



Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

Annual Report

1969 - 70

INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

REPORT FOR 1969/70

(1st January 1969-31st March 1970)

During the period under review there were a number of changes in the composition of the Board of Trustees. On 27th May 1969, Mr. David Marshall became the Chairman of the Board in place of Dr. Ahmad bin Mohamed Ibrahim who had resigned. Dr. Lee Yong Leng and Dr. Yong Ching Fatt of the University of Singapore were appointed to the Board on 1st June 1969. They replaced Dr. Ooi Jin Bee and Dr. Chiang Hai Ding of the same university. On 15th April 1969 Mr. Chong Yit Sun of Nanyang University became a member of the Board in place of Professor K.R. Chou who had resigned from the university.

Subsequently, changes were made in the composition of the Executive Committee, the Fellowship Committee and the Scholarship Committee. Mr. David Marshall and Professor Jacen T. Hsieh replaced Dr. Ahmad Ibrahim and Professor K.R. Chou on the Executive Committee on 29th July 1969. In addition, Professor Hsieh took over Professor Chou's place in the Fellowship and Scholarship Committees. Mr. Michael Yeo Chee Wee resigned from the Finance Committee and his place was taken by Mr. Poh Khoon Beng on 24th March 1969.

The composition of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee and the Fellowship, Scholarship and Finance Committees on 1st January 1970 was as follows:-

Board of Trustees

1. Mr. David Marshall (Chairman)
2. Dr. Aw Cheng Chye (Dy. Chairman)
3. Mr. Abdul Karim bin Bago
4. Dr. Ang Kok Ping
5. Mr. Chong Yit Sun
6. Dr. T. Eames-Hughes
7. Mr. Goh Tjoei Kok
8. Prof. Jacen T. Hsieh
9. Mr. Kwan Sai Kheong
10. Mr. Lau Theng Siak
11. Mr. Gabriel Lee
12. Dr. Lee Yong Leng
13. Prof. J.D. Legge (ex-officio)
14. Dr. Lim Chee Then
15. Mr. Lum Choong Wah
16. Prof. K.J. Ratnam
17. Mr. D.D. Sachdev
18. Mr. Shaw Vee Meng
19. Mr. Tan Yeok Seong
20. Mrs. Ann Wee
21. Mr. Wee Mon Cheng
22. Dr. Yong Ching Fatt

Executive Committee

1. Prof. J.D. Legge (Chairman)
2. Prof. Jacen T. Hsieh
3. Mr. Kwan Sai Kheong
4. Mr. David Marshall
5. Mr. Tan Peng Boo
6. Mr. Wee Mon Cheng
7. Prof. Wong Lin Ken
8. Dr. Wu Ta-Yeh

Fellowship Committee

1. Prof. J.D. Legge (Chairman)
2. Prof. Jacen T. Hsieh
3. Prof. K.J. Ratnam
4. Prof. Wong Lin Ken

Scholarship Committee

1. Prof. J.D. Legge (Chairman)
2. Prof. Jacen T. Hsieh
3. Secretary, Public Service Commission (or his nominee)
4. Mr. Tan Peng Boo
5. Prof. Wong Lin Ken

Finance Committee

1. Prof. J.D. Legge (Chairman)
2. Mr. Kwan Sai Kheong
3. Mr. Poh Khoon Beng
4. Mr. Tan Peng Boo
5. Mr. Wee Mon Cheng

During the period under review, the Institute, on the basis of the preparatory work of Professor Benda, began to develop its research programme. The first group of Research Fellows and Visiting Fellows arrived to begin work. A Librarian was selected and has continued the work begun by the Assistant Librarian in developing a research collection. Three more trainee scholars were sent abroad, one to Yale University and two to the University of Michigan. The first appointment was made to the permanent research staff of the Institute.

STAFF

On 17th August 1969 the Institute's first Director, Professor Harry J. Benda, left Singapore to return to his position at Yale University. He was succeeded by Professor J.D. Legge of Monash University. Like his predecessor, Professor Legge specialises in modern Indonesia history. He will stay for one year. At the beginning of January 1970 the Institute's first Executive Secretary, Mr. Lim Phai Som, left for a new position in the Ministry of Finance. He was succeeded as Executive Secretary by Mr. Tan Peng Boo. Mr. Tan, who has been acting as an Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Education, is a graduate in History from the University of Singapore. Mrs. P. Lim Pui Huen was appointed the Institute's Librarian in mid-April 1969. A graduate of the University of Malaya, Mrs. Lim has held a variety of library positions since 1952. The first appointment to the permanent research staff was made in August 1969 when Mr. Tan Ta Sen joined the Institute as a Junior Research Officer. Mr. Tan is a graduate in History from Nanyang University and a holder of two additional degrees in Indonesian Language and Literature from the Universitas Indonesia.

