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Shinjuku Mitsui Building 37F • 2-1-1 Nishi-Shinjuku • Shinjuku-ku • Tokyo 163, Japan • Tel: (03) 344-1701 • Fax: (03) 342-6911

First Symposium for Recipients Of Incentive Grants in Indonesia

On November 18 and 19, 1989, a symposium for the presentation of research reports by recipients of Incentive Grants for Young Researchers, a program administered as part of the Toyota Foundation's International Grant Program, was held at the Wisata International Hotel in Jakarta. This was the first such symposium sponsored by the Foundation outside Japan.

The incentive-grant program

Incentive Grants for Young Researchers are one-year grants awarded to young Indonesians conducting individual research in the social sciences and humanities, with preference given to researchers under thirty-six years of age. Grants are relatively small, to enable as many researchers as possible to benefit, and applications are publicly solicited.

The incentive-grant program has grown steadily since its inauguration in fiscal 1987. There were 273 applicants that year, 337 in fiscal 1988, and 423 in fiscal 1989. On the recommendation of a selection committee comprising three Indonesian and three Japanese scholars, 17 recipients were chosen in fiscal 1987, 18 in fiscal 1988, and 24 in fiscal 1989.

One reason this symposium was planned is that it had been pointed out, especially by the Indonesian members of the selection committee, that fostering young researchers called for more than just financial assistance; at some point, expert direction and evaluation of their work would also be necessary. Such a symposium would give the researchers a chance to get to know one another and would allow the Foundation to evaluate the incentive-grant program. The symposium was timed to enable the presentation of reports by recipients of fiscal 1987 grants, who had concluded their projects, and recipients of fiscal 1988 grants, who were nearing the end of their projects.

The symposium

Thirty-one grant recipients presented the results of their research. In addition, four Japanese scholars of Indonesia and four senior Indonesian scholars were invited to attend the symposium as commentators.

The Japanese included Teruo Sekimoto and Hiro-yoshi Kano, both associate professors at the University of Tokyo; Yoshimichi Someya, a professor at the Kyushu Institute of Technology then staying in Jakarta; and Shigeo Nishimura, an associate professor at Kyushu University and at Kyoto University's Center for Southeast Asian Studies. The Indonesian scholars were Dr. Taufik Abdullah of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences and Professor Budhisantoso Subur, Dr. Prijono Tjiptoherijanto, and Dr. Edi Sedyawati, all of the University of Indonesia.

One striking feature of the symposium was the diversity of disciplines and regions represented. The researchers' fields included history, economics, cultural anthropology, literature, education, agricultural sociology, public hygiene, and environmental studies, while the regions studied ranged over much of Indonesia: Irian Jaya, Java, Kalimantan, Nusa Tenggara, Sulawesi, and Sumatra.

The subjects of research were as varied. To give just a few examples, grant recipients presented reports on land problems in rural Java, the agricultural methods of a swidden-farming people in East Kalimantan, income-generating activities of women's groups in the Bengkulu region of Sumatra, and the nutritional problems of pregnant women in East Nusa Tenggara. The great cultural diversity of this island nation was graphically illustrated by the difficulty many participants had understanding the Javanese language and concepts discussed in a report on Rang-gawarsita, the great nineteenth-century court poet of Central Java.

Strengths and weaknesses

Also noteworthy was the fact that the researchers had managed to adhere to their initial study plans and had collected much valuable new data. Many of the studies, however, showed logical and stylistic weaknesses and failed to present clear-cut conclusions. Experts explained these weaknesses as stemming from inadequate knowledge and understanding of the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of the relevant academic disciplines and from insufficient knowledge of similar studies undertaken in other regions and of research in other fields conducted in the same region.



The first symposium for incentive-grant recipients, Jakarta

In short, lack of theoretical knowledge hampered logical exposition, while ignorance of research in related fields made it difficult for the researchers to present clear-cut conclusions. These problems, which plague much of Indonesian research, are due in large part to the limited domestic distribution of scholarly books and papers, which are beyond the means of many researchers when available at all. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that the reports delivered at the symposium represented the work of young researchers, the overall level was higher than anticipated, and a few reports were of an international standard. Publication in Indonesian of outstanding papers is planned.

At the end of the symposium the participants expressed their desire for more such gatherings and suggested forming an "alumni association" of incentive-grant recipients. (*Toichi Makita, Assistant Program Officer, International Division*)

First Japan Networkers' Conference

The First Japan Networkers' Conference was held on November 12 and 18, 1989, the first session in Tokyo and the second in Osaka. Although it differed from government- and business-sponsored symposiums and other meetings on information networks, which have tended to paint rosy visions of the future, the conference attracted over six hundred participants.

The meanings of networking

The genesis of the conference was the formation of the Networking Study Group in 1984 upon the publication of the Japanese translation of *Network-*

ing, by Jessica Lipnack and Jeffrey Stamps (originally published in the United States by Doubleday & Co. in 1982). This book describes the success of the new wave of networking sweeping the United States. With the help of a forum grant from the Toyota Foundation, we upgraded the study group into the Networking Forum. Over the next several years, assisted by further forum grants, this forum discussed the concept of networking and the possibility of developing it in a Japanese social context.

