Organizing framework: The agrarian transition is one of the most profound changes of the last three centuries. The transformation is largely complete in the wealthier countries of the global North, but in the developing societies of the global South it is still very much under way. The CSEAS research briefly describes the transition in the transformation of primarily non-urban populations dependent upon agricultural production and organized through rural social structures to predominantly urbanized, industrialized and market-based societies. Six processes of change were identified as central to this transition, and they became the organizing framework upon which the project was based.

Agricultural intensification and territorial expansion, increasing integration of production with markets and monographs, and often changes agricultural organization and processes of value. Urbanization and industrialization; heightened mobility of populations both within and across national borders; intensification of regulation, as new forms of private, state and supra-state power are developed and formalized to govern agricultural production and exchange relationships; and processes of environmental change that modify the relationship between society and nature to reflect new human impacts and new valuations of resources.

Geographically the project focused on Southeast Asia, a region that has undergone exceptionally dramatic shifts in its agrarian sector over the last three decades and represents both a role model and a cautionary example for the rest of the developing world. With nearly 600 million people, Southeast Asia is a key arena for global processes of economic growth, poverty reduction, environmental change, ethnic-religious conflict and political security.

The Sussex Library of Asian Studies

Mina Roces

The University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, launched in 2007, is a meeting place for academics from all over the world to discuss new insights in Asia Studies in a multidisciplinary context. It encourages participation from other spheres of civil society in debates, panels, and roundtables at its biennial meetings.

The seventh ICAS conference takes place in the United States. Together with the Association for Asian Studies (Jen Arbor), ICAS organizes a joint meeting in Honolulu, 31 March – 3 April 2011. We expect around 4000 participants from Asia, America, and Europe who will take part in the nearly 800 organized panels. We have no doubt that the AAS-ICAS joint meeting will be an inspiring event for all participants, exhibitors, and visitors.

THE SUSSEX LIBRARY OF ASIAN STUDIES, launched in 2007, is dedicated to the publication of scholarly work under the rubric of Asian studies – focusing on Economics, Education, Religion, History, Politics and Gender. The series gives precedence to emerging topics that demand attention in the Asian context, and it is anticipated that submissions will include interdisciplinary and transnational approaches. The Asian series is part of the Sussex Libraries of Study, which include a wide variety of topics. Library of Study books support the publishing endeavours of young scholars as well as established authors. The Sussex Academic Press has an enviable record in providing assistance to scholars in the transition from thesis to book and has a deserved reputation for high editorial and production standards. All editorial, production and design takes place in-house, which allows close supervision of books as they progress through the Press to publication.

The ‘construct’ Asia Series Editor Mina Roces is keen to commission works on topics not yet investigated in the Asian context and approaches to the study of Asia that are cutting-edge and unique. In this way the series will provide a venue for scholars whose research explores new and creative ways to research, write, and talk about the ‘construct’ Asia. The series accepts both monographs and contributed volumes, which must be based on original research. The first book published in the series was a joint editor and contributed book on the politics of dress in Asia and the Americas. This collection was the first to analyze the politics of dress using case studies from Asia via a transnational perspective, and it also proposed a comparative approach with the countries of the Americas.

Up to date information about the series is posted at the Press website at www.sussex-academic.com, under Sussex Libraries of Study.

Book series at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies

Mario Lopez

THE CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES (CSEAS), Kyoto University was established in 1963 and has led the way in conducting detailed and empirically valuable studies across a broad multidisciplinary field. Since the inception of the Center, researchers from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds have devoted themselves to the investigation of Southeast Asia within a multidisciplinary framework. CSEAS produces a quarterly journal entitled Southeast Asian Studies (SEAS) that has been published continuously since 1963. A bilingual publication, SEAS reflects the CSEAS principle of fieldwork-based, multidisciplinary, and contemporary approaches toward research.

During a period of ongoing dramatic political realignment and global economic integration within and across the region, CSEAS has consistently addressed diverse research agendas and sought to enhance the Center’s reputation. Designated as a Center of Excellence in Area Studies, by the Japanese Ministry of Education, CSEAS has a solid history of publication activities that stretch back to the 1960s. The series will provide a venue for scholars whose research explores new and creative ways to research, write, and talk about the ‘construct’ Asia. The series accepts both monographs and contributed volumes, which must be based on original research. The first book published in the series was a joint editor and contributed book on the politics of dress in Asia and the Americas. This collection was the first to analyze the politics of dress using case studies from Asia via a transnational perspective, and it also proposed a comparative approach with the countries of the Americas.

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Colophon

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