In December, the Director, Professor J.D. Legge, made a visit to Manila and Bangkok to develop contacts between the Institute and other centres of Southeast Asian studies. In Manila he visited the University of the Philippines and had useful talks with members of the Asian Center, and the Departments of History and Political Science. He also visited the Institute of Philippine Culture in the Ateneo de Manila. In Bangkok he visited the Institute of Asian Studies in the Faculty of Political Science of Chulalongkorn University and also

met staff members of Thammasat University. At the end of December a similar visit was made to Kuala Lumpur where he was able to meet staff and students of the University of Malaya.

STAFF TRAINING

Training of permanent research staff-designates continued. Three students were sent to the United States of America for courses in Southeast Asian studies leading to the Master of Arts degree. Miss Lim Yoon Lin was sent to Yale University in June 1969 under an Asia Foundation scholarship while a Ford Foundation Grant enabled the Institute to send Miss Lim So Jean and Mr. M. Rajarethnam to the University of Michigan in late August 1969. By the end of the period under review, the Institute had in all five trainees abroad. Mr. Patrick Low and Mr. Yong Mun Cheong, who were at Yale University, would be returning to the Institute in June 1970.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Institute plans to develop its research programme in three ways: through the activities of its own permanent research staff; through its Fellowships programme whereby grants are given to scholars from Southeast Asian countries; and through its Visiting Fellowships programme which gives facilities to scholars from outside the region.

During the period under review the Institute had only one Junior Research Officer, Mr. Tan Ta Sen, who has been concerned with the problem of multilingualism in Singapore. The Fellowship programme, however, is now in full operation. Through it the Institute has attracted a number of Fellows some of whom are already established scholars while others are more junior people working towards doctoral degrees. The first Senior Research Fellow was Professor Sartono Kartodirdjo, Head of the History Department of Gadjah Mada University and the author of the important monograph, The Peasants' Revolt in Banten of 1888 (The Hague, 1966). At the Institute Professor Sartono has been engaged in a study of movements of agrarian revolt in Java during the 19th and 20th century. Arriving in early March 1969, he spent six months at the Institute and it was possible to arrange for him a research trip to the Netherlands to work in the archives in the Hague. In September 1969 he returned to his post in Jogjakarta for a semester but rejoined the Institute on 23rd February 1970 for a further six months. A research Fellowship was awarded to Dr. Eva Horakova, Research Associate of the Oriental Institute, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague, who has been working on selected aspects of population migration in the Philippines, with special emphasis on Luzonese migrants in Mindanao during the 20th century. Mr. Zainal Abidin bin Abdul Wahid of the History Department of the University of Malaya joined the Institute in September 1969 on a Research Fellowship of fifteen months' duration. He is engaged on a study on the origins of Malaysia. In September 1969 Mr. Shee Poon Kim, a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Indiana University, joined the Institute as a Junior Research Fellow to study the ideology and organisation of the People's Action Party. Two other appointments

were made. Miss Chan Heng Chee of the Political Science Department of the University of Singapore joined the Institute in March 1970 as a Research Fellow to study political life in four Singapore constituencies. Miss Khaw Guat Hoon, a doctoral student of the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, will be studying Malaysian security problems when she joins the Institute in April 1970 as a Junior Research Fellow.

Thirdly, the Visiting Fellowships programme has enabled scholars from outside Southeast Asia to use the Institute as a base for their researches in the region. The first Visiting Fellow to join the Institute was Dr. James L. Peacock, who was studying the modernisation of Singapore's Islamic communities while on sabbatical leave from the University of North Carolina. Dr. Hans-Dieter Evers, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of Graduate Southeast Asia Studies, Yale University, joined the Institute as Visiting Research Fellow in March 1970. Dr. Evers is engaged on a comparative study of urban social structure and mobility in Ceylon, Indonesia and Malaysia. Dr. David A. Wurfel of the Department of Political Science, University of Windsor, Canada and Dr. Peter G. Gowing of Silliman University in the Philippines have both been offered Visiting Fellowships. Dr. Wurfel will be engaged on the study of the Singapore political elite while at the Institute between May and August 1970. Dr. Gowing will continue his studies on the subject of Muslim peoples on the island edge of Asia at the Institute in May and June 1970. Another appointment to the position of Visiting Fellow is that of Dr. Saul Rose of New College, Oxford. Dr. Rose will spend two or three months in early 1971 on a study of the international and domestic situation of Brunei.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

The Institute has developed an active seminar programme. Seminar meetings were generally of two kinds. From time to time visiting scholars gave an account of the research they were conducting in various parts of Southeast Asia. For instance, Mr. Merle Ricklefs of the London School of Oriental and African Studies spoke on "The State of Religion in 18th Century Java", on which subject he had been researching in Indonesia during the past 18 months. Dr. R.W. Liddle, Associate Professor of Political Science, Ohio State University, spoke on "Indonesia's Secular Modernizing Intellectuals", Professor Takeshi Ishida, Professor of Political Science, University of Tokyo, spoke on "Social Structure, Bureaucracy and Political Leadership: Comparative Reflections on Japan and Southeast Asia", Dr. Johan Galtung, Professor of Sociology at Oslo and Director of the Oslo Peace Research Institute, spoke on "Images of a Future World System".

