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Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

2015-16 Yearbook

The University of Sydney

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A message from the Vice-Chancellor



Four years since its inception, our Sydney Southeast Asia Centre has established a key role in uniting academics across the University of Sydney to produce high-impact engagement with one of the world's fastest growing regions. I congratulate all the members of the team, led by Professor Michele Ford, who have gained recognition for their crucial role in fostering the University's links with Southeast Asia.

The centre's academics are tackling real-world issues through critical research funded by internal and external grants, and strengthening ties between the University and our closest neighbours. The close focus on the disability sector in Indonesia, a particular strength of the centre in the past year, aligns closely with the University's philosophy of inclusivity.

As we work towards a target of 50 percent of University of Sydney students undertaking a mobility experience by 2020, it is inspiring to see an increasing number of students learning from each other in the region. Travelling to Indonesia, Laos and Singapore through the centre's interdisciplinary field schools gives students an opportunity to take on the most challenging issues of the 21st century.

The centre plays a main role in outreach activity in the region. From strengthening the research capacity of health professionals in the Philippines to delivering training programs on integrated crop management in Cambodia and establishing minimum standards of consumer protection within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the centre works tirelessly to help researchers, practitioners and policymakers to make a difference.

I encourage you to read on about the centre's pioneering work in the region over the past year.

Dr Michael Spence
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

A message from the Director

I would like to acknowledge the expertise, skills and enthusiasm of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre's members and the support of the faculties and University of Sydney staff. Most of all, I would like to thank my team, Country Coordinators and Executive Committee members for their unwavering commitment to advancing our work in Southeast Asia.

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre has a strong focus on regionally targeted scholarship and engagement. Research is, of course, very important to us. In the past year, University of Sydney academics have worked on several projects related to Southeast Asia funded by the Australian Research Council. They were joined in early 2016 by Professor Simon Butt from the University of Sydney Law School, who has been awarded a Future Fellowship to examine regional anti-corruption courts in Indonesia.

The centre also fosters high-impact research through competitive seed funding across our five thematic areas. Disciplines funded this year include business, economics, education, medicine and science. These research initiatives have been complemented by three academic workshops. Two of these – on social media in Southeast Asia and the Singapore governance model – were funded by Workshop Grants from the centre. A third, on challenges faced by policymakers in Indonesia, was co-funded by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences' Collaborative Research Scheme.

Much of our outreach activity is driven by our members' research interests. In 2015, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Forum focused on the coming of the ASEAN Economic Community and its implications for trade, labour mobility and infrastructure. We also continued our outreach work in Indonesia, hosting an intensive training program funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on organisational leadership and management practice for leaders within disabled people's organisations. This strengthened not only the



leaders' skills but also their confidence in dealing with the challenges their members face. The flagship program ran alongside several faculty-based Southeast Asia-related training programs that attracted external funding.

The centre strongly encourages student mobility. In the past 12 months we have hosted a workshop involving academics from across Australia and representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other stakeholders, and supported faculty-based mobility programs.

We ran four of our flagship interdisciplinary field schools covering traditional medicine, creative industries, rural-urban migration and housing policy. We have also secured funding under the federal government's New Colombo Plan for several future field schools. This includes a three-year program on women's empowerment that leverages the capacity-building work we did in 2015 with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade-funded Empowering Indonesian Women for Poverty Reduction initiative.

Also in education, we hosted an Australia-wide workshop on innovative pedagogy in Southeast Asia-related teaching with a view to creating a network among educators with an interest in the region. You can read about a selection of these activities in the pages that follow.

Professor Michele Ford
Director, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

About the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is Australia's premier multidisciplinary centre of academic excellence on Southeast Asia. Now in its fourth year, the centre is testament to the University of Sydney's commitment to high-impact, collaborative research and meaningful global engagement.

With more than 250 academics in all of its 16 faculties working on and in the 11 countries of Southeast Asia, the University of Sydney has one of the highest concentrations of regional expertise in the world. From a central position within the University, the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre strives for an innovative and engaged approach that reflects the complexity of the region and recognises its salience to Australia's future.

The centre extends beyond conventional areas of study to take a broad-based and holistic approach to research, education and engagement. Our cornerstone is our research excellence: scholars working on Southeast Asia specialise in an extraordinary range of disciplines, from archaeology to veterinary science.

We match our disciplinary range with the broad spectrum of topics we research. We cover anthropology, economics and politics, and our academics deal with pressing real-world issues such as infectious and chronic diseases, energy and infrastructure, and food and other forms of human security.

The centre's research is based on five themes:

- economic and social development
- environment and resources
- health
- heritage and the arts
- state and society

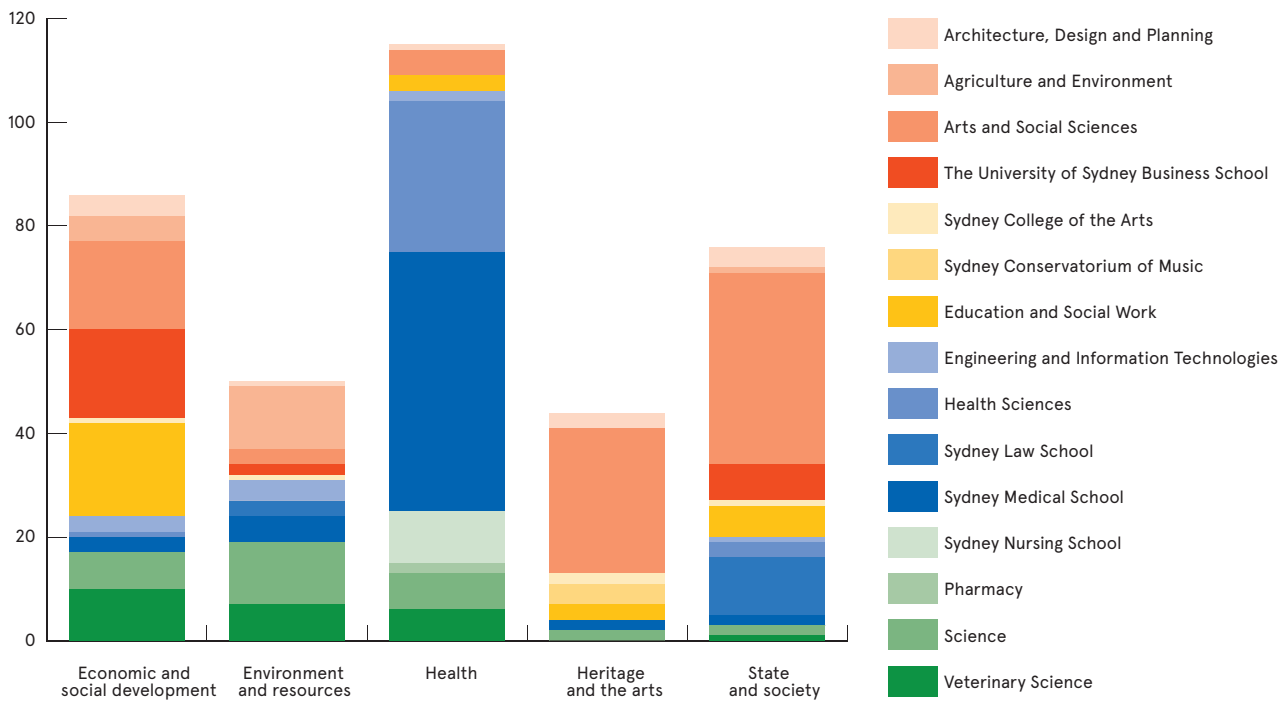
The centre connects disciplinary experts with specialists on each country who have the in-depth cultural and political knowledge necessary for sustained engagement through our country-based groups.

