Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Development

Edited by Andrew McGregor, Lisa Law and Fiona Miller
Southeast Asia is one of the most diverse regions in the world – hosting a wide range of languages, ethnicities, religions, economies, ecosystems and political systems. Amidst this diversity, however, has been a common desire to develop. This provides a unifying theme across landscapes of difference.

This Handbook traces the uneven experiences that have accompanied development in Southeast Asia. The region is often considered to be a development success story; however, it is increasingly recognized that growth underpinning this development has been accompanied by patterns of inequality, violence, environmental degradation and cultural loss. In 30 chapters, written by established and emerging experts of the region, the Handbook examines development encounters through four thematic sections:

• Approaching Southeast Asian development,
• Institutions and economies of development,
• People and development and
• Environment and development.

The authors draw from national or sub-national case studies to consider regional scale processes of development – tracing the uneven distribution of costs, risks and benefits. Core themes include the ongoing neoliberalization of development, issues of social and environmental justice, and questions of agency and empowerment.

This important reference work provides rich insights into the diverse impacts of current patterns of development and in doing so raises questions and challenges for realizing more equitable alternatives. It will be of value to students and scholars of Asian Studies, Development Studies, Human Geography, Political Ecology and Asian Politics.

Andrew McGregor is Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at Macquarie University, Australia. He is a human geographer with interests in political ecology, critical development studies and climate mitigation strategies in Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Australia. He is author of *Southeast Asian Development* (Routledge, 2008).

Lisa Law is Associate Professor at James Cook University, Cairns, Australia. She is an urban social geographer with interests in the politics of urban spaces in Southeast Asia and tropical Australia. She is currently Editor in Chief of *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*.

Fiona Miller is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geography and Planning at Macquarie University, Australia. She is a human geographer with an interest in political ecology, social vulnerability, society-water relations and climate change adaptation in Vietnam, Cambodia and Australia. She is currently Southeast Asian Editor of *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*. 
To our wonderful children Finley, Jarvis, Madeleine, Dylan and Audrey.
## CONTENTS

List of figures xi
List of tables xii
Contributors xiv
Acknowledgments xxi

### PART 1

**Approaching Southeast Asian development** 1

1 Approaching Southeast Asian development 3
   *Andrew McGregor, Lisa Law and Fiona Miller*

2 What is development in Southeast Asia and who benefits? Progress, power and prosperity 14
   *Katharine McKinnon*

3 Neoliberalism in Southeast Asia 27
   *Simon Springer*

4 Aggregate trends, particular stories: tracking and explaining evolving rural livelihoods in Southeast Asia 39
   *Jonathan Rigg and Albert Salamanca*

5 ‘Nature’ embodied, transformed and eradicated in Southeast Asian development 53
   *Victor R. Savage*
PART 2
Development institutions and economies in Southeast Asia: introduction 65
Andrew McGregor, Lisa Law and Fiona Miller

6 Neoliberalism and multilateral development organizations in Southeast Asia 69
Toby Carroll

7 The International Labour Organization as a development actor in Southeast Asia 85
Michele Ford, Michael Gillan and Htwe Htwe Thein

8 Justice processes and discourses of post-conflict reconciliation in Southeast Asia: the experiences of Cambodia and Timor-Leste 96
Rachel Hughes

9 Civil society participation in the reformed ASEAN: reconfiguring development 109
Kelly Gerard

10 Industrial economies on the edge of Southeast Asian metropoles: from gated to resilient economies 120
Delik Hudalah and Adiwan Aritenang

11 Community economies in Southeast Asia: a hidden economic geography 131
Katherine Gibson, Ann Hill and Lisa Law

12 Implications of non-OECD aid in Southeast Asia: the Chinese example 142
May Tan-Mullins

13 ‘Timeless Charm’? Tourism and development in Southeast Asia 153
John Connell

PART 3
People and development: introduction 169
Lisa Law, Fiona Miller and Andrew McGregor

14 Family, migration and the gender politics of care 173
Brenda S.A. Yeoh and Shirlena Huang
15 Healthcare entitlements for citizens and trans-border mobile peoples in Southeast Asia
   *Meghann Ormond, Chan Chee Khoon and Sharuna Verghis*

16 Migration, development and remittances
   *Philip Kelly*

17 Children, youth and development in Southeast Asia
   *Harriot Beazley and Jessica Ball*

18 Ethnic minorities, indigenous groups and development tensions
   *Sarah Turner*

19 Globalization, regional integration and disability inclusion: insights from rural Cambodia
   *Alexandra Gartrell and Panharath Hak*

20 Religion and development in Southeast Asia
   *Orlando Woods*

21 A feminist political ecology prism on development and change in Southeast Asia
   *Bernadette P. Resurrección and Ha Nguyen*

22 Rethinking rural spaces: decropping the Southeast Asian countryside
   *Tubtim Tubtim and Philip Hirsch*

**PART 4**

**Environment and development: introduction**

*Fiona Miller, Andrew McGregor and Lisa Law*

23 Material, discursive and cultural framings of water in Southeast Asian development
   *Fiona Miller*

24 Agriculture and land in Southeast Asia
   *Yayoi Fujita Lagerqvist and John Connell*

25 Labor, social sustainability and the underlying vulnerabilities of work in Southeast Asia’s seafood value chains
   *Simon R. Bush, Melissa J. Marschke and Ben Belton*
Contents

26 Oil palm cultivation as a development vehicle: exploring the trade-offs for smallholders in East Malaysia 330
   Fadzilah Majid Cooke, Adnan A. Hezri, Reza Azmi, Ryan Morent Mukt, Paul D. Jensen and Pauline Deutz

27 Disasters and development in Southeast Asia: toward equitable resilience and sustainability 342
   Frank Thomalla, Michael Boyland and Emma Calgaro

28 Upscaled climate change mitigation efforts: the role of regional cooperation in Southeast Asia 362
   Noim Uddin and Johan Nylander

29 Can Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) contribute to sustainable development in Southeast Asia? 376
   Andreas Neef and Chapika Sangkapitux

30 Forest-led development? A more-than-human approach to forests in Southeast Asian development 392
   Andrew McGregor and Amanda Thomas

