
ABSTRACTS

Antonio Dueñas, *The Thailand Crisis; internal and regional repercussions*

This essay is divided into five parts, in which the author explains the causes and consequences of the crisis in Thailand from the perspective of a Mexican diplomat who experienced the events personally. In the first section, Dueñas determines the economic crisis as a result of growing political instability. The second section describes how Thailand went from being an underdeveloped country to a country with a growing, dynamic, open economy due, among other things, to expansion of Japanese investments at the end of the eighties and the beginning of the nineties. The third one deals with Thailand's economic crisis as a result of the political conflicts that devastated the country. Power disputes, corruption, political parties without solid bases or ideology, as well as military coups, created lack of continuity in the country's administration and governments more concerned with political than financial problems. All this led to an acute economic crisis. The fourth section refers to the consequences of the Thailand's crisis inside and outside the country. In this respect, the author highlights the political impact, such as the end of Chavalit Yongchayudh and Chatichai Choonhavan's leadership, two men largely responsible for the precarious economic situation. Regionally, the Thailand crisis detonated the crisis in other countries in the region. The author concludes that, after all, the crisis had a positive side, as it was a decisive factor in political reform and facilitated approval of a new constitution. In this sense, the article encourages the reader to think about the political and social effects of economic crises, even internationally, inasmuch as the crisis in Thailand had serious implications in the economies not only of the region, but of other latitudes as well.

Cecilio Garza Limón, *Reforming the miracles; Korea after the financial crisis*

This article explains the causes and characteristics of the 1997 crisis in Korea, at the same time as it establishes an interesting parallel with the Mexican case of 1982 and 1994. The work is divided into six sections. In the first, Garza Limón reviews the characteristics of the 1997 Korean crisis and highlights similarities with the 1982 and 1994 Mexican crises. In the second, he explains the development of “the Han River miracle”, thanks to which Korea attained enormous economic growth and become the eleventh economic power in the world. In the third section, he describes the transition from economic miracle to crisis; he demonstrates how bad management of business conglomerates, known as *chaebols*, on which the national prosperity rested, led to high vulnerability of the country’s financial apparatus. The fourth section describes the outbreak of the crisis, the inefficient government struggle to avoid it and the intervention by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to avoid the country going bankrupt. The fifth section analyzes the characteristics of the agreement with the IMF, many of which have turned out to be painful for Korean society, since they radically change its economic and social structures. In the last section, the author gives an interesting perception of the Korean government’s efforts to recover, not only economically, but politically, as well as of the consequent benefits that bilateral, commercial and intra-company exchange with this Asian country could have for Mexico.

Sergio Ley López, *The Indonesian crisis; end of a regime*

The author gives a detailed, chronological analysis of events prior to outbreak of the crisis in Indonesia as a point of departure for considering the possible future scenarios. The article studies the crisis that occurred in this country in 1997, not just from the macro-economic perspective, but also from a political and social viewpoint. Ley López reviews the adjustments the Indonesian government made to avoid a crisis like the one that had already exploded in Thailand; the agreements Suharto’s government signed with the

IMF; the aid from countries like Malaysia and Singapore in restoring confidence in the Indonesian economy; the credibility crisis in the banking system; inflation, and devaluation of the rupee. He also examines the social and political events such as the student demonstrations, Suharto's resignation, Habibie's ascent to power, along with the process of political and economic reforms the government has implemented. Lastly, the author forecasts that, given the size of the political-social and economic crisis, Indonesia's recovery will be a long, painful process.

Ricardo Villanueva Hallal, *Malaysia: contagion or complacency?*

Before 1997, Malaysia's economy was characterized by sustained high growth rates; in July of that year, however, the country entered a recessive crisis. In this article, the author explains the causes of that crisis and describes the measures the government took in the first stage, that actually turned out to be inefficient; in fact, they became increasingly more severe. Villanueva Hallal also highlights the peculiarity of the Malaysian case as the only relatively successful country that is unwilling to accept the rules imposed by globalization: liberalization of the financial system and less government authority to manage the national economy. This explains why, during the last two decades, Malaysia has had one of the most stable, visionary governments of the region. Lastly, the author analyzes the repercussions of the Malaysian crisis in Mexico, within which the most important is the negative impact on oil prices.

Alberto I. Glender Rivas, *Japan, crisis or economic restructuring*

In this article, the author analyzes the current economic situation of Japan, in crisis because of the structural changes entailed in the transition of an industrial society and economy to a post-industrial one. A study of the Japanese economy is highly important in catching a glimpse of the outstanding role Japan could play in the near future as one of the most important financial centers in the world. The article is divided into four sections. In the first, Glender Rivas

examines Japan's economic history of the last years, when it reached the limit of its industrialization and became an exporter of capitals; the author analyzes the economic incentives package proposed by the then prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, to end the stagnation and downward trend of the Japanese economy by stimulating internal demand, reforming the financial system, and actively supporting correction of the financial institutions. In the second section, he explains the structural changes Japan has experienced in its industry, financial system and balance of payments in recent years as a result of its high level of development and the internationalization of the economy. The third section refers to certain conservative sectors that oppose economic restructuring, including some bureaucratic groups and members of the exporting sector. The author states that the change of an industrial to a post-industrial society necessarily entails changes in education, which has to focus more on creativity and analysis than on tough discipline. In the fourth and last section, the author considers relations between Mexico and Japan; his opinion is that structural reform in the Japanese economy will have a big impact on Mexico's industry, foreign trade and sources of capital.

Armando Jarque Uribe, *Hong Kong. Economic development, change of sovereignty and crisis of Southeast Asia*

On July 1, 1997, under the "one country, two systems" formula, Hong Kong rejoined Chinese sovereignty amid a climate of optimism, economic stability and development. Meanwhile, the economies of the region were showing problems and symptoms that the growth attained in previous years could not be sustained, were beginning to exhibit the crisis that could affect such a solid economy as that of Hong Kong. The efficiency and competitiveness of the economy, however, added to the legal system and the Hong Kong government's determination, made the effects of the crisis slighter than in the rest of the region's countries. In contrast to them, the currency was not devalued in Hong Kong, and the economic adjustments were made quickly, although the real-estate, tourist and export sectors were seriously affected. The success of Hong Kong's economy is based mainly on a government participation that is

restricted to providing a transparent legal system in which regulations are applied uniformly and consistently, and on adequate infrastructure. Jarque Uribe concludes with a deliberation on the lessons that developing countries like Mexico must learn from the South East Asian crisis. He also highlights the advantages of the free market, a product of globalization.

Miguel Ángel Covián G., *Mexico and the principal Asian economies. Some indexes*

This paper presents and comments on some statistical tables that illustrate the similarities and differences between Mexico and some of the most dynamic Asian economies (Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia). Comparative tables are produced based on information from the *1998 Report on Human Development*, of the United Nations Development Program, related to territorial area, population, economic production, per capita product, population employed in the different economic sectors, productivity, and saving and investment, among other indexes of these eight countries.
