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Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

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2014-15 Yearbook



Cover image: Lao vendor sells her wares at the famous night markets of Luang Prabang in Northern Laos



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SYDNEY

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Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

2014-15 Yearbook

Discover

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A message from the Vice Chancellor

It is truly inspiring to see our Sydney Southeast Asia Centre developing and continuing to play a key role in uniting academics and researchers across all disciplines and reaching out and connecting with Southeast Asia. I congratulate the SSEAC team, led by Professor Michele Ford, which deserves recognition, not only from the University community, but nationally and internationally. SSEAC's crucial role is being recognised by the federal government, with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade engaging intensively with the Centre with regard to student mobility and elements of the aid program in the region.

SSEAC's 272 academic members are tackling real-world problems through their research and outreach work, strengthening ties between the University, the country and our closest neighbours. It is inspiring interest from our student body, and securing funding to support their mobility into the region through the government's New Colombo Plan. The experiences of our students in travelling to countries including Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia are as valuable – if not more so – as years of study, and they have forged connections that will last a lifetime.

SSEAC has worked hard to strengthen ties throughout the region. Just one example is the two-day symposium the Centre co-hosted with the International Labour Organization in Yangon late last year. Opened by the Myanmar Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security and the Australian Ambassador, the symposium brought together more than 80 government officials, employers and trade union leaders for the first time to discuss the future of industrial relations in that country. And our involvement in Myanmar goes so much further. In this publication, you can read about the essential work our interdisciplinary team, led by Associate Professor Bill Pritchard and Professor Michael Dibley, are doing to come to grips with nutritional challenges faced in Myanmar, supported by an ARC Discovery Grant.

I could continue to list SSEAC's achievements, but you can read all about them in the following pages. I will mention but one more, though, as it is another project that so closely aligns with the philosophy of the University. As we work towards greater opportunities for women in leadership, we are also helping women from Southeast Asia to achieve their goals. In March 2015, SSEAC delivered a two-week training program on organisational leadership and management practice for 25 female NGO leaders from Indonesia through the Empowering Indonesian Women for Poverty Reduction (MAMPU) program, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Important work, indeed.

On behalf of the University, I congratulate Professor Ford and her team. I look forward to hearing more of SSEAC's great work in the months and years ahead.



Dr Michael Spence
Vice-Chancellor and Principal



Discover

A message from the Director

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is on the move – sometimes, it feels, in a state of perpetual motion. We are very proud of the leadership role the University plays in not only deepening Australia's understanding of Southeast Asia, but in its relationships with the eleven countries that constitute the region. From Myanmar in the west to the Philippines in the east, SSEAC members work with governments, business and communities to address the region's most pressing issues. In the pages that follow, we hope to capture the enormous energy in that engagement.

Public-facing activities constitute a large part of our work. In 2014-15 they have had a particular focus on leadership. We celebrated the achievements of women leaders of Southeast Asian heritage in Australia in a panel discussion hosted as part of a broader suite of activities around leadership, including an intensive training program for participants of a program funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We also ran leadership programs for Indonesian university executives, organised by Universities Australia, and for senior Indonesian foreign affairs officials, through the Australia-Indonesia Centre.

Our strong focus on Indonesia this year has complemented our on-going work elsewhere in the region. In Myanmar, for example, we have built on earlier efforts through a high-profile initiative in collaboration with the Myanmar Ministry of Labour and the International Labour Organization that showcased Australian employment relations expertise in Southeast Asia.

Research is, of course, another major focus for SSEAC. In the past twelve months, Sydney academics have been awarded a large-scale ARC Discovery Project Grant for an interdisciplinary project on livelihoods and food security in Myanmar. Two new Discovery Early Career Research Award recipients working on Cambodia and Indonesia joined the growing group of Discovery Early Career Research Award recipients and Future Fellows working on Southeast Asian topics. A significant body of applied research funded through industry collaborations and consultancies is also underway.

Behind the scenes, SSEAC supports existing research initiatives and fosters new ones through competitive seed funding across our five priority areas. Discipline areas funded in the last year include dentistry (Thailand), creative industries (Vietnam), and architecture (Indonesia). One of these projects, on the economic behaviour of Singaporean taxi drivers, is profiled here.

We have also continued to lead the way on student mobility, not only through the New Colombo Plan, but through SSEAC's own initiatives. In addition to supporting faculty-based mobility programs, we have run our flagship interdisciplinary field schools to Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Vietnam on the topics of ancient urbanism, food security, housing policy, transport policy and entrepreneurship. We also secured New Colombo Plan funding for several future field schools. You can read about a selection of these, along with some of our other key education initiatives, in the pages that follow.

Before I leave you to do that, I would like to acknowledge the expertise, skills and enthusiasm of SSEAC members. Equally important is the support provided to them – and to us – by their faculties and the University's central portfolios and professional service units. Without it, none of this important work would be possible. Most of all, I would like to thank my team, our Country Coordinators and Executive Committee members for their tireless commitment to the University's work in Southeast Asia.

Professor Michele Ford
Director, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre



Discover

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

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

With some 270 academics in fifteen of its sixteen faculties working on and in the eleven 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, SSEAC works to forge an innovative and engaged approach that reflects the complexity of the region and recognises its salience to Australia's future.

SSEAC goes far beyond conventional area studies to take a broad-based and holistic approach to research, education and engagement. The cornerstone of the Centre is our research excellence. Scholars working on Southeast Asia specialise in an extraordinary range of disciplines, from archaeology to veterinary science.

Its breadth of disciplinary focus is matched by the spectrum of topics researched. In addition to traditional area studies work in disciplines like anthropology, economics and politics, 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.

