

Foreword

This special issue contains the Proceedings of the Seminar on the Problems of Rice-Growing Villages in Malaysia and reports of two separate studies on Malaysia. The proceedings are the outcome of the Seminar which was held at Kuala Lumpur on the 14th of December, 1977 under the joint sponsorship of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, and the Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya.

The six papers presented at the Seminar by Japanese researchers cover a fairly wide range of aspects of the Malay rural scene and its development, including physical environment, rice cultivation, farm economy, village organization, religion and education. Some papers depend much on the data accumulated in the past years and on experiences among Malay village dwellers; others are sort of preliminary reports of a recent joint field research on "Environment, New Technology, and Rural Development" conducted in Thailand and Malaysia. Whatever form these presentations may have taken, they evoked lively discussions among participants of the Seminar, which sometimes developed into vigorous criticism on the part of Malaysian specialists. The present issue substantially compiles their comments and the discussions as they arose during the session.

Special acknowledgment is due to Prof. Datuk Mokhzani bin Abdul Rahim, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Malaya, and all the staff concerned in the Faculty of Economics and Administration of the University, whose generous cooperation facilitated the realization of the Seminar and contributed to its success. I also wish to express my gratitude to Prof. Madya L. J. Fredericks, Deputy Dean of the Faculty, who has summarized the major points of discussions brought up throughout the session and has substantially edited the Seminar Proceedings for this issue. Any clumsiness in the editorial finishing is my own responsibility, but I hope it will not reduce the value of these reports.

The final two papers serve to supplement the foregoing studies: one, by Drs. Takaya and Fukui, and Mr. Yamada, comprises a more detailed account of the ecological observations presented at the Seminar; the other, by Dr. Lee, presents a socio-geographical analysis of urban residential quarters, and brings to light another facet of the recent national development of Malaysia.

Koichi MIZUNO
The Center for
Southeast Asian Studies
Kyoto University