



# OCCASIONAL REPORT No. 29

## THE TOYOTA FOUNDATION

July 2000

Shinjuku Mitsui Building 37F • 2-1-1 Nishi-Shinjuku • Shinjuku-ku • Tokyo 163-0437, Japan • Tel: (03) 3344-1701 • Fax: (03) 3342-6911

### Learning from Organic Farming in Thailand

**Shintaro Sugiyama**  
Lecturer, Payap University

#### The Current State of Thai Organic Farming

Although many organic farming operations in Japan began as a reaction to news of the dangers of agricultural chemicals, this has not been the case in Thailand. Rather, against a background of the recent economic crisis, organic farming there has been chosen in response to demands for new farming methods prompted by farmers' poverty, opposition to old forms of commercial agriculture, and recent upheaval in farming communities caused by industrialization. What is therefore being sought is not just organic farming but "alternative agriculture" that allows farmers and their villages to maintain their ways of life and protect nature without spending money. Meanwhile, in recent years demand for organic produce has risen as urban consumers are increasingly urged by the media and advertising to protect nature and the environment. Our survey revealed that there are as many as 70 organic produce stores in Bangkok, as well as 1 or 2 in the northern region that includes Chiang Mai. And there are also agricultural organizations that support organic farmers by supplying seeds and nets to protect their crops from insects.

The use of agricultural chemicals, however, remains high in Thailand. Although DDT and parathion are not sold, such herbicides as paraquat are still used extensively.

Common organic farming methods in the country include those learned from Japan and South Korea, as well as a new, uniquely Thai method using the seeds and leaves of neem, a plant native to Thailand that is lethal to insects and arthropods like prawns and crabs but can be eaten safely by humans.

#### A World of Biodiversity

On a dispatch from Keisen University to Payap University in Chiang Mai, I am teaching and conducting research on organic agriculture. I have been cultivating vegetables here since July 1997 and in November 1998 I began growing rice and fruit with funding from the Toyota Foundation.

In the past, when I visited the island of Mindanao in the Philippines, I was surprised to see that there were no outbreaks of disease or pests in fields where many different kinds of crop were being grown together, including coffee, coconut, mango, papaya, and banana. When I saw a field near Chiang Mai with 43 different varieties of fruit and vegetables where there was never any disease or pests, I was struck again by this ultimate application of biodiversity.

The hot and humid environment found in the tropics supports many different creatures, including insects and microbes. As a result, no one kind of pest or disease can assert dominance over the others. I considered ways to use that tropical biodiversity to prevent pests and disease. In the middle of the paddy fields of the village where I was staying there happened to be a small plot of land of about 10 ares, enclosed by a ditch, where bananas and palms were growing, so I decided to start an experiment growing vegetables alongside other plants in the rainy season. First we built several



*Sugiyama (far left) planting rice with a group of students.*

ridges, each 1 meter across by 18 meters long, and planted six kinds of vegetable—two each of the gourd, bean, and eggplant families—repeating the process three times to give a total of 18 experimental plots. We cultivated these plots three times, in the rainy season (July to October), winter (November to February), and summer (March to May). In winter we also added temperate-climate vegetables like rape and lettuce to the mix.

The results of our first planting were not good. The cucumbers were all destroyed by cucurbit leaf beetles; striped cabbage flea beetles and cabbage beetles attacked the rape; and the eggplants were attacked by plague and boring insects. All this meant that we hardly harvested anything at all. When we repeated the experiment a second and third time, however, the pests seemed to be controlled by their natural enemies, and the damage to the crops decreased, as did occurrences of disease. After about a year and a half the plot had become steadily productive. I remembered that an organic farming project begun in 1995 by the local YMCA had also been estimated to require about one and a half years for a field to stabilize. In my experiments in Japan it took about three years for the environment to settle. When I thought about why it took half that time in Thailand, I remembered the formula  $Q_{10} = 2$ , which estimates that if the temperature rises by 10 degrees centigrade then chemical reactions will increase by a factor of roughly 2. The mean annual temperature in Chiang Mai is 26.0, about 10 degrees higher than that of central Japan. The explanation seems, therefore, to be that chemical reactions, the foundation of all activity by living creatures, were occurring in Thailand at twice the rate seen in Japan.

