

This is the fourth volume in The Oxford Regional Environments series. The series volumes are devoted to major regions of the world, each presenting a detailed and up-to-date body of scientific knowledge concerning a particular region.

*The Physical Geography of Southeast Asia* examines the complex mosaic of physical environments which comprise Southeast Asia, and the current environmental problems and management practices which have arisen in this part of the world. The book is in three sections. The first section introduces the basic environmental components (geology, landforms, rivers, vegetation, etc.) across the entire region. The second section discusses specific environments that are characteristic of this assemblage of continental and maritime landscapes (volcanic islands, coastal environment, granitic terrains, karst, etc.). The third and final section illustrates the ecological relationship between the environment and people (volcanic hazards, urban environment, coastal zone development, coral reefs, etc.).

Southeast Asia is a world region that incorporates ancient stable landmasses and dynamic plate margins, continental interiors and island-studded seas, primary rainforests and resource-demanding urban conurbations. The natural environment of this region of great physical variation is being progressively altered anthropogenically, and neither the present landforms nor the processes can be considered entirely natural. Plate tectonics and people are both important contributors to the physical geography of Southeast Asia.

The distinguished and scholarly contributors to this volume enjoy a long association with Southeast Asia. The profusely illustrated chapters are not only skilfully built on state-of-the-art research findings but also indicate the direction in which the current research on the biophysical environment of Southeast Asia is heading.

Jacket illustration: Coastal Landscape, West Lombok, Indonesia © Avijit Gupta

**OXFORD**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

[www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com)

ISBN 0-19-924802-8



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