

Reviews

The reviews in Internationales Asienforum try to give a brief evaluation of recent German publications

Dietrich Kobschull und Otto G. Mayer: *Deutsche Investitionen in Indonesien. Eine Untersuchung über Umfang, Motive und Förderungsmöglichkeiten.* (HWA-Studien zur Außenwirtschaft und Entwicklungspolitik.) Hamburg: Verlag Weltarchiv GmbH, 1974. 174 pages, DM 28,—.

Kobschull and Mayer's book has been published as part of a series on foreign investments. The study presented deals with German investments in Indonesia. These investments amounted to 36.5 million DM in July 1973. The first question, whether this sum is to be valued as "small", is answered by means of a structural analysis of German foreign investments in general. The result is that their total amount was not more than 30 billion DM and that German investors showed a marked preference for industrial countries and for developing countries with relatively high levels of development as well as stable political and economic conditions. Due to the low GNP of (1970) US-\$ 80 per capita, and due to the fact that German investment activities in Indonesia were not started before 1967 when the Indonesian policy changed vis-à-vis foreign investments, the low amount of German investments cannot come as a surprise.

In the second part of the study, the authors analyse the investment climate from the perspective of German enterprises. They regard the present and future political and economic situation as stable and they concede that Indonesia offers good prospects for foreign investments in the long run. They show, however, that at the moment investment possibilities have been considerably restricted by special regulations designed to protect the country's domestic industry. The Indonesian government's measures to promote foreign investments prove to be no more attractive than the corresponding regulations in neighbouring countries. Moreover, because of their great number of laws and regulations, they are too complicated for the average entrepreneur to get an overview.

Consequently, the authors recommend as promotional measures on the part of the Federal Republic the improvement of information on the investment climate, on special investment prospects, as well as on statutory and administrative regulations and procedures; besides, they recommend supporting the firms more effectively when applying for investment licences as well as in the phase of construction and current production. As for Indonesia, they enumerate a whole series of impediments which would have to be removed in order to initiate a steady increase of foreign investments.

Kobschull and Mayer have presented a careful empirical investigation. It includes useful information for potential investors as well as many recommendations for the improvement of promotional policies.

Hans-Gert Braun

Paul Kevenhörster, *Wirtschaft und Politik in Japan. Interessengruppen, politische Meinungsbildung und wirtschaftspolitische Entscheidungen.* (Schriften des Instituts für Asienkunde, Bd. 35). Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1973, 218 pages, DM 64.—

In this book — following his thorough and detailed study of the same subject, *Das politische System Japans*, published in 1969 — Kevenhörster presents two only loosely connected analyses. In the first part, entitled "Political determinants of economic decisions", he gives a detailed description of the power structure, emphasizing the pressure economic interests