Since the workings of living things depend on biodiversity, I concluded that the phenomenon of an environment achieving stable productivity—so important to organic agriculture—must depend on biodiversity. The interaction of diverse organisms in a complex environment, maintained through the use of such tools as organic fertilizer, irrigation, and crop-mixing, allows disease-causing germs and harmful insects to be controlled.

If one attributes the stabilization of an environment to the diversity of life there, one can imagine problems arising from the evolution of that diversity. Thinking that the relations between crops, pests, and the other various creatures living around them might evolve with time as in a micro universe, I did some research on the theory of evolution. On this topic Dr. Motoo Kimura had written: "Natural selection causes the divergence of species. This is because an area of given size

can better support a range of individuals with different structures and behavior than it can a concentration of homogenous individuals." (Tokyo: Iwanami, 1988)

The world of biodiversity is a world of diverse creatures of different forms and impacts all trying to make their way into the same plot of land, saying, "Me too! Let me in!" In other words, when an area "settles down," it means that the life contained there has diversified as far as the environmental conditions permit. I have, in fact, never seen or heard of anyone who made a serious and sustained effort at organic agriculture but found that it became harder to grow things as time passed. The "settling" of an environment through the diversity of life is proof that Dr. Kimura's words are true. We can surely secure a bright future for organic agriculture by maintaining the right environmental conditions for biodiversity.

Applying these lessons to fruit, the research team conducted an experiment growing guava and papaya alongside Tahitian lemon trees, which are said to have a high resistance to disease. Growing these lemons proved difficult, and the experiment did not succeed. Considering the success we have had in growing lemons of a species native to this region, I reflected and remembered the principle that one should generally grow species that are indigenous to the area.

There are many examples of cultivating two or three types of fruit together using no chemicals: I know of one place where teak, guava, and coffee are being grown together with some success. In the future I expect mixed cultivation of organic crops like coffee to really take off.

### Growing Rice Without Using Chemicals

In this region there is a variety of glutinous rice with thick stems. It grows well, attracts few disease-causing insects, and kills weeds when it is fully grown. During last year's rainy season we cultivated this rice alongside *Azolla*, aquatic ferns that fix nitrogen from the air, and tilapia salmon, freshwater fish that feed on weeds. We feed the *Azolla* ferns rice bran; the fish also eat the rice bran, as well as the ferns and weeds; and their waste is a source of nutrients for the rice plants.

Last year we carried out this experiment with *Azolla* plants donated by Chiang Mai University, and all the rice grew well thanks to the activity of the fish. We were able to harvest over 600 kilograms of rice per 10-are plot.

This year the head of Payap University gave us permission to turn a field that was overgrown with shrubs into a paddy. We plan to plant a crop of 1 rai (1,600 square meters) in the dry season and 3 rai in

the rainy season. Unfortunately, this year we were unable to obtain the *Azolla* stock from Chiang Mai University. However, on February 11 some 35 students from Payap University's Department of Food Science and Technology helped us to plant the rice and introduce over 1,000 tilapia to the paddy.

Currently we feed the fish on rice bran. They swim around the field, muddying the water, eating up weeds, and scattering their waste. The nutrients they produce in the process help the rice to grow.

On seeing the nature of Africa, Albert Schweitzer remarked, "I am life which wills to live, in the midst of life which wills to live." I think of these words as I conduct experiments in my small corner of the tropics.

## Outline of the Fiscal 2000 Program Plan

**Chimaki Kurokawa**  
*Managing Director*

At its ninetieth meeting, held on March 17, the Board of Directors adopted a program plan for fiscal 2000. The following is a summary of the Toyota Foundation's policy for the current fiscal year focusing on key portions of the plan.

As a continuation of last fiscal year's basic policy, the fiscal 2000 program plan consists of four pillars: (1) the strengthening of international ties based on cooperation with overseas foundations and other organizations; (2) the promotion of ties with the corporate and government sectors; (3) the continuing revision and improvement of our main programs; and (4) the strengthening of our capabilities in the areas of human resources, organization, and information systems. In line with these objectives, the Board of Directors pinpointed the following items for priority implementation.

