

Southeast Asia and Kyoto University

Half a Century of Academic Relations

In June 2014, Kyoto University opened its ASEAN Center in Bangkok, Thailand (p.11), the latest development in over a half century of research and regional exchange in Southeast Asia. This feature focuses on the relationship between Kyoto University and Southeast Asia, including the establishment of the Bangkok Liaison Office of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) in 1963.



Photo 1 Hirasawa and Iwamura visit General Net in Bangkok and asked him to help Kyoto University's research (1963)

HISTORICALLY, relations between Kyoto University and Southeast Asian countries can be traced back to developments in the southern areas initiated by Japan prior to World War II. Many of the university's faculties dispatched researchers to Southeast Asian nations and regions under European and American rule to conduct research in various fields. The university also sent a group of graduate students to contribute to the economic development of the region.

After World War II, one by one, the countries of Southeast Asia became free from European and American colonialism. Focusing on post-war reconstruction, Japan resumed relations with Southeast Asian countries. After Japan joined the Colombo Plan in 1954, many universities began developing exchange programs with Southeast Asian countries, including technical training programs and various other initiatives to dispatch specialists and engage in student exchange with Southeast Asian countries. Kyoto University's

long-term medical support mission to Burma (now Myanmar) from the beginning of the 1960s is particularly notable as the first of the university's overseas technical training projects.

In Japan, the resumption of relations was led by researchers who had been involved in academic research in the region prior to the war. Opportunities to resume academic research in Southeast Asia began to increase, and researchers at the forefront of those activities included Kyoto University specialists working in the fields of ethnology, geography, and agriculture, who participated in a comprehensive investigation into rice, ethnicity, and culture in Southeast Asia led by the Japanese Society of Ethnology from 1957 to 1958.



During the same period, Kyoto University proceeded with university-wide engagement in academic research in Southeast Asia. In 1959, some faculty members voluntarily formed a Southeast Asia



Photo 2 Professor Shinobu Iwamura



Photo 3 President Ko Hirasawa of Kyoto University

Research Committee as a temporary committee, within which a Southeast Asia research group was formed. The initial members of the research group were: Yoshisuke Ikeda (sociology), Masamichi Inoki (political science), Shinobu Iwamura (Asian history, **Photo 2**), Jisho Usui (sociology), Iichi Sagara (educational administration), Joji Tanase (cultural anthropology), Jitsuzo Tamura (Asian history), Tatsuo Nishida (linguistics), Jikai Fujiyoshi (Buddhist studies), Yasuzo Horie (economic history), Kiyoshi Matsui (international economics), and Takeshi Motooka (agricultural economics and geology). Some graduate students such as Koichi Mizuno (anthropology) and Toru Yano (political science) also participated.

Following a meeting between President Ko Hirasawa (**Photo 3**) of Kyoto University and Dr. John Scott Everton of the Ford Foundation, a Southeast Asian research status survey was conducted from March to September in 1961 with the Ford Foundation's assistance. The study team, consisting of Jisyo Usui, Joji Tanase, and Takeshi Motooka, was dispatched to Europe, the U.S., and Southeast Asia to investigate research projects there.

Based on the results of the survey, the Southeast Asia Research Committee formulated the "Charter of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies" in 1962. The charter proclaimed the necessity for truly objective, academic, and comprehensive research, instead of research for specific policies, such as had been conducted before and during the war.



In 1963, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) was established to conduct

comprehensive research on Southeast Asia and its surrounding areas. In 1965, CSEAS, which had originally been established as a university center, became the first government-regulated research center in Japan. Since then, CSEAS has become an internationally renowned base for Southeast Asian studies. From the following statement made by Kyoto University president, Dr. Ko Hirasawa in April 1963, we can feel the passion of the university personnel involved in the center's establishment.

Southeast Asian nations and Japan are close not only geographically, but also ethnically and culturally. Furthermore, the political and economic relationship between Japan and Southeast Asia is anticipated to become closer from now on ... The mission of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies is to conduct comprehensive research on Southeast Asia. As a matter of course, such comprehensive research cannot be achieved without a deep affection for and understanding of Southeast Asian people ... Rather than studying documents, we should go to local places, live together with local people, and break into an unexplored field of research to make a broader contribution to international academia.



