

## CHAPTER 30 SECTION 1

### Landforms

The Malay Peninsula and the Malay Archipelago stretch from the SE Asian mainland to almost Australia. An archipelago is a large group of islands.

### The Islands

There are more than 20,000 islands in this region. The island of Borneo is the world's third largest island. The island to the far south is Irian Jaya of the New Guinea. The large islands are usually mountainous. These mountainous islands are believed to be created by tectonic activity. The island of Java in Indonesia has 13 active volcanoes. Volcanic eruptions cause natural disasters, not only from their lava flow but they also create mudslides called **lahars**. One benefit from the eruptions is once the lava settles and cools it becomes useful fertile soil.

Earthquakes are also a concern in the region and tsunamis created by the these plate movements cause flooding and destruction along coastal areas.

### Climate

Much of the region has a tropical humid climate. The weather is hot and damp year round. Rainfall averages are between 80-100 inches. Many of the islands are in the path of typhoons that hit usually in August through October. They also have to deal with the monsoon seasons.

### Plants and Animals

The tropical climate supports some of the oldest rainforest in the world. These rainforest are habitats for many plants and animals. These forestlands have many endemic species. These are animals that are specific to a certain region.

### Resources

The rainforest is the largest resource of the region. Tourism and hardwoods are its benefits. Brunei and Indonesia have deposits of oil and natural gas. Brunei has the largest deposits of the two.

## CHAPTER 30 SECTION 2

### History

The people groups of the islands are thought to have migrated into the region from Asia, China and the Middle East. On the Philippines human remains dating back 30,000 years have been discovered. Hindus and Buddhist began establishing kingdoms in Indonesia as early as 700 AD. They constructed many buildings like the temple at Borobudur in 850

AD on the island of Java. Majapahit was the largest kingdom that ruled from the 1200's into the 1500's. The Chinese established trade with these people groups. The Arabs also began migrating into this area around 1300. They conquered many islands in the area including the large island group of Indonesia. Indonesia is the largest populated Muslim country in the world. Also making Islam the dominate religion of the region.

The Europeans began showing up in the 1500's. Magellan claimed the Philippines for Spain in 1521. They were force to give up this nation in 1898 to the US after the Spanish American War. This was our first overseas territory. The Dutch traded for spices in the region. They established one colony-Batavia (Jakarta). The British set up colonies on the Malay Peninsula founding the present city nation of Singapore.

During WWII the Japanese were able to force many of the European powers out of their colonies. After the war many of these locations gained independence. Brunei was the last area to gain full independence from the British in 1984.

## Culture

The history of migration has lead to great cultural diversity in the region. Some nations are very diverse in ethnic backgrounds like Indonesia. Whereas the Philippines is a homogeneous society-ethnic Filipino's make up 90% of the population. Languages vary, many countries have more than one official language, colonial languages are often spoken in their respective countries.

## Religion

Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism are the three major religions of the region. Christianity and animist are also practiced. In the Philippines, Christians make up 90% of the population.

## Traditions and Education

Any traditional clothing styles are worn throughout the region because these clothes are comfortable in hot temperatures. Filipino's wear **tagalog**-light shirts made from fibers of cotton, bananas or pineapple plants.

Education is essential in any society. Nations are seeing the need for strong educational structures for unity and productivity from their populations. Indonesia has introduced a policy called Pancasila (Five Principles) these are guides to create unity in its diverse population.

## CHAPTER 30 SECTION 3

### Economic Development

The countries of the islands have mostly free market economies. Governments have encouraged private industries and business. All these countries are members of ASEAN.

### Economic Growth

Some countries became known as the Tigers of the Pacific rim because of rapid economic growth. A couple are Malaysia and Singapore. Today Singapore is a major trade and industry center. Many financial and high tech companies have opened offices in the country. Singapore has one of the highest per capita GDP in the world.

Brunei also has a high GDP because of its oil and natural gas deposits. The government has used its oil money to benefit their people, like housing, education, and health care.

### Agriculture

Wet-rice cultivation is the most common form of agriculture. The region's countries also produce and export coffee, tea, fruit, and spices. Rubber trees from S. America have been imported and are also valuable. Thailand is the world's largest producer of natural rubber.

### Tourism

The Indonesian Island of Bali is popular with people from around the world.

### Urban Areas

The largest cities of the region are the capital's of the countries. Singapore is wealthy, clean and has a low crime rate.

Manila and Jakarta are poor with slum areas. Malaya has kampongs-houses on stilts.

### Political Challenges

Protecting political and personal freedoms represents one of the region's challenges. Indonesia and Philippines have held free elections over the last 10 years. East Timor had free elections then the opponents of the election broke out in violence-which led to UN actions.

Muslim groups in the Philippines have caused violence in the country.

Deforestation is a difficult issue in many island countries.