Index 408
FIGURES

1.1 Map of Southeast Asia 5
4.1 Gender and generational work in two northeastern Thai villages, 1982 and 2008 43
10.1 Map of industrial concentration in Jakarta Metropolitan Area 127
23.1 Total renewable water resources per capita (m³/inhab/year) 1992–2014 290
23.2 Total annual freshwater withdrawals (m³) as a percentage of total (2013) 291
23.3 Annual freshwater withdrawals (m³) as a percentage of total (2013) for agriculture, industry and domestic 291
24.1 Land under cereal crop production for selected Southeast Asian countries 303
24.2 Yield of cereal crop production (kg/ha) for selected Southeast Asian countries 304
24.3 Share of agriculture, percentage of GDP for selected Southeast Asian countries 307
25.1 Capture fisheries and aquaculture output in Southeast Asia, 1950–2013 317
25.2 Social issue areas in the seafood employment chain 319
27.1 Mortality risk distribution of selected hydro–meteorological hazards (tropical cyclone, flood, rain–triggered landslide) in Southeast Asia 343
27.2 Total number of disasters [(i) hydro- meteor- and climate-logical disasters, and (ii) geophysical disasters] that have occurred in Southeast Asia, 1970–2015 344
27.3 The total economic impact (damages) of disasters in Southeast Asia, 1970–2015 347
27.4 Trends showing urban slum population numbers and the proportion of urban populations living in slums in Southeast Asia, 1990–2010 349
29.1 Map of Mae Sa watershed, Chiang Mai Province, Northern Thailand 385
29.2 Proposed PES Model for Mae Sa watershed 386
30.1 Regional extent of tropical forest in Southeast Asia (including Papua New Guinea) derived from SpotVegetation 1 km data 2000 393
30.2 Change in forested area by country and year 395
30.3 Regional pattern of main areas and causes of forest change in Southeast Asia 396
30.4 Value of forest products exports (in millions USD at 2011 prices and exchange rates) 397
30.5 Contribution of the forestry sector to total GDP 397
TABLES

| 1.1 | Southeast Asian development indicators | 8 |
| 4.1 | The Southeast Asian countryside: the big picture (1960–2012) | 40 |
| 4.2 | Asia’s greying farmers | 44 |
| 4.3 | Trends in average farm size, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand (ha) | 45 |
| 4.4 | Rural, urban and national poverty rates for selected countries of developing Asia, earliest and latest years | 47 |
| 6.1 | Three phases of neoliberal development policy | 73 |
| 6.2 | ADB ‘sovereign’ approvals (including loans, grants and official co-financing and technical assistance) for Southeast Asian developing member countries | 75 |
| 6.3 | World Bank (International Development Association and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) commitments for Southeast Asian developing member countries | 75 |
| 6.4 | Total historical cumulative MDO allocations to Southeast Asian countries (as of 2014) in millions of dollars | 75 |
| 10.1 | Total number of SMIs in Jakarta Metropolitan Area | 124 |
| 10.2 | Total employment in SMIs in Jakarta Metropolitan Area | 124 |
| 10.3 | The concentration of SMIs in Jakarta Metropolitan Area | 126 |
| 10.4 | Location Quotient of SMI employment clusters in Jakarta Metropolitan Area | 128 |
| 12.1 | Geographical distribution of China’s foreign assistance funds, 2010–2012 | 144 |
| 12.2 | Timeline of Chinese aid with particular reference to Southeast Asia | 145 |
| 12.3 | Similarities and differences between OECD and Chinese aid | 148 |
| 13.1 | Regional sources of visitors to ASEAN | 155 |
| 13.2 | Tourist arrivals by country in Southeast Asia | 155 |
| 16.1 | Migration and remittances in Southeast Asia | 201 |
| 17.1 | Positional ranking based on children’s well-being | 213 |
| 18.1 | Ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples in Southeast Asia | 225 |
| 23.1 | Multiple dimensions of water and development | 286 |
| 23.2 | Irrigation water withdrawals | 293 |
| 23.3 | Percentage of Southeast Asian population with access to improved drinking water sources | 295 |
| 23.4 | Basic water, sanitation and health indicators | 295 |
### Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>Land reforms in selected Southeast Asian countries</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>Yield of cereal crop in selected Southeast Asian countries (Unit: kg/ha)</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>Rural population, percentage of total population</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>Timeline of key media, NGO and academic coverage</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>Employment in capture fisheries in selected Southeast Asian countries</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>The 2016 World Risk Index for Southeast Asian nations</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>Major disasters affecting Southeast Asia in terms of loss of life and economic damage, 1970–2016</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>Regional cooperation in the Southeast Asian region</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>Major prerequisites for PES schemes in the Southeast Asian context</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adiwan Aritenang is an Assistant Professor in the Urban and Regional Program in Institute Technology Bandung (ITB), Indonesia. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore. His research interests include urban and regional economics, decentralisation, supra-regional integration and creative cities.

Reza Azmi holds a doctorate in Plant Ecology and Systematics and is the Founder and Executive Director of Wild Asia, a Malaysia-based environmental and social enterprise focused on helping oil palm smallholders to self-organize, overcome their own challenges and be supported by industry through certification.

Jessica Ball is a Professor in Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria, Canada. She is active in research, teaching and consulting throughout Southeast Asia with a focus on policies and practices that manufacture the marginalization of children and families, particularly indigenous and minoritized populations and economic and forced migrants.

Harriot Beazley is a children’s geographer and community development practitioner, focusing on rights-based, child-focused participatory research in the Southeast Asia region (especially Indonesia). Harriot is Program Leader (International Development) and Senior Lecturer (Human Geography) at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia. She is Commissioning Editor for the journal Children's Geographies.

Ben Belton is an Assistant Professor of International Development in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, USA. His research focuses on the political economy of aquaculture and capture fisheries development in South and Southeast Asia, agricultural value chains, and food and nutrition security.

Michael Boyland is a Research Associate with Stockholm Environment Institute, Bangkok. Michael is a researcher for the SEI Asia Research Cluster on Reducing Disaster Risk and the global SEI Initiative on Transforming Development and Disaster Risk. He holds an MA in Disasters, Adaptation and Development from King’s College London.
Contributors

Simon R. Bush is Professor and Chair of the Environmental Policy Group at Wageningen University, The Netherlands. Simon’s research focuses on the interaction between public and private governance arrangements within the sustainable seafood movement.

Emma Calgaro is a Research Fellow with the Hazards Research Group, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, Australia. Emma has ten years’ experience in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), vulnerability and climate change research with a strong regional focus on Southeast Asia, Australia and the South Pacific. Her research focuses on understanding the complex set of contextual and cultural factors that impede and/or improve resilience and vulnerability levels to risk.

Toby Carroll is Associate Professor in the Department of Asian and International Studies at City University of Hong Kong. His research concentrates on the political economy of development and development policy, with a particular geographical focus on Asia.

Chan Chee Khoon is a Health Policy Analyst at the University of Malaya. He graduated from Harvard University with a doctorate in epidemiology and has served on the editorial advisory boards of International Journal for Equity in Health, Global Health Promotion, Global Social Policy and Oxford Bibliographies in Public Health.

John Connell is Professor of Geography in the School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, Australia. His research focuses on migration and remittances in the Pacific. He has written and edited more than 30 books, including Tourism at the Grassroots: Villagers and Visitors in the Asia Pacific (with B. Rugendyke) and Islands at Risk: Environments, Economies and Contemporary Change.

Pauline Deutz is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Hull, United Kingdom. She takes an interdisciplinary social science approach to, primarily, waste policy issues. She has numerous publications on industrial ecology, including the 2015 co-edited book International Perspectives on Industrial Ecology. Pauline is vice-president of the International Sustainable Development Research Society.

Michele Ford is Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, Australian Research Council Future Fellow and Director of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre at the University of Sydney, Australia. Her research focuses on labor movements in Southeast Asia. Michele is the author of Workers and Intellectuals: NGOs, Unions and the Indonesian Labour Movement (NUS/Hawaii/KITLV 2009). She has also edited or co-edited several volumes including Social Activism in Southeast Asia (Routledge 2013) and Beyond Oligarchy: Wealth, Power, and Contemporary Indonesian Politics (Cornell SEAP 2014).