Our members' academic work makes a real difference by informing decisions in government, industry and the wider community. Our activities support Southeast Asian academics to better engage in global debates in their field and to contribute to the cutting-edge research of their discipline, as well as consolidate the University of Sydney's relationships in the region. We engage extensively with Southeast Asian universities as peers, but also, where appropriate, as a form of outreach, to develop research capacity.

We work to enhance the learning experience of undergraduates and research students. By coordinating and facilitating interdisciplinary field schools that focus on real-world problems faced by people in our region, the centre helps undergraduate students develop a well-rounded perspective on Southeast Asia in all its complexity.

We provide programs to enhance the knowledge and skills of research students. These students, many of whom hold influential posts in their home country, develop networks that are helpful to them in the short term as they complete their research degrees, and build the foundations for continued engagement upon their return home.





Related initiatives

The University of Sydney is fostering a deeper and wider understanding of Southeast Asia through various high-profile initiatives in collaboration with regional and global partners, including:

- the Angkor Research Program, a cross-disciplinary collaboration that incorporates the Greater Angkor Project, which is creating new perspectives on urban society in Cambodia's Angkor region
- the Centre for Asian and Pacific Law, which runs conferences and seminars and has particular expertise in Indonesian, Malaysian and Vietnamese legal systems and laws
- the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, which incorporates the West Papua Project and researchers with an interest in Timor-Leste
- the Department of Indonesian Studies, one of the most respected in Australia, with a strong reputation for its research and policy work in Indonesia
- the Học Mãi Foundation, which provides development assistance, public health programs and medical training in Vietnam
- the Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity, which brings together researchers, educators and professionals from across the biological and social sciences to increase understanding of infectious diseases and develop new methods of combating them.
- the Mekong Research Group, Australia's premier group of researchers focused on Vietnam's Mekong region
- the Office for Global Health, which facilitates international health research and works with the University of Sydney's health faculties to contribute to health and wellbeing in the Asia-Pacific.

Governance

As Director of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, Professor Michele Ford is assisted in her work by Deputy Directors Dr Elisabeth Kramer and Dr Thushara Dibley, Communications Officer Merryn Lagaida, and Administration Officer Samuel Bashfield.

Governed by a Board of Management, this small team is supported by our Country Coordinators and Executive Committee as well as by our Postgraduate Coordinator, Natali Pearson. Staff work closely with the University of Sydney's professional service units, including the Office of Global Engagement, International Services, Marketing and Communications, the Library, the Director for Government Relations, and Sydney Ideas. The team also collaborates with other multidisciplinary research centres and Southeast Asia-related initiatives, as well as the faculties.

Executive Committee

Name	Faculty	Position
Professor Adrian Vickers	Arts and Social Sciences	Community Outreach Adviser
Professor Simon Butt	Sydney Law School	Curriculum Adviser
Professor David Guest	Agriculture and Environment	Policy and Regional Outreach Adviser
Professor Patrick Brennan	Health Sciences	Policy and Regional Outreach Adviser
Professor Peter McMinn	Sydney Medical School	Research Adviser
Associate Professor Jenny-Ann Toribio	Veterinary Science	Research Adviser
Dr Damien Field	Agriculture and Environment	Research Training Adviser

Country Coordinators

Country	Name	Discipline
Cambodia	Dr Daniel Penny	Geosciences
Indonesia	Dr Jeff Nielson	Geosciences
Laos	Dr Yayoi Lagerqvist	Geosciences
Malaysia and Brunei	Professor Glen Davis	Exercise and Sport Science
Myanmar	Associate Professor Bill Pritchard	Geosciences
The Philippines	Dr Sandra Seno-Alday	International Business
Singapore	Dr Yeow-Tong Chia	Education
Thailand	Dr Aim Sinpeng	Government and International Relations
Timor-Leste	Associate Professor Robyn Alders	Agriculture
Vietnam	Professor Kirsty Foster	Medical Education

Board of Management

Name	Division
Professor Philippa Pattison (Chair)	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)
Professor Duncan Ivison	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Professor Katherine Belov	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement)
Professor Michele Ford	Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
Associate Professor Paul Jones	Architecture and Creative Arts
Professor Andrew Terry	Business
Professor Joseph Davis	Engineering and Information Technologies
Professor Kathryn Refshauge	Health Sciences
Professor Luke Nottage	Humanities and Social Sciences
Associate Professor Jennifer Fraser	Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy
Professor Peter Windsor	Natural Sciences



Natali Pearson

Postgraduate Coordinator
Natali Pearson liaises with the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre’s postgraduate community of more than 200 students. She organises the postgraduate retreat, seminar series, and the Three Minute Thesis Challenge.

Natali is a PhD Candidate in the Museum and Heritage Studies program. Her research focuses on the ethics of cultural heritage in Indonesia, and she is also interested in the protection and preservation of underwater cultural heritage in Southeast Asia.

Natali was one of the inaugural gallery docents at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center, and interned at the Asia Society Museum in New York while completing a Masters of Museum Studies. She worked on the Timor-Leste and Indonesia desks in Australia’s Department of Defence while completing an MA in Strategy and Policy. Natali later joined the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre.

Natali is a fellow of the Asialink Leaders Program. She also tutors students in the ‘Understanding Southeast Asia’ and ‘Contemporary Asian Art’ units of study at the University of Sydney.



Jenny-Ann Toribio

Associate Professor Jenny-Ann Toribio is the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Executive Committee’s Research Adviser and Sub Dean, International, in the Faculty of Veterinary Science. As a veterinarian, Jenny-Ann understands the importance of animals to the welfare and health of people.

Jenny-Ann’s aim of using her professional skills to benefit communities in need led her to a PhD on smallholder pigs in the Philippines. Her research project inspired a career-long interest in smallholder livestock and zoonoses (diseases transmitted from animals to humans) in rural communities.

With co-lead Professor David Guest, Jenny-Ann led a workshop that produced the centre’s first policy paper, *Taking a Wider View: Health Impacts on Agricultural Productivity in Southeast Asia*. The workshop fostered dialogue on how to improve outcomes from multidisciplinary research and development investment to address the constraints of human health and farm production on smallholder families.

Jenny-Ann has also set up an exchange placement program between Sydney and Yogyakarta, Indonesia, for veterinary students, to build their technical skills and mutual understanding.



Samuel Bashfield

Samuel Bashfield joined the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre as the Administration Officer in January 2015 after completing his honours thesis on Indonesian literacy in Australia at Monash University.