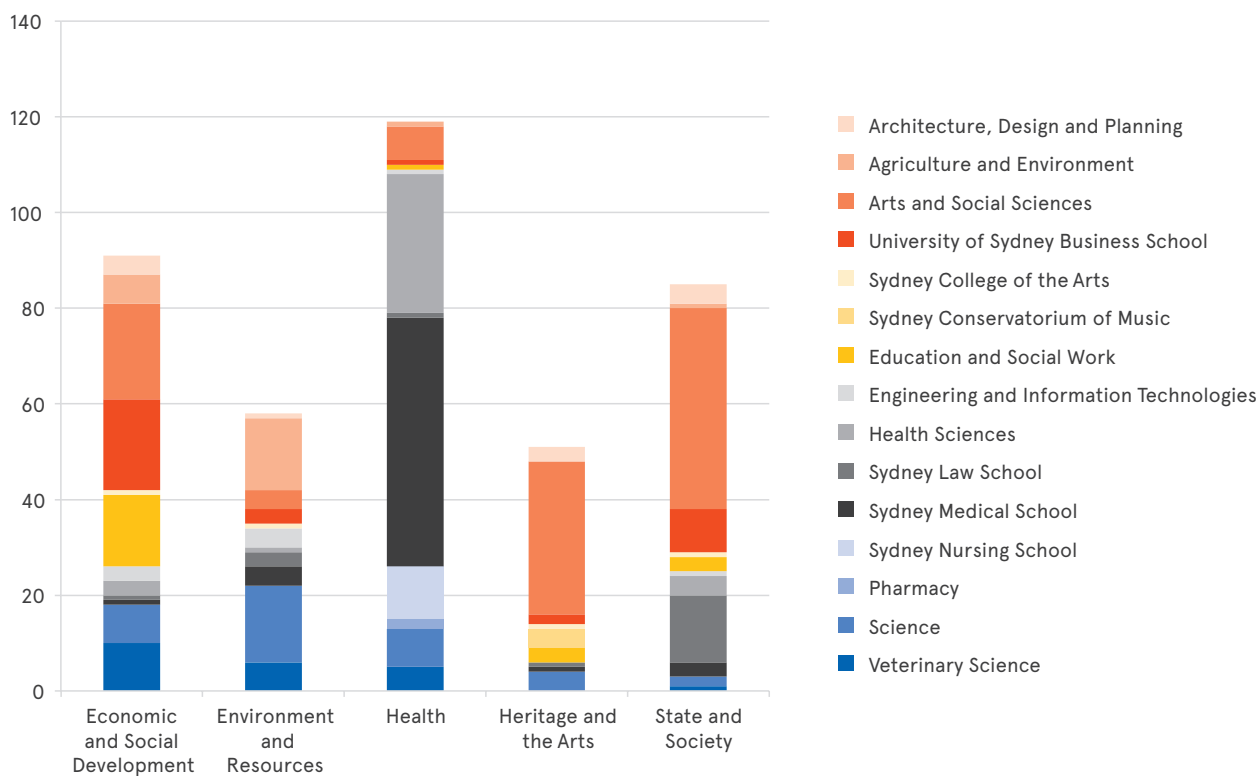
These topics cluster around five themes:

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

As well as supporting individuals and multidisciplinary teams working in these thematic areas, SSEAC connects disciplinary experts to country specialists who have the in-depth cultural and political knowledge necessary for sustained engagement through our country-based groups.

SSEAC supports Southeast Asia-focused academics in order to better engage in global debates in their field and to contribute to cutting edge research in their discipline while consolidating Sydney's relationships in the region. SSEAC also engages extensively with Southeast Asian universities as peers, but also – where appropriate – as a form of outreach to develop research capacity.

In addition to supporting academics' research and engagement, SSEAC works 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, SSEAC helps undergraduate students develop a well-rounded perspective on Southeast Asia in all its complexity. SSEAC also provides programs to enhance the knowledge and skills of research students. The networks developed between these students, many of whom hold influential posts in their home universities or governments, are helpful to them in the short term as they complete their research degrees, but also 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 a number of high-profile initiatives, each of which involves collaboration with regional and global partners:

- The Angkor Research Program (ARP), a cross-disciplinary collaboration that incorporates the Greater Angkor Project (GAP) and five other projects including the Khmer Toponymic Atlas project, which are creating a new perspective on Angkor and its ancestry.
- 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 a concentration of 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 that country.
- The Hoc Mai 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 about and develop new ways to reduce infectious diseases.
- The Mekong Research Group, Australia's premier group of researchers focused on the Mekong region.
- The Office for Global Health, which facilitates international health research and works with the University's health faculties to contribute to health and wellbeing in the Asia-Pacific.

Discover Governance

The Director of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, Professor Michele Ford, is assisted in her work by Deputy Director, Dr Thushara Dibley; Communications Officer, Merryn Lagaida; and Administration Officer, Samuel Bashfield. This small team is governed by a Board of Management and supported by our Country Coordinators and the members of the Executive Committee, as well as by our Postgraduate Coordinator, Natali Pearson.

Staff work closely with professional service units within the University, 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 Southeast Asia-related centres and initiatives at the University, including the Office for Global Health and the Hoc Mai Foundation, the faculties and other multidisciplinary research centres.

Board of management

Name	Division
Philippa Pattison (chair)	DVC (Education)
Paul Jones	Architecture and Creative Arts
Andrew Terry	Business
Joseph Davis	Engineering and Information Technologies
Kathryn Refshauge	Health Sciences
Luke Nottage	Humanities and Social Sciences
Jennifer Fraser	Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy
Peter Windsor	Natural Sciences
Laurent Rivory	DVC (Research)
Sandra Meiras	Office of Global Engagement
Michele Ford	SSEAC Director

Country coordinators

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

Executive committee

Name	Faculty	Position
Adrian Vickers	Arts and Social Sciences	Community outreach advisor
Simon Butt	Sydney Law School	Curriculum advisor
David Guest	Agriculture and Environment	Policy and regional outreach advisor
Patrick Brennan	Health Sciences	Policy and regional outreach advisor
Peter McMinn	Sydney Medical School	Research advisor
Jenny-Ann Toribio	Veterinary Science	Research advisor
Damien Field	Agriculture and Environment	Research training advisor



Damien Field

Dr Damien Field first joined SSEAC as the Country Coordinator for Laos, and now holds the position of Research Training Advisor on the SSEAC Executive Committee. In this role, Damien organises the annual postgraduate retreat and has recently introduced a Three Minute Thesis Challenge to upskill the communication skills of postgraduate students.

Growing up in Orange NSW instilled Damien with a passion for agriculture, which is now the main focus of his research both in Australia and the Asia-Pacific. His first research experience in Southeast Asia was a memorable one. Damien worked on the Greater Angkor Project in Cambodia, using his soil science knowledge to analyse flow changes in the canal systems.

For many years, Damien has led annual field schools to Laos with colleagues from its National University (NUOL). He also dedicates his time to a research project focused on overcoming barriers to improved food security in northern Laos.

