3. Human Geography

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Notes on Research, etc. The Regional Conference of Southeast Asian Geographers which was held at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, in April 1962, was attended by more than 200 delegates from over 25 countries. The Conference, the first of its kind in this part of the world, was sponsored jointly by the International Geographical Union and the University of Malaya. It was mainly devoted to sessions on the geography of Southeast Asia, under the following sections: Biogeography, Cartography, Economic Geography, Geomorphology, Historical Geography, Land-use and Cropping, Meteorology and Climate, Population Studies, Soil Studies, Teaching of Geography, and Urban Geography. Three interdisciplinary seminars were held: one on rubber cultivation and production, another on Western theories in developing areas, and a third on Regional planning in the Humid Tropics with special reference to Malaya. A selection of the papers read at the Conference will appear in two special issues of the *Journal of Tropical Geography*, a joint publication of the University of Singapore Geography Department, and its counterpart in the University of Malaya.

R. A. French in his article, Geography and geographers in the Soviet Union, *Geog. Jrn.* (June) 1961: 159–167 outlines the place of geography and geographers in the U.S.S.R., where the most important research organization is the All-Soviet Geographical Society. This held its third post-war quinquennial congress in Kiev in February 1960; the six symposia of this congress give the main focii of interest of contemporary Soviet geographers.

The Government of Japan has approved a proposal for the preparation of a series of New National Land Base Maps of Japan, using the most up to date methods and cartographic techniques. The maps are to be drawn on two scales, 1:2,500 for urban and level areas and 1:5,000 for hilly and mountainous areas.

Much of the research work on human geography in the Far East is being done by American geographers, or geographers in American universities. The following is a short list of these geographers and their research projects: T. F. Barton is currently engaged in research on the rice industry of Thailand; D. C. Bennett on settlement forms and patterns in Southeast Asia; J. M. Blaut is writing a book on shifting agriculture in Southeast Asia; C. M. Davis on environmental elements in Southeast Asia; K. Davis on past and future urbanization in India; N. S. Ginsburg on the changing character of Asian cities; J. E. Spencer who has completed his monograph on *The Comparative Morphology of Shifting Cultivation in Southern and Eastern Asia*, is currently working on fishing and the economy of Southeast
Asia and the historical evolution of rice culture in Southeast Asia; L. P. Gosling on aspects of land use in Malaya and British Borneo; H. F. Hirt on the geography of cities in India; P. P. Karan on the Chota Nagpur Industrial District; R. C. Kingsbury on agriculture in India with special reference to plantations; D. Kornhauser on some aspects of Japanese urbanization; C. H. Macfadden is writing a book on the effects of colonization on agriculture and industrialization; P. C. Morrison on the geographical aspects of resource utilization and of settlement in Hokkaido, Japan; R. W. Murphey on the spread of rice cultivation westwards from India and China; K. J. Pelzer on the agrarian conflict between peasant and planter in East Sumatra; W. L. Thomas on man's role in changing the face of the island of Luzon; P. Wheatley on the morphology and function of Southeast Asian towns in the pre-European period; and W. A. Withington on the regional geography of Sumatra.

New Far Eastern Geography periodicals. The first number of the Journal of the Geographical, Geological and Archaeological Society (University of Hong Kong) appeared in March 1961. It contains several articles on the geography of Hong Kong and China. The frequency of publication is not stated.

Geographers and other research workers interested in the human geography of China may like to know that the United States Joint Publications Research Service (a governmental agency, which "functions as a centralised, unclassified translation service for those U.S. government departments having an interest in and a need for the processing of foreign documentary materials") publishes a wide range of materials on all aspects of Chinese affairs. The literature dealing with Chinese geography may be obtained from the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, Washington, 25, D.C.

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