At first, the word *networking* was only vaguely understood, and few of us knew what it entailed, but now the word is widely used in Japan. Thanks to networking, new kinds of relationships that go beyond conventional frameworks have been developed. Interest in networking has been growing in response to critical situations on both the global and the individual levels. On the global level, the earth is threatened by problems that resist solution through conventional ideas and social systems. On the individual level, we are grappling with the spiritual impoverishment that has accompanied material wealth and the loss of individual identity that has been brought about by the proliferation of information.

To overcome these crises, we believe, we must create wider and deeper networks to draw out groups and individuals that are closed in on themselves. To survive we need to establish a new social system. What make this possible are technological innovations in communications—advances in the communications infrastructure made up of communications satellites, telephones, facsimile machines, and computer networks. These advances have revolutionized communications, and they could also revolutionize people's attitudes. The importance of networking lies in the latter area.

In Japan, the words *network* and *networking* are used in two contexts. One is the context of government and administration. Here *networking* refers to the use of the communications infrastructure to bring about greater control and more efficient production; the goal is the creation of an ultra-advanced industrial society through the use of sophisticated networks.

The other context is that of citizen activities. The goal of this kind of networking is not to develop society further through competition and power but to create a caring, communal society through the use of a new "software of exchange" based on freedom and independence. Networking in this sense also enables citizens to offer alternative ideas and processes for the creation of a postindustrial society.

We are working toward the development of the latter type of networking as a means to effect a shift from a "masculine" civilization devoted to the pursuit of rationality and efficiency and emphasizing competition to a humane, ecologically oriented "feminine" civilization based on the concept of community and valuing feeling and sensitivity.

Summary of the conference

The aim of the first Japan Networkers' Conference, whose theme was "The New World Opened by Networking," was to define a direction for networking in Japan. Participants invited from overseas included Lipnack and Stamps from the United States; Tang Eng Lock, chairman of the Volunteer Action and Development Centre, from Singapore; and Weeraman Jinadasa, vice-president of the Buddhist organization Sarvodaya, from Sri Lanka.

At the November 12 session, in Tokyo, reports on examples of networking in Japan, Singapore, and Sri Lanka were presented, after which Lipnack and Stamps spoke on the theme "Vision of the Alternative Society Described by Networking." Professor Kimihiro Masamura of Senshu University concluded the session with an address on networking's potential for resolving the global crisis.

The Osaka session, held six days later, focused on networking in practice. The participants divided into groups to discuss the type of society envisioned by "organic relationships to rebuild local communities," the steps already taken in this direction, the methods used, and the types of support systems needed.

Lipnack and Stamps pointed out that networking is at once the oldest form of organization and the organization of the future. They said that networks



A discussion group at the Osaka session of the conference

are held together by common goals and values and emphasized the importance of compatibility and interchangeability of communications and organizations. In tackling global issues, they stressed, it is necessary to create networks of both people and technology.

Tang, who like Lipnack and Stamps took part in the student-power movement of the 1970s, is concentrating on the problems of the elderly and handicapped in Singapore, who have been left behind by rapid modernization. He is trying to develop a social system modeled on Japan's welfare system and volunteer activities, adapted to Singapore's unique circumstances. He emphasized the need to eliminate social inequities by establishing volunteer-action networks.

Jinadasa, who is involved in a movement to develop rural communities in Sri Lanka, explained that Sarvodaya—which he called the world's largest networking organization—is establishing a "network of awakening" inspired by the Buddhist tenets of "awakening of consciousness" and "labor sharing." He said that this network, grounded in the principles of nonviolence, participatory democracy, and coexistence, is building a new system superior to the modern model. In his view, this network of awakening is the way to resolve the world crisis.

Japan's role in networking

Through the conference proceedings, we discovered that the Japanese approach to networking differs from that of Americans. For example, we stressed the need for Japanese to break away from their closed groupism. Lipnack and Stamps, on the other hand, emphasized the importance of transcending Western-



The Tokyo session of the Japan Networkers' Conference

style individualism. Despite this cultural difference, however, we shared the perception underlying the concept of networking, that open societies (organizations) derive from open private sectors (individuals).

We also found that we had different ideas about the interaction of decentralization and integration of systems when we discussed networking on the national level. This was also due to cultural differences. The United States is a nation made up of many different ethnic groups; the system created by American democracy is that of a decentralized federation integrated at the national level. In Japan, however, the state tends to initiate integration. Concepts of the relationship of decentralization and integration in other Asian countries are varied and nebulous, which is why these countries have never been able to develop a sound concept of decentralization. An important issue in future networking will be the extent to which networking can balance the conflicting imperatives of decentralization and integration.

The first Japan Networkers' Conference demonstrated that the principal goal of networking is to create social systems that truly liberate people, systems that build links between individuals and between human beings and the environment, including nature. Global problems must be approached by global networks of both people and technology. The watchword will be "Think globally; act locally."

As the twenty-first century approaches, we must search for ways to build a new civilization that will move beyond contemporary civilization, which has reached an impasse. One task of networking in Japan will be to create the software to link the civilizations of the Occident, the Orient, and other regions through universal values. Another task will be to support other Asian countries, which have tended to consider Western culture superior to their own, in their efforts to create social systems based on their own cultures. (*Yasuo Harima, Secretary, Japan Networkers' Conference*)

Report on Three Years' Research Monitoring Heavy Metals in Birds

The Research Group on Wild Bird Conservation, under my direction, carried out research on the non-destructive monitoring of the toxicological effects of heavy metals in birds for three years with the help of Toyota Foundation research grants: a Category I (individual-incentive research) grant in fiscal 1985, a Category II (trial and preliminary research) grant in

fiscal 1986, and a Category III (comprehensive research) grant in fiscal 1987. The research project was completed in November 1988. Our greatest achievement, over this period, was to bring a new perspective and methodology to the monitoring of organic contamination by heavy metals.

