

Call for papers - *südostasien* 2/2020

TOPIC: Eating and drinking

Eating and drinking - the focus of this issue of *südostasien* deals with an essential part of human life. With the *Agenda 2030* and the associated 17 *Sustainable Development Goals*, the international community aims to end hunger (goal 2) and to implement the availability of water (goal 6) worldwide by 2030. Meanwhile, an estimated 821 million people worldwide still suffer from chronic hunger. In Southeast Asia around 63 million people are malnourished - around 10 percent of the population - with women and children being particularly affected.

The export of natural resources by international food corporations makes access to food for the local population more difficult. Agro-industrial agriculture produces raw materials for export, but not food for local people. Food insecurity therefore increases, particularly for rural people, while social inequality and structural disadvantage increase as well. Regional droughts and floods, as consequences of climate change, make the situation even more difficult.

At the same time, a growing urban middle class in Southeast Asia faces challenges associated with the abundance of unhealthy and unbalanced meals and drinks, like being overweight and/or suffering from metabolic disorders/diseases. With the globalization of food systems and the expansion of multinational food companies with their multitude of products, eating habits are changing, not only in the Global North, but also in the Global South. Raw or not much processed food is replaced by heavily processed food, including convenience food like pizzas, soups and complete readymade menus. Studies show that the four largest manufacturers of food concentrates in South-, East- and Southeast Asia have a market share of 62 percent for breakfast cereals, 43 percent for baby food, 43 percent for cheese and soups and 26 percent for confectionery.

The issue of food also raises questions of social justice and distribution. Diets not only reflect personal preferences, but above all political and economic realities. While the demand for food in Southeast Asia increases with a growing population and new eating habits, political decision-makers must ensure food security.

Foods and drinks also include social and cultural dimensions. How food is consumed and which food is consumed also reflect categories of one's personal identity. Among members of the Southeast Asian diaspora 'eating and drinking' creates a strong connection to one's own identity and origin. This was for example recognized by the Filipino fast food company *Jollibee*, which is now expanding into the USA, UK and Italy and, in particular, is oriented towards the Filipino diaspora in metropolitan areas.

Street food is gaining popularity beyond Asia's borders, but plays a far greater role for the population of Southeast Asia. It serves as a supply point for various social milieus because due to its low price, quick cooking time and relatively fresh and healthy nutrients. Even though street food has positive social and economic aspects for the population, especially in urbanized centers, producers/sellers are often marginalized by politics.

With focus on eating and drinking in Southeast Asia, we do not intend to compile a gourmet guide nor a recipe collection, but rather to substantiate and elucidate aspects of the relationships mentioned above through various contributions.

The following questions will concern us in Southeast Asia 2/2020:

- How are social and political dimensions reflected in access to food?
- What are the effects of global supply chains and exports from the region on the local population in the countries of Southeast Asia?
- To what extent does dominance of large food companies affect access to food, especially for poor population groups?
- How is food security related to other dimensions such as poverty, health, participation and gender justice?
- How do wars, conflicts and the climate crisis affect hunger and access to food?
- What are the long-term consequences of chronic hunger, especially for women and children?
- To what extent do eating habits act as identity generators, e.g. for the diaspora outside of Southeast Asia?
- Which cultural dimensions and norms play into the eating and drinking of the different population and religious groups in Southeast Asia?
- What about access to clean drinking water given the lack of supply or the tendencies towards its privatization?
- How can eating habits be used for criticism of the prevailing system and for political resistance?

We would like to address these questions in as many different ways as possible: Reports, background reports, analyzes, portraits of actors, interviews, photo essays and reviews of films / books / music on the topic. We are looking forward to your ideas!

südostasien:

The open access journal *südostasien* gathers voices from and about Southeast Asia on current developments in politics, economy, ecology, society and culture. Articles on the region and the countries of Southeast Asia as well as their global / international relations are published on four topics each year.

südostasien sees itself as a pluralistic forum for solidarity and critique on power imbalance, as a space for discussions between actors in Southeast Asia and Germany with knowledge of and proximity to social movements. *südostasien* deals with the possibilities of transnational solidarity work in the face of unequal power relations between the Global South and North. *südostasien* wants to provide food for thought for action in Europe and Germany.

Editorial information:

Media: Please send us good quality photos matching the article (at least 1000 px width, at least 300 dpi).

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Deadline for articles (maximum 10.000 characters) is April 6, 2020 (in individual cases and after consultation with the editors a later deadline may be possible). Please submit a short abstract (max 1.000 characters) to the editors in advance by February 29, 2020 at the latest.

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