Introduction

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Introduction

The present issue of ASIAN REVIEW offers six contributions, which concern various countries in Asia with research on different interesting aspects. Starting with the paper of Krisadawan Hongladarom, which focuses on the linguistic and anthropological situation of an important but poorly documented region of Tibet, namely the cultural province of Kham. Gyalthang[Zhongdian], located on the southernmost tip of the frontier, and the last Khampa town in the embrace of the Yantze river is here given special attention.

We move from Tibet to India, as in the second paper, Banjob Bannaruji considers the Untouchables under the shadow of Buddhism in Indian society. He reveals that Buddhism encountered unexpected roles in the Indian society and polity many times in the past. However, through the voices of the Untouchables, Buddhism has been revived for their refuge, along the belief that they too are human beings, a fact recognized under Buddhism.

Turning to the Southeast Asian region, beginning with the paper of Klairung Amratisha, which attempts to examine the political factors that determined the direction of modern Cambodian literature from 1975 to the end of the twentieth century: the destruction of literature under the Khmer Rouge regime, the use of literature as a propaganda tool of the government during the 1980’s and the revival of Cambodian literature. In the next paper, Suthiphaod Chiratiwat discusses lessons to be learned from, and important aspects of the Thai crisis of 1997 which have often been misunderstood. He points out that policy response after the crisis with the help of several institutions, was the key to restoring economic confidence and recovery. Analysis of the post-crisis process is integral part to understand the future of Thailand’s economy and society.
In the fifth paper, Supang Chantavanich examines female labour migration from countries in Southeast Asia, namely Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Yunnan-China. She sums up that labour migration of women from the four countries indicated that there were cases of both legal migration and human smuggling. Many returned female workers did not succeed in reintegrating themselves into the old social cultural and economic contexts of their former lives.

The last contribution, Asawin Nedpogaeo considers a particular aspect of globalization, by pointing out that globalization is for more complex and multi-directional in its probable consequences. He concludes by examining the reality and the immediate confronting issues that all global citizens must find the way to cope with, and seriously take into account.

Apart from the articles, this volume of ASIAN REVIEW also contains a review by Sud Chonchirdsin of Khien Theeravit’s book *Vietnam: Society, Economics, Security, Politics and Foreign Affairs*.

It is to be hoped that the contributions in this issue of ASIAN REVIEW may again, testify to the usefulness of the contributors' efforts to look at present-day problems particular Asian countries, and also the process of globalization. These articles look at issues through the perspective and vision of both senior and young scholars.

Finally, the editor would like to express her thanks to the authors for their valuable contributions and also her appreciation to the readers of the articles published in this issues: Professor Dr. Khien Theeravit, Former Director of Institute of Asian Studies, Professor Dr. Amara Pongsapich, Director of Social Research Institute, Professor Sukanya Sudbanthad, Journalism Department, Communication Arts Faculty, Associate Professor Dr. Pataraporn Sirikanchana, Chairperson Of the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, Assistant
Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Head, Department of Eastern Languages, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University and Mr. Ukrist Pathamanand, Assistant Director, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University. Dr. Sud Chonchirdsin is also appreciated for writing an important review. Last but not least, Dr. Dhiravat Na Pombejra is appreciated for his consultations with the editor.

(Professor Dr. Piyanart Bunnag)
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