In 2013, Damien worked with the SSEAC Director and colleagues from the Faculty of Education and Social Work and the Sydney Medical School to run the inaugural SSEAC multidisciplinary field school to Timor-Leste. The learning approaches developed through it are now the basis for SSEAC's consortium of field schools into the region.



Aim Sinpeng

Dr Aim Sinpeng, Lecturer in Comparative Politics, is the Country Coordinator for Thailand. Born and raised in Bangkok, where she lived until the age of sixteen, Aim received a scholarship to complete her undergraduate studies at Connecticut College in the United States. A multi-linguist, Aim went on to work for the World Bank in Central Europe.

Noting the parallels between post-Communist societies and the rapidly developing Southeast Asia region, Aim was inspired to pursue her MA at the University of Toronto and subsequently worked in investment banking, focusing on sustainable investment in the Asia-Pacific and Africa. She went on to complete her PhD in Political Science at the University of British Columbia, where she examined the dynamic between protests and social media in Thailand.

Aim has published widely on Thai politics and become well-known as a social media enthusiast, prolific blogger and commentator on Thailand. Although she has only recently joined the University of Sydney, she has already made a valuable contribution to the work of SSEAC, fulfilling a crucial role in creating opportunities for better engagement with Thailand.



Benjamin Davis

As the International Development Coordinator for Southeast Asia, Ben embodies SSEAC's depth of engagement, and professional and cultural interaction with the region.

A long-time enthusiast of Indonesian culture and politics, Ben's fascination with Indonesia started in high school. A highlight of his undergraduate studies at the University of Sydney was completing an Honours thesis on NGOs and civil society in Indonesia.

Itching to find pathways that would allow him to spend time in Indonesia, Ben participated in a number of youth exchange programs with the Australian Consortium for In-Country Indonesian Studies and the Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program.

After starting his working life as a high-school teacher, Ben spent six years working with AusAID and the Department of Foreign Affairs in Trade in Canberra and Jakarta. Here, he applied his cultural and political knowledge to manage a range of programs in disaster risk reduction, education, health and governance, and contributed to humanitarian response operations.

Returning once again to Sydney, Ben now works in the Office of Global Engagement, in close partnership with SSEAC, to establish relationships with external stakeholders and develop both country-specific and regional strategies across the Southeast Asia portfolio.

Discover ASEAN Forum

In September 2014, the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre hosted its second annual ASEAN Forum, which commemorated the forty-year anniversary of Australia's engagement with ASEAN. One of many events held in Australia and the region marking this anniversary, the ASEAN Forum was unique in its interdisciplinary and practical focus, reflecting the strengths and interests of SSEAC members.

Close to one hundred participants, engaged in Southeast Asia in the fields of business, development and education, attended the forum. These included academics from the University of Sydney and other universities, policy makers from Australia and the broader region, practitioners, and members of the community.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Sally Percival Wood, an Alfred Deakin Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Deakin University. In her address, Sally traced the key transformative moments across the forty years of the Australia-ASEAN Dialogue Partnership and raised important questions about the future of Australia's place in Southeast Asia and ASEAN.

The keynote address was followed by three concurrent sessions focusing on Australian engagement in Southeast Asia in the fields of business, development and education. The business stream, which included speakers from the Asian Development Bank, Baker & McKenzie, Beasley Intercultural and the University of Sydney, focused on how businesses navigate the challenges of engaging in Southeast Asia.

The development stream included speakers from the international non-government organisation ChildFund, the managing contractor RTI International, as well as academics from the University of Technology Sydney and the University of Sydney, who discussed the role of research in the development of Southeast Asia.



Speakers in the education stream, who included Ms Lynda Worthaisong from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ms Chantavit Sujatanond from SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development and academics from Deakin University and the University of Sydney, mapped the many ways education has shaped the relationship between Australia and Southeast Asia.

In conjunction with the 2014 ASEAN Forum, SSEAC and Sydney Ideas collaborated on an event focused on the issue of sustainability in Southeast Asia. Hosted and organised by Adjunct Professor Nick Rowley, a former advisor to Tony Blair, a panel of experts and practitioners discussed the role of business, civil society and government in both promoting and hindering sustainable economic growth in the region.



Discover

Policy roundtables and workshops

In 2014-15, the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre supported a range of events that brought together academics, policy makers and practitioners across multiple disciplines to address topics of specific relevance to Southeast Asia. These policy roundtables and workshops have served to generate discussion in both the policy and academic spheres.

The first of the roundtables, held in November 2014, focused on the interplay between agricultural activity and human health in Southeast Asia. University of Sydney academics from the faculties of agriculture, veterinary science and medicine, and representatives from government and non-government organisations, discussed the need for integrated research and development projects to address the complex challenges at this interface. The aim of the workshop was to foster dialogue between program managers, policy makers and academics on the structure and processes needed to enable the formulation and funding of integrated, cross-disciplinary projects in the future. A key outcome of the workshop was the development of a concept paper mapping the recommendations of the participants, which was launched at SSEAC's second policy roundtable in May 2015.

The second roundtable examined the role of universities in development innovation. Universities have traditionally played a strong role in driving innovation in their respective economies. However, in practice, they have had a mixed record when working with international development agencies to support their development agenda. The policy roundtable, which was co-sponsored by RTI International and supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, brought together University of Sydney academics, government and practitioners from the development and business sectors to discuss these challenges and seek out opportunities for collaboration.

SSEAC also supported two academic workshops during the year. The first, held in February 2015, was entitled 'Employment Relations and the State in Southeast Asia'. The event brought together academic country experts on employment relations and the state in Southeast Asia from Australia and the wider region. The outcomes of the workshop will be published in a special edition of a leading industrial relations journal, and represents part of an ongoing collaboration between SSEAC and the discipline of Work and Organisational Studies in the University of Sydney Business School. A second workshop held as part of this collaboration in April 2015 focused on Women, Work and Care in the Asia-Pacific. The workshop, which was funded by the University of Sydney SyRENS scheme, involved participants from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Japan, India, Malaysia and Bangladesh, and will culminate in an edited volume of the same name.



Discover Events and seminars

A variety of other speakers and events hosted by the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre over the course of the year have consolidated our links with external institutions, but also displayed the depth and breadth of the University's expertise on Southeast Asia.