Sam started learning Indonesian in high school, and spent a year on student exchange in Malaysia. These experiences fuelled his interest in languages and Southeast Asia, and led him to complete another student exchange program at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta.

In addition to his academic pursuits, Sam spent three months interning at the *Jakarta Globe* newspaper, and undertook a month-long solo motorcycle journey from Banda Aceh to Jakarta in support of the Heart Foundation.

Sam manages the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre’s administrative, logistical and financial tasks. He contributes to special initiatives including our flagship capacity-building program for civil society leaders from Indonesia.

Sam is also the Director of Partnerships and Memberships with the Australia-Indonesia Youth Association’s National Executive. He hopes to one day complete a PhD in language policy, and to work in increasing the acquisition of Asian languages in Australia.

ASEAN Forum 2015

In October 2015, the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre hosted its third annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Forum, drawing together international, regional and local expertise to explore the implications of the ASEAN Economic Community. More than 150 people attended, including academics, diplomats and government officials, students and members of the broader community.

The flagship of ASEAN's economic integration, the Economic Community aims to produce a unified market and production base and transform ASEAN into a region with free movement of goods, services, investment and skilled labour, and free flow of capital.

The keynote address was delivered by Professor Michael Plummer, Director of the School for Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in the United States. In his address, Professor Plummer argued that the Economic Community constitutes the most important economic cooperation-related initiative in the developing world. He underscored that the potential gains are vast but will be distributed asymmetrically, providing a policy challenge for ASEAN member states individually and as a group.

The keynote address was followed by three concurrent panels on connectivity, trade and mobility. The connectivity panel focused on the transport and energy links between ASEAN countries, and their importance for securing the Economic Community's future. Speakers included Professor Michael Quah from the National University of Singapore; Professor John Black from the University of New South Wales; and Dr Geoff James, a clean-energy consultant.

The trade stream featured speakers from academia, government and think tanks who examined barriers to trade, as well as opportunities for Australia arising out of the Economic Community. Presenters included Mr David Landers from Austrade, Professor Hal Hill from the Australian National University and Mr Odbayar Erdenetsogt from the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries.

Experts on mobility included the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre's Professor Michele Ford, Dr Elizabeth Hill from the Department of Political Economy, Ms Reiko Harima from the Mekong Migration Network and Ms Sally Moyle from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Adopting a roundtable discussion format, the session highlighted issues of gender and workforce in trans-border migration within ASEAN.

The ASEAN Forum was preceded by a business event, co-hosted with global law firm Baker & McKenzie. The event, bringing together members of the business community, focused on the implications of the Economic Community for Australian businesses.



Southeast Asia: social media goes mobile

Whether used for crowdsourcing, health, politics, relationships or urban sustainability, social media and mobile phones have become an important part of the fabric of Southeast Asian culture and society.

These digital technologies were the subject of a pioneering international research workshop held in November 2015 that brought together academics, policymakers and practitioners to explore their implications for Southeast Asian countries.

The two-day workshop was supported by a Workshop Grant from the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre in conjunction with the Department of Media and Communications at the University of Sydney and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore.

At this first workshop of its kind to shine a spotlight on the limited studies of mobiles and social media in countries such as Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam – each of which is manifesting distinct patterns in digital technology adoption – researchers presented an interesting array of findings and trends across the region.

Featuring speakers from a wide variety of disciplines from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, RMIT in Melbourne, Australia, the National University of Singapore, De La Salle University in the Philippines and the University of Sydney, the workshop also engaged a diversity of sectors including business, civil society, government, health services and media, as well as regulatory and international agencies.

From how scrap handlers in Myanmar use mobile phones to earn their livelihoods, to mobile community health programs in Indonesia, internet access by young people in Manila's slums, and digital activism in Thailand in an age of cyber controls, the presentations highlighted issues of politics, activism, inequality and cultural trends.



Image courtesy of Adam Cohn via Flickr

Considering rapid policy development, regulatory change, intervention rollouts, and business start-ups in the region, the workshop established a solid base of research evidence by ensuring the integrated, systematic, and multidisciplinary scholarly consideration of digital technology in the region.

The workshop also drew strong participation from postgraduate and early career researchers, demonstrating the critical importance of digital technologies as a central focus of research and policy on Southeast Asia.

Indonesia: collaborative action for social inclusion

Academics from the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Education and Social Work have teamed up with partners in Indonesia to promote collaborative action between educators, families, and health providers to improve inclusion of children with disabilities at school.

Recognising that inclusive education has some way to go in Indonesia, the aim of the project is to develop inclusive education practices through Participatory Action Research. Academics from Australia and Indonesia will work in close partnership to develop systems for change.

Funded through a Workshop Grant from the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, academics from the University of Sydney partnered with colleagues at Yogyakarta State University to conduct a workshop in Yogyakarta in January 2016.

The combined Policy and Action Research workshop brought together key stakeholders from the education and health sectors including policy makers, administrators, parents, students, educators and related service providers to articulate a shared vision for the inclusion of children with disability and develop a research action plan.

The Head of Special Education for the Education Department in Yogyakarta, Didik Wardaya, reminded participants that attitudes toward disability present a challenge for developing quality-inclusive education practices, and that it is the kind of challenge that requires a multi-pronged strategy.

Seven schools were invited to engage in learning about using Participatory Action Research to develop inclusive education practices. These schools will be pilot sites for the inclusive education practices, providing insights into how these approaches can positively influence the learning experiences of children with disabilities.



Image courtesy of Dr Michelle Villeneuve

For the project lead, Dr Michelle Villeneuve, this project epitomises the kind of collaboration required to have an impact on children with disabilities in schools. She argues that working with families, schools, health providers, policymakers and academic researchers offers a dynamic approach to using collaborative mechanisms to improve inclusion.

The Participatory Action Research teams embraced this collaborative approach to developing strength-based learning plans for children with disabilities, inviting children to be a part of their learning and research action plans. Dr Villeneuve was overwhelmed to see the teamwork extend to the families of children involved.

The Philippines: strengthening research capacity of health professionals

Following a visit by the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre's Associate Professor Kirsty Foster to the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Medical Centre (UERMMC) in the Philippines in 2015, the UERMMC's Dean of Medicine indicated a commitment to improving research writing skills for health professionals and academic staff, and requested assistance in research capacity building.

In response, Associate Professor Foster applied for a Research Capacity Building Grant from the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre and secured funding for a three-day workshop hosted in March 2016 in Manila. More than 20 academics from partners of the Office for Global Health's Classroom in the Field Philippines Program; UERMMC; and the University of the Philippines attended.

Accompanied by Dr Jo Lander and Dr Sean Seeho from the University of Sydney Medical School, the workshop, *Introduction to Practical Clinical Research*, included an introduction to research seminars, workshops on writing for academic journals and a research needs assessment.

Previously, UERMMC had identified professional development of staff through pursuit of PhDs as a priority objective. As such, the workshop aimed to build sustainable research collaboration seeded by Filipinos obtaining their higher degrees by research at the University of Sydney.