Secondly, members of the Institute, from time to time, presented papers at what are called "work-in-progress" seminars. They were able to benefit from the comments of a critical audience. On his return from The Hague, Professor Sartono gave an account of the progress of his enquiries. In a more preliminary way, Dr. Horakova, Mr. Shee Poon Kim, and Mr. Zainal Abidin described the projects in which they were respectively engaged, their methods of approach and the sources available to them. These Fellows will, at a later date, give further reports on

the progress of their work.

These two seminar programmes were welcomed by the academic staff of the University of Singapore and Nanyang University. It was the Institute's custom to invite members of the Social Science departments of the two universities to attend when subjects in which they were interested were under discussion. These were the only inter-disciplinary seminars offered on a regular basis and there were many comments indicating the value of such seminars to the university communities.

In addition to these two seminar programmes, the Institute had, on occasion, attempted to go beyond the confines of the academic community. It took advantage of a visit to Singapore of Professor Claudio Veliz, Director of the Institute of International Studies, University of Chile, to arrange a public lecture in conjunction with the Extra-Mural Studies Department of the University. Professor Veliz spoke on "Nationalism and the Crisis in Relations with the United States". During November a very successful weekend seminar was held on the subject of "Southeast Asia After Vietnam". The membership of this seminar was confined to invited persons drawn from several walks of life - academic, journalists, civil servants, political leaders and businessmen. The seminar ran over the course of two days and the proceedings were governed by the Chatham House rule which was designed to prevent the attribution of statement of views to any particular speaker. There was therefore no consolidated report of this proceeding. Its purpose was to enable an exchange of views among people who had a special interest in the region but who represented different modes of approach.

LIBRARY

The rapid build-up of the library continued. At the end of the period under review the library had a stock of 5,403 volumes of books and bound periodicals, 499 reels of microfilms and 166 sheets of microfiche. In-depth acquisitions of social science materials in European and indigenous languages on Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore (this being the main area of interest for the Institute at present) were made as were purchases of current publications on Southeast Asia including newspapers, news reports, periodicals, monographs and government documents. The Library also benefited from an exchange programme with sixty institutions. It was also a recipient of gifts from many generous individuals and institutions. The Ford Foundation Grant to the Institute assisted the library in building up a sizeable collection of newspapers on microfilm and acquiring a basic complement of reprographic equipment necessary to a research institution. The Shaw Foundation Grant enabled the library to purchase valuable sets of pre-war Dutch materials and to acquire essential library tools. The German Research Association and the Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation of the Federal Republic of Germany presented to Singapore the Catalogue of the Institut für Weltwirtschaft (Institute of World Economy) in Kiel. The catalogue was deposited in the Institute's library and was available to the University of Singapore Library, the National Library and other local libraries.

Mention must also be made of gifts to the library from the Australian High Commission, the British Council, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies Kyoto University, the Consulate General of the Republic of Vietnam, the Embassy of France, the National Library of Australia, the Singapore Botanic Gardens, the Southeast Asia Development Advisory Group of The Asia Society, the United Nations Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning, and the United States Information Service.

PUBLICATIONS

Two publications issued by the Institute were the monthly Library Accessions List and the Newsletter. The Newsletter was inaugurated in May 1969 to provide information on important developments in the Institute especially as regards its research activities. The Institute brought out in March 1970 its first Occasional Paper. It was on "Research in Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore" by Harry J. Benda. The second Occasional Paper on "Newspapers published in the Malaysian Area with the Union List of Local Holdings" by P. Lim Pui Huen, would be published in April 1970. The first manuscripts of monographs should be taking shape by the end of 1970.

FINANCE

The Institute continued to receive an annual grant from the Government of Singapore. For the financial year from 1st January 1969 to the end of March 1970, this Government grant totalled \$327,500/-. In addition the Institute was able to build up an endowment fund of \$400,000/-, made up of generous donations of \$150,000/- from the National Iron and Steel Mills, \$50,000/- from the Shaw Foundation and \$200,000/- from the Singapore Turf Club. The Institute also received donations of \$21,000/- from the Lee Foundation and \$50,000/- from the Shaw Foundation towards its general fund. The Institute was also a recipient of a three-year supportive grant amounting to \$375,000/- from the Ford Foundation. This was being used to help meet the cost of the Director's emoluments, library development and staff training. The Asia Foundation also assisted in helping to meet the cost of sending some members of the permanent research staff-designates overseas for training.