

ferences in entrepreneurial behaviour between Asia and Europe have to be "reconsidered".

The last paper of the conference ("Putting Global Capitalism in its Place: Economic Hybridity and Ritual Expenditure in Rural China") was presented by *Mayfair Yang* (Dept. of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA). She addressed the post-socialist "hybrid economy" emerging in the 1980's and 90's in rural Wenzhou located on the southeastern coast of China, which combines economic privatization, household industry, entrepreneurial expansion all over China, some transnational capitalist linkages, the continued power of the state, and a revived ritual economy of expenditures in popular religion, community ritual and festival. Borrowing from Georges Bataille's notion of ritual expenditure, she analyzed how ritual economy in rural Wenzhou harbors an archaic economic logic which is at once subversive of capitalist, state socialist, and developmental state principles.

The quality of the papers, the different viewpoints of the authors regarding the conference subject (whom we might simply dichotomize into 'culturalists' and those who interpret culture as being contingent upon time and space) as well as the stimulating opening ceremony, conference setting and professional support ensured interesting, lively and fruitful discussions (despite the almost tropical temperature in the conference room) and thereby a successful conference outcome. Notwithstanding conflicting perceptions of Chinese business issues, participants agreed that Chinese capital will continue to play a prominent role in the consolidation and further development of Asia despite the current tough business environment and that more research is necessary to do justice to the complexity of the subject and rapid social change. How ethnic Chinese entrepreneurs, their family businesses, conglomerates and networks – which have played a significant role in the regional economic integration of East and Southeast Asia (and increasingly in the context of global market expansion) – adjust to the crisis will be an interesting topic for further research projects. Common sense suggests that the issue of Chineseness and associated ideological activities such as the construction of a Chinese variant of capitalism, the discourse on the 'Asianisation of Asia', the resurgence of the new Asian consciousness and associated notions of Asia's moral and cultural superiority which surfaced during the pre-crisis years will resurface once the crisis is over. This would make the need for more solid cross-cultural comparative research on Chinese (ethnic) entrepreneurship and networks even more urgent.

The conference papers are to be published as a monograph in 2000.

Solvay Gerke, Hans-Dieter Evers, Thomas Menkhoff

4th ASEAN Inter-University Seminar on Social Development

Pattani, 11-16 June, 1999

The 4th ASEAN Inter-University Seminar on Social Development took place in Pattani, Thailand, from 11 to 16 June. Over 200 scholars participated and more than 130 papers were given. The conference had been well organised by the Department of Sociology of the National University of Singapore, and the Prince of Songkla

University was definitely a show of strength of a fast expanding Southeast Asian social science. Most participants came from Malaysia, Singapore, The Philippines and Thailand with only a few from Indonesia and Vietnam. The papers covered a wide range of topics though there was some emphasis on the social impact of the current Asian economic crisis, on environmental issues and on the search for identity in a globalized situation. The papers were generally of high quality and showed considerable theoretical sophistication. While most scholars stuck to standard concepts from Weber to Merton there was a clear trend towards post-modern theory and the attempt to find an own position in the global discourse. The two keynote addresses were given by Prof. Dr. Prawase Wasi (Prince of Songkla University): "Southeast Asia into the 21st Century: Critical Transitions, Continuity and Change" and Prof. Dr. Hans-Dieter Evers (University of Bielefeld): "Crisis and Beyond: Theorising Southeast Asia". The next conference will take place in Singapore in the year 2001. Further information can be obtained by writing to Dr. Hing Ai Yun (sochay@leonis.nus.edu.sg). As an ever increasing proportion of research on Southeast Asia is done by staff members of Southeast Asian universities themselves, scholars working on these areas would be well advised to pay greater attention to the locally published journals like the *Southeast Asian Journal of Social Science* (The National University of Singapore), *Akademika* (National University of Malaysia), *PRISMA* (LP3ES Jakarta) and *SOJOURN* (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore).

Hans-Dieter Evers

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC): The First Decade

Freiburg, 21./22 Oktober 1999

Als im November 1989 die Außenminister von zwölf Pazifikanrainern in Canberra zur konstituierenden Sitzung der Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) zusammentraten, belächelten viele Beobachter das neue Forum als ein weiteres einer an Akronymen reichen Region. In der Zwischenzeit hat sich die APEC jedoch zu einem wichtigen Akteur in den Triadenbeziehungen zwischen Nordamerika, Europa und Ostasien gemauert. Sie zählt heute 21 Mitglieder – darunter die USA, China, Japan und Rußland. In der APEC werden heute über 50% des Welthandels abgewickelt und nahezu 50% des Weltsozialprodukts erwirtschaftet. Der von US-Präsident Clinton 1993 nach Seattle einberufene erste Gipfel ließ vor allem in Europa die Alarmglocken schrillen. Angesichts andauernder präzedenzlos hoher wirtschaftlicher Zuwachsraten vor allem im pazifischen Asien kursierte die Furcht vor einem „Pazifischen Jahrhundert“. Von einer Abkehr der USA von Europa war die Rede.

Ein am 21. und 22. Oktober von der Universität Freiburg i.Br. und dem Carl-Schurz-Haus, Freiburg, gemeinsam mit dem Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institut, Freiburg, dem Institut für Asienkunde, Hamburg, und der Herbert-Quandt-Stiftung, München, organisiertes hochkarätiges deutsch-amerikanisches Expertentreffen versuchte aus Anlaß des zehnjährigen Bestehens der APEC Bilanz zu ziehen. Dabei ging es im wesentlichen um drei zentrale Fragen: die Funktionen und Leistungen der APEC,