Aims and methods

The species of birds we monitored have complex tissues and organs and varied physiological processes. The period from hatching to sexual maturity and the processes of aging, egg laying, molting, migration, and so on, differ for each species. These varied biological conditions and their changes affect the ingestion and excretion of heavy metals, as well as their distribution within the body and their physiological effects.

The detailed information we gained on the accumulation and changes of heavy metals accompanying complex biological processes should prove useful both to understanding of the effects of heavy metals on living bodies and to wild bird conservation and management, especially in view of the fact that little research on wildlife has been conducted from this perspective.

When trying to understand the behavior and toxicological effects of heavy metals in vivo, it is not enough to measure concentrations in certain tissues alone. While this may suffice for the purposes of food hygiene, the conservation and management of wildlife necessitates knowledge of the burden and concentration of heavy metals in different kinds of tissues and in the body as a whole. Difficult though it is when studying large animals, this methodology must be incorporated into organic measurement, the collection of samples for analysis, and the design of monitoring systems.

To add to the difficulty, the conventional method of monitoring wildlife, which entails killing animals, then collecting samples for analysis, is problematic in terms of both the conservation and management of wildlife and social acceptance. Samples of blood, urine, and hard tissues (claws, fur, feathers, and so on) can be collected without killing animals. The problem is that analysis of these fluids and tissues does not always reveal the concentrations of the substances under study in the body as a whole.

What can be learned from the analysis of body fluids and hard tissues, and what is the best method of collecting samples? These are among the questions we wished to answer. We were also aware of the urgency of developing nondestructive monitoring

methods from the standpoint of nature conservation. The nondestructive monitoring method we devised for our research project, whereby we monitored the toxicological effects of heavy metals in birds by analyzing the accumulation of heavy metals in feathers, not only provides an indicator of organic contamination by heavy metals but also can be applied to the physiological and ecological study of birds in general.

International conference

We have presented some of the results of our research at various scholarly meetings both in Japan and overseas and in the pages of scholarly journals. In September 1989, with the help of a Foundation grant, I was able to travel to Geneva to attend the seventh International Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment. My presentation there of our environmental-monitoring methodology attracted considerable interest from the other researchers attending.

This biennial conference covers a wide range of subjects: the behavior of heavy metals in the atmosphere, in water, and in the soil; the accumulation and toxicological effects of heavy metals in plants and animals; the disposal of industrial wastes; and methods of analyzing heavy metals. For this reason, the conference provides a good forum for learning what environmental problems different countries face, how researchers perceive these problems, and what methods are being used to study them.

The drawback of this broad focus is that it is difficult to engage in concentrated discussion of specific problems. Fortunately, I was able to find time to talk with researchers with whom I had already exchanged views either through joint research or by correspondence. I was especially impressed by the research done by Dr. J. M. Andrué of France, who has adapted our methodology to the study of the accumulation of heavy metals in marine mammals.

Need for sound methodology

About four hundred papers on a wide variety of subjects, by researchers from thirty-eight countries, were presented. But around 70 percent of the papers emanated from European and American research institutes. The only other Japanese researcher who presented a paper was Teruo Asami, a professor at Ibaraki University. While the fact that the conference was held in Europe may have had something to do with this, it is also true that more research on pollution is being done overseas than in Japan.

Though Japanese representation was poor, more papers from East European countries and developing countries were presented than at the 1987 conference. Most such reports concerned local pollution problems. Some went no further than monitoring, and in some cases the methodology was flawed. Nevertheless, the overall impression conveyed was that these countries faced severe and growing pollution problems.

Japan has devised excellent antipollution measures and waste-disposal technology. But what researchers in these countries need most is sound methodology for measuring and evaluating the kind and degree of pollution. I was made keenly aware of the need to publish a comprehensive report on our method of monitoring pollution as soon as possible, both to help researchers elsewhere gain a better grasp of conditions in their own countries and to help them develop appropriate antipollution measures. I am hard at work on this now. (*Katsuhisa Honda, Research Associate, Faculty of Agriculture, Ehime University; Representative, Research Group on Wild Bird Conservation*)

Seminar for Chinese and Japanese Grant-Making Foundation Officers

A seminar for officers of Chinese and Japanese grant-making foundations was held at the International House of Japan, in Tokyo, on December 6 and 7, 1989, on the theme "Scientific Research Exchange Between China and Japan and the Role of Grant-Making Foundations." A six-member delegation from the National Natural Science Foundation of China was invited to participate in the seminar, which was sponsored by a fourteen-member executive committee representing Japanese private grant-making foundations and headed by Tetsuya Hattori, chairman of the board of trustees of the Fujisawa Foundation. The seminar also received support from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Japan, the Japan Association of Charitable Organizations, and the Foundation Library Center of Japan.