Alexandra Gartrell is a Lecturer in Human Geography, School of Social Sciences at Monash University, Australia. Her current research interests include gendered socio-spatial politics of disability and employment, sexual and reproductive health and rights of persons with disabilities, and disability inclusive disaster risk reduction.

Kelly Gerard is a Lecturer in Political Science and International Relations at the University of Western Australia. Her research interests span political economy and development and social movements in Southeast Asia. She is the author of ASEAN’s Engagement of Civil Society: Regulating Dissent (Routledge 2014).
**Katherine Gibson** is a Professorial Research Fellow in the Institute for Culture and Society at the Western Sydney University, Australia. She is an economic geographer with an international reputation for innovative research on economic transformation and over 30 years’ experience of working with communities to build resilient economies.

**Michael Gillan** is a Senior Lecturer at the UWA Business School at the University of Western Australia. His current research focuses on Global Union Federations; employment relations in global production networks; labor movements and politics in India; and employment relations in Myanmar.

**Panharath Hak** is a graduate student at Monash University, Australia, majoring in environmental management and sustainability. He has bachelor degrees in environmental science and international relations from Cambodia and is now conducting a master's research project on the sustainability of Cambodia's community forest management under the UN's REDD+ framework.

**Adnan A. Hezri** is Adjunct Fellow in the Fenner School of Environment and Society, the Australian National University and a Member of the United Nations' International Resource Panel. His specialization is comparative public policy spanning areas such as green economy, natural resources governance and sustainable development strategy.

**Ann Hill** is an Assistant Professor in Education at the University of Canberra, Australia, currently teaching and conducting research in community development, community economies and global education. She has extensive research experience in Southeast Asia and is currently a researcher on Australian Research Council Discovery Project “Strengthening Economic Resilience in Monsoon Asia.”

**Philip Hirsch** is Professor of Human Geography in the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney, Australia. His research interests are in agrarian change, natural resource management and the politics of environment in Thailand and the wider Mekong region.

**Shirlena Huang** is Associate Professor of Geography and Vice-Dean (Graduate Studies) at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore. Her research mainly examines issues at the intersection of migration, gender and families (with a particular focus on care labor migration and transnational families within the Asia-Pacific region) as well as urbanization and heritage conservation (particularly in Singapore).

**Delik Hudalah** is Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the School of Architecture, Planning and Policy Development and senior researcher at the Research Center for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia. He focuses on the transformation of urban frontiers in emerging cities, metropoles and mega-regions in the context of Asian countries’ transition to decentralization and democracy.

**Rachel Hughes** is an Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the School of Geography at The University of Melbourne, Australia. She has wide-ranging interests in the geographies of law, geopolitics, public memory, and visual and material cultures. Her current project examines the relationship between the non-judicial legacies of the Khmer Rouge
Contributors

Tribunal and wider social and political change. She is the author of a number of book chapters and journal articles on the memorialization of the Cambodian genocide, and a co-editor of the collection *Observant States: Geopolitics and Visual Culture* (2010).

**Paul D. Jensen** is a freelance corporate sustainability consultant and researcher at the University of Hull, United Kingdom, currently working on sustainable supply chains. He focuses on industrial ecology in addition to authoring business sustainability best practice reports for regional and international governmental organizations.

**Philip Kelly** is Professor of Geography at York University, Canada, and Director of the York Centre for Asian Research. His research has examined the global dimensions of Philippine development, immigrant labor market processes and intergenerational mobility in Canada, and transnational economic ties between Canada and the Philippines.

**Yayoi Fujita Lagerqvist** is a lecturer of Human Geography in the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney, Australia. Her research interests are in natural resource management and rural livelihood in the mainland Southeast Asia.

**Lisa Law** is an Associate Professor in the Centre for Tropical Urban and Regional Planning at James Cook University in Cairns, Australia. She is an urban social geographer with interests in the politics of urban spaces in Southeast Asia and tropical Australia. She is Editor in Chief of *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, a Wiley journal publishing articles in geography and allied disciplines about the region.

**Fadzilah Majid Cooke** is Professor of Sociology at Universiti Malaysia Sabah, working in political ecology, on local rights and access to natural resources as well as the socio-politico-technological context of conservation. She is a steering committee member of the International Science Council’s Asia Pacific program on the Sustainability Initiative for the Marginal Seas of East and South Asia (SIMSEA).

**Melissa J. Marschke** is an Associate Professor in the School of International Development and Global Studies at the University of Ottawa, Canada. Melissa’s research focuses on livelihoods, labor and governance issues in the seafood sector.

**Andrew McGregor** is Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at Macquarie University, Australia. He has conducted research in Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Myanmar and previously worked for UNICEF Australia. His current interests are on climate mitigation strategies, more-than-human geographies and critical development studies. He is author of *Southeast Asian Development* (Routledge 2008) and former Editor in Chief of *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*.

**Katharine McKinnon** is Senior Lecturer with the Community Planning and Development Program at La Trobe University, Australia. She is a social geographer whose work focuses on the politics of development, particularly in relation to professional practice, community economies and gender, and is informed by post-development theory and feminist economic geography.

**Fiona Miller** is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geography and Planning, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. She conducts research on the social and equity dimensions of
environmental change in the Asia Pacific, with a particular interest in political ecology, social vulnerability, society-water relations and climate change adaptation.

**Ryan Morent Mukit** is a postgraduate student of Sociology and Anthropology at the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage (FKSW) at Universiti Malaysia Sabah and a research assistant at the same university. He is working on livelihoods and access to land for indigenous oil palm smallholders and its political economic context.

**Andreas Neef** is Professor and Director of the Development Studies program at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. His research focuses on natural resource governance, land grabbing, development-induced displacement, adaptation to climate change, and post-disaster response and recovery. He served as Scientific Advisor to the German Parliament on issues of global food security and on societal and political discourses on the economic valorization of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

**Ha Nguyen** is a Research Associate for Gender, Environment and Development research cluster at the Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden. Her research interests include gender and empowerment in large-scale investments and rural livelihoods, inclusive and sustainable agriculture supply chains. She has researched women’s land tenure rights in Vietnam and women’s empowerment in home gardens in Cambodia.

**Johan Nylander** is Director and Principal Consultant of Climate Policy and Markets Advisory International AB, Sweden. Johan’s research focuses on climate policy, sustainable development and climate change mitigation, particularly carbon market mechanisms.

**Meghann Ormond** is Assistant Professor in Cultural Geography at Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands. With a background in health geography and migration studies, Meghann focuses on how shifting visions of citizenship and belonging transform social and economic development agendas and impact healthcare systems.

**Bernadette P. Resurrección** is Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Sweden. For more than 15 years, she has researched gender, natural resource management, livelihoods, climate change adaptation, disasters and mobility in Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia. Her current feminist political ecology research interests include gender professionals in techno-scientific, development and environment policy fields, as well as disaster and large-scale economic land concession displacements.

