

# Editorial Note

Welcome to the second issue of *Asia in Focus* published by the Centre for East and Southeast Asian Studies at Lund University. The transition has not always been straightforward, but we are proud to present once again some excellent work by early-career scholars. We remain indebted to Inga-Lill Blomqvist for all her help, and to Julia Olsson, our managing editor, for her tireless work and enthusiasm. If it were not for Julia, this issue would not have seen the light of day.

*Asia in Focus* is dedicated to the fundamental collegiality and altruism of academia, and we are most grateful to the senior reviewers for generously sharing their time and advice for their junior colleagues in shaping the published articles. At the heart of this academic collegiality is a commitment to truly Open Access publication. The extortionate fees charged by commercial publishers do not match the quality control of the journals they are charged with supporting. The increasing presence of obviously AI-generated text in expensive journals highlights not only the deficiency of their reviewing processes (and copy-editing), but also the real aim of these publishers. The goal is not academic quality, but rather naked profit-seeking.

Thanks to the support of Lund University, there are no fees to submit or to publish, and we can make these important new contributions to scholarship accessible to all. We hope that *Asia in Focus* will continue to provide early-career scholars with a quality venue for their research while also making a contribution to Asian Studies scholarship through novel and exciting articles and essays that highlight new directions and ideas.

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Lund University  
October 2024