

Annual Taiwan Conference on
Southeast Asian Studies
April 25th, 2014
Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Evolution of Southeast Asian Studies in Japan and Its Global Implications

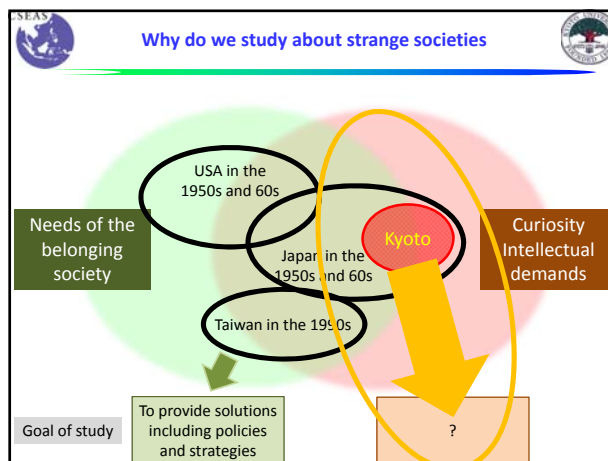
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Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Kyoto University

Aims of the talk

1. What is the essence of "Area Studies"?
2. What are the contemporary roles of Southeast Asian Studies?
3. What are the next generation Southeast Asian Studies?

Contents of the talk

1. Development process of Southeast Asian studies in Japan
2. Recent trends of studies on/in Southeast Asia in Japan
3. What are the roles of Southeast Asian Studies for the future
4. Perspectives and approaches of Southeast Asian Studies



Emergence of Southeast Asian studies in Japan

Osaka City University
Expedition on nature and life
to Thailand (1957-58)

Headed by
Dr. Tadao Umesao (Osaka City University), and
Dr. Kloom Vajropala (Chulalongkorn University)

Camping in forest and
surveying ecosystems

Emotions of Japanese young generation in the 1960s

Oda, Makoto. 1961.
Let's see whatever we can see

Umesao, Tadao. 1964.
Journey to Southeast Asia

Establishment of Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University

Year	Event
1959	In-house committee on Southeast Asian studies
1963	In-house establishment of Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS)
1964	Bangkok Liaison Office (CSEAS)
1965	Official establishment of CSEAS
1970	Jakarta Liaison Office (CSEAS)

Opening ceremony of Bangkok Liaison Office (Feb. 1964)

Late Prof. Mizuno carrying out field work in Northeast Thailand

5 decades of CSEAS

CSEAS Constitution

Declaration of Prof. Hirasawa, President of Kyoto University (1963)

- Deep attachment to and understanding on Southeast Asian societies
- Dense collaboration among different disciplines
- Living with people in Southeast Asia rather than depending on written materials

Instruction given by Prof. Ishii, Director of CSEAS (1987)

- Contemporary Southeast Asian societies
- Interdisciplinary studies
- Based on field work

Tachimoto, N. 2001. *Issues and Approaches of Area Studies*

- Contemporary
- Holistic
- Individuality

Interdisciplinarity of CSEAS: Disciplinary backgrounds of faculty members of CSEAS

Goals of CSEAS-driven Southeast Asian studies

- Holistic understanding of Southeast Asia
- Finding out rationalities embedded in Southeast Asian societies
- Visualizing Southeast Asian rationalities

Three epoch-making books

Ishii, Y. ed. 1978
Thailand: A Rice Growing Society

Takaya, Y. 1987.
Agricultural Development of a Tropical Delta

Fukui, H. 1993
Food and Population in a Northeast Thai village



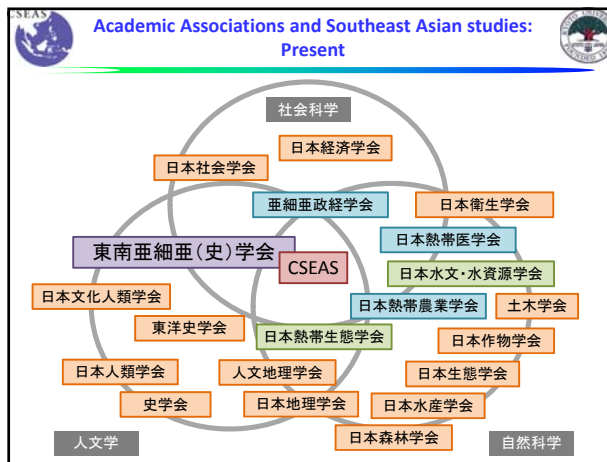
A Japanese guy and village beauties (Don Daeng village, 1983)

Location of Southeast Asian studies in the academic society in Japan

- How are the relations between Southeast Asian studies with the existing disciplines?
- How do Southeast Asian studies contribute to disciplinary studies?

