

THE ROLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN CHINESE IN CHINA'S MODERNIZATION PROCESS AMIDST THE TRANSFORMATION OF COLONIAL HERITAGE

Prof. Zhang Yun

Professor, Jinan University

Abstract: The Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia is a special group which moved and flowed between China and Southeast Asia in modern history, especially since the 17th century. The process of Southeast Asia's colonization not only was a process of plundering resource, but also a process of expanding modernization due to the first-mover advantage of the Industrial Revolution. As a result, Southeast Asian Chinese are the witnesses, participants, and disseminators of modern civilization from Europe to Southeast Asia. In the process of China's modernization, overseas Chinese who have long been flowing between Southeast Asia and China have played an irreplaceable role: on the one side, they are the inheritors of European colonial heritage; on the other side, they are the pioneers of modern Chinese civilization for three reasons. First, Southeast Asian Chinese have provided financial support for China's modernization through capital inputs such as banks, overseas remittances, and foreign exchange; secondly, the "Nanyang Style" led by the overseas Chinese's lifestyle, education, and etiquette, etc., in Southeast Asia is a junction of Western and Chinese civilizations, which has become an ideological energy in China's modernization process; and thirdly, Southeast Asian Chinese directly invest and build factories in China, integrating China into the world's modernization process, sharing and creating the achievements of modern civilization.

Zhang Yun is a Professor in the School of International Studies/Academy of Overseas Chinese Studies and Director of the Institute on Southeast Asia Research in Jinan University (Guangzhou). His research interests include International Relations, World Politics, and Southeast Asian Studies. He teaches courses on the history of international relations, introduction of global history (undergraduate level), and area studies of comparative politics (graduate level). His recent publications include a book titled Regional Governance of Southeast Asia: Theory and Practice and some key papers on China Social Science, World Politics and Economy, and Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies.



18 March 2024 (Monday)
4:00-5:30 PM (HKT)

Room G5-314
5/F, Yeung Kin Man Academic Building
City University of Hong Kong

How to attend this seminar:

Via Zoom

<https://rb.gv/tiwy12>

Passcode: 566986

or in-person (pre-registration and visitor QR code are needed)

<https://rb.gv/8qopzb>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about the seminar.



Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC)



All are welcome

Enquiries: please email to searc@cityu.edu.hk