### 1. Management of Main Programs

#### (A) Research Grant Program

In view of the pace of globalization, subthemes 1 and 2 of the program will be changed in an attempt to spark research in new areas. The new subthemes will be (1) Diverse Cultures in Interaction: Global, Regional, Local; and (2) The Reform of Social Systems: Toward Strengthening Civil Society. The Foundation will also actively continue its efforts toward the publication and dissemination of research results.

#### (B) Grant Program for Civil Society

With the Law to Promote Specified Nonprofit Activities (the NPO Law) now having been in effect for over a year, Japanese NGOs are being pressured to bolster their organization through building their capacity and developing various skills. In light of this situation, the Foundation will make efforts to expand and enhance its grants for this program. The evaluation of projects funded under the Grant Program for Civil Society since it began in fiscal 1996 will also be conducted.

#### (C) Southeast Asia Grant Programs

The Foundation will initiate an evaluation of the past results of the Southeast Asian National Research Program (SEANRP) in Thailand and Vietnam. We will open up this program to include Myanmar this year, expecting to provide support on a small scale. Also, we will explore the possibility of support for the preservation of palm-leaf materials and traditional documents of the Tai ethnic minority in the southern part of Yunnan Province in China.

A major portion of the administrative responsibility for the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP) was transferred to the SEASREP Council's Secretariat in Manila last year. The Foundation will continue to help the Council develop its administrative capacity and to co-manage the Program.

This year the Foundation will also evaluate the achievements of the Young Indonesian Researchers Program to date, seeking to explore new directions for its future development.

### 2. Expanding the Foundation's Partnerships

Moves toward building international networks in connection with the Foundation's activities are making headway, and cooperation with the corporate and government sectors is also developing well. In light of these trends, paying special attention to the Asia-Pacific region, we will make efforts toward sharing information, implementing joint projects and making collaborative grants. The framework for these efforts will consist of three elements: (1) a network among foundations and collaborative grants, (2) cooperation with the government sector, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and others, and (3) cooperation with the corporate sector. We will endeavor to develop several specific projects in each of these areas.

### 3. Capacity Building at the Toyota Foundation

Bearing in mind the direction the Foundation should take in the future, we will strive to review our organ-

ization, upgrade the abilities of our staff, and secure and foster human resources. In the age of information technology and globalization, the Foundation staff's skills have to be reviewed to make the Foundation's programs really meaningful.

### A Collection of Archival Documents from Taokas Sinkang Village

**Shiro Honda**  
*Program Officer*

This book was compiled and published by anthropologist Chia Yu Hu, a lecturer at National Taiwan University, to provide reprints of 80 old manuscripts relating to the Austronesian Taokas indigenous people of Taiwan. They were collected in the summer of 1931 by Nobuto Miyamoto, a Japanese anthropologist who went to Taiwan to carry out field research and stayed to work as a university professor. While assisting the teaching of folk anthropology at Taiwan Imperial University under Japan's colonial regime, Miyamoto collected the manuscripts in Sinkang Village, Miaoli County, in northern Taiwan. The book is effectively the result of 70 years of international academic cooperation between Japan and Taiwan.

#### A History of the Taokas People

There are numerous non-Han Chinese ethnic groups in mainland China today. The history of China's border regions is one of repeated periods of contact, conflict, and peace between countless different ethnic groups. The *Shih-chi* (Historical Records) compiled by Ssu-ma Ch'ien in the first century B.C. contained accounts of the lives of the Huns and other ethnic groups living in outlying areas, suggesting that Ssu-ma Ch'ien was well aware of this issue.

The drama of contacts between Han Chinese and other ethnic groups was not confined to the Chinese mainland. Taiwan is an island located about 200 kilometers from Fujian, China, and about 350 kilometers from the northern tip of the island of Luzon in the Philippines. Until the arrival of the Dutch and Spanish in the seventeenth century, the island was a haven for aboriginal peoples speaking Austronesian languages. Looking at the wider picture, one could say that Taiwan was part of the Austronesian community, which also included the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia. The name Taiwan itself is said to originate

from the language of the indigenous Siraya people.

