

Recent Books from Lao PDR – Sept 2022

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Economics

Cross-Border Traders in Northern Laos : Mastering Smallness / Simon Rowedder
Asian Borderlands Series
Amsterdam, Netherlands: Amsterdam University Press, 2022
264p. ; 15.6x23.4cm.
Includes Index ; Bibliography
9789463722360
\$ 130.00 / HB
524gm.

Northern Laos has become a prominent spot in large-scale, top-down mappings and studies of neoliberal globalisation and infrastructural development linking Thailand and China, and markets further beyond. Yet in the common narrative, in which Laos appears as a weak victim helplessly exposed to its larger neighbours, attention is seldom paid to local voices. This book fills this gap. Building on long-term multi-sited fieldwork, it accompanies northern Lao cross-border traders closely in their transnational worlds of mobilities, social relations, economic experimentation and aspiration. *Cross-Border Traders in Northern Laos: Mastering Smallness* demonstrates that these traders' indispensable but often invisible role in the everyday workings of the China-Laos-Thailand borderland economy relies on their rhetoric and practices of 'smallness'—of framing their transnational trade activities in a self-deprecating manner and stressing their economic inferiority. Decoding their discursive surface of insignificance, this ethnography of 'smallness' foregrounds remarkable transnational social and economic skills that are mostly invisible in Sino-Southeast Asian borderland scholarship.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831998>

Insects as Food for Capitalism: The Entomophagy Frontier in Laos, Thailand and Beyond, / Andrew Muller (Ed) Prof. Caroline S. Hau (et al.)
Glienicke, Germany: Galda Verlag, 2022
224p.
Includes Bibliography
Insight from Southeast Asia: Multiple Approaches Towards the Region Vol.6.
9783962032036
\$ 75.00 / PB
382gm.

Are insects the food of the future, alleviating world hunger and ecological issues? In this book, based on extensive field research in Laos and Thailand, the author suggests otherwise. He describes local transformations in 'entomophagy' and explores differences between South East Asian and Western food cultures before presenting a deconstruction of the widespread 'insect solution narrative'. Empirical observations are discussed mainly in

the light of the World-Ecology approach, seeing the exploitation of humans and nature as inextricably intertwined. The main argument targets the commodification of edible insects and related resources, denoted by the central concept of the 'entomophagy frontier'. Unfolded along the lines of the distinction between wild-collected and farmed insects, it holds that the emerging entomophagy industry tends to reinforce the problems it addresses by ignoring their structural causes: social inequality, systemic unsustainability and ultimately the insatiability of capitalism.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831999>

Official Publications

Statistical Yearbook Lao PDR, 2021

Vientiane: Lao Statistical Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Investment, 2022

1v.

English & Laotian Languages

9789932004263

\$ 90.00 / PB

576gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=826764>

Annual Economic Report 2021 [Bank of Lao PDR]

Vientiane: Bank of the Lao PDR, 2022

1v.

\$ 40.00 / PB

136gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=826765>