Chinese and Japanese foundations

The seminar began on the morning of December 6 with an address by Hattori. This was followed by a report on the Japanese system of charitable organizations by Kazuhisa Dohi, manager of the Japan Association of Charitable Organizations, and a report on the current status of Japanese grant-making foun-

dations by Hiroshi Miyabayashi, program manager of the Foundation Library Center of Japan. Activities of private foundations, mainly those to which members of the executive committee belonged, were also described.

Hu Zhaoson, executive vice-chairman of the National Natural Science Foundation of China and leader of the Chinese delegation, opened the afternoon session with an explanation of recent developments in the establishment of various types of foundations in China and the significance of these



Hu Zhaoson addressing the seminar for officers of Chinese and Japanese grant-making foundations, Tokyo

developments. He followed this with a detailed report on the grant-making activities of the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

The foundation was established in 1984 as part of China's "reform and liberation" movement, with the aim of funding independent scientific research. Screening procedures are carried out by a committee organized by scientists themselves. In a break from the traditional top-down allocation of research funds by individual government agencies, the foundation has introduced the principle of competitive research and has established a system of awarding grants that cuts across organizational bounds. The foundation also encourages joint international research. Hu concluded by urging private Japanese foundations to support joint research with his foundation.

Next Zhang Zhifei, deputy director of the foundation's Department of Earth Science, and Zhao Zong-

ling, deputy director of the Department of Biological Science, described the kind of research supported by grants from their departments. All three speakers' words testified to the lofty ideals of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, which is modeled on the National Science Foundation of the United States.

The evening was set aside for an informal exchange of views among the participants after opening remarks by Yujiro Hayashi, president of Tokyo University of Information Sciences and a trustee of the Toyota Foundation. He discussed the recent establishment of the European Foundation Centre and stressed the need for foundations in Asian countries to establish similar frameworks for interfoundation cooperation. Many foreign students participated in the lively and relaxed discussion session that ensued.

Joint international research

The seminar's second day began with the presentation of examples of grant activities undertaken by Japanese foundations. The morning's main speaker, Yutaka Akaike, managing director and general secretary of the Tokyu Foundation for Inbound Students, dealt with the current state of assistance to foreign students and problems in that area. Three Chinese researchers awarded scholarships by private Japanese foundations then spoke about their research activities and the significance of private foundations to people in their position. In the discussion that followed, foreign students speaking from the floor made a number of valuable points.

The afternoon session focused on joint international research between China and Japan. I was the main speaker, and my subject was the significance of joint international research, the categories and special features of such research, the conditions for conducting this kind of research, and channels of financial assistance. Two reports on specific projects followed. Terunobu Fujimori, an associate professor at the University of Tokyo, described a study of modern Western-style architecture in China jointly funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Toyota Foundation, and Iwao Okamoto, a professor at Shiga University, discussed a survey of China's Lake Tai funded by the Nippon Life Insurance Foundation. The speakers described the process leading to these joint international research projects, presented progress reports on the two projects, and spoke of the significance of private-sector grants.

I was struck by both speakers' emphasis on the im-

portance of trust among the researchers engaged in joint international research projects—a point I too had made. The results of such research are cosmopolitan in nature, but the social and cultural conditions in which research is carried out differ greatly from country to country. Securing funding for joint international research is not enough to guarantee its success; equally important is the ability to recognize and accept those differences. In the subsequent discussion, participants exchanged frank opinions on the difficulties of Sino-Japanese research.

Hu delivered the closing address. He touched on the depth of Sino-Japanese cultural exchange, which dates back to the eighth century A.D., when the Chinese priest Jianzhen journeyed to Japan to propagate Buddhist teachings, and strongly reiterated the need for continued cooperation. The seminar concluded with remarks by Seiichi Mitani, executive director of the Mitsubishi Bank Foundation and vice-chairman of the executive committee that organized the seminar.

Importance of closer cooperation

This seminar was the third exchange of views by representatives of Chinese and Japanese grant-making foundations. When six representatives of the National Natural Science Foundation of China visited Japan in June 1988, an informal half-day meeting with Japanese foundation representatives was arranged at the Chinese Embassy to enable the Chinese representatives to explain the activities of Chinese foundations. In November that year a one-day seminar was held in Beijing when a nine-member delegation from Japanese private foundations visited China (see *Occasional Report 9*, May 1989). On that occasion Chinese and Japanese foundation representatives discussed their grant activities and pledged continued exchange. The December 1989 seminar was thus the third occasion for an exchange of views, but it was the first formally organized seminar. A second such seminar is planned for the fall of 1990 in Beijing.

The number of Japanese private foundations awarding grants for China-related projects is still fairly small. But relations with China are sure to expand as internationalization proceeds, and thus it will be increasingly important for Chinese and Japanese grant-making foundations to establish closer communication. Increased contacts, it is hoped, will spin off new trends in Sino-Japanese grant activities in both China and Japan. (*Yoshinori Yamaoka, Program Officer, Research Grant Division*)

The Foundation Library Center And Japanese Foundation Trends

The Foundation Library Center of Japan, established in 1985 as the first joint undertaking by Japanese private grant-making foundations and chartered as a foundation in 1988, published the 1990 edition of its biennial Japanese-language *Directory of Grant-Making Foundations: Guide to Private Grant Sources* in November 1989.

The 1990 edition is considerably larger than the first edition, published in 1988. More foundations are listed (347, as opposed to 213 in 1988), as well as more charitable trusts (254, compared with 206 in 1988). The directory has already become an indispensable reference for anyone seeking information on private grant-making activities in Japan.