During the workshop, the trainees planned a variety of projects ranging from investigating student stress to exploring ways to encourage research collaboration between faculties. It's expected that these projects will result in the publication of journal articles mentored and co-authored by academic staff of the University of Sydney.

Associate Professor Foster is pleased to report that the Australian facilitators are still in contact with their Filipino colleagues – evidence of the potential for sustainable research collaborations between Philippine institutions and the University of Sydney.

Participants gained an improved understanding of academic research principles, an increased capacity to implement clinical research, strengthened ability to write academic journal articles, and enhanced opportunities to publish in international journals.

Image courtesy of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade via Flickr





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Other events

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre hosts a variety of speakers and events. A snapshot of our calendar displays the depth and breadth of our expertise on Southeast Asia.

In August 2015, we partnered with the Philippines Consulate General and the Australia Philippines Business Council to present a seminar on the implications of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community to business strategies. This inaugural partnership consolidated our links with both institutions and engaged a variety of audiences from different sectors.

The centre also drew on its relationship with Sydney Ideas to co-host a Griffith Review Forum with the China Studies Centre on its latest edition, *New Asia Now*. Three great young writers, including Miguel Syjuco from the Philippines, delved into the complexities of culture, politics and modernisation in Asia. They were joined by associate member Dr Tiffany Tsao in a panel chaired by *Griffith Review* editor Julianne Schultz.

To increase its visibility on campus, the centre worked with the University of Sydney Union to host ASEAN Day as part of the International Festival. Working with the student societies of the various Southeast Asian countries, we showcased the tastes and dances of Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand to large audiences on Eastern Avenue.

In September 2015, the centre celebrated the establishment of a close partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's NSW State Office by hosting a panel discussion on *Why ASEAN and Why Now?* Moderated by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Registrar) Professor Tyrone Carlin, the panel included Australia's Ambassador to ASEAN, Mr Simon Merrifield, and Australian Ambassadors to Thailand, Mr Paul Robilliard; the Philippines, Mr Bill Tweddell; Cambodia, Ms Alison Burrows, and Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore, Mr Philip Green. They discussed what the Australia-ASEAN trade relationship means for the region and for building bilateral relationships. The event attracted a high-profile audience and consolidated the centre's relationship with government.

As part of a project funded by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Collaborative Research Scheme, in October 2015 the centre hosted a postgraduate research workshop on Indonesian activism and its influence on policymaking, and a policy roundtable on the challenges policymakers face in President Joko Widodo's Indonesia. Students from throughout Australia discussed how activists interact with the Indonesian government and whether this relationship has changed under President Joko Widodo, and presented research. The policy roundtable united Indonesia experts from Australia and Indonesia to discuss issues relating to the environment and resources, development and economics, human rights and systemic challenges in Indonesia.

In 2015-16, the centre also hosted presentations by various guest speakers from external institutions as well as academics from across the University of Sydney's faculties in a series of insightful seminars and film screenings with a strong focus on elections and politics in Southeast Asia:

- In September 2015, we hosted Wong Chen from the People's Justice Party MP from Malaysia, to discuss the 1MDB case and other serious allegations of corruption threatening the legitimacy of the Malaysian government.
- In November 2015, a panel of specialists discussed the key factors that contributed to the People's Action Party electoral resilience in Singapore in partnership with the Malaysia and Singapore Association of Australia, the Sydney Democracy Network, and the Comparative and International Education Research Network. This event also marked the launch of Dr Yeow Tong-Chia's book, *Education, Culture and the Singapore Developmental State: 'World-Soul' Lost and Regained?*
- In May 2016, Dr Aries Arugay, University of the Philippines; Dr Nicole Curato, University of Canberra; and Dr Aim Sinpeng and Dr Sandra Seno-Alday from the University of Sydney explored the implications of the Philippine presidential election on the changing political and democratic landscape in Southeast Asia in an event co-hosted by Sydney Ideas and the Sydney Democracy Network.

Focus on high-impact research

A hallmark of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is its support for research excellence by experts on Southeast Asia.

We support researchers from across the University of Sydney seeking to engage with Southeast Asia through a grant scheme offering funding in the fields of research, mobility, language, and school engagement.

Grants are provided to seed projects in the centre's five areas of research strength, to support the development of academic publications from applied research work, and to encourage academic collaboration with researchers in the region and further afield.

In the 2015-16 year, 35 grants were made to Sydney academics and their collaborators.

Our flagship grant program is our Cluster Research Grant, which aims to provide a pathway for new academic projects on Southeast Asia or for scholars who are engaging in the region for the first time.

In 2015-16, our Cluster Research Grants were awarded as follows:

Cluster	Topic	Recipient	Faculty
Economic and social development	Agricultural land distribution in Indonesia: fragmentation, aggregation and agrarian change	Dr Russell Toth	Arts and Social Sciences
	Gateway port choice and investment plan: the case of Indonesia	Dr Xiaowen Fu	The University of Sydney Business School
Environment and resources	Bridging social and natural sciences to enable community adaptation in protected areas in Cambodia	Dr Dan Penny	Science
Health	Barriers and opportunities for contraception access in rural areas of Myanmar	Dr Camille Raynes-Greenow	Sydney Medical School
	Community-based Key Informants Method survey to define the burden of childhood disability in rural Sumba Island of Indonesia	Dr Gulam Khandaker	Sydney Medical School
Heritage and the arts	World's biggest book: textual transmission of the Pali canon in Myanmar	Dr Mark Allon	Arts and Social Sciences
State and society	Examining community collaborations that empower parents and carers to support children and adolescents with disabilities through a multidisciplinary lens	Associate Professor David Evans	Education and Social Work

In 2015-16, Collaborative Research Grants were awarded to the following academics:

Cluster	Topic	Recipient	Faculty
Health	Analysing the movement characteristics of Thai dance	Dr Alycia Fong Yan	Health Sciences
State and society	The politics of truth: mapping 'truth' construction on Wikipedia during Thailand's political crisis	Dr Aim Sinpeng	Arts and Social Sciences

Our Workshop Grant program supports international meetings that lead to a special journal edition, edited book on a topic related to Southeast Asia, or a substantial policy intervention.

Workshop Grants were awarded in 2015-16 to:

Recipient	Faculty	Workshop
Professor Patrick Brennan	Health Sciences	Breast: A novel method to transform breast cancer detection in Vietnam and Southeast Asia
Associate Professor Hans Pols	Science	Indonesian mental health care: evaluating the present, planning the future

Other grants awarded in the 2015-16 year include:

Category	No. awarded	Countries
Conference (Academic) for papers on Southeast Asia	9	Australia, Japan, the Philippines, Turkey, United States
Conference (PhD) for papers on Southeast Asia	3	India, Japan, Poland
Mobility	6	Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand
Publication	1	Thailand
Research Capacity Building	1	Vietnam
Sabbatical Visitor	3	Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam
Schools	9	Indonesia, Southeast Asia, Thailand
Visiting PhD Scholar	3	United Kingdom, United States

Image courtesy of Henri Ismail



Indonesia: reimagining psychiatry

Amidst growing international attention on the mistreatment and shackling of patients with psychosocial disabilities in Indonesia, Associate Professor Hans Pols is investigating the past and present to reimagine the future of mental health care in Indonesia.

