

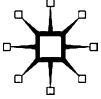
Impact of China's Rise on the Mekong Region

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Edited by

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Preface

This volume presents a collection of essays based on a transnational research project entitled “Variegated Dragon: Territorialization and Civilizing Missions in Southeast Asia” supported by the Thailand Research Fund. The term “Variegated Dragon” refers to a dragon of many shades and colors and implies the multiplicity and flexibility of China’s policies toward various countries in Southeast Asia. In this book, the authors set out to explore the impacts of China’s rise from the perspectives of the Mekong countries, namely, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand, with special attention to political and economic relations between China and the Mekong region, and the impact of the increasing trade, investment, foreign aid, and flows of new “overland” Chinese migrants into various countries of the region.

This book is an outcome of a transnational team of researchers. I would like to thank Hsing-Chou Sung, Bien Chiang, Nguyen Van Chinh, Pinkaew Laungaramsri, Aranya Siriphon, Romyen Kosaikanont, Daw Khin Aye Win, Khine Tun, and Touch Siphath for their research efforts and collaborations. A book organized by a single theme of the impact of China’s rise on the Mekong countries is bound to contain a certain amount of redundancy. Each researcher needs to establish important contexts resulting in unavoidable repetitions, and essential ideas especially on new waves of Chinese migrants and asymmetrical bilateral relations between China and the Mekong region keep recurring. I have tried, however, to keep blatant repetitions to a minimum, and each chapter introduces a specific historical and socioeconomic contexts for exploring the dynamic relations with China.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our colleagues for their comments on previous drafts of papers presented at various workshops. We would like to acknowledge the contributions made by Professors He Ming, Huang Shu-Min, Pal Nyiri, Paul Cohen, and Chris Lyttleton; Associate Professors Dr. Chulacheeb Chinwanno, Pornchai Trakulwaranond, and Dr. Aksornsri Phanishsarn; Assistant Professors Dr. Julaporn Euarukskul, Dr. Kanokwan Manorom, and Dr. Yukti Mukdawijit; Drs Wasana Wongsurawat, Hoang Anh Tuan, Khay-Thiong Lim, Wen-Chin Chang, Yia-Ling Liu, Tsui-ping Ho, Wen-Tang Shiu, Somsajee Siksamat, and Decha Tangseefa; and Mr. Nguyen Cong Thao.

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YOS SANTASOMBAT
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