Growth and diversification

In conjunction with publication of the 1990 edition of the directory, the Foundation Library Center conducted a statistical analysis of data on Japanese private grant-making foundations, published in March this year as a supplement to the directory.

According to this analysis, the combined assets of 253 selected foundations in fiscal 1988 were ¥426.3 billion, and together they spent ¥16.9 billion in grants, scholarships, awards, and project-related expenses. By comparison, the Japanese Ministry of Education disbursed ¥48.9 billion in grants-in-aid for scientific research that year.

New foundations are being established more rapidly than before. In the 1970s, an average of eight foundations a year were chartered, whereas in the 1980s an average of fifteen foundations were chartered annually. A gradual diversification of foundation activities is also apparent. Most grant-making foundations still support scientific research, but in recent years the number of foundations awarding grants in the arts and other cultural fields has been growing slowly.

Exchange with Chinese foundations

Another trend in Japanese foundation activities is closer relations with Chinese foundations. The seminar for representatives of Japanese and Chinese foundations held in Tokyo in December 1989, reported on in the preceding article, followed a visit to Japan by Chinese foundation representatives in June 1988 and a visit to China by Japanese foundation representatives in October and November that year.

The seminar was also noteworthy in that the

Japanese executive committee was organized jointly by a number of private grant-making foundations, chiefly those involved in China-related grant-making activities.

Mounting interest in corporate philanthropy

Corporate philanthropy, especially grant-making activities conducted by foundations endowed by corporations, is also beginning to attract more attention in Japan, as evidenced by a recent international symposium in Tokyo on the theme "Becoming a Good Corporate Citizen in American Communities: New Challenges for Japanese Corporations in an Interdependent World." This symposium, which discussed the activities of American corporation-endowed foundations, was held in November 1989 under the sponsorship of Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations) and the Japan Center for International Exchange.

Meeting of Foundation Library Center members

On November 20, 1989, the Foundation Library Center sponsored a gathering for members at Keidanren Hall, in Tokyo. Around one hundred fifty foundation representatives attended. By setting up three subgroups, on research grants, project and activity grants, and foundation administration, for the exchange of information on the working level, the center hoped to encourage foundations to share their experiences for the benefit of all. (*Masaaki Kusumi, Assistant Program Officer, Research Grant Division*)

Australian Foundations: A View from Japan

While many Japanese are familiar with Australia's scenic grandeur and unique plant and animal life, few know much about this country's cultural aspects. I myself assumed that Australia had the same lively tradition of philanthropy as the United States and Canada, nations also founded by the descendants of British colonists, until I recently began to communicate with people connected with some of Australia's grant-making foundations.

In fact, organized philanthropy in Australia is fairly new, and foundations are just becoming active, as I discovered when I visited Australia in late November and early December 1989.

My major source of information was the Australian Association of Philanthropy. The AAP was organized in 1975 but apparently was not very active

until 1988, when it established a permanent secretariat, naming Marion Webster executive director. She and Michael Liffman, executive officer of the Myer Foundation, one of the major financial supporters of the AAP, explained to me the state of philanthropy in contemporary Australian society.

Most sizable foundations in Japan are endowed by corporations, but Australian foundations tend to be endowed by individuals and to focus their activities on charity at home. Only the Myer Foundation, which has some interest in Asia, has a relatively international outlook.

One reason for the narrow focus of most Australian foundations, I was told, is that they are chartered by state governments and are required to limit their grant-making activities to the state in which they are chartered. At present, 80 percent of the country's foundations are located in the single state of Victoria. These limitations are hardly conducive to fostering a national, much less an international, perspective.

The AAP is now investigating the number of foundations and trusts in Australia and expects to be able to determine the total by the middle of this year. So far it has identified 275 and estimates that altogether there are between 700 and 1,000. At present, the AAP has 45 member foundations.

Collecting statistics on Australian foundations is difficult because the government does not require them to disclose the size of their endowments, the amount spent on grants, and other statistics. To remedy this dearth of information the AAP is conducting a survey, "Patterns and Trends in Giving in Australia," and plans to compile a directory on the basis of the results.

The AAP's quarterly journal, *Philanthropy*, provides news of state, national, and international developments of interest to foundations, as well as government policies and studies that relate to foundations. The government appears to be moving in the direction of tightening tax restraints on foundations. The AAP is monitoring and reporting on trends in this area, as well.

The AAP is making a special effort to encourage corporations to engage in philanthropic activities and is now conducting a study of corporate participation with the help of a grant from the Myer Foundation. Marion Webster expressed a strong interest in exchanging information with foundations in Japan, where corporation-endowed foundations are the rule rather than the exception. (*Yoshiko Wakayama, Program Officer, International Division*)

