

# Preface

In spring 1996 Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard decided to retire from his position as editor of the Journal, a responsibility he has shouldered since the first issue appeared in 1988. Kjeld Erik has been the driving force behind the Journal throughout these years and can look back at ten issues of which he rightly can be proud.

The Journal has hitherto primarily focused on political and developmental issues and security in the East Asian region. The new editor and the new assistant editor, Søren Ivarsson, are both Southeast Asianists. Although we will maintain the general editorial policy of the previous editor, we also intend to feature more articles on Southeast Asia. Thus the next volume of the Journal will focus on Malaysia. We also hope to publish more on cultural and historical issues.

Another change has taken place. The Journal is now distributed directly from the Department of Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen, and not from Museum Tusulanum.

The change in editorship and the new distribution arrangements have caused some delays in various functions of the Journal. We apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused.

On behalf of the Editorial Board I would like to thank Irene Nørlund for serving as guest editor of this issue.

Viggo Brun  
Editor

This issue deals with civil society and the conditions for democratization in four Asian countries: Taiwan, China, South Korea and Vietnam. In none of these four societies influenced by Confucianism is democratization an easy process. Democracy is not a familiar idea and it can be questioned whether the inhabitants of these countries really regard democratization as their main goal.

Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao presents an analysis of the social movements in Taiwan and how they are perceived by the public.

Social movements have apparently more democratic space in Taiwan than in the other countries dealt with in this issue.

Geir Helgesen analyses public reaction to democratization in South Korea and the importance of Confucianist values.

Torstein Hjellum presents an analysis of the legitimacy of the Dengist regime in China, which he finds is more dependent on the capacity to produce economic results than on establishing a new legitimacy.

Finally, Irene Nørlund writes about democratization in Vietnam based on an analysis of the trade unions and their relations to state, party and society.

Irene Nørlund  
Guest Editor