In August 2014, the Indonesia Project at the Australian National University travelled to Sydney to launch *Regional Dynamics in a Decentralised Indonesia*, a book based on the 2013 Indonesia Update. The well-attended book launch was the first time that the University of Sydney had hosted an event for the Indonesia Project.

SSEAC subsequently collaborated with the Department of Indonesian Studies and the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies to host the launch of Hamish McDonald's book, *Demokrasi* on 1 September 2014. The launch took the form of a panel discussion between the author and Andreas Harsono from the Indonesian branch of Human Rights Watch. Opened by Honorary Associate Professor David Reeve from UNSW, the event attracted a full-house, with an audience of close to one hundred from both within and outside the University.

In November 2014, SSEAC hosted a panel discussion featuring Thushara Dibley, Deputy Director of SSEAC; Archie Law, CEO of Action Aid; and Mark McPeak, International Program Director of ChildFund Australia. The panel discussion, which launched Dr Dibley's book, *Partnerships, Power and Peacebuilding: NGOs as Agents of Peace in Aceh and Timor-Leste*, focused on the speakers' own experiences and insights into NGO partnerships. Again, the event attracted a large audience and served to consolidate SSEAC's relationship with both ChildFund and ActionAid.

Throughout the second semester of 2014, SSEAC ran a weekly seminar series with speakers from seven different University of Sydney faculties,

covering issues in eight Southeast Asian countries. Regular attendees of the series learnt about topics as diverse as Thailand's foreign policy to subsistence agriculture in Timor-Leste.

In 2015, we decided to take a different approach to seminars and events, focusing on guest speakers identified by SSEAC members and the co-hosting of speakers in collaboration with other departments and units across the University. In March 2015, SSEAC co-hosted a talk by Dr Aim Sinpeng from the Department of Government and International Relations. In the same month, Dr Andrew McLeod from Oxford University spoke about constitutional democracy in Myanmar. In April 2015, Associate Professor Allen Hicken from the University of Michigan delivered a seminar on Thai voting patterns. These events consolidated our links with the visiting speakers' institutions and with the co-hosting departments and networks.

SSEAC also used its relationship with Sydney Ideas to co-host a public forum on the surprising truths about Asian languages. A panel consisting of Professor Nick Enfield, Dr Gwendolyn Hyslop and Dr Nerida Jarkey from the University of Sydney, as well as Dr Mark Post (University of New England) and Dr Paul Sidwell (Australian National University), explored the most recent research findings on languages in mainland Southeast Asia. The panel discussed old myths and new truths about these languages, and marked the launch of *Languages of Mainland Southeast Asia: The State of the Art*, edited by Nick Enfield and Bernard Comrie. The book was launched by Professor William Foley from the Department of Linguistics at the University of Sydney.

Discover

Influencing policy in Myanmar

In December 2014, four Sydney academics travelled to Yangon to participate in a high-level symposium on industrial relations, co-hosted with the Myanmar Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and the International Labor Organization.

The symposium was attended by eighty senior government officials, representatives of employers' associations and trade unionists, as well as observers from the international labour movement.

Opened by the Myanmar Minister of Labour and the Australian Ambassador, the symposium was a showcase for Australian industrial relations expertise. In addition, it provided a forum in which participants could discuss the challenges they face as Myanmar moves to adopt a new regulatory framework of industrial relations at a time of rapid economic change.

In addition to a panel discussion featuring Myanmar experts, the symposium included papers on Australia, Southeast Asia, China and India by Australian academics. The University of Sydney was represented by SSEAC Director, Professor Michele Ford; Professors Marian Baird and Bradon Ellem from the University of Sydney Business School; and Dr Elizabeth Hill from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Also speaking were academics from the University

of Melbourne, UNSW, UWA, Curtin University and the University of Wollongong, as well as representatives of the ILO and Justice Alan Boulton of Australia's Fair Work Commission.

For many of the Myanmar participants, this was their first opportunity to learn how countries in their region had dealt with the challenges of developing effective industrial relations frameworks and institutions. It was also the first time that they had sat down together as equals to reflect on developments in their own country in recent years.

The impact of the symposium was felt not only in the capital, Nay Pyi Taw, where officials were reportedly still discussing it weeks later, but among industrial relations actors more broadly. According to one well-placed civil society advocate, the symposium triggered an expansion of the government's willingness to work with trade unions and other civil society organisations to make industrial relations processes fairer and more transparent.





Image courtesy of Andres Garcia/Flickr

Discover

The Australia-Indonesia Centre

Our involvement in the Australia-Indonesia Centre (AIC) continues to be an important aspect of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre's engagement with Indonesia.

Established in late 2013, the federal government-funded initiative is hosted at Monash University, and involves the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne, the Australian National University, CSIRO and seven leading Indonesian universities. The AIC fosters collaborative research between Australians and Indonesians in four key areas: energy, food and agriculture, infrastructure, and health.

While Sydney academics participate in all clusters, Sydney is the lead institution in the food and agriculture cluster and the co-lead in health. In their leadership roles, Dr Jeffrey Nielson (Faculty of Science) and Associate Professor Kirsty Foster (Sydney Medical School) have been involved in complex planning processes leading to the implementation of multi-million dollar collaborative research initiatives over the next three years.

Sydney academics are also contributing to the work of the AIC through projects funded by its competitive small grant scheme, in collaboration with researchers from Indonesian universities. Professor Anthony Vassallo (Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies) is developing and conducting a baseline survey of energy needs, consumption and production sources on Bintan Island. Professor Warwick Britton (Sydney Medical School) is building understanding of the human immune response to tuberculosis infection while Professor Budiman Minasny (Faculty of Agriculture and Environment) is gathering soil information to support sustainable agriculture and food security in Indonesia.

SSEAC is also striving to improve Australia's understanding of Indonesia and enhancing people-to-people relationships. A key initiative in 2014-15 has been a high-level leadership training course for senior Indonesian diplomats, the first of what is expected to be many training initiatives that expose Indonesian decision-makers to Australia's elite tertiary institutions (see the next page).



Discover SESPARLU



As part of its involvement with the Australia–Indonesia Centre (AIC), the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre hosted a delegation of thirty mid-career diplomats from the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in late May 2015.

The diplomats were in Australia as part of a training program that the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides to its staff.

