

Editorial Notes

Komazawa University has organized a Malaysian Research Project entitled “The Cultural Ecology of a Multiethnic Nation: a Case Study of Malaysia” under the auspices of the Japanese Ministry of Education for two years (1993/94 and 1994/95).^{*} The twelve researchers involved in the project are academic specialists in various areas; human geography, modern history, cultural/social anthropology, comparative religion, developing economics, agricultural economics, and political science.

These scientists have a common interest in Malaysian studies, and have had research experience to a lesser or greater extent in their own academic fields. In order to integrate the varied research interests as far as possible to fit this type of project, we adopted here a key concept, “cultural (human) ecology,” which provides an analytical frame of functional relationships between man and land through investigation of changing cultural, political, and socio-economic activities associated with development of human interference with physical resources over time (historical) and space (regional).

The adoption of the regional method is another characteristic of this project. More specifically, the individual members have their own research themes and problems and are scheduled to conduct intensive field work in the corresponding specific areas of Malaysia, most of which had been already completed during the years of 1993/94 and 1994/95.

For the promotion of the Malaysian Research Project, we are obliged to the following Government Ministries/Departments, universities, and public agencies: in Japan, the Japanese Ministry of Education for funding our Malaysian field research, and Komazawa University (as the host institution) for providing assistance in administration and miscellaneous facilities including the partial funding for this publication; and in Malaysia, the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister’s Department for granting research permits, many other Departments of the Federal and State Governments, public agencies, and their officers and personnel for providing all possible help for each member of the research project.

As the organizer of the Malaysian Research Project, I would like to express my sincere thanks to them all. My gratitude also goes to our Malaysian partners, Professor Phin Keong Voon (geographer) and Dr. Raymond L. M. Lee (anthropologist) of the University of Malaya for their excellent collaboration with the project in many ways.

This issue (Number 8) of *Regional Views* is partly a collection of on-going Malaysian studies. More specifically, the first six articles are partial results of the Malaysian Research Project.

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