Funded by an Australian Research Council Discovery Projects Grant, this multidisciplinary project aims to develop a historical, sociological and anthropological understanding of Indonesian psychiatry to make explicit how current ideas and practices may help remake Indonesia's mental health services.

The project is exploring key aspects of the social and cultural history of Indonesian psychiatry and its relationship to local and regional traditions of healing. It is working closely with leading Indonesian psychiatrists and mental health stakeholders to develop a collaborative understanding of the challenges psychiatry and mental health services in Indonesia's regions face.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has drawn attention to the rising toll of mental illness in Indonesia, which has one of the lowest numbers of psychiatrists for its population (0.21/100,000) in Southeast Asia, and spends less than 1 percent of its total health budget on mental health care.

In many parts of Indonesia, people with severe mental illness receive no access to regular treatment, and locking-up people with psychosis is common. Moreover, the lack of appropriate facilities for mental health care is a pressing problem.

According to Associate Professor Pols, what is needed are more comprehensive outpatient initiatives, better primary care, and more effective support for patient movements backed up by a strong mental healthcare system.



Image courtesy of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade via Flickr

By documenting examples of local programs, such as models developed in Aceh and Lombok, the aim of the project is to demonstrate how innovative rethinking may allow the effective delivery of mental health services given extremely limited resources.

Researchers have conducted interviews with more than 200 psychiatrists, a selection of whom will attend a workshop hosted by Associate Professor Pols in November in Yogyakarta to compile the chapters of an edited volume covering topics such as mental health institutions, key challenges, case studies from the regions, patient groups, and policy.

Vietnam: artists and innovation in industry

Dr Jane Gavan from Sydney College of the Arts at the University of Sydney is developing the capacity of artists to undertake placements within manufacturing communities in Ho Chi Minh City.

Awarded a Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Cluster Research Grant, Dr Gavan is collaborating with artists at the University of Fine Arts in Vietnam (UFAV) to build on recent research that shows how artists producing creative works within manufacturing communities can raise levels of creativity and innovation within these communities.

The *Factories as Studios* project aims to expand opportunities for practice for artists while addressing the strategic need to increase innovation in manufacturing. In late 2016, artists from UFAV will present their art and design at an exhibition in Hanoi.

Dr Gavan is collaborating with the Ho Chi Minh City University of Architecture, the Saigon University of Technology, the Dong Nai College of Decorative Arts, and the Hanoi University of Culture.

“The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Cluster Research Grant has allowed me to develop a range of connections with a variety of disciplines within Vietnam such as art and design, architecture, museum and cultural studies, and business. It’s also allowed for increased institutional partner involvement.”

Dr Jane Gavan
Sydney College of the Arts



Image courtesy of Dr Jane Gavan

The partners have welcomed this fresh approach to art and design practice, flagging two tangible benefits. First, the project has incited unprecedented cooperation between a variety of institutions across Ho Chi Minh City; secondly, partners have expressed a willingness to use this pilot project as a training ground for creative leaders.

The Vietnamese institutions have drawn on University of Sydney expertise in curriculum design when reviewing their programs to take into account this form of experiential learning to advance contemporary creative practice.

The project also aligns closely with the Vietnamese Government’s focus on making use of ‘social resources’ in a range of sectors including manufacturing, to build competitive advantage such as improving labour productivity.

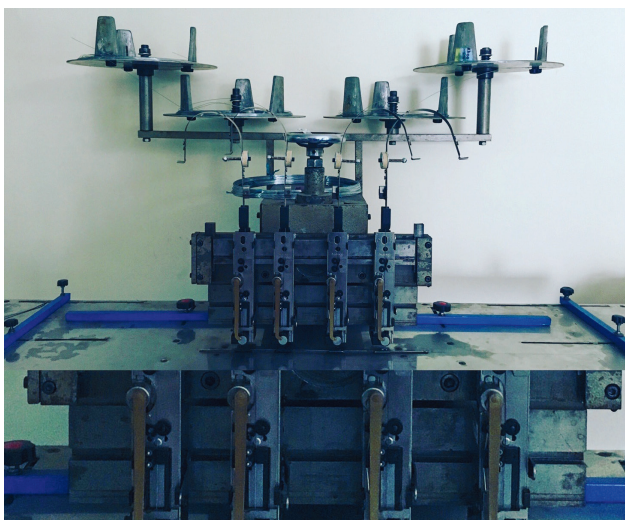


Image courtesy of Dr Jane Gavan



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Southeast Asia Centre

University of Sydney
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Image courtesy of Elizabeth Hung

Myanmar: refugee activism

Dr Susan Banki from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is at the forefront of the global conversation about the engagement of refugees from Myanmar who seek asylum in neighbouring countries without citizenship or full documentation in activism.

Supported by an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Early Career Researcher Award, Dr Banki is examining the contours of homeland activism when practised by refugees or other forced migrants, whom she describes as precarious activists.

Focusing on refugee populations from Myanmar, the project analyses how refugees remain committed to reforming the country while in neighbouring countries such as Thailand, Malaysia and India. In the course of her research, Dr Banki has investigated the ways in which resources, strategies, and networks are reshaped as refugees move to resettlement countries. She is interested in building an understanding of how refugees re-form networks as they relocate, and developing a typology of refugee activism from displacement to resettlement over time.

Dr Banki argues that precarity informs activism in surprising and nuanced ways, and that it's dangerous to assume that it would stop refugee activist populations from engaging in criticism of their home country. In fact, these groups are well positioned to engage in homeland politics by virtue of their continued proximity to Myanmar, their status as exiles, and local cultural and linguistic knowledge.

“It's important to understand activism because it can be the way that change actually occurs.”

Dr Susan Banki
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Dr Banki hopes to use her findings to understand precarious activism in other Southeast Asian countries including Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The diversity of research within the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre community has provided Dr Banki with different disciplinary perspectives. For instance, she has incorporated environmental activism concepts into her theoretical argument after learning about the research of a colleague into agricultural policy. Dr Banki believes “this kind of interdisciplinary crossbreeding is beneficial to all of us who study the region”.

Image courtesy of Overseas Development Institute via Flickr



Expanding collaboration

One of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre’s key functions is showcasing the University of Sydney’s wide-ranging expertise on Southeast Asia to visitors to Sydney.

The centre works with the University’s Office of Global Engagement to foster closer ties with Southeast Asia by organising visits to the region and hosting leadership training for Southeast Asia’s leaders – current and future.

In 2015-16, the centre’s Director, Professor Michele Ford, visited a number of institutions to discuss further collaboration. She met with Southeast Asia specialists at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, Stockholm University in Sweden, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and the University of Oslo in Norway, and with the conveners of the Southeast Asia Project at Oxford University in the UK to discuss potential synergies.