**Jonathan Rigg** is Professor of Geography at the National University of Singapore and Director of the Asia Research Institute. He is the author of *Challenging Southeast Asian Development: The Shadows of Success* (Routledge, 2016) and has been working on issues of agrarian change and rural livelihoods since the early 1980s.

**Albert Salamanca** is a Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute in Bangkok, Thailand, where he leads SEI’s initiative on Transforming Development and Disaster Risk. He has undertaken fieldwork across mainland and insular Southeast Asia.

**Chapika Sangkapitux** is an honorary academic with the Development Studies program at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Her research expertise is in the field of environmental
Contributors

and resource economics, particularly choice modelling, payments for environmental services and agricultural multifunctionality. In a recent study funded by the Thailand Research Fund, she compared the experience of various OECD countries in promoting multifunctional agriculture.

**Victor R. Savage** is currently a Visiting Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He is also the Honorary Vice-President of the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau (CGB) (2016–2020). His major research interests are climate and environmental change, human-nature relationships and urban landscapes in Southeast Asia.

**Simon Springer** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, Canada. His research agenda explores the political, social and geographical exclusions that neoliberalization has engendered, particularly in post-transitional Cambodia, where he emphasizes the spatialities of violence and power. Recent books include *The Discourse of Neoliberalism: An Anatomy of a Powerful Idea* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), and *Violent Neoliberalism: Development, Discourse and Dispossession in Cambodia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

**May Tan-Mullins** is Professor in International Relations, Dean of Graduate School, Director of Institute of Asia and Pacific Studies, University of Nottingham, China, and Series Editor of Palgrave Series in Asia and Pacific Studies. Her research interests are political ecology of rising China, environmental and energy justice, poverty alleviation and building resilience for the poorest and most vulnerable.

**Htwe Htwe Thein** is a Senior Lecturer in International Business at the School of Management, Curtin University, Australia, where she teaches international business, management in Asia, and culture and ethics in business. Her research focuses on economic development and international business investment in Myanmar and on institutional theory within the field of international business.

**Frank Thomalla** is a Senior Research Fellow at Stockholm Environment Institute, Bangkok, Thailand. He leads the SEI Asia Research Cluster on Reducing Disaster Risk and co-leads the global SEI Initiative on Transforming Development and Disaster Risk (TDDR). He is also a Member of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Asia Science, Technology, and Academia Advisory Group (ASTAAG).

**Amanda Thomas** is a Lecturer in Environmental Studies at Victoria University of Wellington in Aotearoa New Zealand. She is a human geographer and researches nature society relations and decision-making about the environment.

**Tubtim Tubtim** is an independent researcher based in Sydney, Australia, and Chiang Mai, Thailand. Since the early 1990s she has worked on community-based natural resource management in the Mekong Region, and more recently she has written on social change in peri-urban Thailand.

**Sarah Turner** is a Professor in the Department of Geography, McGill University, Canada. Her research explores how ethnic minority communities in the Sino–Vietnamese borderlands create sustainable livelihoods in the face of state modernisation and ‘development’ plans. She co-authored *Frontier Livelihoods: Hmong in the Sino-Vietnamese borderlands* (2015, University of Washington Press), and edited *Red Stamps and Gold Stars: Fieldwork Dilemmas in Upland Socialist Asia* (2013, University of British Columbia Press).
Contributors

Noim Uddin is currently a Postdoctoral Associate at Stony Brook University, Long Island New York, USA. He is also a Senior Consultant with Climate Policy and Markets Advisory International AB and is an Honorary Associate with the Department of Geography and Planning of Macquarie University. Noim’s research focuses on sustainable/low-carbon energy strategies, climate change policy and greenhouse gas risk management.

Sharuna Verghis is with the Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Monash University Malaysia and Health Equity Initiatives, Malaysia. She has worked extensively on health and mobility, nationally and internationally. Her professional interests include community-based health interventions, equity of access to healthcare and community-based participatory research.

Orlando Woods is an independent researcher, currently based in London, United Kingdom. He previously spent ten years in Singapore, where he completed a PhD in Geography at the National University of Singapore in 2012. In 2016, his book Religion and Space: Competition, Conflict and Violence in the Contemporary World (co-authored with Professor Lily Kong) was published by Bloomsbury.

Brenda S.A. Yeoh is Professor, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore. Her research interests include the politics of space in colonial and postcolonial cities as well as transnational migration in the Asian context. She co-authored Return: Nationalizing Transnational Mobility in Asia (Duke University Press, 2013) and Transnational Labour Migration, Remittances and the Changing Family in Asia (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Projects of this scale require a supportive environment to come to fruition, and we are especially grateful to our Editorial Board who helped steer us through the process. We were fortunate to have editorial guidance from eminent scholars whose work has transformed the way we think about Southeast Asian development, including Professors Jonathan Rigg (National University of Singapore), Katherine Gibson (Western Sydney University), Phillip Kelly (York University), Victor R. Savage (National University of Singapore), James Sidaway (National University of Singapore) and Sarah Turner (McGill University). We also acknowledge the financial support provided by the Department of Geography and Planning at Macquarie University and are particularly appreciative of the tireless efforts of Dr. Claire Colyer who kept us focused and organized throughout the many months it took to bring this collection to print.
PART 1

Approaching Southeast Asian development
Southeast Asia is typically presented as a development success story. Since the collapse of colonialism most countries have experienced significant improvements in health, education, incomes and opportunities, and boast swelling middle classes. The region has avoided inter-state conflict for an extended period under the auspices of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and while many political freedoms remain restricted, at a regional scale progress in countries like Myanmar and Indonesia suggest they have been improving. The infrastructure and facilities of cities like Singapore and Bangkok have made them globally significant finance and transportation hubs, and the region continues to attract high levels of foreign investment, bolstered by initiatives such as the recent formation of the ASEAN Economic Community. Improvements in agricultural production alongside enhanced mobility have diversified rural incomes and opportunities, while initiatives oriented at conserving the region’s rich natural resources and biodiversity have proliferated. There are many challenges ahead, particularly in terms of positioning itself alongside the neighboring political economies of India and China; however, the future of the region is generally considered to be bright.

Such glossy regional interpretations provide a narrative that is attractive to many, particularly political and business elites within and outside the region. However it is only part of the story. As countless studies have shown, Southeast Asia is a region of immense diversity, not only in terms of society, culture, economy, environment and politics, but also in terms of its development experiences. Southeast Asia has indeed developed at an impressive pace over the last few decades, but, as is well recognized, development has been uneven and comes with its own set of challenges and costs. More critical accounts highlight the huge disparities in wealth and opportunity dividing rich and poor, the millions of people left behind by development – even in ostensibly middle income countries, the lack of security or services typifying sprawling informal urban settlements and impoverished rural villages, the harsh labor conditions sustained by foreign investment in export processing zones, widespread human rights abuses and abuse of power, and the ongoing degradation of the natural environment to fuel primary industries and rampant consumption. These stories are also true, providing a counterpoint to narratives of success.