In 1661, in an incident made famous by Japanese playwright Chikamatsu Monzaemon in *The Battles of Coxinga*, Chinese warrior Cheng Ch'eng-kung expelled the Dutch from Taiwan, and under the subsequent rule of the Ch'ing dynasty the full-fledged immigration of Han Chinese from Fujian on the coast facing Taiwan began. From then on, the culture of the indigenous peoples inhabiting the plains of Taiwan's west coast were diluted by waves of Chinese influence, and during the Ch'ing dynasty and the following colonial period they began to be known by the generic term *Pingpu* (plain dwellers). The Taokas people that are the subject of this book are one group of these plain-dwelling aborigines.

The indigenous peoples who lived in the inhospitable mountains of Taiwan, meanwhile, escaped the Sinification of the Ch'ing era. After the cession of Taiwan to Japan under the Treaty of Shimonoseki in 1895, however, they were colored by the pressures of Japanization. Reactions against these pressures, including the Wushe Rebellion of 1930, are matters of historical fact.

Today the total population of Taiwan is 22 million, of whom according to official estimates 380,000—less than 2%—belong to indigenous Austronesian ethnic groups. Until recently plain dwellers still used to hide their origins for fear of discrimination, and some even kept their ethnicity secret from their children. Recently, at last, they have started to reassert their identity as indigenous people, and there has been coordinated action to try and improve their position in society. In September 1998 the first meeting of the Formosa Pingpu Aborigines Society was held. The compilation and publication of this book has taken place against the background of these changes.

#### Lessons from Old Documents

The manuscripts collected in this book offer a valuable glimpse of the contact between the Taokas indigenous people and Han Chinese immigrants and the resulting social and cultural transformations. That close to half the documents relate to the transfer and leasing of farmland between these two ethnic groups clearly indicates the kind of processes by which these changes took place. Another deeply interesting revelation is that Taokas names switched to Han Chinese-style from the middle of the nineteenth century. The oldest manuscript, from 1762, dates back to the reign of Emperor Ch'ien Lung (1736–1795), and the newest is a declaration establishing the colonial Japanese government in 1897. This

book contains detailed photographs and transliterations of the Sinkang Village manuscripts and represents a superb example of the art of reprinting ancient manuscripts. It boasts an index of place names, maps, and photographs taken during Nobuto Miyamoto's investigation. The introduction by Chia Yu Hu will also prove a great help to readers.

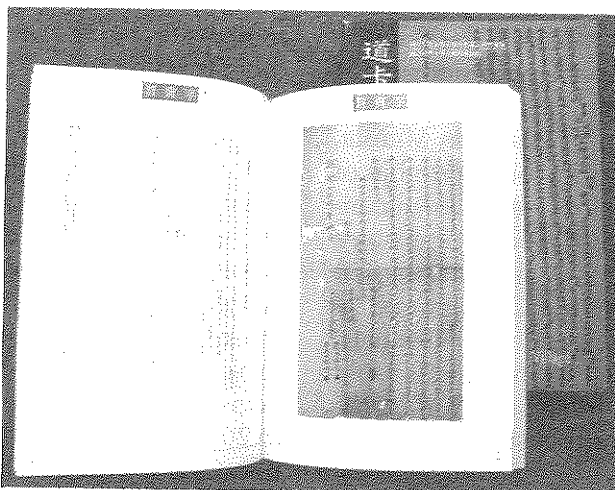
Currently some Japanese researchers of Southeast Asia are working toward clarifying the history of contacts between Han Chinese and non-Han ethnic minorities residing within the borders of Yunnan in China and in Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand. This book will surely suggest new avenues for future research in this field.

### The Reprinting Process

The ancient Taokas manuscripts have had an eventful existence. Collected by folk anthropologists at Taiwan Imperial University in November 1931, they were inherited by that institution's successor, National Taiwan University, after the end of Japanese rule (1945) and the founding of the Kuomintang regime (1949). Thanks to the efforts of NTU researchers they have now seen the light of day for the first time in about 70 years. Since 1995 this publication project has provided various opportunities for deepening exchange between Japan and Taiwan. The costs of the project have been picked up jointly by the Toyota Foundation and the Taipei-based Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (the CCK Foundation).

While Taiwan was under Japanese rule Japanese anthropologists—the predecessors of this project team—conducted academic research into the indigenous peoples of the island. After a long period of dramatic upheaval spanning World War II and the establishment of Nationalist rule on Taiwan, the project team has edited and published the valuable results of their efforts. That the Foundation was able to support this work in partnership with an organization representing Taiwanese academia gives us an immense feeling of satisfaction.

