Acknowledgments

On behalf of the contributors of this special volume on Malaysia, "Mediating Identities in a Changing Malaysia," I would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, in particular Professor Narifumi Maeda Tachimoto, the Editorial Board of the journal, Southeast Asian Studies, and its editor, Ms. Mariko Yonezawa, for facilitating the realisation of the above volume.

The initial platform for the idea was borne out of a special seminar entitled “The State, Economy and Identity in Malaysia,” chaired by Professor Tachimoto, and hosted by the Center on the 9th of October 1995. The contributions by Shamsul A.B., Heng Pek Koon and Zawawi Ibrahim in the volume are revised from the original papers presented at the seminar. My sincere thanks and appreciation to Professor H. Maier of Leiden University, the Netherlands, and Rahman Embong of Universiti Kebangsaan Bangi, Malaysia, for their willingness to also be a part of this special Malaysian issue.

It is our sincere hope that the contributions in this volume will be a fitting way in which we can pay tribute to the Center for its long association with Malaysianists and Malaysian scholars in the Southeast Asian region. For those of us who have had the privilege of being personally “involved” with the Center as visiting scholars, we hope that Mediating Identities will be a lasting symbol and testimony of the intellectual exchange between Southeast Asian and Japanese scholars involved in the similar pursuit of enriching our research, knowledge and understanding of Southeast Asian societies.

Editor of Special Volume on Malaysia
"Mediating Identities in a Changing Malaysia"

ZAWAWI IBRAHIM