Sydney Southeast Asia Research Innovation Symposium

Connecting for Impact: New horizons in Southeast Asia research

18 November 2026

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Sydney Southeast Asia Centre



Program

Time	Session
1:00pm–1:05pm	**Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country** • **Professor Greg Fox** | Director, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
1:05pm–1:25pm	**Keynote Address | How artificial intelligence is changing Southeast Asia** • **Associate Professor Jonathon Hutchinson** | Chair of Media and Communication Discipline, School of Art, Communication and English, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
1:25pm–1:40pm	**SSEAC Director's Update: Research, connections and impact** • **Professor Greg Fox** | Director, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
1:40pm–1:50pm	**2026 SSEAC Awards Presentation** • **Associate Professor Sandra Alday |** Deputy Director, Partnerships, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
1:50pm–2:30pm	**New funding opportunities for Southeast Asian research in 2027** *Moderator*: **Professor Tiho Ancev** | Deputy Director, Research Development, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre • ***Horizon Europe strategies for Southeast Asia*** | **Nic Makoviney**, Director, Research Pipeline and Pre-Award and **Dr Jocelyne Basseal**, Director of Global Research and Engagement • ***New ARC Schemes and support for international research*** | **Professor Jen Smith-Merry**, School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health and ARC College of Experts member • ***Australian Government funding opportunities for Southeast Asia*** | **Dr Sally Ann Walford**, Research Development Manager, International
2:30pm–3.10pm	**Afternoon tea and Country Group breakout discussions**
3:10pm–3:40pm	**SSEAC Grand Challenge funding strategies** *Moderator*: **Professor Tiho Ancev** | Deputy Director, Research Development, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre • **Climate change resilience and the clean energy transition** | Professor Ying Zhang and Associate Professor Eleanor Bruce • **Agricultural development and sustainable use of natural resources** | Professor Daniel Tan and Dr Ali Khoddami • **Healthy and resilient societies** | Professor Meru Sheel and Dr Raaj Kishore Biswas • **Digital transformation and AI** | Associate Professor Jonathon Hutchinson and Dr Sabin Zahirovic • **Shared pasts and shared futures** | Associate Professor Aim Sinpeng and Dr Jia Ying Neoh
3:40pm–3:50pm	**SSEAC Research Grants 2027: Announcement** • **Professor Greg Fox** | Director, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, University of Sydney
3:50pm–3:55pm	**People's Choice poster competition winner announced** • **Associate Professor Sandra Alday** | Deputy Director, Partnerships, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
3:55pm–4:00pm	**Closing remarks** • **Professor Greg Fox** | Director, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, University of Sydney
4:00pm	**Networking drinks**