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## EURAXESS LINKS ASEAN

Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to present you the 51<sup>st</sup> edition of the EURAXESS Links ASEAN e-newsletter.

In this month's EU insight section you will find a summary of the findings of the **European Innovation Scoreboard 2015**, an instrument of the European Commission to provide a comparative assessment of research and innovation performance in Europe.

Our News, Grants and Fellowships section contains a round-up of the most important developments and opportunities.

We hope you do enjoy reading our newsletter.

Wishing you a great month ahead!

Your EURAXESS Links ASEAN team



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EURAXESS Links ASEAN Newsletter is a monthly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS Links ASEAN, which provides information of specific interest to European researchers in ASEAN and international researchers who are interested in the European research landscape and conducting research in Europe or with European partners.

The information contained in this publication is intended for personal use only. It should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission nor of the Delegations of the European Union.

Please email to [asean@euraxess.net](mailto:asean@euraxess.net) for any comments on this newsletter, contributions you would like to make, if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe.

Editor: Dr Susanne RENTZOW-VASU, EURAXESS Links ASEAN, Regional Representative



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# 1 EU Insight – Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015

On 7 May 2015, the European Commission released its latest study on the state of innovation in the European Union. Like its predecessors, the [Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015](#) (now in its 14<sup>th</sup> edition), provides a comparative assessment of the research and innovation performance of the 28 EU Member States and selected associated and neighbouring countries. The aim of the assessment is to help Member States identify and better understand areas of strength and/or weakness regarding innovation and to determine appropriate actions to facilitate their respective innovation performances.

## The report

To determine the state of affairs concerning innovation across individual Member States, the report draws on a methodology used in previous editions. This methodology is based on a composite indicator, which is comprised of 25 different individual indicators. This composite indicator, known as the “Summary Innovation Index,” summarises a range of indicators which are broken down into three main types—Enablers, Firm activities and Outputs—and eight key dimensions. (\*because of changes to some of the indicators used, a direct comparison with the results of the 2014 Scoreboard was not possible)

According to this year’s report, although stable, innovation in the EU is stalling, and in some cases, is in decline. The reasons for this finding are manifold, but key amongst them are lingering effects of the 2008 financial crisis. For many Member States, the financial crisis has had a major impact on private sector innovation, with many innovation firms going into decline, less patents applied for, investments in venture capital shrinking, and high-tech products importation and general product sales being down, to name just a few of the problems affecting this sector. In addition to this finding, this year’s Scoreboard also points out that the decline in innovation is present in 13 of 28 Member States. However, not all is bad news for Europe in relation to innovation. Even though 13 Member States demonstrate a poor or weakening performance in terms of innovation, the remaining 15 have, however, actually improved their performance. This is especially true for Malta, Latvia and Bulgaria. Also to come out the Innovation Scoreboard is the fact that while convergence in terms of innovation growth is occurring, it is happening too slowly.

## Categories and Leaders

Using the performance indicators for innovation mentioned above, the Member States were divided into four classifications. These performance groups are broken down into the following types: innovation leaders, innovation followers, moderate innovators, and modest innovators. Ranked in the top group of innovation leaders are Sweden, Germany, Denmark and Finland. These countries are in turn followed by Austria, Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovenia and the UK. Behind these two groups are Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain. While the last group, that of modest innovators, is made up of Bulgaria, Latvia and Romania. These rankings position the various EU Member States in terms of their innovation performance relevant to the EU average. Countries in the first category of innovation leaders are all well above the EU average, while those in the second innovation



followers group are either above or close to the average. Those in the moderate innovators category are viewed as performing well below the EU average.

