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**A Guide to the Study of  
Southeast Asian Languages**

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## Preface

The Council of Teachers of Southeast Asian Languages (COTSEAL), under the leadership of Prof. Teresita Ramos of the University of Hawaii, received funds from the Ford Foundation through the National Council of Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL) to develop a Southeast Asian Language Learning Framework for teachers and to prepare a student guide to language learning.

An eleven-member advisory committee met at the University of Hawaii to develop an outline for the contents of the framework, and four of the members were designated to write up both the framework for teachers and the student guide. The members of the advisory committee and their institutions at that time included Dr. Robert Bickner (Thai), University of Wisconsin-Madison; \*Dr. Kathie Carpenter (Indonesian/Thai), University of Oregon; \*Dr. Carol Compton (Lao/Thai), University of Wisconsin-Madison; Dr. Thomas Gething (Thai/Lao), University of Hawaii at Manoa; Dr. Frederick Jackson (Thai), Foreign Service Institute; Dr. Stephen O'Harrow (Vietnamese), University of Hawaii at Manoa; Dr. Teresita Ramos, (Tagalog), University of Hawaii at Manoa; \* Dr. Elizabeth Riddle (Hmong), Ball State University; Dr. Chhany Sak-Humphry (Khmer), University of Hawaii at Manoa; \*Dr. Julian Wheatley (Burmese/Vietnamese), Cornell University; and Dr. John Wolff (Indonesian/Tagalog), Cornell University. (The \* indicates the four members of the writing task force.)

Over the course of the writing of this *Guide*, many other teachers and students of Southeast Asian languages have provided suggestions and comments to the authors. The development of *A Guide to the Study of Southeast Asian Languages* is thus the result of the efforts of many Southeast Asian language professionals and language learners. It is our hope that this *Guide* will provide an overview of the linguistic and cultural knowledge needed by students who are beginning their Southeast Asian language learning journey.