In March 2016, Indonesia’s Minister for Trade, Thomas Lembong, visited the University of Sydney to discuss programs at the Sydney Nursing School.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has also facilitated various visits through its Special Visitors Program, including a visit by Professor Victor ‘Dindo’ Manhit from Stratbase Consultancy’s Albert del Rosario Institute for Strategic and International Studies (an independent research organisation that aims to address issues affecting the Philippines).

In 2015-16, the centre hosted distinguished visitors including:

Visitor’s name	Title
His Excellency Mr Chirachai Punkrasin	Ambassador of Thailand to Australia
Ms Helen de la Vega	Assistant Secretary for ASEAN Affairs in the Philippine Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms Angel Corcoran	Australian Ambassador to Cambodia
Mr John Williams	Australian Ambassador to Laos
Ms Amanda Gorely	Australian Ambassador to the Philippines
Mr Paul Robilliard	Australian Ambassador to Thailand
Mr Peter Doyle	Australian Ambassador to Timor Leste
Ms Karen Lanyon	Australian Consul-General to Ho Chi Minh
Mr Richard Matthers	Australian Consul-General to Makassar
The Hon. Chris Bowen	Australian Federal Shadow Treasurer
His Excellency Mr Thomas Lembong	Indonesian Minister for Trade
YB Datuk Irmohizam Bin Ibrahim	Member of the Malaysian Parliament
The Hon. Wong Chen	Malaysian MP and Chairman of the Investment and Trade Bureau of the People’s Justice Party



The centre received delegations from Southeast Asian universities including Khon Kaen University (Thailand), Udayana University (Indonesia), and Universitas Malaysia Utara. In March 2016, we hosted a delegation from Thailand’s Research University Network to discuss how to facilitate and support high-impact research collaboration.

In 2015-16, the centre hosted distinguished visitors and delegations including:

- ASEAN Members of Parliament delegation (organised with Parliament House of Australia)
- Indonesia’s Investment Coordination Board, BKPM
- Indonesia’s Ministry of Education and Culture
- Indonesia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Indonesia’s Ministry of Home Affairs
- Japanese External Trade Organization (JETRO)
- RAND Corporation
- Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Southeast Asia: protecting consumers



Image courtesy of Wimonrat Rukkhaworakul

With the establishment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community, Professor Luke Nottage from the University of Sydney Law School is helping to ensure there are minimum standards of consumer protection.

When ASEAN created the Economic Community in 2015, trade in goods and services was substantially liberalised. Its blueprint recognises the need to set minimum standards of consumer protection in all 10 member states to avoid a regulatory ‘race to the bottom’ and substandard products being exported. In response, the ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection was formed.

Since 2014, Professor Nottage has been a senior consultant in the project on Supporting Research and Dialogue on Consumer Protection, now in its final stage following two highly productive ASEAN Consumer Protection conferences.

The conferences included lively discussion on consumer law topics of pressing interest to member states, and these ideas have been incorporated into policy digests that drew on wider comparative consumer law and policy experiences. Professor Nottage is building on his collaboration with colleagues from the University of Melbourne and Monash University, which included unprecedented

access to regulators and other stakeholders in consumer affairs in Southeast Asia, to publish an academic research monograph.

In 2016, Professor Nottage’s research culminated in co-editing the book *ASEAN Product Liability and Consumer Product Safety Law*, based on a conference in 2015 funded by the ASEAN Studies Centre at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, involving academics, practitioners and the private sector.

Professor Nottage has also received a Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Regional Mobility Grant to support further research in Thailand and collaborate with colleagues from the region. He attributes the shift in his research trajectory from North Asia to Southeast Asia to the funding, support and encouragement he has received from the centre.

“I am grateful to the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre for providing publication funding to allow this book to be made freely available to many national and international regulators, NGOs and academics, as well as to a wider audience.”

Professor Luke Nottage
The University of Sydney Law School

Cambodia: supporting durian growers

In February 2016, Professor David Guest from the Faculty of Agriculture and Environment and research partners in Cambodia visited the Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation to deliver a training program on integrated durian management supported by the Crawford Fund.

Growing crops of durian trees has recently expanded in Cambodia, with strong demand from domestic and Thai buyers. In 2014, mature durian trees developed a dieback disease that frequently resulted in death. However, there is no support in the area and farmers have to rely on each other, input suppliers and non-government organisations to solve problems in their orchards, with a heavy dependence on pesticides.

With sponsorship from the Crawford Fund, a workshop was held to provide training-of-trainer to equip plant pathologists, local extension workers, input suppliers and farmer cooperatives with the knowledge and technical skills to introduce integrated disease management principles across the tree-crop farming communities of Samlot and Pailin. Up to 30 participants attended over three days, most of whom were farmers.

The workshop aimed to establish deeper understanding of durian nursery and orchard management, disease symptom recognition and pathogen diagnosis, basic laboratory techniques, and treatment of infected trees. A pre-workshop survey indicated an average understanding of durian disease management of 2.3 out of 5 (below average), which increased to 3.7 out of 5 (very good) by the end of the workshop.

“Although it was my first visit to Cambodia, the networks I’ve developed at the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre helped me target the workshop at the right level. The centre also raised the University of Sydney’s profile in the region through collaboration with Kasetsart University in Thailand.”

Professor David Guest
Faculty of Agriculture and Environment

Combining participatory activities and field visits with presentations and discussions, the workshop produced a draft extension leaflet and crop management guide for translation into Khmer and wider distribution across Cambodia. It’s expected that the integrated disease management package developed through the workshop will be rolled out to other durian-growing provinces in Cambodia.



Leadership for good

In 2015-16, the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre delivered a variety of leadership training programs aimed at cultivating high-impact leaders in Southeast Asia.

From its strategic position within the University of Sydney, the centre and its members are well-positioned to share leadership expertise and knowledge with partners in the region.

The centre developed leadership training programs for constituent groups in Indonesia, including civil society and the public service. In January 2016, we hosted 24 emerging leaders from disabled people's organisations. The two-week course, complemented by pre and post-training workshops in Indonesia, developed participants' leadership skills in a range of areas including project management and organisational governance.

In May 2016, the centre coordinated a one-day program for the Australia-Indonesia Centre's Emerging Leaders Program on Economic Diplomacy. The program provided fundamental insights into building cultural competency, understanding trade networks in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and supporting future generations. The aim was to provide emerging leaders with essential strategies for navigating different approaches to diplomacy.

With each of these leadership programs, the centre has strengthened its links with external organisations and partners.

The region's future leaders also come to learn from Sydney experts. In 2015-16, 47 students from Southeast Asia received Australia Awards scholarships to undertake postgraduate study at the University of Sydney.

Country	Number of students	Faculties
Cambodia	2	Arts and Social Sciences, Sydney Medical School
Indonesia	20	Arts and Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Sydney Law School, Sydney Medical School, The University of Sydney Business School
Myanmar	3	Arts and Social Sciences, Sydney Medical School
Philippines	10	Arts and Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Engineering and Information Technologies, Science, Sydney Medical School
Timor-Leste	1	Veterinary Science
Vietnam	10	Agriculture and Environment, Arts and Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Engineering and Information Technologies, Science



Indonesia: empowering people with disabilities

In January 2016, 24 emerging leaders from disabled people's organisations across Indonesia visited Sydney for a two-week course on organisational leadership and management practice.

Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through its Australia Awards program, the initiative is a vital investment in Indonesia's disability sector, and provided a life-changing experience for participants, both personally and professionally.

Guided conversations with inspirational leaders such as Emeritus Professor Ron McCallum, former Dean of the University of Sydney Law School and the first visually impaired person appointed to a full professorship in Australia, had tremendous impact on participants' perceptions of success.

“These two weeks have been full of so much knowledge and so many experiences that have equipped our organisations with the ability to empower and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.”

Edy Supriyanto
SEHATI, Central Java

The course also showcased best practice on accessibility in Australia, which inspired participants to advocate for similar services in Indonesia.

Participants undertook site visits to the City of Sydney and the Sydney Cricket Ground, hosted by Sport Matters. These visits provided examples of disability advocacy and accessibility in Australia and enabled participants to better understand partnership models, interact with staff and form useful connections, while visiting a large, accessible sports stadium.

“My jaw dropped when we arrived at the City of Sydney office. The building was constructed in 1918 but it's accessible for wheelchair users.”

Luluk Ariyantiny
PPDI Situbondo, Central Java



The group embraced these opportunities, particularly the 10-kilometre wheelchair road race held on Australia Day. Participants met with and exchanged experiences (and wheelchairs!) with several Paralympians, one of whom led the group on a tour of Sydney's tourist attractions.

“Today was an extraordinary day, learning directly from these people and seeing what sport can do.”

Zulhamka Julianto Kadir
BILiC, West Java

Participants applied their learning through a return-to-work project. Topics ranged from developing more effective administrative processes to improving social media so that communities can share their stories and better advocate for disability rights. These projects help participants to bring about positive change in their communities.

Student mobility

The University of Sydney recognises student mobility as an integral part of the study experience, hoping to encourage 50 percent of students to undertake a mobility experience during their studies by 2020.

In August 2015, the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre hosted a student mobility policy roundtable and invited key stakeholders to assess the opportunities and obstacles with sending students to Southeast Asia on short and long-term mobility programs.

More than 40 people representing business, industry, government, universities and third-party providers attended the event to share experiences and contribute ideas on how student mobility into Southeast Asia could be increased. Participants weighed up the challenges associated with existing schemes and identified possible new directions.

The University of Sydney's Deputy-Vice Chancellor (Registrar) Professor Tyrone Carlin delivered the opening remarks, emphasising the University's commitment to facilitating overseas student experiences. The group also heard from the Director of International Services at the University of Sydney, Ms Leonie Patrick, and Ms Lynda Worthaisong from the New Colombo Plan Secretariat at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The group was addressed by Mr Omar El Kharouf, one of the first University of Sydney students to participate in a New Colombo Plan short-term mobility project as part of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre's interdisciplinary field school on Singapore Housing Policy in July 2014.

“The field school program gave me the opportunity to understand different societies and learn about topics I'm interested in – in a real-world, overseas experience. It has given me the confidence to go back to Southeast Asia to work there.”

Omar El Kharouf
Student

After the introductory presentations, participants broke into small groups to discuss student mobility to Southeast Asia and why it is important.

Discussion touched upon language issues in sending students to Southeast Asia, but several participants argued that, while desirable, a second language was not crucial to student mobility. Rather, short-term mobility to Southeast Asia could spark the initial interest in learning a language that students could use to further their own research capacity.

The Director of the Australian Consortium for In-Country Indonesian Study, Professor David Hill, also facilitated a session. His key points included:

- funding for program development
- program design
- equity and access for students with disabilities
- visas for students and groups moving into a particular country
- ensuring programs are sustainable.

Participants emphasised building sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships. Suggestions included developing guidelines to protect and strengthen relationships with in-country partners to ensure reciprocity; and building opportunities for internships in collaboration with government.

Image courtesy of Matthew Webb



Indonesia: exploring the old and the new

Opportunities for student travel to Southeast Asia are flourishing as the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre expands its portfolio of interdisciplinary field schools. Funding from the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan supported 37 students travelling to Indonesia during January and February 2016, on two different programs. Bogor and Yogyakarta, two urban centres on the island of Java, offered a unique learning experience for these students.

In January 2016, Bogor Agricultural University hosted 20 students to learn about Indonesian traditional medicine (jamu). The field school included students from the University of Sydney Medical School, Sydney Nursing School, the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, the Department of Anthropology and the Asian Studies program, who undertook a series of lectures and site visits to better understand the role of traditional medicine in contemporary Indonesian society.

During the two-week program, students learned about plant biology, biodiversity and cultivation, as well as traditional medicine's social, religious and ethno-medicinal significance. They took part in a series of lectures with local experts at the Bogor Agricultural University as well as site visits to a herb garden, health centres and local communities. Students also travelled to the cities of Bandung and Purwakarta.

“My trip to Bogor was incredible. I learnt so much about traditional medicine and Indonesian culture, and made some amazing friends along the way.”

Alexandra Dwyer
Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology)

In February 2016, 17 students from a wide range of disciplines travelled to the cultural hub of Yogyakarta to learn more about local creative industries. Architecture, art history, Indonesian studies, Asian studies, and media and communications students explored the importance of creative industries in Central Java as well as the strategies used to promote these industries locally, nationally and



Image courtesy of Matthew Webb

internationally. University of Sydney students worked closely with students from the Faculty of Architecture at Gadjah Mada University to explore Yogyakarta and its surrounds.

Students travelled to local historical sites, artisans' workshops, markets and shops where their products are sold and also to more contemporary and alternative creative spaces. Students attended lectures at the National Arts Institute and met with people engaged in cultural industries and media promotion. Working in interdisciplinary teams, the students completed a collaborative project on this topic.

“For those looking to study in Yogyakarta or other parts of Java, these kinds of experiences are pivotal. Working across the language barrier has made me a better researcher, which will be invaluable as I go forward in my career.”

Matthew Webb
Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology)

Innovative teaching

In May 2016, 40 academics from across Australia met at the University of Sydney to share their experiences in innovative teaching on Southeast Asia.

Presented in a roundtable format, the event was an opportunity for academics from a range of institutions to come together, share ideas and discuss integrating teaching innovations into their courses.

The roundtable was divided into three sessions. The first focused on classroom innovation. Speakers discussed making group work effective, inserting Southeast Asia-related content into courses in other disciplines, and running engaging simulation activities.

The second session was on innovation in in-country teaching, which highlighted some fascinating projects underway in Southeast Asia. The University of Sydney's Dr Rizal Muslimin, for example, discussed his project with Indonesia's Bandung Institute of Technology, designing innovative shelters for mobile hawker stalls.

The final session examined the use of online technology to enhance student experiences.

The roundtable provided valuable insights into how academics throughout the country are engaging in innovative practice to improve content delivery and the student experience. In small-group discussions, participants began constructing an innovative teaching toolkit – a resource for teaching staff wishing to revamp their courses and providing ideas for those developing new courses.

