

Call for Papers

südostasien 4/2020

Thema: Diaspora – Community beyond borders

Wars, flight, scarcity of resources, (labour) migration, family reunification: these motives and many more can motivate people to decide on starting a new life outside their home country. The motives and hopes behind migration are manifold.

In 2017, 258 million people worldwide were living in countries, which they were not born in ([Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung/bpb](#)). This figure does not yet include the descendants of emigrants who have a connection with their parents' home country. All over the world, people of the same origin meet in groups and form diaspora communities to feel closer to their homes, may it be Filipin@s in Cologne or Thai people in Paris.

What is behind diaspora? How do diaspora communities form and why do people in foreign countries seek contact with communities of their origin? The word diaspora derives from ancient Greek and means "to be scattered". It also describes a feeling of community in a foreign country. The term refers both to the area where a denominational or ethnic minority lives, and to these minority communities as such. Diaspora links common ancestry, group consciousness and their connection both with their country of origin and with members of the diaspora in other countries. Within Southeast Asia, there are many different diaspora groups. At the same time, there are diaspora communities of Southeast Asian countries all over the world.

People from (within) the diaspora bring their expertise to the countries of arrival, their culture, food and language, their value systems. The result is a complex network of economic, political, social and societal influence both 'abroad' and 'at home'. The Diaspora is often closely connected to families, friends and societies left at home. For instance, they send money to people back home, initiate development activities and funding programmes and carry out fundraising campaigns.

Furthermore, diaspora communities reflect the conflicts and social divisions of their home countries. Diaspora networks can also give rise to new conflicts or exacerbate existing ones. Diasporas can have both, peace-building and conflict-exacerbating effects.

Between all these functions and responsibilities, people living in the diaspora face existential questions: What is home anyway? What is foreign? What does identity mean and what do I maintain in a foreign country?

Large and traditional diaspora communities have often grown over several generations. They offer people in the country of arrival/exile a point of contact and the opportunity to maintain the connection to their homeland and continue to participate in the events there. The activities of diaspora communities have a considerable influence on the economy, politics and society of their home countries. In their countries of arrival, they often face problems such as discrimination, responsibility for the country of origin, the threat of uprooting and new conflicts.

In this edition of südostasien, we would like to address all these dimensions of life in the diaspora. Our aim is to draw a broadly based picture of the diaspora in and from Southeast Asia. To this end, a wide variety of formats are possible, such as reports, background reports, analyses, portraits of actors, interviews or photo essays.

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 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 in Europe and Germany.

Editorial information:

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

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Deadline for articles (maximum of 10.000 characters) is October 1, 2020 (in individual cases and after consultation with the editors a later deadline may be possible). Please submit a short abstract (max. 1000 characters) to the editors in advance.

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