

## PREFACE

The title of this research topic was suggested by Mr. Yip Yat Hoong of the Department of Economics, University of Malaya.

The aim of this paper is to try to give a more than superficial picture of the iron-ore mining industry in Malaya, which has, up to now, been given relatively little attention. Since the study on this topic is new in the sense that not much research has been done on it before, it is not proposed that a detailed study on any one aspect of this industry should be pursued. Rather, the aim of this paper is a more general one covering the more salient features of this industry.

The study was carried out both in the field and in the Department of Mines Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. Interviews with miners were not confined in one area but were stretched from Kedah to Selangor. Moreover interviews and discussions were also held with many Japanese in the different trading firms who are directly responsible for the export of iron-ore. This field-work lasted for about 2½ months, from mid-May till the end of July. Most of the statistics in this paper had been obtained from the Headquarters of the Department of Mines.

In conclusion, I wish to record my gratitude to my supervisor, Mr. Yip Yat Hoong, whose thorough and constructive criticisms have without doubt improved tremendously the material of this paper. I also wish to express my gratitude to the miners and the Japanese exporters who so willingly agreed to be interviewed. Lastly, I am also thankful to the staff and officials in the Department of Mines in Kuala Lumpur for their cooperation.