Translators' Comments on "Know Our Neighbors" Books

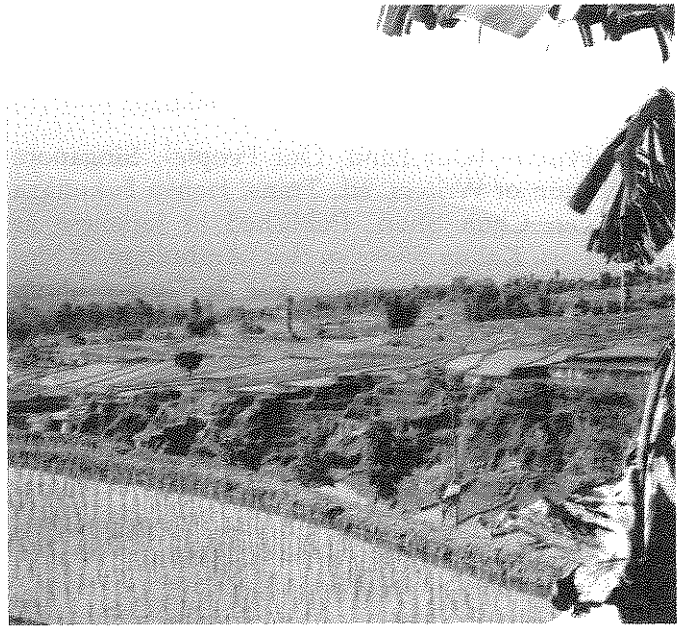
The Toyota Foundation's three "Know Our Neighbors" Translation-Publication Programs, administered by the International Division, award grants to assist the translation and publication of Southeast and South Asian works in Japanese, of Japanese works in Southeast and South Asian languages, and of Southeast and South Asian works in other Southeast and South Asian languages. Below, the translators of five Southeast Asian works published under the "Know Our Neighbors" Translation-Publication Program in Japan comment on the works and their authors.

Lintang Kemukus Dini Hari (A Comet at Dawn) and *Jantera Bianglala* (The Halo of the Moon). Ahmad Tohari. Trans. Shinobu Yamane. Published in Japanese as *Yoake no Hokiboshi* (A Comet at Dawn). Tokyo: Imura Cultural Enterprise Co., 1989. 460 pp.

Ahmad Tohari's letter reached me at home on Japan's northernmost island, Hokkaido, on an early winter day marked by snow flurries. He thanked me for sending him a copy of my translation of *Lintang Kemukus Dini Hari* and *Jantera Bianglala*. "It gladdens me to know that my works have been trans-



A traditional Indonesian trap, used as a taxi



Terraced paddies in West Java

lated earlier. The story concerns a lovely Javanese dancer named Srintil, who lives in the village of Paruk in Central Java. Though the villagers are ignorant, impoverished, and tradition bound, they are also full of warm human qualities, and the natural surroundings are beautiful. Srintil reaches the age at which she is beginning to become self-aware both sexually and intellectually. She and the illiterate villagers are manipulated by cunning government officials, who force her to perform repeatedly at political propaganda rallies. These rallies culminate in the coup attempt of September 30, 1965, which transforms Srintil's life and the fate of the village. Srintil is taken into custody as a political prisoner, and the village is burned, becoming more isolated than ever.

A little over two years later, a new regime having come into power, the village begins to feel the impact of development and modernization. Srintil is released, and while she still longs for her first love, Rasmus, she allows herself to dream of marrying a man who has helped her despite knowing of her criminal record. But the shock of learning that she has been used as a mere tool drives her mad, and she becomes a psychological cripple.

On the surface, the main theme of these works is a political one centered on poverty and social inequities. Yet at the same time, the author pays tribute to the religiosity and solidarity of village life. The works ring with the conviction that urbanization and modernization cannot meet all our needs. The beauty of the human spirit depicted in the books is, I believe,

lated and published in Japanese. I hope that many Japanese will learn something about my country by reading them."

Lintang Kemukus Dini Hari is the second volume and *Jantera Bianglala* the third volume of a trilogy that begins with *Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk* (The Dancer of Paruk Village), which I had translated

what Tohari would like most to convey to Japanese readers. I only hope my translation does justice to his works. (*Shinobu Yamane*)

Wutu Wumin (Our Land, Our People). Singapore Association of Writers, ed. Trans. Heiwa Fukunaga and Chen Chun Shun. Published in Japanese as *Shingaporu Kabun Shosetsu Sen* (Anthology of Singaporean Chinese Literature), vol. 2. Tokyo: Imura Cultural Enterprise Co., 1990. 310 pp.

Founded as a British colony in the early nineteenth century, Singapore prospered as a duty-free port. Its rich ethnic mix of peoples—the British (white) overlords, Chinese and Indians taken there by the British, indigenous Malays, and various combinations thereof—formed a society, but it was not until Singapore became independent of Malaysia in 1965 that it began to acquire the attributes of a nation.

Singapore embarked upon an experiment in transforming an artificially created urban society into an artificially constructed nation. The city-state, made up of varied ethnic groups, cultures, and religions, had no tradition of cohesion. A nation cannot be built overnight, nor does a nation form naturally once a certain amount of time has passed. In the circumstances, national identity had to be imposed from above.

The fourteen works of short fiction in this volume were selected from the thirty-four included in a two-volume short-story anthology titled *Wutu Wumin* (Our Land, Our People), compiled by the Singapore Association of Writers and published in 1982 in response to the call of Wang Ding Chang, then the minister of culture, for "nation-building literature." Singapore had been independent for seventeen years and was in the process of shifting from a labor-intensive economy based on trade in processed goods to one emphasizing advanced technologies and financial services. Though Singapore was far ahead of its Southeast Asian neighbors economically, its spiritual culture was weaker, according to the editors' preface.