Expansion of academic association in Japan

1880s-1940s Discipline-based associations	日本人類学会(1884)、史学会(1989)、日本森林学会(1914)、土木学会(1914)、日本社会学会(1924)、日本地理学会(1925)、日本作物学会(1927)、日本衛生学会(1929)、日本水産学会(1932)、日本文化人類学会(1934)、日本経済学会(1934)、東洋史学会(1935)、人文地理学会(1948)、日本生態学会(1948)
1950s Discipline and area-based association	亜細亞政経学会(1953)、日本熱帯農業学会(1957)、日本熱帯医学会(1959)
1960s-80s Area-based associations	東南亞細亞学会(1966)、亜米利加学会(1966)、露西亞・東欧学会(1973)、日本中東学会(1985)、日本南亞細亞学会(1988)
1970s- Issue-based associations	国際Gender学会(1977)、日本環境学会(1978)、日本水文・水資源学会(1988)、日本熱帯生態学会(1990)、国際開発学会(1990)、環境社会学会(1992)、移民政策学会(2008)

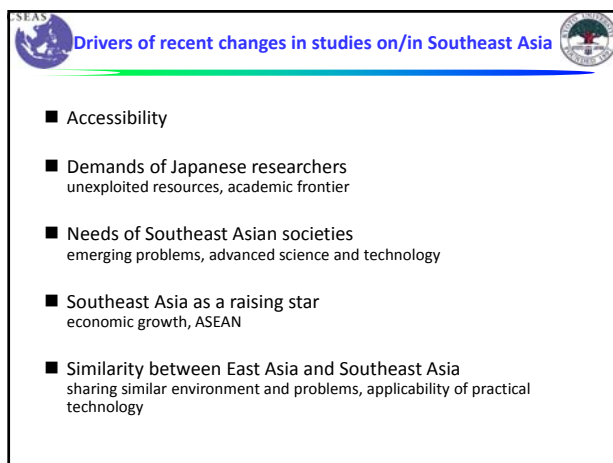
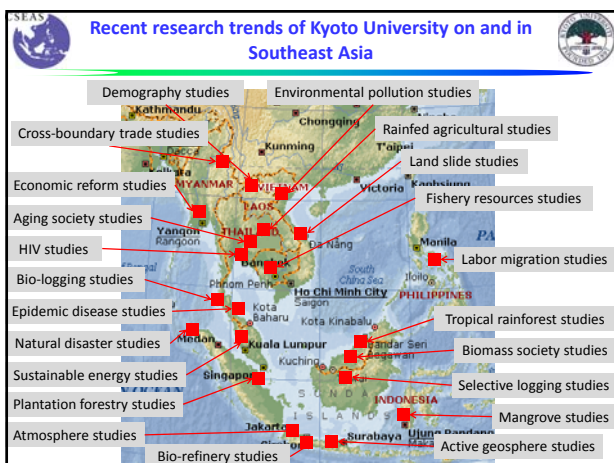
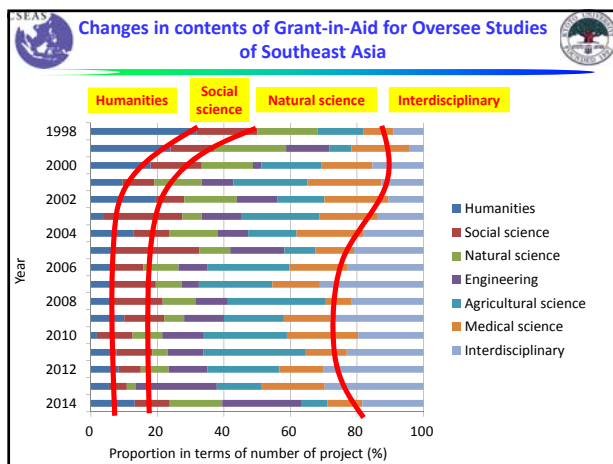
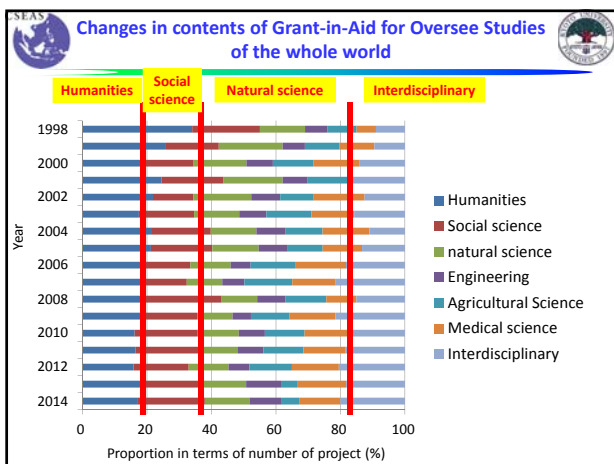
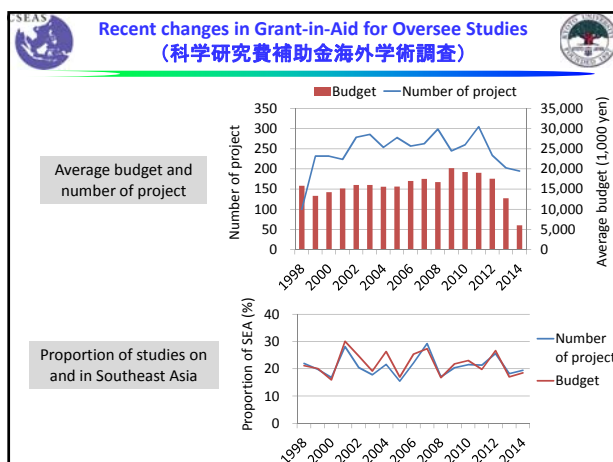
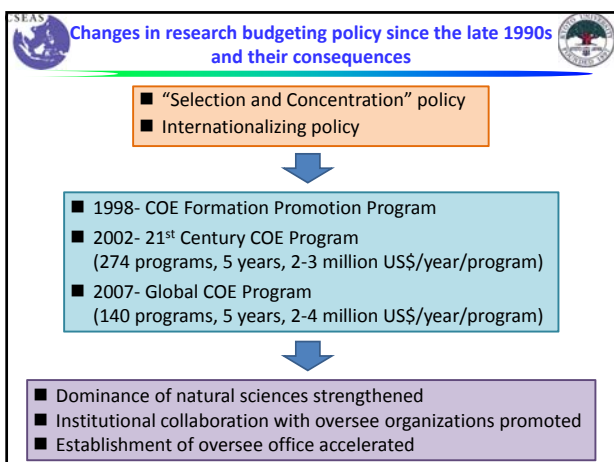