Given such diversity the challenge of putting together this Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Development is a considerable one. We could side with either inflection to provide an update
on development from those perspectives — reinforcing one set of stories over the other. We have chosen not to do that. Instead we have invited a range of outstanding regional scholars to each provide a chapter analyzing an aspect of development that reflects cutting edge scholarship on the topic. In particular we asked authors to move beyond mere description or critique to identify the processes of development and how more equitable, sustainable and empowering forms of development might be pursued. In this sense the Handbook provides a level of understanding that goes far beyond the statistical analyses that dominate development reports on the region. Such statistics are important but fall well short of capturing how and why development is occurring and what the intended and unintended impacts may be. Instead we have sought to provide a perspective on development in the region that goes beyond statistics and simplistic good/bad binaries from the multiple viewpoints of those who have spent their careers studying it.

In taking on the task of analyzing Southeast Asian development, two sets of issues immediately become apparent. First, what is Southeast Asia and how and why should we approach it as a region. Second, what is development and how should we approach it in the Southeast Asian context. In what follows we will build from previous scholarship on these topics to argue that a regional approach to development is important for understanding how and why development occurs in some places and not others. Our intention is not to smooth out the uneven experience of development across the region — a regional GDP does not feature! — but instead to highlight the interconnections that are bringing about diverse development geographies. The regional scale, existing between the nation-state and the global, is under-represented in academia and practice, and yet it reveals much about the nature of development and its variable impacts.

Southeast Asia as a region

The region examined in this collection incorporates what is sometimes known as mainland Southeast Asia — Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Laos), the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore — as well as maritime or insular Southeast Asia comprised of the Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and Timor-Leste (see Figure 1.1). The grouping is driven by geography: the region is nestled between China and India to the north and northwest, the Pacific and Indian oceans to the east and west, and Papua New Guinea and Australia in the southeast. However, the borders of the region, or where the region ends, have been driven as much by colonialism, nationalism and geopolitics as any essential geographic feature. The indigenous people of Papua, for example, in Indonesia’s easternmost province, have much more in common with their Melanesian cousins in Papua New Guinea on the eastern side of the island than people in Java, or broader Southeast Asia. Similarly ongoing unresolved tensions concerning the large gas deposits beneath the Timor Sea involving Australia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste, or in regards to the natural resources and geopolitically vital sea routes of the South China Sea involving claimants from Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan and China, prevent firm maritime boundaries from being drawn at all.

These lingering boundary disputes reflect a longer lineage of uncertainty regarding the very existence of an identifiable region. Such uncertainty is structured around a dialectic of unity and diversity. On the one hand the region defined as Southeast Asia is seen as a space of shared cultures; on the other the diversity of the region is readily apparent and gives it a distinctive quality. Unity is identified in social and cultural traits that are shared widely across the region, some of which are thought to have derived from long patterns of internal and external trade, and others from patterns of wet and dry rice cultivation linked with the tropical monsoon climate (Gillogy and Adams 2011, 5). Milton Osborne (2004), for example, argues that women and the nuclear family are generally more valued in the region than in neighboring states and much has been
made of a traditional mandala political structure, in which pre-colonial kingdoms set up tributary systems that had no set territorial boundaries but faded in influence with distance from the core. The selective appropriation of Indian and Chinese influences, evident in, for example, the absence of India’s caste system, also suggest particular cultural norms and values are shared across the region. The extensive Chinese diaspora throughout the region is another common feature across many societies. In contrast diversity within the region is also very apparent. No other world region boasts the same degree of geographic, religious, linguistic, cultural, ethnic, economic, ecological and political difference.

Historically, the region has been framed in part by its position in relation to two larger neighbors. Indians referred to it as Suwarnadwipa (Goldland) and the Chinese Nanyang (South Seas). Arab traders knew it as Jawa, and the Europeans as Further India. Within the region empires rose and fell, such as the Angkor kingdom centered in current day Cambodia, Pagan in Myanmar, and Chinese vassal state of Srivijaya that controlled east-west trade to China from current day Indonesia and Malaysia. A consolidated regional power structure equivalent to India or China failed to form; instead existing divisions were accentuated during an extended colonial period when Portugal, Spain, Britain, France, the Netherlands and the United States established colonial boundaries that continue to mark the extent of state territories. However even then the concept of a distinct region had yet to develop, and it wasn’t until the 1890s that German language scholarship first referred to the term Southeast Asia (Siidostasien) in a purely geographical way (Reid
The term caught on and became more widely used, particularly during the Second World War and the subsequent Cold War when the region was of critical geopolitical importance. These external signifiers were formally internalized through the formation of ASEAN in 1967 when a Western-oriented alliance of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines formed amidst the turmoil of the Vietnam/USA War. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the cessation for the Cold War eventually saw a broadening of ASEAN to include all states of the region with the exception of Timor-Leste – the region’s newest country – which has applied for membership and is expected to be admitted soon.

Southeast Asian imaginaries now proliferate through maps, tourism, media and geopolitical strategies; however, it is unlikely that a strong Southeast Asian identity has swept through the diverse populations that make up the region. Different ways of imagining and dividing the region help illustrate this point. Timor-Leste, for example, despite sharing half of its island with the Indonesian province of West Timor, has observer status on the Pacific Island Forum – the main political grouping of Pacific Island countries – and has joined the Pacific Island Development Forum, forging links with similarly small island states. Other groupings such as East Asia, Asia Pacific, Pacific Rim, Indochina, Australasia, Oceania and Western Pacific, provide alternative ways of grouping and dividing the states of Southeast Asia. More challenging is Willem van Schendel’s (2002) naming of Zomia to refer to the Tibeto-Burman language areas occupied by highland groups stretching from Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar through Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan and China, occupying spaces conventionally divided between Southeast, East, South and, more recently, Central Asia. Concepts like Zomia call into question the self-evident nature of the regions that currently comprise the world in geographical maps, including Southeast Asia, and open possibilities for alternative research trajectories as evident in James Scott’s (2009) subsequent anarchist history of the area.

Alternative regional imaginaries also highlight the problems of searching for particular traits at the regional scale – as presumably different traits would be found if different regional groupings, such as Zomia, were used. The once prominent Asian Values argument, for example, has faltered, in part, due to the sheer diversity of values inherent in Asian societies and the difficulties in even defining what or where Asia is. This does not mean that Malaysians and Indonesians don’t share similar traits – clearly they do – but it is harder to identify the traits shared by middle class Chinese residents of Singapore, the Kachin people living in the mountains on the China-Myanmar border and the post-disaster rural fishing communities of Indonesia’s Aceh. Similarly colonial empires have left cultural marks in the languages and institutions that link geographically diverse nations, such as Portugal, Timor-Leste and Angola, or Malaysia, Britain and India – creating imaginary post-colonial geographies that could equally be the focus of a book such as this.