The University of Sydney hosted the first day of the training, entitled ‘Organisational Leadership and Diplomacy in the 21st Century’. The delegates travelled to other partner institutions of the AIC for sessions on other topics.

SSEAC drew on its internal and external network to compile an exciting and thought-provoking schedule, which was co-hosted by the Department of Indonesian Studies. As part of the program, Professor Suresh Cuganesan from the John Grill Centre for Project Leadership conducted a session on organisational leadership and how individuals engage in leadership practices.

SSEAC also used its relationships with the consuls general from Southeast Asia and the NSW Government to bring together a panel of speakers to discuss what it means to be a ‘thought leader’ in the government sphere. The panel comprised Ms Susan Calvert, Executive Director of the Office of International Engagement in the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet; Ms Anne Jalando-On Louis, Consul General of the Philippines; and Dr Roby Brata, a representative from the Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia. Chaired by Dr Vanessa Hearman from the Department of Indonesian Studies, the panel shared their experiences of leadership in international relations.

Hosting the training program served to strengthen SSEAC’s ties with diplomats from Indonesia, but also with other centres within the University of Sydney, external institutions, and our partner institutions within the AIC.

Research

Supporting disciplinary experts

The hallmark of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is its support for research excellence on Southeast Asia. Over the past year, SSEAC has hosted a wide range of research-related events.

In addition to hosting numerous workshops, seminars and other research-related events, SSEAC supports researchers from across the University seeking to engage with Southeast Asia.

Grants are provided to seed projects in SSEAC'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 2014-15 year, some sixty-four grants were awarded to Sydney academics and their collaborators.

Our flagship grant program is our Cluster Research Grant Scheme, 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 2014-15 Cluster Research Grants were awarded to the following academics:

Cluster research grants

Cluster	Topic	Recipient	Faculty
Economic and social development	Exploring the economic behaviour of taxi drivers in Singapore	Dr Adrian Ellison	University of Sydney Business School
Environment and resources	Contemporary trends in international agri-food investment affecting food and nutrition security in Southeast Asia	Associate Professor Bill Pritchard	Science
Health	Testing feasibility and face validity of Quality Indicators (QIs) for psychosocial interventions: an Asia-Pacific regional collaboration project	Professor Yun-Hee Jeon	Nursing and Midwifery
	Validation of the Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease infant and toddler scale in a Southeast Asian cohort	Professor Joshua Burns	Health Sciences
	Managing medical errors: promoting learning over blame amongst health professionals in Vietnam	Dr Reema Harrison	Sydney Medical School
Heritage and the arts	Encoding and decoding Passura': an interpretative study on the design logic of Toraja-Glyph	Dr Rizal Muslimin	Architecture, Design and Planning
	Factories as studios: building increased capacity for creativity and innovation in Vietnamese manufacturing through an artist in residence program	Dr Jane Gavan	Sydney College of the Arts
State and society	Geographies of labour in the LNG industry in Southeast Asia	Professor Bradon Ellem	Sydney Business School



Image courtesy of Chris Goldberg/Flickr

Our Workshop Grants scheme supports international workshops that lead to a special journal edition or edited book on a topic related to Southeast Asia, or a policy intervention. Workshop and other grants were awarded in 2014-15 to:

Workshop grants

Workshop	Recipient	Faculty
Taking a wider view: health impacts on agricultural productivity in Southeast Asia	Professor David Guest and Associate Professor Jenny-Ann Toribio	Agriculture and Environment, Veterinary Science
Mobile phones and social media in Southeast Asia and the Pacific	Professor Gerard Goggin	Arts and Social Sciences
Singapore's governance model: the challenge of institutional and political reform	Associate Professor Lily Zubaidah Rahim	Arts and Social Sciences
Collaborative action across health and education sectors for inclusion of children with disabilities in education: establishing a policy vision and research agenda in Indonesia	Dr Michelle Villeneuve	Health Sciences

Other grants

Category	No. awarded	Countries
Inward Mobility	9	Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, United Kingdom
Outward Mobility	17	Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam
Conference Attendance	14	Australia, Austria, Germany, Japan, Singapore, United States
Publications	2	Vietnam
Capacity Building Workshops	2	Laos, the Philippines
Visiting PhD	2	Indonesia, United States
Sabbatical (Incoming)	2	Singapore, Vietnam
Language Training	3	Laos, Indonesia, Myanmar

Research

Economic behaviour of taxi drivers in Singapore

Dr Adrian Ellison from the Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies was awarded a SSEAC Cluster Research Grant to explore the economic behaviour of taxi drivers in Singapore, and understand how drivers respond to price and demand.

Dr Ellison will be working with Professor Stephen Greaves and Dr Richard Ellison from the University of Sydney, and Dr Wai Yan Leong from the Land Transport Authority in Singapore.

The project addresses a significant issue facing the transport system in Singapore. Taxi services have to bridge the gap between mass public transport and the private car where reliable, on-demand, point-to-point travel is required. What is not fully understood is how individual taxi drivers behave in response to the price signals created through passengers' demand for trips and the subsequent fares they receive.

The research team will seek to understand the behaviour of taxi drivers, and thus inform the design of effective and equitable transport policies to help the taxi industry fulfil the need for on-demand travel. Using data collected every thirty seconds on the status, location and driver from each of the 28,000 taxis in Singapore over a period of six months, they will

record over one billion observations throughout the project.

Employing the use of innovative dataset and analysis, the researchers' approach will prove invaluable for the Singapore Government in formulating better transport policy that adequately reflects the needs and interests of citizens and the transport system as a whole.

Dr Ellison is excited about the opportunity to explore this critical component of Singapore's transport system:

'With SSEAC's support, I will be able to follow individual taxi drivers over a six-month period, providing my research team with not only the necessary resources but also an avenue for engaging with other researchers familiar with the Southeast Asian context.'

Image courtesy of Kevin Utting/Flickr



Research

Nutrition insecurity and livelihoods in Myanmar

Failure to meet the Millennium Development Goals on hunger reflects a disconnect between agriculture and nutrition caused by a misalignment between livelihoods options, and food and nutrition security.

Associate Professor Bill Pritchard, Professor Michael Dibley, and Associate Professor Anu Rammohan (University of Western Australia) are at the forefront of a global call by researchers to address this misalignment.

