

BOOK LAUNCH

Economic Change in Modern Indonesia

Colonial and Post-Colonial Comparisons

The book launch will discuss the recent book by Anne Booth (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London), published by Cambridge University Press.

Date : Friday, 29 July 2016
Time : 2pm – 3:30pm (registration from 1:30pm)
Venue : The Shaw Foundation Building (AS7), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, Level 6, Research Division Seminar Room 06-42
Chairperson: Associate Professor Jamie Davidson (Political Science, NUS)

Light refreshments will be provided

To register, email nusstanfordsea@nus.edu.sg by 25 July 2016

Anne Booth will give a short presentation about the book, followed by questions and comments from the floor. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

About the book:

Indonesia is often viewed as a country with substantial natural resources which has achieved solid economic growth since the 1960s, but which still faces serious economic challenges. In 2010, its per capita GDP was only nineteen per cent of that of the Netherlands, and twenty-two per cent of that of Japan. In recent decades, per capita GDP has fallen behind that of neighbouring countries such as Malaysia and Thailand, and behind China. In this accessible but thorough new study, Anne Booth explains the long-term factors which have influenced Indonesian economic performance, taking into account the Dutch colonial legacy and the reaction to it after the transfer of power in 1949. The first part of the book offers a chronological study of economic development from the late nineteenth to the early twenty-first century, while the second part explores topics including the persistence of economic nationalism and the ongoing tensions between Indonesia's diverse regions.

Contents

1. Introduction: Indonesia's three watersheds; 2. The colonial legacy; 3. Occupation, liberation and the challenges facing the new republic, 1942–66; 4. Suharto's economic record: successes and failures; 5. The 1997/98 crisis and its legacy: dropping out again?; 6. The SBY years: building a new Indonesia?; 7. Economic nationalism, economic rationalism and the development of private business after 1950; 8. Trends in poverty and income distribution: the Suharto era and beyond; 9. The changing role of government from the colonial era to the post-Suharto years; 10. Conclusions; Bibliography; Index.

'Booth deploys her deep and sustained knowledge to trace Indonesia's seventy year transition, from colonization and conflict to middle-income and membership in the G-20 group of leading world economies. She combines narrative economic history with rigorous yet accessible analysis of major economic and development challenges, including nation-

building, poverty alleviation, democratization, and interactions with volatile world markets. This masterful account should become the go-to source on the development of the modern Indonesian economy.'

(Ian Coxhead, University of Wisconsin, Madison)

About the author:

Anne BOOTH is the Lee Kong Chian Visiting Fellow 2016, hosted by NUS as part of the [Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford Initiative on Southeast Asia](#).

She studied Economics at Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand and the Australian National University in Canberra, and worked in universities in Singapore, Indonesia and Australia before joining the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London (UOL) in 1991. Her interests are mainly in the modern economic history of Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on the legacies of the various colonial powers in the region, and their impact on post-colonial developments. Her recent work includes a comparative study of European and Japanese colonial legacies in Asia, and a study of trade and investment links between China and Southeast Asia. She is currently Emeritus Professor of Economics at SOAS, UOL.



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