Disciplines and Southeast Asian studies

- Tensions between Disciplines and Southeast Asian Studies at the individual and institutional levels
- Collaboration with various disciplines as a driving force of the development of Southeast Asian studies
- Impacts of Southeast Asian studies on existing disciplines

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Reconsidering the goals of Southeast Asian studies

- Holistic understanding of Southeast Asia
- Finding out rationalities embedded in Southeast Asian societies
- Visualizing Southeast Asian rationalities

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- Rationality and dynamism of Southeast Asia as a global model

Tropical peat land

Traditional land use pattern of tropical peat land

Comb-shaped ditch excavation for reclamation by smallholders → Opening fields along the ditch

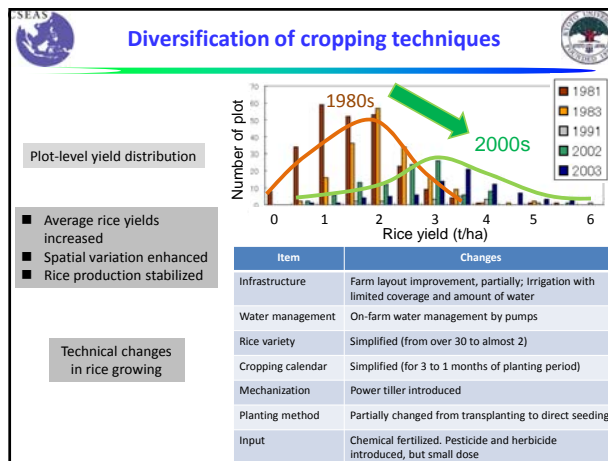
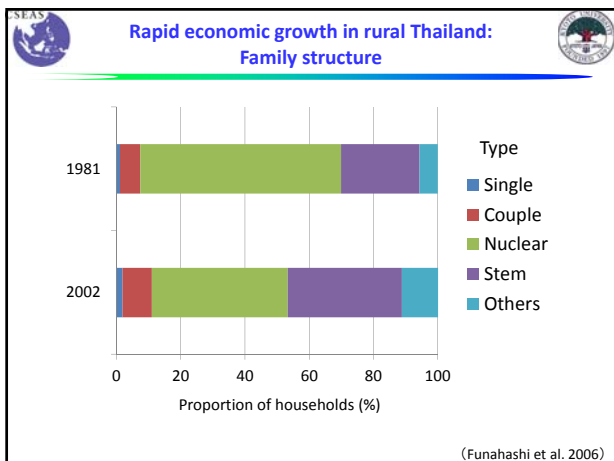
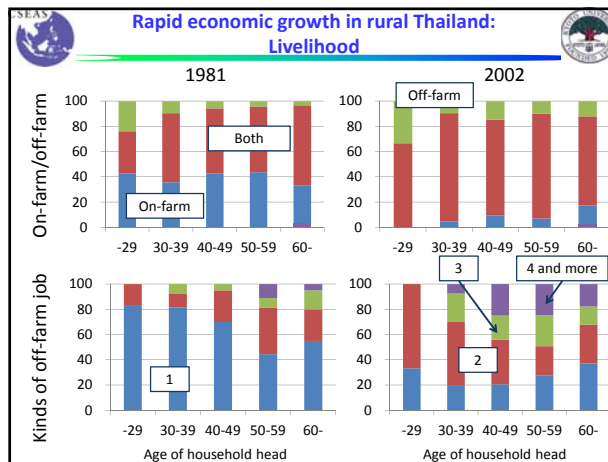
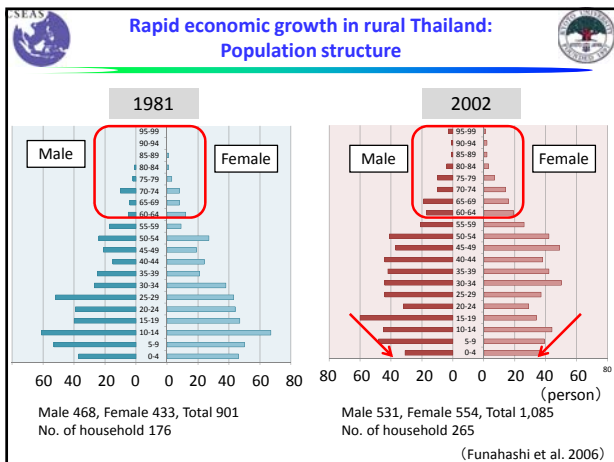
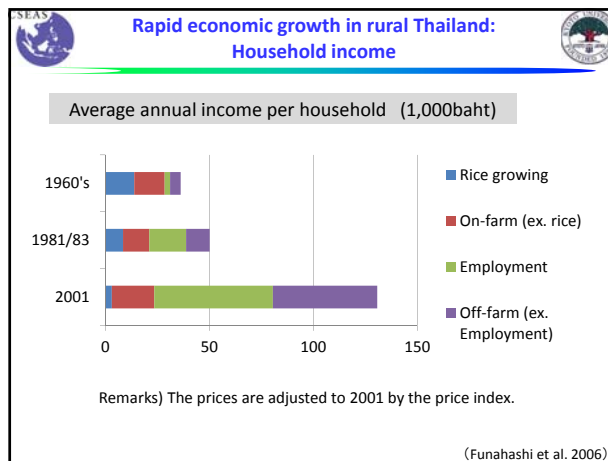
Major livelihood: growing of coconut, rubber and paddy
Collection of forest products and hunting of wild animals

Source: Abe, K. 1997. Cari Rezeki, Numpang, Siap: The reclamation process of peat swamp forest in Riau, *Southeast Asian Studies* 34 (4): 622-632.
Momose, K. 2002. Environments and people of Sumatran peat swamp forests II: Distribution of villages and interactions between people and forests, *Southeast Asian Studies* 40 (1): 87-108.

Large-scale development

Reference: Kawai, S. et al. eds. 2012. *Regeneration of Tropical Biomass Society*, Kyoto University Press.

Present tropical peat land



Characteristics of Southeast Asian societies

- Rigorous and uncertain nature
- Diversity in technology and institutions
- Powerful informal sector in economy and governance

Kyoto University Global COE Program
In Search of Sustainable Humansphere in Asia and Africa



Prof. Kaoru Sugihara

- Five-year project funded by the Japanese government (July 2007- March 2012)
- To define the "humansphere", an environment in which we live, as a frame of reference for the understanding of sustainability.
- To engage in the study of local societies of tropical Asia and Africa from this perspective.
- To understand and substantiate its historical and intellectual context.

