

EDITORIAL

Christine Berg and Günter Schucher

A quarter of a century ago the then chairman of the German Association for Asian Studies, former ambassador Günter Diehl, told the then deputy chairman, Dr. Werner Draguhn, that the Association should establish a scientific journal. He sketched four rectangles on a piece of paper, wrote *ASIEN* in the top one and declared that this was to be the cover. The first issue of the new journal was published half a year later in June 1981.

What you are holding in your hand today is the 100th issue of *ASIEN*. There are still three rectangles left on the cover and *ASIEN* is the German scientific journal on contemporary Asia with the widest circulation in this country. This is, of course, due to the steadily growing importance of Asia, which has become a focal point in world politics and economics. There is no doubt in the scientific community or in the fields of politics, business and culture that the West (and Germany that is) needs to extend and intensify its dialogue and co-operation with Asia. This is precisely the goal of the German Association for Asian Studies (DGA): to support scientific studies on contemporary Asian affairs, inform a wide readership about the area and promote co-operation among individuals and institutions interested in Asian affairs.

The growing readership of *ASIEN* also seems to appreciate the increasing quality of the journal. Published four times a year, *ASIEN* is a bilingual, scholarly journal covering political, economic and social aspects of life in contemporary Asia. With a circulation of more than 1,000 copies, it's the most widely distributed journal of its kind in the German academic Asia community. Each issue contains double-blind peer-reviewed articles, conference reports and book reviews as well as notes about Asia studies in Germany. All of the English articles, research notes and reviews are also published on the DGA's web site <http://www.asienkunde.de/articles/index.html>. The editors are supported by an international board of renowned scholars.

To make *ASIEN* 100 a special issue, the editors asked various well-known scientists and politicians from Europe, Asia and the USA to reflect on different political, economic, social or cultural aspects and future perspectives of Asia's role in the 21st century. Their essays will present you with a broad range of ideas and visions. They will hopefully enrich your views on Asia and may even stimulate further research. Because the editors did not wish to influence the reception of the papers, they simply decided to publish them in the order of their contributors' names.

We hope you enjoy reading *ASIEN* 100.