The Bangkok Liaison Office of CSEAS was temporarily established near Wittayu Road (former location) in the first year of the foundation of CSEAS, and was formally opened in February of the following year (**Photo 4** left). This was the



Photo 4 The first Bangkok Liaison Office (left) and The Office's opening ceremony in 1964 (right)

first permanent overseas liaison office established by a national university in Japan. President Azuma Okuda of Kyoto University invited many senior government officials and scholars from Thailand, the Japanese Ambassador to Thailand, and the Director-General of the Department of Research of Japan's Ministry of Education to the Office's opening ceremony (Photo 4 right). Since then, the liaison office has been actively used by researchers from Kyoto University and other universities, not only as a base camp for field research, but also as a base to investigate local circumstances and collect materials required for local research projects, coordinate and communicate with local government and institutions, and acquire permissions required

for project implementation. It has also served as a center for exchange with researchers and students from Southeast Asian countries, including Thailand. The liaison office was relocated to the address below in February 2012, and continues to expand the scope of its activities to cover all areas of Southeast Asia as a base camp and center for collecting and disseminating information (Photo 5, 6).

19D, GP Grande Tower, 55, Soi 23,
Sukhumvit Rd, Klongtoey Nua,
Wattana, Bangkok, 10110 Thailand
Tel: +010-66-2-664-3619
Fax: +010-66-2-664-3618



List of researchers based in the Bangkok Liaison Office

Takeshi Motooka (1963.10-1964.3)
Shigeru Iijima (1964.4-1964.5)
Jun-ichi Sagara (1964.4-1964.9)
Takeshi Motooka (1964.10-1965.1)
Shigeru Iijima (1965.1-1965.6)
Takashi Teramatsu (1965.7-1965.8)
Shigeru Iijima (1965.8-1965.9)
Takeshi Motooka (1965.10-1966.3)
Shigeru Iijima (1966.3-1966.6)
Yoneo Ishii (1966.6-1967.4)
Hayao Fukui (1967.4-1969.4)
Yoshihiro Kaida (1969.4-1970.1)
Yasuyuki Mitani (1970.2-1971.6)
Yasuba Yasukichi (1971.6-1972.5)
Hayao Fukui (1972.5-1972.9)
Koichi Mizuno (1972.9-1973.3)
Hiroshi Tsujii (1973.4-1974.4)
Yoshihiro Kaida (1974.4-1974.5)
Hiroshi Tsujii (1974.5-1974.10)
Yoshihiro Kaida (1974.10-1976.10)
Yoneo Ishii (1976.10-1976.12)
Yoshihiro Kaida (1976.12-1977.10)
Isamu Yamada (1977.10-1977.11)
Toru Yano (1977.11-1978.1)
Yumio Sakurai (1978.1-1978.11)
Susumu Yamakage (1978.11-1979.4)

Kunio Yoshihara (1979.11-1979.7)
Koichi Mizuno (1979.7-1979.9)
Yasuyuki Mitani (1979.9-1981.5)
Hayao Fukui (1981.5-1982.7)
Toshiharu Yoshikawa (1982.7-1982.9)
Kunio Yoshihara (1982.10-1983.3)
Yoshihiro Kaida (1983.4-1984.5)
Shoji Ninomiya (1984.5-1985.3)
Hisao Furukawa (1985.3-1985.9)
Shoji Ninomiya (1985.10-1985.11)
Mitsuo Ezaki (1985.12-1986.3)
Eiji Nawata (1986.3-1986.3)
Hayao Fukui (1986.3-1986.6)
Hiroyuki Watanabe (1986.6-1986.12)
Kenji Tsuchiya (1986.12-1987.4)
Toshiharu Yoshikawa (1987.4-1988.3)
Yasuyuki Kono (1988.3-1989.2)
Hayao Fukui (1989.2-1989.8)
Hidehiko Kinouchi (1989.8-1989.11)
Yumio Sakurai (1989.11-1990.2)
Isamu Yamada (1990.2-1990.6)
Akira Kohsaka (1990.6-1990.12)
Yasuyuki Kono (1990.12-1991.5)
Hayao Fukui (1991.5-1991.8)
Yukio Ikemoto (1991.8-1992.1)
Hidehiko Kinouchi (1992.1-1992.4)
Yoshifumi Tamada (1992.4-1992.10)
Hayao Fukui (1992.10-1993.1)
Yukio Ikemoto (1993.1-1994.4)