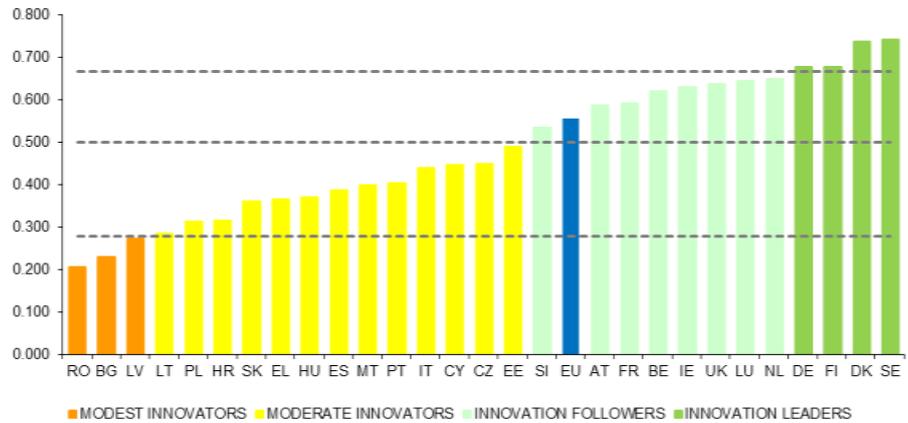


Figure 1: EU Member States's innovation performance

Of all the countries studied, Sweden performs the best innovatively. Furthermore, all the countries listed in the top group have remained stable from the previous year (2014), with only Cyprus and Estonia changing group membership (downward). Where change becomes most obvious is within the various groups themselves. For example, amongst the innovation leaders, Finland and Germany have exchanged places.

To further understand how EU Member States are performing, the Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015 also assessed other European and non-European countries. Among European countries, Switzerland is the top performer in general, outperforming all EU Member States combined. Whereas globally, South Korea and the United States rank as the best innovators.

To learn more about the Innovation Union Scoreboards and how the EU Member States have fared in the last decade, please follow this link: [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/facts-figures/scoreboards/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/facts-figures/scoreboards/index_en.htm).

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- 1) Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015. European Commission. [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/facts-figures/scoreboards/files/ius-2015\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/facts-figures/scoreboards/files/ius-2015_en.pdf) Accessed 22 May.
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- 3) "Unleash Innovation to Spur Growth in Europe. European Commission. Press Release. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-15-4927\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4927_en.htm). Accessed 22 May 2015.



## 2 Supporting Alumni Networks Across ASEAN

EURAXESS Links ASEAN is dedicated to strengthening bi-regional research cooperation by promoting European funding and fellowship opportunities to the community of highly mobile researchers in Southeast Asia. To date, thousands of students and researchers across ASEAN have already benefited from pursuing higher education degrees and research fellowships in Europe with the support of European programmes, including Erasmus Mundus and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, and the dedicated efforts of the funding and support agencies of the European Union Member States.

Alumni of European academic institutions and funding and fellowship programmes are key to further deepening the scientific links between Europe and Southeast Asia. Often, the personal and professional networks they have created during their time in Europe mark the beginning of mutually beneficial long-term cooperation once they have returned to their home base in Southeast Asia. Based on their knowledge of the European research system, their intercultural experience, and their position in national innovation systems, alumni are in a unique position to accelerate bi-regional mobility and research cooperation. EURAXESS Links ASEAN is committed to supporting this process.

A number of European alumni groups are already active in Southeast Asia, several of whom are profiled in this edition of the EURAXESS Links ASEAN newsletter. More will be profiled in the months ahead. We are also planning a number of activities designed to bring together the various alumni associations to discuss how we can work together to foster increased mobility and research cooperation between Europe and Southeast Asia.

Beginning in June, EURAXESS Links ASEAN is organising two events in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok called **“Advancing your Research Career in Europe: Funding and Fellowship Opportunities for Researchers in Southeast Asia.”** This is an opportunity for researchers in Southeast Asia to meet representatives of leading European research and funding agencies. Participants will also have the opportunity to talk to fellow researchers who have already benefited from these programmes, and to gain practical tips from them on how to be successful in their application. More alumni related events are being planned, so please continue to check our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for announcements on these events.

The EURAXESS Links ASEAN Team





### 3 The Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association- Southeast Asian Chapter (EMA-SEA)



The Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association is an official network that aims to serve the interests of students and alumni of Erasmus Mundus Masters and PhD Courses, by providing a forum for networking, communication and collaboration and by promoting Erasmus as a programme of excellence in international higher education.

The Southeast Asian Chapter was organized on November 1, 2008 at the European Higher Education Fair in Jakarta. The group recognized the need to strengthen mutual cooperation between members. The goal was to give support in employment, provide feedback, initiate relevant projects, promote the scholarship, and cooperate with local EU Delegations.

