be helped by the index to find those passages that are most interesting for them.

Gerd Junne

WOLFGANG SENFTLEBEN: *Background to Agricultural Land Policy in Malaysia*. (Schriften des Instituts für Asienkunde in Hamburg, Band 44). Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1978. XXIII, 347 pages.

Meant as "A Concise Manual of Land Tenure, Land Administration and Land Development in Malaysia" (p. 304), the book aims at "description, but main emphasis has been given in pinpointing certain problem areas in the situation of agricultural land . . . , and in giving recommendations for the improvement of the present deficiencies" (p. XV).

Accordingly, it is divided as follows:

"Part One: Introduction", with a "Statement of Objectives", and a short review of general facts and figures relevant to further understanding; government and regional structure; population; agricultural land utilization; diversification of agriculture.

"Part Two: Land Tenure and Land Administration", with detailed reference to customary rights and modern legislation (including rights for special groups, inheritance, taxation, government control, etc.).

"Part Three: Agricultural Development Institutions", minutely describing the complex network of agencies, tasks, and competences in question.