Humanitarian Engineering in Southeast Asia

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is pleased to announce that the unit of study 'Understanding Southeast Asia' (ASNS 2665), will form a compulsory element of the Faculty of Engineering and IT's Humanitarian Engineering major, available from 2017.

Initially designed for students travelling to Southeast Asia as part of a mobility program, the unit of study offers a holistic and comprehensive picture of the region and enhances their learning experience.

As part of Australia's first Humanitarian Engineering major, the unit is designed to help students develop the crucial skills to plan, implement and maintain infrastructure and engage in disaster reconstruction in the region using cross-cultural skills.

For Dr Petr Matous, who drove the effort to include the unit, Southeast Asia is a priority area.

“Creating students with good technical skills who understand the region and can work across different cultures with limited resources is extremely important, and this unit will encourage just that.”

Dr Petr Matous
Faculty of Engineering and IT



The next generation

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre works with faculties, departments and supervisors to support undergraduate and postgraduate students who are researching topics related to Southeast Asia. Our focus on education targets local and international students from across Australia to build national networks of interest in the region.

In addition to hosting our annual three-day professional development program for honours students, the centre also facilitated a research retreat for postgraduate students. The theme, *Finding your Voice*, focused on developing communication skills, both written and oral, and developing strategies for disseminating research to the broader public.

Spearheaded by the centre's Research Training Adviser, Dr Damien Field, and Postgraduate Coordinator, Natali Pearson, the postgraduate retreat brought together 18 students from universities in Sydney and Canberra.

It was a great opportunity to focus on personal development and establish links across the disciplines. As part of the retreat, the organisers hosted a poster competition, won by Ms Johanna Wong from the Faculty of Veterinary Science, for her poster on the role of chickens in childhood nutrition in Timor-Leste.

The postgraduate retreat, according to one participant, was "constructive, supportive, with an emphasis on active learning that made it stand out from others that I have done".

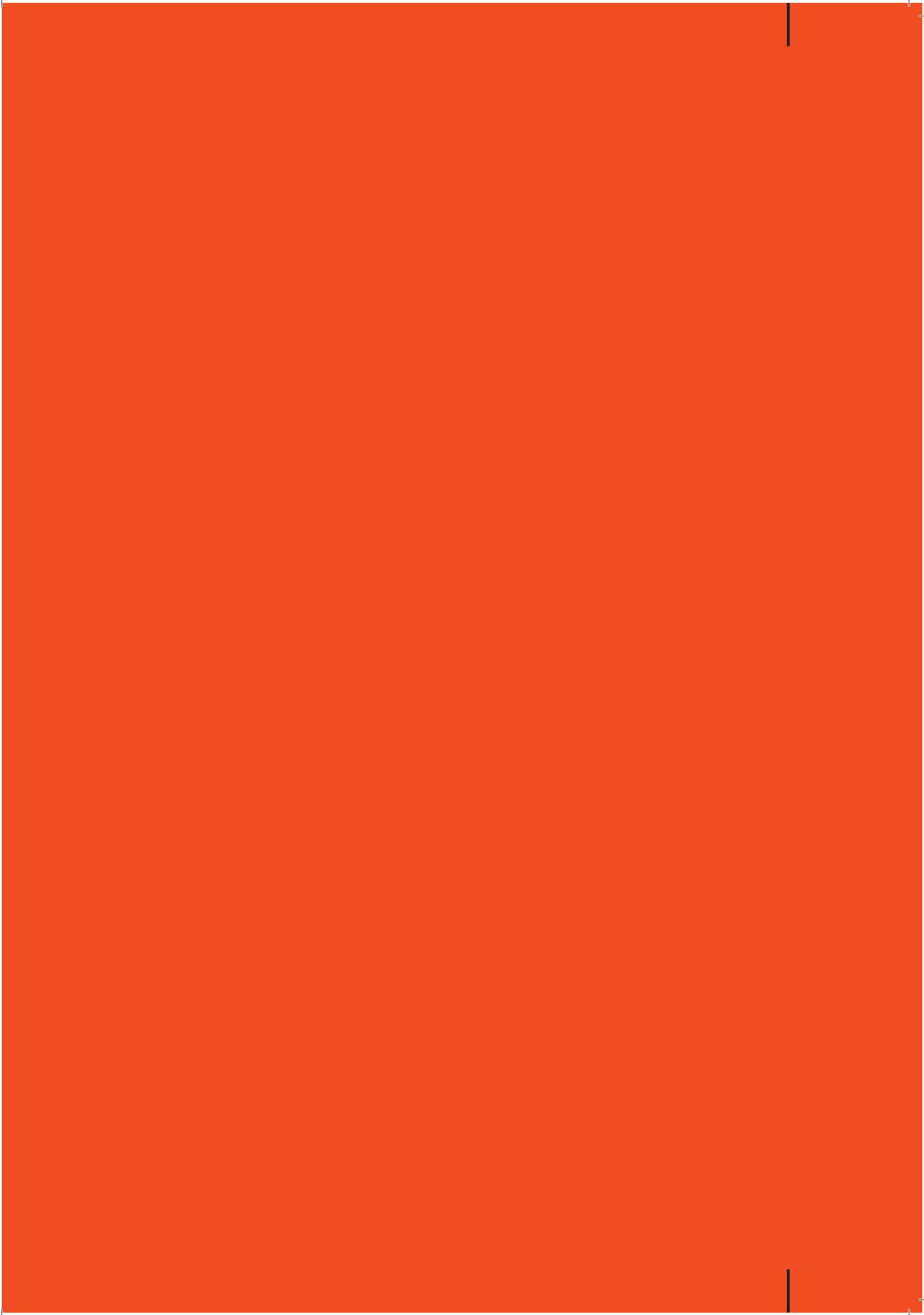
As part of our Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Forum, the centre also hosted the inaugural Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition for our postgraduate students. This is an academic competition in which postgraduate students present on their thesis topic and its significance in just three minutes. The aim is to develop presentation and research communication skills, and support students to develop their capacity to explain their research effectively in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

Our 2015 winner was Andi Hermansyah, who is completing a PhD in the Faculty of Pharmacy. He is investigating changes in Australian and Indonesian community pharmacy practices. One of his aims is to develop the capacity of community pharmacy to become a key player in delivering primary care services in Indonesia. Andi's performance charmed the audience, and was determined the winner by popular vote.

Our runner up, Ly Phan, was a close second with her presentation on *Women's Empowerment and Fertility Preferences in Southeast Asia*. Ly uses large-scale, quantitative demographic and health survey data from Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Timor-Leste for her analysis. Her findings suggest female employment is crucial to keeping the number of children at a sustainable level (about two); while women's level of household decision-making is a determinant in the preference for sons.

Congratulations to our winners and all participants who showcased their research to an audience of more than 150 academics and practitioners.





Australia is an Asian nation.

After more than 40 years of working with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), there are now even more reasons to work together.

It's a marriage some may have taken for granted, but we haven't. At the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre at the University of Sydney, our researchers are working in fields, classrooms and labs across the region to make sure Australia and Southeast Asia develop together to face the challenges of the 21st century.

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