The establishment of the chapter board has given opportunities to our members to get involved in social and professional networking within and outside the region. The chapter unites members from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. We have successfully linked potential scholars and members through our FaceBook page. We have created the Promotion Volunteers group; which have contributed to the promotion of Erasmus Mundus for the European Commission and to the awareness of potential scholars. We hope to engage more members through projects and activities. Our long term plan is to support initiatives that bring positive impact to our society.



EMA-SEA participants at the EMA-General Assembly in Barcelona (Spain), 2013

#### Our goals

- To promote Erasmus Mundus as a European programme of excellence in international education
- To strengthen regional cooperation between members from different countries and increase mutual collaboration
- To serve the interests of the members, notably by providing a forum for networking, communication and collaboration
- To initiate projects and activities with positive social and environmental impact towards EMA and its stakeholders

#### Our Activities

- Participation in European Higher Education Fairs (EHEF) in the region
- Organization of Erasmus Mundus pre-departure orientation for newly selected students



- Close cooperation with the EU Delegations in the region
- Networking event within the region and within member countries
- Promoting Erasmus Mundus through social networks and events
- Supporting and organizing projects which create social and environmental benefit
- Promoting Erasmus Mundus through the promotion volunteers

## WHO WE ARE



*EMA-SEA Board and Country Reps at the Chapter Networking event in Bangkok, Thailand in 2014*

### **Current Chapter Board (2014-2016):**

President **Shiella C. Balbutin**, Philippines

Vice-President, **Veena Cute-ngarmpring**, Thailand

Regional Promotions Coordinator, **Lex Tan Yih Liang**, Malaysia

Regional Communications Coordinator, **Alifia Fithritama**, Indonesia

For more information please visit the [EMA website](#)



## 4 Alexander von Humboldt Foundation: ‘Connected by excellence’

Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation



Germany’s Alexander von Humboldt Foundation promotes international academic cooperation between excellent scientists and scholars from Germany and from abroad. Every year the Foundation grants more than 700 competitive research fellowships and awards allowing scientists and scholars from all over the world to come to Germany to work on a research project they have chosen themselves together with a host and collaborative partner. Fellowships and awards from the Foundation are considered to be among the most prestigious and generous awards in Germany; the alumni network is the foundation’s greatest asset, comprising over 26,000 Humboldtians in more than 140 countries — including 51 Nobel laureates. EURAXESS Links ASEAN met with Dr Klaus Manderla, head of the Foundation’s Asia Division, to find out more.

**Dr Manderla, what is the mandate and the objective of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation?**

*By granting fellowships and awards, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is able to bring outstanding international postdoctoral researchers at all career levels to Germany for a research stay, and in doing so, helps foster international academic and cultural dialogue. There are no quotas for disciplines or countries. The most important selection criterion is evidence of excellent academic credentials. The Foundation supports the best researchers and young leaders regardless of their regional origin or academic field. As scientific progress still depends on the skills, and most importantly, the pioneering spirit of individuals, people rather than projects are the focus of the Foundation’s sponsorship.*

**You are Head of the Foundation’s Asia Division, how do you collaborate with the research communities here in ASEAN and what are your hopes for the future?**

*The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation maintains an active network of almost 300 Humboldtians in ASEAN. This network is an alliance of various Humboldt Associations. In several countries, there are Ambassador Scientists amongst the Humboldtians who support the Foundation locally, for example by holding information events about sponsorship opportunities. We believe that great potential is yet to be tapped in ASEAN. Therefore we hope that more qualified researchers from ASEAN will find their way to Germany, both through the Humboldt Network as well as through information events, such as those organised by EURAXESS Links ASEAN.*



**You will be speaking to the participants in the EURAXESS Share events in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok next month. What will be your main message to the audience?**

*My main message will be: if you are a well-qualified researcher, come to Germany and feel free to bring your family with you. The Foundation will welcome you with open arms! In Germany, you will find excellent universities and research institutions, world-class researchers who will be happy to be your hosts, as well as a rich culture.*

**The Foundation prides itself on its alumni network. Your motto is ‘Once a Humboldtian, always a Humboldtian’. What does that involve?**

