

Welcome from the SEC/AAS President

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I welcome you to the thirtieth volume of the *Southeast Review of Asian Studies* (*SERAS*). In its original manifestation as the *Annals* of the Southeast Conference, the journal recorded the proceedings of a small regional conference and served as a publication venue for a few selected papers and abstracts. As current president of the SEC/AAS—and as a former *SERAS* editor, I am very pleased to note that, over the past three decades, our association's journal has continued its original intent and expanded its content to become a well-respected refereed journal with a readership of national proportions.

One significant element in this improvement has been the continuation and expansion of our tradition of eclecticism in our content. For example, scholarship in this volume represents a number of academic specialties and touches on many nations and regions of Asia; and, in many pieces, Asia is connected with the West. Other recent improvements to *SERAS* content, introduced under Daniel Métraux's editorship (Vols. 26–28), are book reviews and scholarly notes on a variety of Asia-related topics.

The editorial process itself has also been upgraded in several ways, most notably by the introduction of an Editorial Advisory Board of scholars from first-rank institutions within the Southeast United States. We hope the improvements in content will be noticed and appreciated by our readership as much as they have been by members of the SEC/AAS Executive Committee. Indeed, the increase in our regional membership and readership has required a larger investment in effort and funds for *SERAS*. We therefore acknowledge the efforts of the editors, members of the Editorial Advisory Board, and the eight special reviewers mentioned in the Editor's Note (pp. v–vi). All have given unselfishly of their time to provide first-rate advice on format and content—and have overseen and undertaken journal-related correspondence, copyediting, and production issues. Finally, we appreciate the invaluable financial contributions arranged for the *SERAS* by Mark Ravina, our past president. It was with his help that subventions from Emory College, Emory Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Emory Institute for Comparative and International Studies, and the East Asian Studies Program at Emory University have been added to the operational budget for the *SERAS*. With those funds, and with the continued dedication and overall professional management of the editorial process by Steven Gump, we aim to continue providing our readership with a quality journal.