I would like to recount one last episode. One day in late autumn, 1999, after this book had been published, Chia Yu Hu revisited Sinkang Village. At that time the



*A photograph and transliteration of a Sinkang Village document, taken from the book.*

villagers of Taokas stock expressed their deepest thanks to Chia. Time flies, and today's Taokas now have few means of understanding the history of their ancestors, their tribe, and their native lands. They said that the book will serve as a reminder of the spirit of their village.

Note: After this article was written, two further similar volumes were published by National Taiwan University's Department of Anthropology—*A Collection of Archival Documents from Kavalan and Siraya* and *A Collection of Archival Documents from Ketagalan Village*. Both of these are reprints of documents from the Japanese colonial period relating to Pingpu peoples. These compilations of material are a solid basis for future research on Taiwan's indigenous peoples.

### SEASREP 2000 Selection Process

**Yumiko Himemoto**  
*Program Officer*

The selection of projects for the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP) took place in Bangkok at the beginning of May. Before examining the content of the projects that were selected, I would like to touch on the major changes we are making in the management of the program, now in its sixth year.

### Developing the Autonomy of SEASREP

Until now SEASREP has been run jointly by three organizations: the SEASREP Council, the Toyota Foundation, and the Japan Foundation Asia Center.

To promote research on Southeast Asia the SEASREP Council was created at the suggestion of the Toyota Foundation by four Southeast Asian scholars after several discussions they held in 1994. The Council not only played a key role in planning the program, but initially also undertook the selection of grant recipients. To encourage academic ex-

change and regionally focused research, the Council also successfully concluded agreements among eight leading universities in four countries.

With the establishment of a secretariat in Manila, the Council has initiated and carried out a number of activities, including convening an international conference on Southeast Asian studies; carrying out a field study program for students at Southeast Asian universities dubbed the "Travelling Classroom Program"; commissioning research on how Southeast Asia is represented in pre-university textbooks; publishing a biannual *Southeast Asian Studies Bulletin*; and a survey on interests on Southeast Asian studies in Southeast Asia.

The Toyota Foundation and the Japan Foundation Asia Center have supported the Council's operations financially. Administrative tasks—producing application forms, accepting applications, coordinating selection committee meetings, and carrying out general grant administration—have been handled initially by the Toyota Foundation, and then by the SEASREP Tokyo Joint Secretariat within the Toyota Foundation office since its establishment in 1997 in close concert with the SEASREP Council. The two Japan-based foundations have cooperated in the systemization of the program, helping, for example, in 1998 to establish an independent selection committee.

After five years the program has really taken off, so from this year we are gearing up to develop it in new directions. To this end, the administration of three of the SEASREP subprograms—Southeast Asian Language Training Grants, Visiting Professorship Grants, and M.A. and Ph.D. Incentive Research Grants for Young Researchers in Southeast Asian Studies—will be transferred from the Tokyo Joint Secretariat to the Council Secretariat in Manila. The Council played a key role in the creation of the program, so it is natural that it should undertake its management, although in order to do so its facilities will need to be upgraded.

Although the two Japan-based foundations have so far provided all the funds for the program, including the Council's operating costs, there is a growing feeling that if the Council itself undertakes the ad-

ministration of the program it may attract funds from other funding sources in the future. After preparations for the transfer of some of the administrative functions started last year, the Council in Manila began to accept applications for this year's three subprograms mentioned above, while as in previous years the Tokyo office took care of the remaining Regional Collaboration Grants. The Council will also take charge of issuing grants to recipients in those three subprograms; the two Japan-based foundations will fund projects not on a case-by-case basis but on the basis of decisions taken by the Council. If things go smoothly, in 2005 the administration of the Regional Collaboration Grants will also be transferred to the Council in Manila.

Both the current joint management of SEASREP and the moves toward making it independent from the Foundation are first-time experiences for us. We will be watching future developments with great interest.

#### Features of Projects Approved This Year

With the management of the program divided between two places there may have been some confusion among applicants, but the application process went ahead without any major problems between November 1, 1999, and February 29, 2000. The number of applications and the total amounts requested and approved are shown in the table.

