

Preface

Since Kamarulzaman Askandar, Jacob Bercovitch, and myself proposed a model of the “ASEAN Way of conflict management” in an article published in 2002, the then emerging challenges to the regional mechanism of conflict management have taken a full form, impacting on the manner in which conflicts in contemporary Southeast Asia are handled. Such new developments have nagged me for quite some time to come up with a book dedicated to identifying the new patterns and trends of conflict management in the region.

Fortunately, my current base, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has provided me with an excellent opportunity to tend to the long-felt urge within me. There have already been a group of capable graduate students with me who have been involved in conducting research on contemporary conflicts in the region, and my colleague Stephen Druce at the Academy of Brunei Studies (ABS) of UBD has proven to be an asset in enhancing the quality of the book with his acumen in the history of Southeast Asia. Moreover, this book project started in an opportune time, as UBD’s Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) had just initiated a book series, “Asia in Transition,” and this book fits nicely into this series.

As is often the case, it has taken a longer time to complete this project than originally expected, and I am very grateful to Vishal Daryanomel at Springer Singapore for his understanding of the delay and facilitation in producing the final work. My special thanks are due to Jeremy Jammes, who as the general editor of the book series has given me morale support, and Tong Chee Kiong and Gary Jones, former and current Directors of the IAS and Brahim Tengah, Director of the ABS, for having allowed me to take substantial time to successfully complete this project.



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