

## Introduction

*Jirayudh Sinthuphan*

This collection of articles in this edition of the *Asian Review* examines key socio-economic, political, and cultural dimensions across diverse regional and historical contexts. Each contribution sheds light on critical issues that influence human security, social policy, international relations, and cross-cultural business practices. Together, they provide valuable insights for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners interested in understanding the complexities of these domains.

The first article, *Evaluating the Impact of COVID-19 on the Human Security of Low-Income Migrant Workers in Singapore* by Mukda PRATHEEPWATANAWONG, explores the pandemic's profound effects on a vulnerable segment of society. Drawing from stakeholder perspectives, the research highlights both progress, and persistent challenges, in securing the well-being of migrant workers who are integral to Singapore's growth.

In *Social Protection System: Insights from Families Left Behind in Ban Sandin, Lao PDR*, Kritsada THEERA-KOSONPHONG shifts the focus to the social protection mechanisms in Laos and their interplay with migration. This analysis underscores the gaps in policy implementation while advocating for regional collaboration and gender-sensitive approaches to foster sustainable development.

In *French Appeasement Policy Toward Siam (1937-1939)*, Alexandre BARTHEL delves into the geopolitical landscape of Southeast Asia during a turbulent era. It critically examines French colonial strategies in Indochina and their implications for relations with Siam, offering historical insights into the broader context of global appeasement policies.

Lastly, the review of Ming-er Chen's book, *Inside Chinese Business: A Guide for Managers Worldwide*, presents a comprehensive exploration of the cultural underpinnings that shape Chinese business practices. The work offers practical guidance for navigating the intricate web of relationships, trust, and traditions essential for successful engagement in Chinese markets.

Collectively, these articles contribute to a nuanced understanding of regional and cultural dynamics, emphasizing the interconnectedness of historical, social, and economic factors in shaping contemporary challenges and opportunities.

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