Wutu Wumin is thus a politically motivated anthology, but not all the stories hew to the theme of promoting national identity. Many, in fact, highlight the distortions and dislocations that accompany hasty nation building and rapid economic growth, at the same time revealing the difficulty Singaporean Chinese have in identifying themselves with a nation. (*Heiwa Fukunaga*)

Thailand: The Politics of Despotism Paternalism. Thak Chaloeontiarana. Trans. Yoshifumi Tamada.

Published in Japanese as *Tai Dokusaiteki Onjoshugi no Seiji* (Thailand's Politics of Despotism Paternalism). Tokyo: Imura Cultural Enterprise Co., 1989. 419 pp.

Thailand has registered remarkable economic growth over the past several years, attracting a great number of Japanese businesses. Behind this economic prosperity is political stability, a stability that is the result of the balance of power among the monarchy, political parties, and the military.

Thailand used to be governed by the military. The bloodless revolution of 1932, which resulted in a shift from absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy, was followed by a succession of military coups d'état. Today, however, the king possesses immense authority. He is the most powerful figure in the political sphere, which dominates the military. With the support of the business community, political parties have gradually accumulated enough power to form party cabinets. While the military retains a strong voice in political affairs, the emergence of the monarchy and parties as political forces has greatly diminished its power.

The change in Thailand's political system can be traced to General Sarit Thanarat, prime minister from 1958 to 1963. His government was the most authoritarian in modern Thai history, and his years in power were the golden age of military rule. Yet at the same time he introduced revolutionary policies that would radically change Thai society. To justify his rule, Sarit revived the political tradition, and he enabled the monarchy to emerge as a political force by restoring its authority, which had been dwindling ever since 1932. He also initiated the aggressive policy of industrialization financed by private capital that provided the foundation for Thailand's economic growth from the 1960s onward.

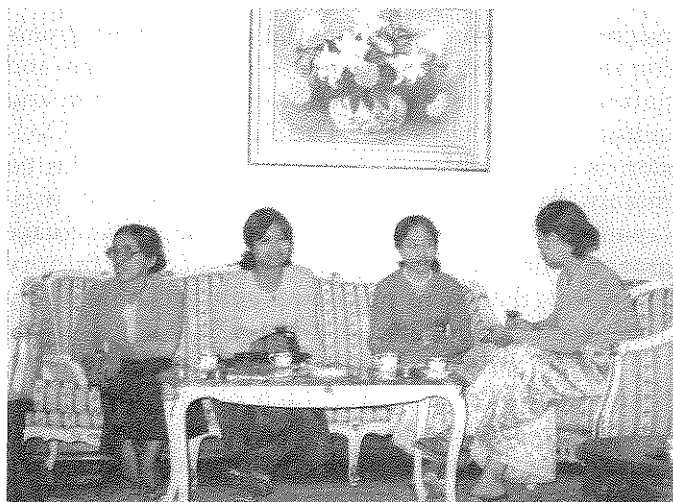
Sarit's policies transformed Thai society. They led to a decreased emphasis on agriculture, an increase in urban population, the assimilation of ethnic Chinese entrepreneurs into Thai society, and significant advances in education. The political changes that have occurred in the 1970s and 1980s are simply another aspect of this transformation.

The Sarit regime played a pivotal role in modern Thai history, and understanding it is indispensable to understanding contemporary Thai politics. *Thailand: The Politics of Despotism Paternalism* is the most thorough study to date of the Sarit administration. The author provides not only a lucid and incisive analysis of Sarit but also a detailed and objective account of Thai politics from World War II through

the first half of the 1970s. This work is an invaluable guide to contemporary Thailand and to modern Thai history. (*Yoshifumi Tamada*)

A Dozen Red Stones: Anthology of Modern Burmese Women Writers. Maung Thaya, ed. Trans. Yasuko Dobashi, Midori Minamida, and Keiko Hotta. Published in Japanese as *12 no Rubi: Biruma Josei Sakka Sen* (Twelve Rubies: Anthology of Burmese Women Writers). Tokyo: Dandansha Co., 1989. 294 pp.

Women writers are said to have dominated Burmese literature in the 1980s. This phenomenon appears to be consonant with the worldwide literary trend during that decade, but it is too soon to suggest



A gathering of Burmese women writers

that this indicates the triumph of feminism in Burma. The reason is that female writers' prominence came at a time of stagnation in the work of male writers. The brilliance of female writers' short stories, too, stands out all the more because of a dearth of longer masterpieces.

It was the writer Maung Thaya, a staunch advocate of realism, who noticed the superior quality of women writers and their short fiction. This motivated him to compile *A Dozen Red Stones*. The anthology includes twelve short stories, each by a different writer, that managed to pass the censors and appear in magazines between 1974 and 1985. The twelve writers range from the illustrious Khin Swe U and Khin Hnin Yu to the popular Moe Moe Inya and Ma Sanda. Also represented are newcomers like Jew and Nu Nu Yi, as well as veteran writers like Win Win Latt and Moe Nyin Aye, who achieved recognition only in the 1980s. A particularly Burmese touch

is the fact that three of the twelve writers are also practicing physicians.

Of all the Burmese fiction that has been translated into Japanese, *A Dozen Red Stones* probably reflects conditions in contemporary Burma most faithfully. Maung Thaya does not explain why he titled the anthology as he did, but his intention appears to have been to provide twelve portraits of the kinds of lives women lead in today's Burma. The gleam of each crimson stone is like that of a wildflower bud quietly awaiting spring beneath the winter snow. Each story glows with understated yet powerful emotion.

