



SOUTHEAST ASIA @ UBC



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

UBC sees great promise in Southeast Asia for teaching, learning and research collaborations. We are committed to deepening our ties in this flourishing region and developing mutually beneficial partnerships with key institutions.
-Arvind Gupta, UBC President



Vancouver is Canada's gateway to Asia and home to a large and vibrant Southeast Asian diaspora. UBC acts as a natural hub that connects communities, businesses, and government agencies that have an interest in Southeast Asia.



UBC has over 70 faculty members with professional interests in Southeast Asia, including some of North America's leading experts on the region. These faculty members represent a broad spectrum of disciplines from the natural and applied sciences to the humanities and social sciences.



UBC has a dedicated Centre for Southeast Asia Research (housed within the Institute of Asian Research) that acts as a hub for UBC's Southeast Asia-related activities. Aside from faculty expertise, the Centre's advisory council includes two former Canadian Ambassadors to Southeast Asia and a former President of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.



UBC has partnerships with sixteen universities and four research institutes in Southeast Asia. UBC faculty also regularly engage strong personal connections in the region, including to key civil society and private sector leaders, and representatives of the Canadian government. Through these additional connections, UBC faculty are active in a range of scientific, social, and economic capacity building projects across Southeast Asia.



UBC has nearly 750 students from Southeast Asia representing Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Myanmar, Brunei, and Cambodia. A similarly large number of Southeast Asian heritage students create a critical mass of student representation from the region. Student associations representing Indonesian, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, and Filipino students ensure high levels of activity and facilitate student connectivity.

ENGAGEMENT PROFILES

UBC PARTNERSHIPS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA:

INDONESIA Gadjah Mada University; Bogor Agricultural University
MALAYSIA University of Malaya; Universiti Sains Malaysia; Universiti Putra Malaysia
PHILIPPINES University of the Philippines Los Baños
SINGAPORE National University of Singapore; Nanyang Technological University; Singapore Management University
THAILAND Chulalongkorn University; Thammasat University; Kasetsart University; Prince of Songkla University
VIETNAM Hanoi University; University of Medicine and Pharmacy

UBC FACULTY CONNECTIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA:

CAMBODIA Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC); World Fish Cambodia
INDONESIA University of Indonesia; Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS); The Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI); Indonesian Institute of the Arts; Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
MALAYSIA Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences; Penang Institute
MYANMAR Myanmar Development Institute (MDI)
PHILIPPINES SEAMEO Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA)
SINGAPORE Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS); Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS); Yale-NUS
THAILAND Chulabhorn Research Institute; Samitivej Hospital
VIETNAM Research Institute for Marine Fisheries; National Hospital of Odonto-Stomatology; National Center for Social Sciences & Humanities

UBC FACULTY CONNECTIONS TO GLOBAL GOVERNANCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA:

Asian Development Bank (ADB)
United Nations Development Programme; UNICEF
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Bank
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

ABOUT CSEAR

The Centre for Southeast Asia Research in the Institute of Asian Research (IAR) has been the hub for Southeast Asia related activities at UBC since 1992. It is the oldest, largest, and most active centre of its kind in Canada and one of the very few in North America. For the past two years, it has been in a strong expansionary phase to better support growing interest in Southeast Asia. Some of its key activities include:



Keynote addresses by Dr. Aung Tun Thet (Economic Advisor to the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar), Ms. Hannah Yeoh (Speaker of the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, Malaysia), Mr. Chong Fah Cheong (sculptor and recipient of the Singapore Cultural Medallion), Earl Drake (former Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia and China), Dr. Yasuhiko Matsuda (World Bank), and Mr. Daniel Ziv (Indonesia-based Canadian filmmaker and socio-political commentator).



Regular public roundtables by experts on Southeast Asia addressing important current issues as varying as the South China Sea dispute, the impact of oil prices on Southeast Asian economies, the environmental sustainability of development in the region, the dynamics of agricultural and mining sectors, and the legacy of Lee Kuan Yew.



Large-scale full-day conferences that bring in expertise from around the world. Examples include the conference on the 2014 Indonesian election ("**The Jokowi Era: A New Age for Indonesia**") which included eminent speakers such as Dr. Don Emmerson (Stanford), Dr. Paul Evans (UBC), Dr. Tom Pepinsky (Cornell), Dr. Manneke Budiman (University of Indonesia), Dr. John Roosa (UBC), and Mr. Yuen-Pau Woo (former President of the Asia Pacific Foundation).



Host delegations from Southeast Asian governments, including a large and high-ranking delegation from Vietnam in 2014. Also coordinate with Canada-based representatives of Southeast Asian governments through regular meetings and joint hosting of events.



