

Community under Development in Southeast Asia

In relation with Japanese activities in the past and present

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1 Aim

The aim is to understand present social characters of the communities in Java, Indonesia, Southeast Asia, under economic development and influence by the Japanese activities in the past and present. In Japan, community structure under development has been a subject of thorough analysis in sociology through decades. Studies in Asia have not always been under microscope, perhaps since their economic development is occurring presently than in the past.

2 Background, Method

To approach the aim, community research in one particular area with a research connection of the past and present is sufficient. Here, such method is chosen for Java as a case. During Japanese Occupation Period in the 1940s, Japanese policies had impact in Javanese community structure, introducing social ruling system and social organizations. Fast forward, Japanese wave into Indonesia is now in the form of consumption goods. After the Crisis in 1998, Indonesia is under rapid growth. Pursuing economic opportunity, Japanese industrial estates with factories producing automobiles and motorcycles advanced into Java agricultural villages. Through method of participant observation, some points found are introduced below as results.

3 Results

Economic development had serious side-effect in population, land use, and labor opportunities. Various laborers from different ethnics moved in, expanding economic inequalities and triggered conflicts. Human relations within the community are formed not only by ethnics and individual interests, but also from identities by their original natural hamlets and social organizations. First created by the Japanese, social organizations have remained presence after 1945, empowered during Suharto regime until the 1990s and now utilized for whatever purpose, here used for partnership with Japanese factories and outside ethnic groups.

4 Conclusion

Some findings here are typical social issues under any development transition, but some are crucial characters in understanding present sociological phenomenon, as the profound illustration of Javanese communities in relationship with the Japanese activities.

References

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