

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASIAN STUDIES SERIES

Despite socio-cultural, economic, political and geographical diversity, the countries of Asia display certain broad similarities. In general, all of them are products of ancient civilizations, faced with the complex forces of modernity, which they have responded to in quite complex ways. Asia's unity in diversity, the dynamics of its social and cultural patterns, past and present, have stimulated a large body of scholarly work. A new phase in Asian studies has developed through first rate contributions from indigenous scholars who often bring an outlook and understanding of their own. *Contributions to Asian Studies*, a semi-annual publication, is intended as a forum for scholarly analyses of Asian societies and cultures, past and contemporary, from the diverse standpoints of the international community of scholars in all the social sciences and humanities.