*Today, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has a network of 26,000 Humboldtians in 140 countries, including 51 Nobel Prize winners. What is impressive are not only the figures themselves, but the dynamic academic and social relations amongst the Humboldtians and with researchers in Germany. The Foundation runs a comprehensive alumni programme to ensure that these connections will last a lifetime, in keeping with our motto: ‘Once a Humboldtian, always a Humboldtian.’*



**Klaus Manderla** (Ph.D. in Process Engineering from University of Essen) is Head of Division Asia at the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation. He studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Essen and Bochum. He did his doctoral research as scientific collaborator in the department of heat and power generation at the Mining Research Institute in Essen and obtained his doctoral degree from the University of Essen in 1988. He continued his postdoctoral research as scientific collaborator in the Department Environmental Protection, Coal Research Establishment, British Coal in Cheltenham/ UK. Thereafter, since 1989 he has been Programme Director at the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation, then Deputy Head of the Department Sponsorship Abroad and currently holds the position as Head of Division Asia and Deputy Head of the Sponsorship and Network Department at the same organization.



## 5 NUFFIC-Neso: Linking knowledge between the Netherlands and the world



'Linking Knowledge Worldwide' is the motto of the Netherlands' organisation for international cooperation in higher education – Nuffic for short. Through its Netherlands Education Support Offices (Neso) the agency promotes Dutch higher education and fosters international institutional cooperation in order to increase student and staff mobility and related activities with the respective host country. EURAXESS Links ASEAN met with Mervin Bakker, Director of the Nuffic Neso office in Indonesia to find out more.

**Mr Bakker, what makes the Netherlands an attractive destination for researchers in ASEAN?**

*The short answer to this question would be: Dutch universities offer a world-class international research environment in a well-connected and cosmopolitan country that offer very good quality of living. I will try to substantiate that a bit more. In one my view the quality of research is the first thing researchers should take into consideration when thinking of a destination country. With almost all Dutch research universities represented in the top 200 of the various global rankings and the high research output, I don't have any hesitation to state that in the Netherlands we offer a world-class research environment. Furthermore, I think we can offer the researchers a great international experience. The Netherlands might be small, but at the same time, it is a very cosmopolitan and open minded society, where all nationalities, religions and cuisines are represented and English is widely spoken. This has to do with the open and tolerant character the Dutch have had for centuries. From my own experience I can say it is an extremely pleasant and comfortable place to live with an excellent work-life balance. It is for that reason that recent research shows that Dutch people are among the happiest in the world. Universities are also very international. Mind you, the Netherlands was the first country in continental Europe to offer degree programmes in English already more than 15 years ago. That means there are many (PhD) students and researchers from all over the world. Currently the majority of the PhD students in the Netherlands are international students. The last thing I would mention is that the Netherlands is very well connected in various ways. Firstly, through our central location in Europe we are well connected to the rest of the world. Secondly, stable high-speed internet connections make life of researchers a lot easier. Thirdly, universities in the Netherlands have global connections in the academic community and researchers can benefit from that.*

**Where can international researchers look for support if they want to explore research collaboration with Dutch partners or a mobility experience in the Netherlands?**



On an institutional and individual level researchers are more than welcome to contact us in the ASEAN countries where we have Netherlands Education Support Offices (Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam). For general information on opportunities in the Netherlands [www.studyinholland.nl](http://www.studyinholland.nl) is a good online source. For academic vacancies [www.academictransfer.nl](http://www.academictransfer.nl) would be the best starting point.

For more information on study, research and career opportunities in the Netherlands please visit the websites of [NUFFIC](http://www.nuffic.nl) and [EURAXESS The Netherlands](http://www.euraxess.nl).

### Are there specific programmes open to the research communities here in ASEAN?

The academic vacancies mentioned in the previous question are open to all ASEAN nationals to apply, but are of course competitive. Next to that, for some ASEAN countries there are grants available for PhD students through the Netherlands Fellowship Programme and also sometimes at Dutch universities. On [www.grantfinder.nl](http://www.grantfinder.nl) we have compiled all the information on grants and on [www.studyfinder.nl](http://www.studyfinder.nl) all taught PhD programmes and Research Masters. Furthermore, I would like to point out that in many ASEAN countries the national governments are running ambitious programmes on improving their higher education sector by investing in further development of their academic staff through PhD/Master scholarship programmes and research grants so I would also advise to keep an eye out for that.