I would now like to touch on the applications and the results of the selection procedure for this year. First, there were 41 applications for Regional Collaboration Grants handled in Tokyo, up from the previous year's figure of 38. Of those, 10 applications were approved, fewer than the 13 that were approved last year, although that figure included 4

Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program 2000

Subprogram	Budget	No. of Applications	Total Amount Requested	Applications Approved	Total Amount Approved
Southeast Asian Language Training Grants	\$51,600 (51,600)	24 (24)	\$166,980 (168,538)	10 (9)	\$62,700 (51,600)
Visiting Professorship Grants	29,000 (29,000)	6 (12)	22,145 (38,925)	5 (10)	\$18,000 (29,100)
M.A. and Ph.D. Incentive Grants for Young Researchers in Southeast Asian Studies	34,000 (34,000)	27 (33)	137,682 (181,466)	7 (9)	\$34,000 (33,900)
Regional Collaboration Grants	190,000 (190,000)	41 (38)	1,002,850 (951,786)	10 (13)	\$190,000 (175,600)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$304,600</b> <b>(304,600)</b>	<b>98</b> <b>(107)</b>	<b>1,329,768</b> <b>(1,340,751)</b>	<b>32</b> <b>(41)</b>	<b>\$304,700</b> <b>(290,200)</b>

( ) indicates figures in 1999



small-scale grants for preliminary surveys. Of the 10 approvals, 5 were for continuing projects and 5 were for new ones.

To see the features of the projects that were approved, let us look at two different types of new project. The first—as represented by a project comparing concepts of religion, community, and the state across Southeast Asia and another examining art in Southeast Asia in the colonial period—involves approaching a subject that varies from country to country, such as religion or the colonial experience, and undertaking research from the perspective of comparison. The other type of project—as represented by one addressing issues of identity and ethnicity in the oral traditions of western Borneo and another elucidating regional cultural exchange through research on historical and sociocultural aspects of woven textiles—focuses on a particular subregion of Southeast Asia and tries to shed light on the exchanges and commonality that existed historically within that region but are now obscured by national borders. Both of these approaches have an important role to play in deepening understanding of Southeast Asia, and there are high hopes for the results of these projects.

I would like to point out another phenomenon that has become apparent, the crossing over of research projects from other Foundation programs. A few of this year's newly proposed projects are based on a network of researchers previously supported by the Toyota Foundation's Southeast Asian National Research Program (SEANRP).

As for the applications for continuing grants, many of them were characterized by their unique aims, and the projects are progressing smoothly. In particular, as a result of "Seventeenth-Century Southeast Asia in the Context of Autonomous History," which received a grant in 1998, a collection of papers presented at a meeting last year is scheduled for publication. As this work aims to rewrite the history of the region from a viewpoint of local lords in peripheral cities, it is sure to spark much interest among historians.

The number of applications for Southeast Asian Language Training Grants, Visiting Professorship Grants, and M.A. and Ph.D. Incentive Research Grants for Young Researchers in Southeast Asian Studies, which are managed by the Council Secretariat in Manila, were the same or lower than last year. The Visiting Professorships subprogram, in particular, fell within budget. It was pointed out that although a considerable network of researchers in this program had formed, there was great demand

for the highly regarded Southeast Asian Language Training Grants for young researchers, and at the selection committee meeting it was unanimously agreed that the budget for Visiting Professorship Grants this year should be cut and the funds redirected to Language Training Grants. As a result, only five of the six applications for Visiting Professorship Grants were approved, and the remaining \$11,000 was transferred to Southeast Asian Language Training Grants, 10 of which were approved this year. This year the number of researchers of Vietnamese remained high at four, the same as 1999, while the number of hitherto rare applications from Thailand rose, as did the number of grant recipients. As for the M.A. and Ph.D. Incentive Research Grants for Young Researchers in Southeast Asian Studies, as ever recipients from the previous year continued to be funded, and a number of past recipients of Language Training Grants were also approved for grants to support their M.A. or Ph.D. research. One particularly noticeable feature of the program this year was that most of the grants went to graduate students of the Department of Southeast Asian Studies of the University of Malaya, which has the longest history of research on Southeast Asia of any higher-education institution in the region. Programs for young researchers like these require detailed follow-up, and training a program officer to undertake such a role at the SEASREP Council Secretariat is a matter of urgency.

