

Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA)

Over the past few decades, a number of leading academic institutions have been initiating, cementing, and institutionalizing both regional and global linkages and collaborations. But so far, academic cooperation in the East Asia region has mainly taken the form of bundles of bilateral (or at most trilateral) exchanges and collaboration, involving great expenditure of time, energy, and funds.

Building on the imperative to promote region-based Southeast Asian studies, Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University, in partnership with nine leading Asian and Southeast Asian Studies institutions in the region, established a Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA) on 11 October 2013.

The consortium Charter was signed by the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies, Academia Sinica; the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University; the Indonesian Institute of Sciences; the Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies; the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University; the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore; the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University; the Taiwan Association of Southeast Asian Studies; the Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam; the Asian Center, University of the Philippines.

Professor Sunait Chutintaranond of Chulalongkorn University is Chairperson of the Governing Board. The Governing Board has the following members:

Ikrar Nusa Bhakti (Indonesian Institute of Sciences)

Eduardo Tadem (University of the Philippines)

Michael Feener (National University of Singapore)

Liu Hong (Nanyang Technological University)

Tong Chee Kiong (Universiti Brunei Darussalam)

Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao (Academia Sinica)

Park Jang Sik (Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies)

Shimizu Hiromu (Kyoto University): Secretary

The Secretariat is based in the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University.

SEASIA will promote Southeast Asian studies by linking the leading area studies institutions in the region in a cooperative venture to provide a multilateral forum for organizing academic meetings, seminars, workshops, and symposia. One of its main activities will be to organize a biennial conference, the first of which is expected to take place in Kyoto in 2015.

SEASIA will also promote research collaboration and networking, operate as a system for sharing information, and offer opportunities for education and training of young and up-and-coming scholars. It also seeks to connect institutions specializing in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities whose scholars have an interest in, and who work on or in Southeast Asia, but do not necessarily consider themselves area studies specialists.