

## Preface and Acknowledgements

This volume was first conceived at a conference jointly organised by the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) as a forum for academics and practitioners to exchange information and ideas on tourism planning in Southeast Asia. “Interconnected Worlds: Southeast Asian Tourism in the 21st Century” held in Singapore (6–7 September 1999) brought together over 200 participants and 48 papers addressing issues ranging from regional tourism collaboration, ecotourism, heritage tourism, hubs and tourism gateways, and specific case studies of tourism ventures in Southeast Asian countries. It was felt at the conference that while the theme of “interconnections” among the countries of Southeast Asia provided the underlying frame for the intellectual discussions which ensued (and indeed, a separate volume of papers reflecting this theme is also in press<sup>1</sup>), there was also a useful cluster of papers which offered a Singapore perspective on questions of tourism management and policy. It is to Ho Kong Chong, one of the prime movers behind the conference, as well as his co-organisers, Peggy Teo, T.C. Chang and Maribeth Erb, that we owe the idea of putting together a volume providing a critical lens through which to examine tourism management and development in Singapore. In this endeavour, we are also grateful for the support given to us by Patrick Lau (Singapore Tourism Board), Lily Kong (Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS) and Tong Chee Kiong (former Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS). Our thanks also go to the support staff of the various collaborating organisations—the Singapore Tourism Board, and the Centre of Advanced Studies, the Department of Geography, the Department of Sociology, all of the National University of Singapore—for the energy and commitment with which they went about ensuring the success of the conference.

---

<sup>1</sup> Peggy Teo, T.C. Chang and K.C. Ho (2001) (eds.) *Interconnected Worlds: Tourism in Southeast Asia*, London: Elsevier.

It is the intention of this book to bring together in one volume a set of essays devoted to tourism development in Singapore. The value in doing this is to offer a case study of a city-state engaged in sustained efforts at building tourism infrastructure and developing tourism resources, products and attractions. In the Southeast Asia of the new century, the tourist is faced with an expanding set of vacation options as national tourism boards charged with the role of developing a country's tourism resources compete to offer more variety and value to attract the tourist dollar. Within this new and changing environment, an understanding of the issues at hand and the available options in terms of tourism development and management is therefore critical as tourism authorities and tourism-related industries reposition themselves to confront the challenges.

In the process of translating the idea behind the book into a volume of papers, we have had many helping hands. We would like to thank the support staff at the Centre for Advanced Studies—Yati, Selvi, George, Verene and Manea—for each playing a part. In particular, we are indebted to Valerie Yeo, for the long hours she spent formatting the manuscript; indeed her assistance went beyond her skills with the computer. We are also grateful for the financial support received through a research grant jointly awarded by the National University of Singapore and the Singapore Tourism Board (R-114-000-001-112 and R-114-000-001-490). Indeed, this book as well as the research projects and the conference from which it originated are the outputs of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by NUS and STB in 1996. In this sense, it well testifies to what may be achieved in establishing an active and mutually constitutive dialogue between academics and policy makers.

The Editors  
May 2001