Clues to humansphere-driven path

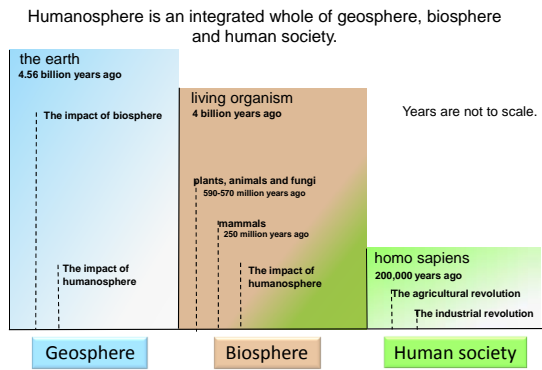
From production-oriented to life-oriented
 Bigger production and consequent economic growth are essential for our society. But these must be not at the expense of a secure, safe and peaceful life for all peoples. We should equally emphasize both production and life, and pay much more attention to life in this context.

From anthropocentric/environment-centric to human-environment interactive
 Human society is our first concern, and ecosystem and biodiversity conservation is an emergent issue. But we should fully recognize that, as we have done historically, that connecting human society with geosphere and biosphere is the key to achieving sustainable and secured future.

From temperate zone-biased to tropics-oriented
 Institutions and technology as public property of the contemporary global society are temperate zone-biased, assuming the strength of moderate heat energy and the less active eco-system. We should reform institutions and technology with much wider scope on geosphere and biosphere, particularly in reference to local but substantial wisdoms accumulated in tropical societies.

Structure of humansphere

Humansphere is an integrated whole of geosphere, biosphere and human society.



the earth 4.56 billion years ago

living organism 4 billion years ago

plants, animals and fungi 590-570 million years ago

mammals 250 million years ago

homo sapiens 200,000 years ago

Geosphere Biosphere Human society

Years are not to scale.

Three spheres

- Each has a logic of its own. The logic of geosphere underscores the logic of biosphere, and both in turn underscore the logic of human society; This order is historically loosely sequential.
- Humans only partially understand the logics of geosphere and biosphere, and human society can only partially control them.
- The sustainability of human society depends on the sustainability of geosphere and biosphere, and, to a lesser extent, vice versa.

The historical evolution of humansphere

- Human progress had been driven by the effort to secure, expand and sustain the humansphere (humansphere-driven path), till the productivity-driven path emerged in Europe and East Asia a few centuries ago.
- Since the industrial revolution and the growth of the fossil-fuel based world economy, humansphere-driven path has retreated to the peripheral status.
- In designing the globally sustainable path, we should rehabilitate the humansphere-driven path, and bring modern technology and institutions into the height of dealing with the sustainability of tropics-centred global environment.

Publications on sustainable humanosphere studies

Geosphere, Biosphere and Human Society: In Search of Sustainable Humanosphere
(Kyoto University Press 2009)

Sustainable Humanosphere Studies Series

- Vol. 1 *The Tropical Humanosphere in Global History: Beyond the Temperate-zone Perspective*
- Vol. 2 *The Potentiality of Geosphere and Biosphere: Exploring the Tropical Humanosphere*
- Vol. 3 *Reconstituting the Human Domain: The Potentialities of Tropical Societies*
- Vol. 4 *Regeneration of Tropical Biomass Society: From the Field Studies of Indonesian Peat Swamp Area*
- Vol. 5 *The Humanosphere Potentiality Index: Beyond the HDI Perspective*
- Vol. 6 *Handbook for Sustainable Humanosphere*
(Kyoto University Press 2012)

Implications of sustainable humanosphere studies on Southeast Asian studies

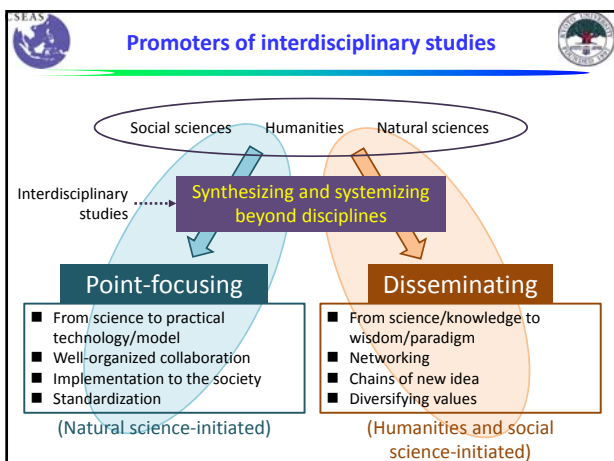
- Proposing the global future from Southeast Asian studies
- Promoting innovations of relevant disciplines

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Possible keys for innovating Southeast Asian studies

- To stand on the reality of Southeast Asia
- To strengthen the collaboration with researchers of wider disciplines
- To challenge a global issue with ambitious perspectives



Thanks for your attention!

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Kaoru Sugihara, Prof. Kazuo Funahashi and his team, and Mr. Ahmad Muhammad to allow me to use their research outcomes for this presentation.

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