

Preface to the Third Edition

The Third Edition has to be done for two reasons. 1) The facts and figures and even some important assessments and evaluations, though completed only in July 2003, have gone very much out of date by December 2008, when this revision was completed. 2) The Second Edition, to our most pleasant surprise, had gone out of stock. The Publisher had to reprint it to fulfil orders.

This Third Edition would not have been undertaken by me but for the willingness and commitment to assist in the revision by Dr SNG Hui Ying, Lecturer in Economics and Ms Sarah CHAN, my Research Associate, both of the Nanyang Technological University. Whilst grateful for their invaluable help, I am solely responsible for whatever remaining inadequacies and imperfections, particularly in the assessment and evaluation aspects of the book.

Hopefully, the book which covers different important facets of the 10 Southeast Asian economies taken singly and taken together will continue to serve a useful purpose for those interested in Southeast Asian economic development and under development. Important economic facets from the rice, rubber and oil palm industries to industrialization, from monetary and fiscal policy to Asean economic co-operation, from international trade and market-orientation to the 1997/98 exchange rate and the current global financial crises are analyzed. Issues arising from population explosion are also discussed. For a comparative study on various topics, such as in this book, the subject index is particularly useful for each specific country and for specific topics and issues.

The book, hopefully, will promote Southeast Asian consciousness, and Southeast Asians' interest in and concern for one another in the process of facing common economic problems on the long road to become a more integrated developed region.

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