Despite these possibilities it is the Southeast Asian regional identity that has stuck to become the dominant self-reinforcing geopolitical and cultural frame. Given its diversity and somewhat arbitrary boundaries and definition we approach the region not as a space of shared endemic traits but as a dynamic region that is continually forming and reforming in response to internal and external processes. We see value in Appadurai’s (2000, 7) conception of process geographies, whereby attention is directed toward movement rather than stability, and regions are recast as “problematic heuristic devices for the study of global geographic and cultural processes.” Our attention, in focusing on development, turns to what Anna Tsing refers to as the ‘friction’ of global encounters, how globalizing processes are engaged with, transformed and grounded in particular geographic spaces, often with unexpected outcomes. The study of such flows challenges homogenous and static images of regions, which are instead creatively likened to lattices, archipelagos, hollow rings and patchworks (Van Schendel 2002). Regions matter, not because of shared norms and values, although where they exist these are important, but because of
Approaching Southeast Asian development

the social, economic, political and biophysical interconnections that cross national boundaries, underpin regional formations and shape encounters with external and internal processes.

**Development in Southeast Asia**

We approach development in a similar way. Rather than focusing on a core indicator or trait, such as GDP, human rights or freedom, we borrow again from Appadurai (2000) to see development as comprising a set of flows characterized by what he calls relations of disjuncture. Development is far from a smooth and seamless project, instead the speed, impacts and forms of development differ spatially and temporally, between and within regions, states, sectors, cities, villages and households. There is no one development; instead there are a myriad of ideas and resources that have become associated with this powerful but slippery concept. Certainly, as post-development researchers have argued, development is about change and because of that it necessarily disrupts, and can destroy, what existed before. Disjunctures are created through the unevenness of these disruptions, whereby improved access to markets, technology, healthcare or education emerge unequally across time, space and society, reflecting the unpredictable friction of place-based encounters. Some benefit from development interventions while others are disadvantaged, or as Rigg (2015, 4) has observed more subtly “problems and tensions that have arisen from growth.” For this reason we do not take a normative perspective on whether development is good or bad (contrast almost any pro-growth report from the World Bank with Wolfgang Sach's 2010 Development Dictionary), as its goodness or badness depends on time, space, perspective, culture, power relations and the materialities of particular initiatives. Perhaps most important is the capacity of those most affected to selectively engage with development and actively steer development processes toward desirable ends. A role for researchers is to highlight the injustices and inequalities that emerge, thereby making space for alternative approaches, when this is not the case.

In applying this lens to development in Southeast Asia we are interested in dynamism and diversity, seeking to understand how people and places are engaging with the globalizing forces of development. We do not pursue a regional economic development model (see Hill's 2014 review and dismissal of the idea), but we are interested in how the incorporation of countries into the region influences their development. Space and scale matter to development, and a regional optic can provide insights into processes that national, local and global analyses cannot. As James Sidaway (2013, 997) writes in relation to Area Studies, “It is imperative, however, to supplement historical and history with geographic and geographical, signifying spatial comparison, perspective and position.” In focusing on the region the collection aims to understand how the flows and processes associated with development are burrowing across and through Southeast Asia and the diverse effects they are having in different spaces. As two of the editors argue elsewhere (Miller and McGregor forthcoming) some of the benefits of regional analyses include: enabling comparisons between places and the identification of shared experiences and trends; creating space for regional narratives and counter-narratives; highlighting the connectivities and influences of human and non-human regionally significant actors such as ASEAN, the Asian Development Bank or the Asian monsoon; and exposing intra-regional connectivities forming through increased mobility and uneven patterns of development (such as migration and remittance flows). The Vietnam/USA War and the Asian Economic Crisis of 1997–98 are just two events that emphasize the importance of regional analyses, with both having fundamental impacts on Southeast Asian development. Regional analyses, which are sensitive to shortcomings, difference, borderlands and minorities, can contribute to valuable knowledges and dialogue oriented toward improved or alternative development approaches.

Sensitivity to difference within regional analysis is important. National-scale differences are apparent in Table 1.1, which provides a snapshot of how individual countries within Southeast
Table 1.1 Southeast Asian development indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
<td>5,769</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>31 (very high)</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>30,942</td>
<td>87,117</td>
<td>no data</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>181,035</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>143 (medium)</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>1,198</td>
<td>3,578</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>1,913,579</td>
<td>255.5</td>
<td>110 (medium)</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>857.6</td>
<td>3,357</td>
<td>11,108</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>236,800</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>141 (medium)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>1,831</td>
<td>5,466</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>330,290</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>62 (high)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>294.4</td>
<td>9,657</td>
<td>26,515</td>
<td>46.2</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>676,577</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>148 (low)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>5,275</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>101.6</td>
<td>115 (medium)</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>289.5</td>
<td>2,850</td>
<td>7,241</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>11 (very high)</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>291.9</td>
<td>52,744</td>
<td>85,021</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>513,120</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>93 (high)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>395.7</td>
<td>5,737</td>
<td>16,064</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>14,870&lt;sup&gt;***&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1.2&lt;sup&gt;***&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>133 (medium)</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>1.4&lt;sup&gt;***&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1,158&lt;sup&gt;***&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>2,399&lt;sup&gt;***&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>46.2</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>330,951</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>116 (medium)</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>193.4</td>
<td>2,109</td>
<td>6,083</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* ASEANStats (2016) ASEANStats web portal (www.aseanstats.org downloaded 2 March 2017)

1 The human development index ranks countries from 1–188 (highest to lowest) based on average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development – a long and healthy life, knowledge and decent standard of living.
2 Gross Domestic Product – sum of gross value of all resident producers in the economy (note: GDP often does not capture contributions from informal economies).
3 PPP – Purchasing power parity takes the cost of living into account by comparing how much it costs in local currencies to purchase particular goods.
4 The Gini coefficient calculates income inequality where perfect equality = 0 and absolute inequality (one person owns all) = 1.
Asia are currently faring according to some common development indicators. Clearly the encounters with development have been uneven with the city state of Singapore seemingly benefiting most from its small size and positioning as the service and financial hub of the region while Brunei’s growth has been propelled by sales of oil and gas. Malaysia has benefited from its positioning between these successful neighbors and through growing industry and service sectors, but it struggles more than most to address forms of income inequality linked to ethnic diversity. Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines are all considered to be developing reasonably well; however millions still live in poverty in these countries, particularly in Indonesia and the Philippines, both of which were severely affected by the Asian Economic Crisis and subsequent structural adjustment programs. Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar face continuing challenges with high rates of poverty, infant mortality and low rates of electrification and education, partly reflecting regional and national histories of conflict. In this volume we do not drill down into the national histories, plans, politics, economies and ecologies that have influenced these development trajectories; instead we focus on trends, connections, commonalities and differences across the region. In adopting a regional optic we hope to bring to light development encounters and challenges that may remain hidden or under-recognized within national and sub-national analyses.

