Chronic Poverty in Asia
Causes, Consequences and Policies
By John Malcolm Dowling (University of Hawaii, USA), Chin-Fang Yap

Asia contains the bulk of the world’s poor, as many as 500 million people. A significant fraction of these poor are chronically poor, which means that they and their families have been poor for years and will remain in poverty unless governmental policies are adopted which can lift them out of poverty.

This book focuses on rural poverty and those countries in Asia with the largest number of chronically poor, including the two emerging superpowers of China and India, other countries of South Asia and the Mekong region as well as Indonesia and Philippines in Southeast Asia. Systematic analysis of who is poor, where they live, and why they are poor is carried out. Microeconomic, sector and macroeconomic policies which have been adopted to address this important social issue are also discussed. Through specific country analysis, the book outlines additional concrete measures that can be taken to reduce chronic poverty and improve the welfare of these people.

592pp | Oct 2009
Published by World Scientific

Megacity Slums
Social Exclusion, Space and Urban Policies in Brazil and India
By Marie-Caroline Saglio-Yatzimirsky (INALCO, France & Center for South Asian Studies (CEIAS, CNRS-EHESS), France), Frédéric Landy (Center for South Asian Studies (CEIAS, CNRS-EHESS), France & University of Paris Ouest-Nanterre, France)

This book looks at slums and social exclusion in the four major megacities of India and Brazil, and analyzes the interrelationships between urban policies and housing and environmental issues. In Delhi, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, the challenges they pose have spurred public actors into action through housing, rehabilitation and conservation programs, not to mention civil society and the inhabitants themselves. On the other hand, one must wonder whether these challenges were partly created by the deficiencies of these very public actors and civil society, be it their lack of intervention (as advocates of government intervention would argue), or the flaws and inadequacies of their actions (as supporters of the free market would suggest). Are policies alleviating or aggravating social exclusion? This book explores these questions and more.

464pp | Dec 2013
Published by World Scientific

Inequality in Singapore
By Faizal Bin Yahya (Institute of Policy Studies, Singapore)

Income inequality has become a global phenomenon. Rapid technological advancement and an expanding global workforce will continue to place huge pressure on wages all over the world, including Singapore. This edited volume is the product of the robust exchanges that took place in a series of closed-door discussions (CDDs) on inequality that the Institute of Policy Studies organised in the first half of 2012. The essays provide a range of views on the multi-faceted nature of inequality in Singapore, discuss candidly the specific challenges we face, and offer some policy recommendations.

184pp | Mar 2015
ISBN: 978-981-4656-80-1
Published by World Scientific
Civilization's Crisis
A Set of Linked Challenges
By John Scales Avery (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

Modern civilization faces a broad spectrum of daunting problems, but rational solutions are available for them all. This book explores the following issues: (1) Threats to the environment and climate change; (2) a growing population and vanishing resources; (3) the global food and refugee crisis; (4) intolerable economic inequality; (5) the threat of nuclear war; (6) the military-industrial complex; and (7) limits to growth. These problems are closely interlinked, and their possible solutions are discussed in this book.

416pp | Jun 2017
ISBN: 978-981-3222-44-1
ISBN: 978-981-3222-45-8 (pbk)
Published by World Scientific Europe

Critical Issues in Asset Building in Singapore's Development
By S Vasoo (NUS, Singapore), Bilveer Singh (NUS, Singapore)

Singapore's progress as an independent nation and the uplifting of its people’s livelihood have been made possible by stable social and political conditions. A more important factor in driving these positive changes lies with people-centric leadership. One can contrast the case of Singapore with societies led by self-serving leaders whose lack of honesty and integrity brings about immense social and economic hardships to various communities. When people suffer under undesirable circumstances, they often migrate to seek better future for themselves and their families.

This book reveals how Singapore’s governance grounded on the principle of asset building facilitates the country’s growth and development. Policies being discussed in this volume include multi-culturalism, accessible housing, social mobility for low-income families, water resource management, and national conscription.

Highly relevant for students, policy makers and the general public interested in socio-political and economic development issues, this unique piece of work not only gives readers a documentary account of what has been undertaken to empower and assist citizens in the last 50 years or so, but also prompts them to reflect on Singapore’s future trajectory.

228pp | Aug 2018
ISBN: 978-981-3239-75-3
ISBN: 978-981-3239-77-7 (e-book)
Published by World Scientific