Introduction

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Introduction

This issue of *Asian Review* focuses on Thai-Japanese relations. It is our intention to present to our readers the deeper level of this relationship. This is to emphasize that through these 600 years, the relationship shifted and changed along with the changing condition of the world. Nowadays it has expanded. Begun as state-to-state relations through rulers of each country, the relationship diffused to the people in general.

In this volume, we have two articles examining the relationship during the time of King Chulalongkorn. As Vannaporn Phongpheng shows, in his attempt to restore the tie between Japan and Thailand, the King offered Buddha relics to Japan as an extension of good will. Buddhism, since then, became the point of collaboration between Thailand and Japan. During his reign, modernization of Thailand commenced. Japanese experts were sought to assist Thailand in its development. Support from Japan came in many forms. Dollaya Tiantong studies the Japanese contribution in the development of Thai women’s needlework. Hattakarn Areesilp’s article on “Life during wartime and memories of World War II in the Thai novel *Chungking Sexpress*” studies the experiences of both Japanese and Thai who, suffered from the war. After the war, economic development in Thailand was stimulated by foreign direct investment. Japanese investment was one of the top contributors to Thailand’s growth. Today, the concept of development has moved to include sustainable development. The article by Justin Shone examines how the sufficiency economy philosophy of King Bhumibol Adulyadej has been adopted by the Japanese and Laotian governments. Next, Mayumi Yamada and Chanathip Pharino study Japanese enterprises in Thai eco-industrial development in Amata Nakorn Industrial Estate. The article explains that now Thailand and Japan share a common value in developmental approach. Finally the article by Tippayarat Pothisithiporn and Kiyoshi
Maiya on smiling facial expression may reflect the need for Japanese and Thai to deeply understand each other’s culture.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to those who helped support this volume of Asian Review, the writers, readers, English language editor and the staff of the Publication Program. On behalf of us, producers of this Asian Review Vol. 29/1, we will be very pleased if knowledge and information from this book will somehow contribute to prosperous and peaceful relationship between Thailand and Japan.

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