While such goals are admirable we certainly do not claim to have fulfilled them in this Handbook; instead we see this work as making a contribution to an ongoing effort devoted to regional scale understandings of development (see for example Rigg 2015, 2012, 2003, Nevins and Peluso 2008; McGregor 2008; Hill 2008; Leinbach and Ulack 2000). One issue we have encountered is the limited number of researchers analyzing development processes at a regional scale. Most of us, editors included, tend to specialize in one or two sectors in one or two countries. Taking a step back from national or sub-national specialisms to think about development regionally is not an easy or straightforward process. The contributors to the volume have admirably risen to this task. In a similar vein while we are pleased that close to half the chapters involved an author from the region, we would have liked to have engaged more. In some cases potential collaborators were too busy, in others we could not identify an appropriate person to approach. The differing pressures on Southeast Asian researchers who are often engaged in much more policy-oriented work (with clear exceptions like Singapore), and those academic researchers from neoliberalizing Western institutions, whose work is quantified and assessed through academic publications and citations, can act against collaboration on projects like these. A final concern has been around the perennial question of just what is development – and what should be included and what should be left out. Reviewers can no doubt take us to task regarding the content of the Handbook and our decision to focus particularly upon institutions and economies, people and environment. Even within these sections there are clear gaps – indeed whole Handbooks could (and in the case of the environment – have!) been written on each of these themes. Nevertheless we are confident each chapter provides useful insights into Southeast Asian development which, when taken as a whole, provides a comprehensive introduction to regional development processes.

About this book

The Handbook is divided into four sections. Section One provides an introduction to some of the key themes and issues that recur throughout the volume. Katharine McKinnon provides an initial wide-ranging review that highlights the inseparability of development from politics. She focuses on Cold War politics and the birth of development alliances and industries in the region; the mobilization of development resources to pursue particular political goals that can dispossess
minorities or suppress political rights; and the cultural and gender politics that influence who has access to development benefits. Her work ends on a hopeful note that emphasizes the agency of actors to engage with development opportunities in unexpected but beneficial ways, something that is echoed by many contributors to the Handbook. Simon Springer’s subsequent review of neoliberalism in Southeast Asia takes a much darker view. Springer argues, as do many other contributors, that neoliberalism has come to dictate how development is understood and pursued within the region. He traces the roots of neoliberalism and its uptake in Southeast Asia, emphasizing how it has been used to legitimize and extend authoritarian structures rather than challenge them, as theorized by free market advocates. The uneven costs and benefits of existing neoliberal development models are subsequently explored throughout much of the collection.

Jonathan Rigg and Albert Salamanca provide an introduction to transformations in rural spaces and dwell on the surprising resilience of smallholders despite prevailing development trends favoring rural agglomeration. Like McKinnon they emphasize the agency of rural households to creatively diversify in an age of rapidly expanding mobility where migration and remittances challenge traditional conceptions of urban-rural divides. However they also express concern about development processes that lead to dispossession through state sanctioned land grabs or from the creeping uptake of market logics that fracture communities and result in a type of dispossession from below. They also worry about the likely impacts of climate change on some of the region’s most vulnerable people, a theme also taken up by Victor R. Savage in his wide-ranging review of human-nature relationships in Southeast Asia. Savage sees a collision course between dominant linear conceptions of resource-based development that have roots in pre-colonial and colonial trade and the sustainability or even viability of the ecological systems on which we all depend. He contrasts the ecological blindness of capitalist approaches with the deep ecological knowledge of indigenous people, concluding with a plea for more biophilic approaches to development.

Section Two looks at the institutions and economies of development in Southeast Asia. These range from the large multilateral development institutions like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund that are the focus of Toby Carroll’s chapter through to the community institutions focused on by Gibson, Hill and Law. Carroll’s analysis backs up Springer’s earlier argument that neoliberal rationalities now dominate development policy. This influence is subsequently explored by Ford, Gillan and Thein in terms of the changing role of the International Labour Organization in facilitating foreign investment, by Kelly Gerard in the instigation of the ASEAN Economic Community, and by Hudalah and Aritenang regarding shifting geographies of industrial investment. Rachel Hughes’ study of international justice tribunals in Cambodia and Timor-Leste also argues that the limited framing of such institutions, intentionally or not, improves the climate for international investment. A second theme addressed in this section is the growing influence of China with May Tan-Mullins providing a unique insight into the opaque operations of Chinese aid. John Connell reflects on how Chinese tourists, now the most popular extra-regional source country for Southeast Asian tourism, along with a general maturing of the industry, are transforming tourism and development. Within each of the chapters there is a concern for justice and an interest in how the most marginalized are being, or likely to be, impacted by these changing development flows. Gerard sees some hope in the regionalization of civil society advocacy, Gibson, Hill and Law emphasize the strength and capacity of community institutions, and Hughes notes the national and community healing that flows from justice tribunals. The overall feeling, though, is that the dominant expressions of neoliberalism in Southeast Asia are embedding uneven patterns of development, creating considerable challenges for more just and equitable pathways.
Section Three continues the theme of regional integration and neoliberal economic reform, but explores these issues from the vantage point of the people whose everyday lives are most impacted by such development. Critical questions are asked about whether development pathways across the region shape more equitable, sustainable and empowering social worlds. The chapters in this section suggest that economic development, and the mobility it relies on, is an uneven and relational process. Brenda S.A. Yeoh and Shirlena Huang discuss the complex web of gendered mobilities that feed into child- and elder-care deficits in the region, for example, showing how families in receiving places like Singapore and sending places the Philippines are reworking ideas of the ‘modern’ family at both sites. While labor mobility can reduce poverty and provide much needed investment in places like the Philippines, Philip Kelly discusses the downsides (brain drain, exploitation and family separation) and raises questions about how migration contributes to genuine well-being in sending countries. Alexandra Gartrell and Panharath Hak remind us, however, that not everyone migrates; indeed, those with disabilities are most likely to be left behind in villages, to be uneducated, underemployed and in poverty. Orlando Woods similarly suggests articulations between religion and the modernizing impulses of development. Meghann Ormond, Chan Chee Khoon and Sharuna Verghis examine how mobility is transforming ideas about who is ‘entitled to’ and ‘responsible for’ health and social care in ASEAN, and they too find disparity: high income mobile individuals are more likely to have better healthcare than migrant workers. In their analysis of children, youth and development, Harriot Beazley and Jessica Ball remind us that even forced migrant children have visions about what development in the region should look like. Another major theme in this section is the powerful connections between social identities, livelihoods and environment in the region. Sarah Turner’s chapter shows how processes such as agrarian transition, resettlement policies and environmental destruction have particular impacts on ethnic minority and indigenous groups. Tubtim Tubtim and Philip Hirsch explore what regional integration and neoliberal reform looks like from the vantage point of the ‘village’: perhaps the original site of development imaginations. Bernadette P. Resurrección and Ha Nguyen make the case for understanding this process through feminist political ecology.