I believe these stories will appeal even to readers with no particular knowledge of Burma or the rest of Asia. I tested my belief by asking the proprietor of a small neighborhood bookstore to put a copy of the book on his shelves. He informed me later, smiling as proudly as if it had been his own work, that a middle-aged woman had purchased it. (*Midori Minamida*)

(The Foundation recently received the sad news of Moe Moe Inya's death on March 13, 1990. We express our deepest condolences.)

Recent Publications Based on Foundation-Supported Research

Josei Zasshi o Kaidoku Suru Cosmopolitan: Nichi Bei Mekishiko Hikaku Kenkyu (*Cosmopolitan as a Key to Women's Magazines: A Comparative Study of Japan, the United States, and Mexico*). Teruko Inoue and the Study Group on Women's Magazines, eds. Tokyo: Kakiuchi Shuppan Kabushiki Kaisha, 1989. 276 pp. In Japanese.

In the preface to this book the editors write: "Our aim is to examine the development of women's culture as revealed through women's magazines, and the role these magazines play in that process, in terms of two phenomena: flux and shifts in sex roles and the spread of cultural imperialism."

The Study Group on Women's Magazines carried out a quantitative analysis of the use of magazine space in thirty Japanese women's magazines, comparing this with the use of space in American women's magazines, which exert a worldwide impact on the genre, and in Mexican women's magazines, which are strongly influenced by those of the United States. The comparison focused on the American, Japanese, and Mexican editions of *Cosmopolitan*.

This book, significant both in terms of magazine research methodology and as an empirical study of

the social conditions affecting women today, grew out of studies supported by Foundation research grants in fiscal 1983, 1985, and 1986.

Saaraanukrom Phasaa Isan-Thai-Angkrit (Isan-Thai-English Dictionary). Preecha Phinthong, ed. Ubon Ratchathani: Siritham Press, 1989. 1,074 pp. ISBN 974-86948-9-5.

Preecha Phinthong, a former Buddhist monk and a scholar of the Thai, Lao, Northeast Thai (Isan), Pali, and Sanskrit languages, has devoted more than twenty years to the compilation of this dictionary of Northeast Thai.

In both breadth and depth of content, this work is by far the best of its kind so far. The pronunciation of each vocabulary item is provided, along with its definition in Central (standard) Thai, examples of its use in Northeast Thai literature, and an explanation of its etymology in English. The etymologies, as well as a glossary of English equivalents, were prepared by Samuel Mattix, an American linguist specializing in Thai and Lao, who is a longtime resident of Nakhon Phanom.

Computerization of the data and printing were supported by a fiscal 1987 international grant from the Foundation.

Khmer Dictionary. Institut Bouddhique, ed. Phnom Penh: Institut Bouddhique, 1967 (orig. pub. 1938). 1,888 pp. Reprint. Tokyo: Japan Sotoshu Relief Committee, 1990.

Khmer Dictionary, compiled by the Institut Bouddhique, attached to Unalom Temple in Cambodia, and first published in 1938, is the most authoritative dictionary of the Khmer language. Because the dictionary had become unavailable in Cambodia, in 1983 the Japan Committee for Republication and Relief of Cambodian Buddhist Books was formed to publish a facsimile of the 1967 edition. Two thousand copies were printed and distributed free in Cambodia.

Now that Cambodia, emerging from long years of civil strife, is beginning to concentrate on rebuilding the nation, more copies have become necessary. In February this year another two thousand copies of the facsimile edition were printed in Japan with the help of the Japan Sotoshu Relief Committee and were shipped to Cambodia.

Printing and shipping costs were defrayed by funds provided by the lay Buddhist organization Rissho Kosei-kai and by a fiscal 1989 international grant from the Foundation.

About the Foundation

The Toyota Foundation, a private nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to the goals of realizing greater human fulfillment and contributing to the development of a human-oriented society, was endowed in October 1974 by the Toyota Motor Corporation.

The Foundation's total endowment is approximately ¥11.4 billion (roughly \$76 million). Chartered by the Prime Minister's Office, the Foundation relies solely on its endowment income. The Foundation, governed by its Board of Directors, is wholly independent of the corporate policies of the subscribing corporation or of any other institution.

Through its Research Grant Division and its International Division, the Foundation provides grants for research and projects related to the human and natural environments, social welfare, education and culture, and other fields. The Research Grant Division is responsible for projects that are conducted mainly by Japanese nationals but also by non-Japanese who can complete the Japanese-language grant application form. Research grants give priority to projects that focus on coping with technologically advanced or multicultural society.

The International Division administers the International Grant Program and such other programs as the "Know Our Neighbors" Programs. The International Grant Program is directed mainly toward the developing countries and supports projects that best meet the needs of their present-day society. At present this program concentrates on projects aimed at preserving and encouraging the indigenous cultures of Southeast Asia and conducted by indigenous researchers. The "Know Our Neighbors" Programs support the translation and publication of Southeast and South Asian works in Japanese and vice versa, and of Southeast and South Asian works in other Southeast and South Asian languages.

The Toyota Foundation welcomes response 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, Japan. The articles in the *Occasional Report* reflect the authors' opinions and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Foundation.

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