### EP-NUFFIC maintains a very active alumni network. How many alumni are there here in the region and how does EP-NUFFIC take care of them?

We are indeed very active and currently have around 9,000 registered Holland Alumni in the ASEAN region. The worldwide network is run from our head office in The Hague. Alumni can register and we offer various services to them. One of the things we do is to connect the alumni to career opportunities in the Netherlands. Furthermore, we offer support with setting up/maintaining a board structure in the country of origin. In Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, where we have offices, we organise a lot of events for social and professional networking, career development, and to foster the connection with the Netherlands. In these countries we also offer online services like a country specific website, a digital newsletter and we stay in touch through various social media. An interesting development is also that we organise regional alumni events to bring Holland Alumni of various countries together. In June 2014 a first conference took place in the ASEAN region in the Philippines and a next conference is expected in Indonesia in the second half of 2015.



**Mervin Bakker** is based in Jakarta as Director of the Netherlands Education Support Office (Nuffic Neso Indonesia) coordinating activities for Dutch higher education in Indonesia, and the wider Southeast Asian region. Currently, EP-Nuffic is part of a British Council-led consortium for an ASEAN wide project (EU SHARE) on harmonization of higher education. Within the project Nuffic Neso Indonesia is leading the intra-ASEAN and ASEAN-EU mobility programme.

Before joining EP-Nuffic, Mervin has worked for the University of Amsterdam as Manager International Programmes and Head of Marketing & Communications. Next to that he has experience working for an education agent in Thailand and running a student related business in the Netherlands. Mervin holds an MSc in International Economics & Economic Geography from Utrecht University and an MBA in Higher Education Management from UCL Institute of Education. He has been an active member of the EAIE and speaker in conferences, workshops and seminars.



## 6 UK alumni networks in ASEAN

The mandate of the British Council is to create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries, and to build trust between them worldwide. Active in over 100 countries, the organisation connects millions of people with the United Kingdom through a plethora of programmes and services. The UK serves as a key destination for students and researchers from ASEAN and the British Council is actively building alumni networks to cement relationships between people who have enjoyed an educational experience in the UK.



### Indonesia

The UK alumni is about keeping in touch and building networks between Indonesian UK graduates.

If you have studied in the UK for at least three months, either taking a professional short course or a degree at a recognized institution in the UK, you are welcome to join this facility.

### Malaysia

Malaysia is home to an estimated half a million UK alumni and are key to continuing the strong educational and trade links between the UK and Malaysia. Currently 14,250 Malaysian students are studying in the UK across a wide range of sectors and subjects. These students and alumni represent a wealth of knowledge, expertise and opportunity.

The British Council, Malaysia and the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur are working together on a joint initiative to build a strong UK alumni network to cement relationships between people who have enjoyed an educational experience in the UK.

### Singapore

The UK alumni group in Singapore is about keeping in touch and building networks between UK graduates.

If you have studied in the UK for at least three months, either taking a professional short course or a degree at a recognised institution in the UK, you are welcome to join.

### Thailand

Established by the British Council Thailand in 2000, the Thai-UK Alumni Professional Network is for Thais who have studied in or finished their degrees in the UK, and Thai professionals who have links with UK. The aim is to strengthen old friendships and create new opportunities for professional development. The network currently has 7,000 members of which 99% are Thai. Membership is free of charge and valid life-long as a good friendship should be.



### **Vietnam**

UK Alumni Vietnam (UKAV) is the primary network for Vietnamese people who have studied in the UK for at least three months. Currently with more than 1200 members from all over Vietnam, UKAV was launched in November 2001 in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. It has an official charter sanctioned by the UK-Vietnam Friendship Association. Day to day management of the network is carried out by the British Council with inputs from the British Embassy and alumni members.



#### **Key activities of the national UK alumni chapters**

- Professional development events all through the year – including exclusive workshops and webinars with UK companies.
- Networking opportunities – the grand reunion is held in January every year.
- Career opportunities – established links with organisations that have an interest in working with Thais who have graduated in the UK.

To find out more about the national alumni chapters please click on the country you are interested in. Please do also visit the website of [EURAXESS UK – British Council](#) for research opportunities.