In Section Four the authors position questions of values, rights, knowledge, equity and scale as central to their analysis of environment and development, providing a clear articulation of some of the challenges confronting development in contemporary Southeast Asia as well as some of the more hopeful strategies by which society–environment relations might be reconfigured in more sustainable and equitable ways. The chapter by Miller provides an overview of the changing position and value of water in the region, focusing on how changes in material, discursive and cultural relations with water have accompanied modernist development. A rise in competition over increasingly scarce resources, such as water, is a theme addressed throughout this section, and is explicitly addressed in the chapter by Fujita Lagerqvist and Connell with reference to land. They document the quite radical shifts in rural livelihoods in the region, accompanying the increased commercialization and intensification of agriculture, arguing that though the importance of agriculture to the economies of the region has declined, it remains an important part of rural people’s lives and livelihoods. The following two chapters by Bush, Marschke and Belton and Majid Cooke et al. frame their analyses of environment–development issues much more from a livelihoods perspective, highlighting how the increased integration of people’s livelihoods into global commodity chains present opportunities for income improvements but also the possibility of increased exploitation and insecurity. Bush, Marschke and Belton focus in particular on the social dimension of sustainability concerning the highly interconnected capture fisheries and aquaculture industries in the region, identifying particular
governance challenges concerning labor conditions. The chapter by Majid Cooke et al. focuses on the very particular ways in which land rights, knowledge and power relations influence the extent to which smallholder palm oil farmers are able to navigate the opportunities and risks associated with this rapidly expanding cash crop.

As highlighted elsewhere in the collection, the wealth and development of the region has come at great cost to the environment. Yet, as shown in the two chapters on disasters and climate change, development itself is now seriously threatened by environmental variability and change. The chapter by Thomalla, Boyland and Calgaro demonstrates how as wealth in the region has grown, so too has the number of people, assets, infrastructure and services at risk of disaster. Southeast Asia is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world, with the authors arguing the nature of development directly contributes to rising vulnerability. Disasters are likely to worsen with climate change, unless development can shift to more adaptive and low-carbon models. Uddin and Nylander’s chapter offers a strong regional level analysis of efforts to transition toward low-carbon development through the upscaling of climate change mitigation efforts. Both chapters highlight the potential for more regionally coordinated responses to reduce vulnerability to disasters and improve climate change mitigation efforts.

The chapter by Neef and Sangkapitux considers the wider environmental governance context in which payment for ecosystem services is situated as a means of promoting conservation. They present analysis of a series of case studies of conservation efforts, concluding that highly mixed outcomes are apparent. The final chapter in our collection, by McGregor and Thomas, engages with more-than-human theories, opening up clear opportunities to rethink development by foreshadowing human and non-human entanglements. As such, the chapter critiques the hyper-separation of humans and nature that lies at the core of modernist development, widely seen as responsible for widespread environmental degradation.

As a collection, the book emphasizes the dynamism associated with the disjunctive flows of development across the region. Cities, villages, societies and environments are being transformed as people engage with the new opportunities and constraints of development in vastly different ways. As the regional imaginary continues to materialize through development initiatives and networks, national economies, societies and environments are becoming increasingly mobile and interconnected, meaning a change in one Southeast Asian location vibrates through the networks bound up with it. It is these interconnected processes of change that are shaping development in the region – they are diverse, unpredictable and uneven, however they are Southeast Asian.

References
Miller, F. and McGregor, A. (under review). Rescaling political ecology? Regional approaches to climate change in the Asia Pacific, Progress in Human Geography.


Approaching Southeast Asian development


What is development in Southeast Asia and who benefits? Progress, power and prosperity


Neoliberalism in Southeast Asia


**Aggregate trends, particular stories**


Development institutions and economies in Southeast Asia


Lyne, I. (2016). Social enterprise in Cambodia: Practice and theory, Unpublished PhD, Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University, Sydney, NSW.


**Neoliberalism and multilateral development organizations in Southeast Asia**

The International Labour Organization as a development actor in Southeast Asia


Justice processes and discourses of post-conflict reconciliation in Southeast Asia


Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and CHRAC. (2012). Hybrid perspectives on legacies of the ECCC. Phnom Penh: Conference Report and Recommendations, ECCC.


108 Pham, P. N., Vinck, P., Balthazard, M., Strasser, J. and Om, C. (2011). Victim participation at the trial of Duch at the extraordinary chambers in the courts of Cambodia. Journal of Human Rights Practice, 3(3),


Suman, B. (2013). Explaining the liberalisation of professional migration in ASEAN, PhD thesis, School of Politics and International Relations, Queen Mary, University of London.


---

**Industrial economies on the edge of Southeast Asian metropoles**


Implications of non-OECD aid in Southeast Asia


Permanent Mission of the People□□□s Republic of China to the UN. (2007). Statement by H.E. Ambassador Liu Zhenmin, deputy permanent representative of China to the UN, at the specific meeting focused on development of the 62nd UNGA, New York, 6 December 2007. Available at:


---

**Timeless Charm**

Tourism and development in Southeast Asia


People and development


CARAM Asia. (2009). Regional consultation on migrant workers’ access to health care and services, 30th October, Kuala Lumpur.


Southeast Asian Studies, 1091-510.


Family, migration and the gender politics of care


Healthcare entitlements for citizens and trans-border mobile peoples in Southeast Asia


CARAM Asia. (2009). Regional consultation on migrant worker’s access to health care and services, 30th October, Kuala Lumpur.


International Forestry Research (CIFOR).


CARAM Asia. (2009). Regional consultation on migrant worker’s access to health care and services, 30th October, Kuala Lumpur.


Migration, development and remittances


Children, youth and development in Southeast Asia


Ethnic minorities, indigenous groups and development tensions


Globalization, regional integration and disability inclusion


Religion and development in Southeast Asia


A feminist political ecology prism on development and change in Southeast Asia


Brickell, K. (2011). We don't forget the old rice pot when we get the new one: Discourses on Ideals and Practices of Women in Contemporary Cambodia. Signs, 36(2), pp. 437-462. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1086/655915


Nations.


Truelove, Y. (2011). (Re-)Conceptualizing water inequality in Delhi, India through a feminist political ecology framework. Geoforum, 42(2), pp. 143-152. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2011.01.004


Rethinking rural spaces


Environment and development


Finnsson, P. T. (2016). Decarbonised energy systems □□□ Nordic countries are where the IEA wants the world to be in 2040. Green Growth Web Magazine, Nordic Way, Norden.


Hayashi, D. , Muller, N. , Feige, S. and Michaelowa, A. (2010). Towards a more standardised approach to baselines and additionality under the CDM. Zurich: Perspectives.


Material, discursive and cultural framings of water in Southeast Asian development


African Studies, 7(25).
Agriculture and land in Southeast Asia


Labor, social sustainability and the underlying vulnerabilities of work in Southeast Asia’s seafood value chains


Oil palm cultivation as a development vehicle


Disasters and development in Southeast Asia Toward equitable resilience and sustainability


Upscaled climate change mitigation efforts


Finnsion, P. T. (2016). Decarbonised energy systems in Nordic countries are where the IEA wants the world to be in 2040. Green Growth Web Magazine, Nordic Way, Norden.


Hayashi, D., Muller, N., Feige, S. and Michaelowa, A. (2010). Towards a more standardised approach to baselines and addtionality under the CDM. Zurich: Perspectives.


Can Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) contribute to sustainable development in Southeast Asia?


Forest-led development? A more-than-human approach to forests in Southeast Asian development


Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). (2014). Sustainable plantation forestry in South-East Asia. ACIAR Technical Reports No. 84. Canberra: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.


406 Christensen, H. (2002). Ethnobotany of the Iban and the Kelabit. Sarawak Forest Department, NEPCon Denmark, Denmark: University of Aarhus.