Yoshifumi Tamada (1994.5-1994.10)
Hayao Fukui (1994.11-1995.1)
Yukio Hayashi (1995.1-1995.12)
Yasuyuki Kono (1995.1-1996.4)
Yoshifumi Tamada (1996.5-1996.10)
Yasuyuki Kono (1996.10-1997.10)
Yukio Hayashi (1997.10-1998.3)
Yoko Hayami (1998.4-1998.9)
Hirokazu Higuchi (1998.9-1999.4)
Keiko Kuroda (1999.4-2000.4)
Shigeyuki Abe (2000.5-2000.11)
Yukio Hayashi (2000.11-2001.5)
Yasuyuki Kono (2001.5-2002.4)
Asami Nakanishi (2002.4-2002.7)
Takashi Shiraishi (2002.7-2002.10)
Masayuki Yanagisawa (2002.10-2003.11)
Patricio N. Abinales (2003.11-2004.5)
Koichi Fujita (2004.5-2004.11)
Nobuaki Arai (2004.11-2004.12)
Mamoru Shibayama (2004.12-2005.3)
Shinya Takeda (2005.4-2005.6)
Koichi Fujita (2005.6-2005.7)
Nobuaki Arai (2005.7-2005.9)
Isamu Yamada (2005.9-2005.10)
Kozo Hiramatsu (2005.10-2005.12)
Yasuyuki Kono (2005.12-2005.12)
Yoko Hayami (2005.12-2006.1)
Masayuki Yanagisawa (2006.1-2006.2)
Masayuki Yanagisawa (2006.2-2006.3)

Mamoru Shibayama (2006.3-2006.4)
Masayuki Yanagisawa (2006.4-2006.7)
Ken-ichi Abe (2006.7-2006.9)
Yukio Hayashi (2006.9-2006.11)
Yoshitsugu Nakaguchi (2006.11-2007.3)
Mamoru Shibayama (2007.3-2007.6)
Nobuaki Arai (2007.6-2007.9)
Hiromu Shimizu (2007.9-2008.3)
Mamoru Kanzaki (2008.3-2008.6)
Junichi Okuyama (2008.6-2008.9)
Satoru Kobayashi (2008.9-2009.9)
Tatsuki Sekino (2009.9.3-2009.10)
Koichi Fujita (2009.9-2009.12)
Hiromu Shimizu (2009.12-2010.3.4)
Keisuke Kishikawa (2010.3-2010.11.3)
Mamoru Shibayama (2011.3-2011.6)
Yumio Sakurai (2011.6-2011.9)
Taro Sonobe (2011.9-2011.12)
Mamoru Shibayama (2011.12-2012.1)
Satoru Kobayashi (2012.1-2012.4)
Yumio Sakurai (2012.4-2012.7)
Simon Creak (2012.7-2012.10)
Satoru Kobayashi (2012.10-2013.1)
Nathan Badenoch (2013.1-2013.4)
Tatsuki Kataoka (2013.4-2013.8)
Satoshi Yokoyama (2013.8-2013.11)
Yoshihiro Nakanishi (2013.11-2014.4)
Hiromu Shimizu (2014.4-2014.8)
Fumiharu Mieno (2014.8-2014.11)



Photo 5 The party for the appointment of Prof. Yasuyuki Kono as the new director of CSEAS at Kyoto University's Bangkok Liaison Office on May 24, 2014. The party was attended by Kyoto University alumni, former visiting researchers, and other colleagues in Thailand. Prof. Supamard Panichsakpatna is the professor of Kasetsart University.

In addition to CSEAS, many graduate schools and research institutes of Kyoto University have had academic connections with Southeast Asian countries. At the organizational level, the Graduate School of Science and the Graduate School of Agriculture have a long history of research activities in Southeast Asia, and other graduate schools and research institutes have also been involved in collaborative research and joint projects, such as the Graduate School of Engineering, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Graduate School of Energy Science, Institute of Advanced Energy, Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Primate Research Institute, and Center for Ecological Research. There have also been

countless collaborative research activities at the individual level.

Since the establishment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1967, the number of exchange students on Japanese government scholarships sent to Japan from Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines has increased. Kyoto University has hosted many such exchange students since the 1970s. Even after returning to their home countries, those students have continued to support overseas research and international relations activities implemented by Kyoto University, which has laid the foundations for the university's current productive relationships with Southeast Asian countries.



Photo 6 In the reception room of the Bangkok Liaison Office

Looking ahead to the next decade and beyond, Kyoto University aims to continue its process of internationalization. The Kyoto University ASEAN Center was established as part of that effort. In coordination with the CSEAS Bangkok Liaison Office, the Jakarta Liaison Office (established in 1970), and the Vietnam National University, Hanoi–Kyoto University Collaboration Office (VKCO, established in 2010), the Kyoto University ASEAN Center aims to strengthen the university's commitment to education and research partnerships throughout the Southeast Asian region. Your continuing support is greatly appreciated.