Finally, Luisa Mallari of the University of the Philippines, who had served as a member of the selection committee and was due to sit on the committee this year too, died in a plane crash in the Philippines on April 19. On behalf of the Toyota Foundation, I would like to express my heartfelt sorrow and offer my condolences to her family.

*Note: Taking into account the schedules of universities around Southeast Asia, the next round of applications for SEASREP will be held from September 1 to December 7, 2000.*

### Recent Publications Based on Foundation-Supported Research

*The Philippines under Japan: Occupation Policy and Reaction.* Setsuho Ikehata and Ricardo Trota Jose, eds. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 1999.

On December 8, 1941 (Japan time), the day that the attack on Pearl Harbor was launched, Japanese armed forces began their invasion of the Philippines, occupying Manila in January of the following year. The Japanese occupation of the Philippines lasted for three years and eight months, from then until the end of the war in 1945.

This book, the English translation of a Japanese-language work published by Iwanami Shoten in 1996, is the first-ever collection of essays that seeks to position the Japanese occupation in modern Philippine history and to analyze questions relating to the occupation policies that Japan implemented in the Philippines, the impact on Philippine society and the masses, and the reaction of the Philippine people.

The book's essays are written by eight Japanese researchers and one Philippine researcher. With a grant from the Toyota Foundation, these researchers organized the Forum for the Survey of Records Concerning the Japanese Occupation in 1990. As well as clarifying the location of Japanese materials essential for research on Japan's occupation of the Philippines, they conducted interviews with Japanese involved in the occupation and published the recordings.

Since this book incorporates the results of these activities, it devotes admirable energy to the unearthing and analysis of Japanese-language materials, which have been neglected in Philippine and American research so far. As a result, the book succeeds in clarifying the purposes and contents of Japan's occupation policies and examining the hardships and problems of Philippine society in responding to these policies.

In contrast with previous studies concentrating on political history, this book analyzes the Japanese occupation from a wider perspective, including economic, social, and cultural aspects. The additional chapter at the end of the book lists the location, state of preservation, and information on use of unpublished materials relating to the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, thus providing useful tools for future researchers.

The book was published with a research report grant for fiscal 1998.

---

*Collection of Upade* and *Collection of Thet-Kayit*, Htun Yee, ed. Toyohashi: Aichi University, 1999.

For several years from 1982 the Toyota Foundation provided grants for a project by Myanmar historian

Than Tun, known for his writings on Myanmar religion and history, to compile and provide background notes on the edicts of the Burmese kings from the decline of the Toungoo dynasty in 1598 to the collapse of the Konbaung dynasty in 1885. The results of this work were collected in the 10-volume *The Royal Orders of Burma (A.D. 1598–1885)*, published by Kyoto University's Center for Southeast Asian Studies, which is now a highly regarded source for research into this period of Myanmar history. Htun Yee's works—the four-volume *Collection of Upade*, covering laws and regulations of the last two kings of Myanmar and the three-volume *Collection of Thet-Kayit*, which compiles money-lending contracts of rural Myanmar in the Konbaung period—represent a continuation of Than Tun's achievement.

Htun Yee graduated from Rangoon University in 1961. He then did various jobs, including work in a bank, while conducting historical research in his spare time. Although he is a private historian, he has managed to collect and reprint a variety of ancient documents and publish the results of his studies himself. He was invited to Aichi University as a visiting researcher in 1993 and has since turned his attention to the task of examining in detail 114 microfilms of ancient documents that were collected in Burma a quarter of a century ago, mainly by the late Professor Hiroaki Ogiwara of Kagoshima University, and compiling both the films and the documents. The Foundation began funding this project in 1993. It is hoped that the publication of these documents will further advance research into the Konbaung dynasty, the last dynasty to rule Myanmar.

---

The Toyota Foundation welcomes responses from readers of the *Occasional Report*. Comments and questions should be addressed to the International Division, The Toyota Foundation, Shinjuku Mitsui Building 37F, 2-1-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-0437, Japan. The articles in the *Occasional Report* reflect the authors' opinions and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Foundation.

Coordinating editor: Masaaki Kusumi. Production: Japan Echo Inc., Tokyo. Copyright ©2000 by The Toyota Foundation; all rights reserved. Printed in Japan.