Applying an interdisciplinary approach, the research team have drawn on their respective expertise in human geography, public health and health economics to shed light on the need for nutrition-sensitive development in rural Myanmar. The aim of the project is to test the case for nutrition-sensitive development interventions by using a unique dataset collected from 1600 households across four regions of the country.

Funded by an ARC Discovery Grant, the project is the first of its kind. The research team will create a unique lens into the question of how livelihood-nutrition interactions evolve under conditions of rapid economic and social change, and explore what this challenge implies for Myanmar's development and transition to democracy.

For Bill, Associate Professor in Human Geography and SSEAC Country Coordinator for Myanmar, the project is part of a larger, global agenda that underlines the 'logical reason why nutritionists and social scientists should talk'.

'Previously, nutrition surveys were undertaken by health professionals, and social scientists focused on the narratives of rural livelihoods. The two fields never spoke and lacked each other's knowledge. Now, nutritionists and social scientists are coming together in a problem-solving way to better respond to the agriculture-nutrition disconnect.'

Bill has previously collaborated with Anu on a similar research project in India, but the field of public health adds a more holistic dimension to the project by incorporating different kinds of data. Michael's extensive work and connections with social scientists in Southeast



Asia, and deep understanding of sampling design provided the perfect complement to Bill and Anu's expertise.

'Interdisciplinary projects need to adopt a problem-solving approach. Instead of posing a question, you have to ask what the problem is,' Bill said.

'Essentially, you work backwards and by doing so, incorporate different disciplines with different methods, skills and knowledge to analyse the problem.'

In addition to providing an interdisciplinary framework that responds to global calls for better integration of health, agriculture and social science research, the project is innovative in other important ways: it prioritises analytical depth at the household scale, and uses a cross-seasonal panel data method. These three aspects enable the project to chart livelihood pathways/nutrition relationships in Myanmar and to answer key questions in the food and nutrition debate.

Research

Traditional architecture in Indonesia

In early 2015, Dr Rizal Muslimin was awarded a SSEAC Cluster Research Grant to analyse the design process underlying Passura' – the engraved ornament of traditional Torajan houses in South Sulawesi, Indonesia – and the way this process governs how meaning is encoded into a visual icon.

For the people of Toraja, Passura' is more than a simple architectural decoration; it conveys spiritual messages. Passura' designs mostly take inspiration from animals, plants, folklore, household tools and other natural or built objects that are considered significant. The aim of the project is to examine the visual-semantic association of Passura' by documenting the design process and descriptions in each icon.

Having completed his PhD at MIT, Dr Muslimin was recently appointed as a Lecturer in the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, bringing a rich body of research and teaching experience with him from the United States, Singapore and Indonesia.

For Dr Muslimin, SSEAC provides the perfect platform for his research and represents one of the primary reasons why he was drawn to the University of Sydney. He believes that not enough researchers take an interdisciplinary approach when studying cultural issues and that there remains significant scope to contextualise culture within different disciplines in order to better understand its nuances.

'I come from a culture where we don't distinguish between disciplines. Indonesia introduced me to the idea of blurred boundaries, which is important in architecture. We not only have to understand the building, but also the history of the site and its people.'

Adopting an interdisciplinary approach, Dr Muslimin will conduct in-situ observations of the activities of Passura' engravers in order to record the design process and interview them regarding their design decisions. He hopes to draw on the expertise of SSEAC members by collaborating with linguists and experts in other disciplines in future projects.

In addition, Dr Muslimin will be leading the New Colombo Plan-funded field school 'Cultural industries in Central Java' to Indonesia in February 2016 as part of his wider engagement and commitment to SSEAC's activities.



Engagement

Exploring opportunities for collaboration

A key function of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is to showcase the University of Sydney's wide-ranging expertise in Southeast Asia and with visitors to Sydney.

Over the last twelve months, SSEAC has worked closely with the Office of Global Engagement to foster greater engagement with Southeast Asia.

Professor Ford has made a number of visits to the region. In Malaysia, she met with members of Austrade and the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, as well as with officials from the Malaysian Ministry of Education.

Providing support for faculty initiatives, Professor Ford and Mr Ben Davis accompanied academics from the Sydney Medical School and the Faculties of Science, Engineering, and Agriculture and Environment to Jakarta, where they participated in an Austrade Innovation Showcase involving representatives from a number of Indonesian universities and government departments.

In addition, Professor Ford visited Southeast Asia centres at other leading universities outside Southeast Asia, including the Centre for South East Asian Studies at the University of Kyoto, and a number of French universities and research institutes, including the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and Sciences Po in Paris.

In 2014-15, SSEAC hosted a number of visitors including:

- Thierry de Longuemar and Edimon Ginting, Asian Development Bank
- Ms Alison Burrows, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia
- Mr John Williams, Australian Ambassador to Laos
- Mr Bill Twedde, Australian Ambassador to the Philippines
- Ms Octavia Borthwick, Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Embassy in Thailand
- Mr Richard Andrews, Assistant Secretary of DFAT's Southeast Asia Mainland Bilateral Branch, and Ms Kate Duff, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Mr Phongsavanh Sisoulath, Director General of the ASEAN Department, Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs



- Dr John McArthur, Principal Capacity Advisor, and Mr Todd Cleaver, Special Advisor, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Mr Martin Walsh, New Zealand Consul-General to NSW and QLD
- Ms Tessa Versteeg, Second Secretary, New Zealand High Commission
- Mr Nguyen Duc Hoa, Director General, Department of Policy Planning; Mr Trinh Duc Hai, Vice Chairman, National Commission on Border Affairs; and Mr Quang, Director General, Hanoi External Relations Department
- Dr Le Hong Son, Vice Chairman, Hanoi People's Committee
- Malaysian Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs
- The Matriculation Division, Ministry of Education Malaysia

SSEAC also participated in campus visits by the following university delegations:

- Airlangga University (Indonesia)
- Chiang Mai University (Thailand)
- Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)
- Enactus Mudansa Project (Timor-Leste)
- Khon Kaen University (Thailand)
- Knowledge Network in Thailand (KNIT)
- Mahidol University (Thailand)
- Naresuan University (Thailand)
- Rajamangala University of Technology (Thailand)
- Srinakharinwirot University (Thailand)
- Suratthani Rajabhat University (Thailand)
- Tri Sakti University (Indonesia)
- Udayana University (Indonesia)
- University of Indonesia

Engagement

Cultivating leadership in the region

In early 2015, the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre ventured into a new arena of activity – leadership training.