Support for significant cultural activities, including "**Of Rice and Roots**", an annual festival of Southeast Asian food and culture that drew 400 participants and was jointly hosted with the UBC Southeast Asian student clubs and the Southeast Asian Consular Corps in Vancouver. Other activities include the CSEAR Film Series that showcases both mainstream and independent films from across Southeast Asia.



The newly-established UBC Southeast Asia **Graduate Student Network** connects UBC graduate students working on Southeast Asia across academic disciplines, featuring networking sessions, brown bag lunches for students to present their research, and informational sessions that cover a range of topics relevant to research in the region.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS



Given its position as a Pacific Rim university and its history, UBC is a university with a deep Asian identity and commitment to teaching, learning, and research on Asia. As part of this commitment, UBC has a deep interest in Southeast Asia and ASEAN. The number of students coming from Southeast Asia continues to rise. The number of faculty with professional interests in Southeast Asia is also rising and now reaches over 70 across both UBC campuses. The Center for Southeast Asia Research in the Institute of Asian Research is one of the most dynamic units in our Institute, currently unfolding a strategic plan to further expand our involvement with Southeast Asia. We look forward to working with ASEAN governments and universities to expand such activities and play the role of the Canadian gateway to Southeast Asia.

-Yves Tiberghien Director, Institute of Asian Research



These are exciting times for engagement with Southeast Asia. After long being overshadowed by other regions, Southeast Asia is increasingly drawing interest from citizens, scholars, businesses, and governments around the world. UBC is uniquely positioned to provide critical insights on multiple dimensions of the region, due to the depth of its faculty expertise, its strategic location, and its long legacy of actively engaging with Southeast Asia. We are especially fortunate that UBC's President, Professor Arvind Gupta, has reaffirmed UBC's commitment to the Asia Pacific and has great interest in fostering stronger ties between UBC and Southeast Asia. This mandate enables the Centre for Southeast Asia Research to expand its capacities and in turn better support UBC as it builds on its strengths in the region. We look forward to another active year of events on Southeast Asia at UBC, as well as to building new avenues for cooperation with the region.

-Kai Ostwald Director, The Centre for Southeast Asia Research

MISSION

- **To further** establish UBC as a North American centre of excellence in research on Southeast Asia. For CSEAR, this entails serving as a hub to facilitate research collaboration between UBC faculty, as well as between UBC faculty and partners in Southeast Asia.
- **To spearhead** UBC's efforts to foster stronger ties with Southeast Asia by building and supporting key institutional connections to the region. This opens new research opportunities for UBC faculty and strengthens the presence of Southeast Asia at UBC by bringing additional students from the region to Vancouver.
- **To better serve** UBC's student population as interest in Southeast Asia increases. This includes supporting graduate student research as well as undergraduate interest in Southeast Asia through programming and collaboration with Southeast Asian student clubs.
- **To support** the federal and provincial level Canadian governments as they deepen engagement with Southeast Asia by providing faculty expertise and leading Track II programs.
- **To provide** UBC expertise on Southeast Asia to the Canadian private sector as it seeks to expand into the region. This opens new research opportunities and attracts new resources to UBC.
- **To engage** in community outreach in Vancouver by lending expertise on Southeast Asia to public school educators and to community organizations whose activities involve the region. This allows UBC's faculty expertise to have an immediate positive impact across broader Vancouver.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- **ASEAN civil servants:** Attract early- and mid-career civil servants from Southeast Asia into UBC's new Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) program. This would bring additional regional expertise to UBC in the short term, and plant seeds for strong ties between UBC and regional governments in the long-term as MPPGA alumni return to their home governments.
- **ASEAN chair:** Secure additional funding to invite academics, public intellectuals, and former government officials from Southeast Asia to UBC for a period of between one and three months. This would strengthen UBC's expertise in the region and build on key strategic relationships.
- **Annual ASEAN conference:** Host a major conference together with key partners on ASEAN that brings together academic expertise, Canadian government officials, and representatives from the private sector. These connections will allow UBC's faculty expertise to provide support for government and private sector initiatives in the region, while simultaneously giving UBC faculty access to new research opportunities and sources for funding. We envision holding this conference on an annual basis.
- **Myanmar Initiative:** Following the series of events with Prof. Aung Tun Thet (Economic Advisor to the President of Myanmar and Director of the Myanmar Development Institute) in March 2014, UBC has made progress in planning for development projects and institutional capacity building in Myanmar. We will build on that progress in the coming year.



INSTITUTE OF ASIAN RESEARCH



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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