

Preface

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PREFACE

This is the twenty eighth outcome of the Joint Study Project for Economic Development Policies in ASEAN and Neighbouring Areas initiated by the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) in Tokyo. As far as Malaysia is concerned, this is the fifth volume in the series of the project. And for the present coordinator cum editor, this is the second and the last one.

Last year, five Malaysian scholars, namely, Dr. Stephen Leong, Dr. Mansor Md. Isa, Dr. Pang Teck Wai, Dr. Abdul Aziz and Mrs. Irene Sia participated in the project and its outcome was published in a book titled "Formation and Restructuring of Business Groups in Malaysia". Of these five scholars, to my regret, Dr. Stephen Leong has not been able to participate this year due to other commitments. Instead, to my relief and great honour, another two prominent scholars have contributed to this year's project. They are Dr. Toh Kin Woon of Socio-Economic Research & Systems Consultants Sdn. Bhd. and Dr. Hajah Rugayah Mohamed of the Faculty of Economics and Administration (FEA), University of Malaya (UM). At the earlier stage of this year's project, we had another member, namely Dr. M. Fadzilah Abdul Samad of the FEA. However, as she had to go abroad for further study, I reluctantly had to accept her 'retirement'.

Although all six participants of this year's project were committed to much more important tasks and duties, they generously and devotedly completed their respective articles. I am deeply obliged to them and really appreciate their collaboration and contribution. Though no longer involved in the project, Dr. Stephen Leong continued to give me various kinds of help. I wish to convey my thanks to him.

I would like to express special thanks to the FEA and all of its staff, especially Dean Professor Mohamed Ariff, Prof. Lee Poh Ping, Prof. Jomo K. Sundaram, Dr. Wan Zawawi, Mr. Yeoh Kok Kheng, Mr. Cassey Lee Hong Kim and Dr. Norma Mansor who helped and assisted me in my research on various occasions.

Besides the FEA staff, I owe much of this research to such scholars and economists as Dr. Tan Chee Beng, Prof. Lee Kam Hing, Dr. Chia Oai Peng and Prof. Shaharil Talib of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of UM, Dr. Rajah Rasiah of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Mr. Tan Chee Chai of Malaysian Industrial Development Authority, Mr. Ong Kim Seng of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia, and Mr. Wang Chao-Ho of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia.

In order to understand China's perspective on economic cooperation between Malaysia and China, I visited China in the Summer of 1993. At several institutions such as the Center for Southeast Asian Studies of Shantou University, Shantou Investment Committee, Modern Confectionery and Food Manufacturer Co. Ltd., Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and Institute of Overseas Chinese

Studies of Jinan University, Guangdong Research Institute of Foreign Economic and Trade Relations, Guangdong International Investment Consultation Co. Ltd. and College of Liberal Arts of Hainan University, I learnt a lot from Chinese Scholars. I am grateful to all of them.

I must mention the warm reception and clear and open answers provided by Malaysian as well as Chinese staff of the China-Malaysian joint ventures that were visited or sent questionnaires. Without their help and cooperation, my work could not have been completed.

I am indebted to my brilliant and devoted assistant Miss Ang Gaik Ling who is a final year student of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UM. She not only assisted me in my regular work but also sometimes shared such field work as visiting factory sites. I am terribly grateful to her.

I wish to express many thanks to Mrs. Patricia Thorlby who, while very busy, promptly read through all the pages to suggest corrections.

Lastly, I appreciate the staff of the Research Planning Department and the International Exchange Department of IDE, who took on the burden of most of the administration work in Tokyo and incessantly reminded me to surely complete the project before the fixed date.

Hara Fujio
Kuala Lumpur,
February 1994.