Then in April 2015, SSEAC ran a three-day leadership program for a group of fourteen senior executives, most of them deputy vice-chancellors, from Indonesian universities. Finally, in May 2015, we coordinated a one-day leadership training program for thirty public servants from the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that delved into what it means to be a thought leader in government.

As a Centre that has taken a key leadership role in initiatives such as interdisciplinary student mobility, and also boasts members with a range of leadership expertise, SSEAC is well positioned to share its leadership experience and knowledge with its partners in the region.

With each of these leadership programs, SSEAC has further strengthened its links with external organisations and partners. The training conducted for the Indonesian diplomats was coordinated as part of SSEAC's involvement with the Australia-Indonesia Centre. The training program for the female NGO leaders was funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through its Empowering Indonesian Women for Poverty Reduction (MAMPU) Program, while the training for the Indonesian university executives was coordinated by Universities Australia, with funding from the Department of Education and Training. Through these programs, SSEAC's links with government agencies were consolidated and we look forward to collaborating on similar projects in the future.

Over the last six months, SSEAC has developed training programs for three different constituent groups from Indonesia: civil society, the education sector and the public service. In March 2015, we hosted twenty-five emerging female leaders from NGOs focused on women and gender issues. The two-week program, which was complemented by pre and post-training workshops in Indonesia, developed their leadership skills in a range of areas including project management and organisational governance (see the next page).



Engagement

Women in leadership

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre's first leadership training initiative for 2015 saw twenty-five emerging female NGO leaders from Indonesia engage in a two-week course from 15 – 28 March.

Aimed at improving participants' leadership, management and organisational skills, the course was designed to assist in strengthening partner NGOs of the Australian Government's Empowering Indonesian Women for Poverty Reduction (MAMPU) Program funded by through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In addition to learning about the course themes, participants were required to plan and implement a short project. Project topics ranged from monitoring leadership in public institutions to increasing the capacity of field staff and supporting the regeneration of female leadership.

Juliana, a participant of the training program, said it was important to foster leadership among women. 'The training is incredible, it is extremely important for the NGO female leadership cadre in Indonesia. Everyone has the opportunity to be a leader – a leader that must be able to hear, and not just be heard.'

Participants from Aisiyah – Dahniar Makkaraka Sada, Hajar Nur and Islamiyatur Rakhmah – were one of a number of outstanding groups. Since returning to work, their short course project has prompted them to implement a more participatory management style and create a more progressive empowerment model for their members. Aisiyah have since developed a women's empowerment guide to be distributed across Indonesia that focuses on building community knowledge and skills in healthcare and financial management.



During the course, participants attended SSEAC's inaugural annual forum 'Women and leadership from Southeast Asia to Australia' on 24 March. Lydia Santosa, Jane Brock and Angelica Casado, three female Australian leaders of Southeast Asian background, discussed their views of leadership, the challenges they have faced and what their connection to Southeast Asia means for their leadership experience.



Education

New forms of student mobility

Over the last twelve months, the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre has taken a leadership role in the University's engagement with the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan and other forms of student mobility.



Image courtesy of Susan Catherine/Flickr

Along with other forms of government support, these initiatives have contributed to a significant rise in the number of students engaging with Southeast Asia. In 2014, a total of 231 students travelled into the region on a variety of programs ranging from semester-long exchanges, to fieldwork programs and professional placements, representing a 7.7 per cent rise from 2013.

SSEAC was responsible for two successful New Colombo Plan student mobility applications for the University of Sydney that were funded as part of the pilot program. The first was for an interdisciplinary field school to Singapore that focused on housing policy. The innovative program brought together five students each from architecture, business, geography and political economy. The second application funded fifty-nine students to travel to Indonesia through a range of faculty-based and interdisciplinary short-term initiatives, as well as one semester-long program to the University of Indonesia.

In addition to these programs, which have been rolled out over the last twelve months, SSEAC secured New Colombo Plan funding for two more interdisciplinary field schools to Indonesia and one to Laos as part of the 2015 round. In Indonesia, students from agriculture, anthropology, medicine, nursing and science will have the opportunity to travel to Bogor to learn about the use of traditional medicines by health consumers,

whilst another cohort of students from Asian studies, Sydney College of the Arts, media and communications, and sociology, will study the cultural industries of Central Java. The field school to Laos will support students to better understand issues relating to food security and rural livelihoods.

In 2015, five of the seven prestigious New Colombo Plan scholarships awarded to University of Sydney students were awarded to students planning to study in Southeast Asia, constituting an 100 per cent success rate for Southeast Asia-bound applicants.

SSEAC also secured government funding for interdisciplinary field schools to Cambodia and Vietnam, both of which took place in early 2015. The Cambodia trip, which focused on ancient urbanism, drew on the resources of the University's ground-breaking Greater Angkor Project. The Vietnam trip, which was jointly coordinated by the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program, involved students in the group's project on social entrepreneurship.

In April 2015, SSEAC assembled a delegation of four students to attend the International Youth Cultural Festival in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Andrew Huynh, Larissa Chandra, Daniel Stow and Isabella Dabaja participated in a youth cultural dialogue session on the benefits and challenges of living in diverse communities, as well as a public

cultural exhibition where all sixteen participating countries set up booths displaying cultural artefacts, food and installations from their respective countries.

The festival culminated in a nationally televised stage performance at the Terrace of the Elephants, located within the Angkor complex, where the students performed a medley of well-known Australian songs. The performance was a highlight for Isabella, who couldn't compare the experience of singing under a full moon in the shadow of the historical Angkor temples.

'I will never forget the amazing experience that was the International Youth Cultural Festival. It is only in Southeast Asia that I have seen the values of the festival upheld; where countless cultures, religions, beliefs, and practices live amongst each other and learn from their differences.'

SSEAC also supported members of its postgraduate student community to present their research projects at various conferences in and on the region. Tegan Hall travelled to the United States to present her research on the regional settlement responses of the Khmer Empire, whilst Heni Muflihah from the Sydney Medical School attended the 6th Congress of Federation of Immunological Societies of Asia Oceania in Singapore.

Education

A tale of two cities

Opportunities for student mobility into the region have grown rapidly over the last twelve months to include an even more diverse field school portfolio, which has been met with enthusiasm by students and faculties alike.

Using its innovative multidisciplinary field school model, SSEAC brought together students from different disciplines to engage with real world issues in Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam.

Jakarta and Singapore, two urban centres in Southeast Asia each with its own challenges, offered a unique learning experience for students.

In July 2014, twenty students travelled to Singapore to analyse its housing policy as part of Tranche 1 of the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan pilot program. Drawn from the Faculty of Architecture, the Business School, School of Geosciences, and the Department of Political Economy, students adopted a problem-based approach to understanding major policy challenges including pressures of affordability.

During the first week, students heard presentations by public officials, visited Housing Development Board apartments and attended lectures at the National University of Singapore. In the second week, students devised research questions related to housing in Singapore, which they answered in a presentation on the final day.

At the beginning of 2015, another cohort of twenty students travelled to Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, as part of the Tranche 2 New Colombo Plan pilot program. The field school was an opportunity for business, engineering, marketing, and occupational therapy students to tackle the tough questions that emerge from the increase in motorised traffic and road safety in one of the most populous cities in Southeast Asia.



Working in interdisciplinary teams with students from the University of Indonesia, participants spent one week analysing the influence of transport systems on the well-being of vulnerable road users in Jakarta. They spent their second week engaged in discipline-specific field work, guided by an academic from their home faculty.

Rachel Perry, a Bachelor of Science student majoring in Geography and Environmental Science, participated in the Singapore field school. It was here that her fascination and engagement with the region began. She immediately expanded her interests by applying to spend a semester at a university in Indonesia.

Thrilled to have had the opportunity to not only visit one of the fastest growing, vibrant cultural hubs in Southeast Asia, Rachel also enjoyed working with a group of students with a range of different backgrounds, research methods and personal viewpoints.

'My experience in Singapore and awareness of future opportunities in the region made it all too easy for me to apply for a semester-long immersion program in Indonesia.'

Rachel has immersed herself in Indonesian language, learning the various cultural aspects of Indonesian life to the point where she is 'now able to have a conversation with people in a language I knew nothing of five months ago'. She is currently completing an internship with an NGO in Lombok where she will work with local communities to develop sustainable tourism practices and regrow surrounding coral reefs.

Reflecting on her experiences, she said 'the opportunities I have been given have inspired me to focus on Southeast Asia both in my degree and into the future, and I hope that my experiences will educate and inspire others to look past the simple beach holiday destinations to see the incredibly rich and diverse cultures of our neighbours'.

Education

Forging the new generation

SSEAC has been working with faculties, departments and supervisors to support undergraduate students interested in Southeast Asia through a variety of research training programs and study pathways.

In June 2015, SSEAC hosted a three-day professional development program that brought together fifteen Honours students working on Southeast Asia-related topics from eight universities. The program provided students with the practical skills related to doing and presenting research, and included sessions on media training and publishing from an Honours thesis.

Students also had an opportunity to network with professionals in Southeast Asia-related positions at a cocktail reception hosted in collaboration with Wesley College who, every year, sponsors six students to study, travel and work in Indo-China over the summer vacation period.

Participants said that the program made a substantive difference to the way they approach their Honours thesis. 'The program itself was not only informative but extremely practical, and I can feel already how much my approach to Honours has changed.'

The Postgraduate Retreat is SSEAC's key annual event for postgraduates. In November each year, up to twenty-five research students attend a retreat in rural NSW where they focus on a topic of relevance regardless of their discipline. In 2014 the theme of the retreat was 'working across disciplines'. Students spent a day in the Gloucester region learning about the conflicting community opinions on the mining of coal seam gas. Students then spent two days developing an interdisciplinary project in small groups, which engaged with some of the issues they learnt during their time with the community. The students then presented a mock donor pitch for funding for their project, with small prizes awarded to the winning pitch. Our Postgraduate Committee, led in 2014 by Elga Andriana and in 2015 by Natali Pearson, also organises a seminar series for postgraduate students with an interest in Southeast Asia.

SSEAC also supported the Department of Indonesian Studies in collaboration with the NSW Department of Education and Communities to host 'Indonesia in Action'. Around 240 students from ten high schools, who are currently studying Indonesian, were accompanied by their teachers to a day of hands-on learning about Indonesia. The students heard from a range of guest speakers, were treated to Indonesian dance performers, and participated in a number of workshops on Indonesian food, dance, games and language.



Education

Understanding Southeast Asia

sydney.edu.au/southeast-asia-centre

Sydney Southeast Asia Centre members have come together to share their expertise on the region in an innovative new interdisciplinary online course.

In 2014, SSEAC developed a course that would form part of a stream in the School of Languages and Cultures' Diploma of Languages designed for students who want to be able to use their language skills in a working environment. Called 'Understanding Southeast Asia', the course also caters to students travelling to Southeast Asia as part of our student mobility programs and can be taken as a regular Asian Studies unit.

'Understanding Southeast Asia' is made up of a series of video lectures and radio interviews that showcase the diverse expertise of SSEAC's members.

During the first six weeks, students are introduced to the region through different disciplinary lenses, engaging with lectures and radio interviews with experts in Southeast Asian history, society, geography, political economy and politics.

The second half of the course engages with a range of challenges faced in the region that are addressed through an interdisciplinary approach. These challenges include urbanisation, food security, labour migration, disability and environmental management.

Compiling content for the course highlighted the real diversity of experience and knowledge of the SSEAC community. Academics from seven different faculties contributed to the course, reflecting on either their disciplinary or country expertise. SSEAC was also able to draw on its external networks of members, bringing in academics from the University of New South Wales and the National University of Singapore to contribute content.

Such diversity and breadth in a single unit of study is not only unique in terms of other offerings at the University of Sydney, it also offers undergraduate students a holistic and comprehensive picture of the region and enhances their learning experience.





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It's time for boots on the ground in Southeast Asia.

Our campus now stretches across all of Southeast Asia.

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is at the forefront of student mobility. We have remarkable opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students alike to undertake study, internships or mentorships across the entire region, from Singapore to Yangon. Students learn and contribute to health, law, economic or social reform and witness the rewards of their work first hand in local communities. They also explore new possibilities for their own careers. So, when we say field studies, we really mean it.

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