## 7 Vietnam-Belgium Alumni Network



The Vietnam Belgium Alumni (VBA) is your address to find Vietnamese students who studied and researched in Belgium. With the support of the Vietnam Belgium Friendship Association and the Belgian Embassy in Hanoi, VBA was established officially on July 17, 2009. The mission of the VBA is to foster linkages among Vietnamese alumni, to enrich their alumni experience, and to facilitate alumni professional career development .

VBA carries its mission through a variety of activities, ranging from social gatherings, professional knowledge-sharing through workshops and seminars, to bridging activities between alumni and Belgium through diverse channels (research institutes, universities, companies); promotion campaigns for education in Belgium, counseling services for new students to Belgium, organizing thematic workshops in collaboration with interested partners (Beluxcham) etc. At the moment, VBA is active in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city. It is planning to set up chapters in Can Tho by the end of 2015 where there is a big community of Belgium alumni from Can Tho University.

The members of VBA are those who studied in Belgium since 1970s up to now. Besides a small growing number of self-financing students, the majority of these alumni received scholarships of Belgian Federal, Regional Governments and also from cooperation projects involving Belgian and Vietnamese universities As such, VBA has a large number of researchers and academics as part of its membership.

Recently, with the strong support of the Belgian Embassy, VBA has become more and more active in professional development through organizing thematic workshops to exchange information and contribute to career development.



For more information please visit the websites of [Vietnam Belgium Alumni](#) and [EURAXESS Belgium](#).





## 8 News & Developments

### 8.1 EU, Member States and Associated Countries

#### 8.1.1 Unleash innovation to spur growth in Europe

Improving Europe's capacity to innovate and be globally competitive requires further efforts to encourage disruptive ideas and foster their commercial uptake. These are some of the conclusions to be drawn from the latest ranking of innovation performance across Europe.

The European Commission's Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015 reveals that the EU's overall level of innovation has remained stable. However, the crisis has left an impact on the private sector's innovative activity: the number of innovative firms is in decline, as are SMEs' innovations, patent applications, exports of high-tech products, venture capital investments and sales of innovative products. While there have been improvements in human resources, business investments in research and development and the quality of science, these are not enough to result in a stronger innovation performance.

**Full article:** [European Commission](#)

#### 8.1.2 President Juncker welcomes world-leading scientists, discusses role of science in competitiveness and announces new mechanism for scientific advice

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker hosted a working lunch for a group of eminent, internationally awarded scientists to discuss how to ensure Europe remains a centre of excellence for science, how to foster innovative ideas that are brought to market, and how to ensure that EU policy benefits from the best scientific advice.

President Juncker said: *"The thirst for discovery is what has helped move society from the Stone Ages. The world has changed, but for our society to continue advancing and our economy to grow, we need the highest ambition in pursuing knowledge, breakthroughs, and innovations. For that to happen, a formidable brain alone doesn't always suffice. We need additional sources of finance and investment for research and innovation. The Investment Plan for Europe will play a fundamental role in achieving that. Investing in research is a priority for Europe. [...]"*

The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss how to best institutionalise independent scientific advice in the European Commission.

**Full article:** [European Commission](#)



European Commission President  
Jean-Claude Juncker



### 8.1.3 Watchdogs of the system: the EU's new scientific advisory panel explained



On May 13, the EC announced a new Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) – a seven-member panel of experts to oversee the process of how the Commission gets scientific advice on controversial issues like shale gas or GMOs.

“There was quite some fuss, notably in the UK; it was quite a surprise,” observed Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General for Research and Innovation, [in an interview with Science|Business](#). The new system is intended to make the whole process of providing scientific advice more transparent and of higher quality.

According to Smits, the SAM will be a complete system of advice, supported by Commission staff and connected to all the academies of science of the member-states. It is based on matching demand (Commission services) with supply (the national academies and learned societies). It will be overseen by a seven-member group of “very senior people” – including possibly an economist, a social scientist and others. “We are not talking about a panel of Nobel Prize winners,” he said. The aim is to appoint people with the varied experience to judge and oversee the complex process of providing balanced, high-quality scientific advice on important issues. The panel, which reports directly to Moedas, will be supported by a unit to be created inside Smits’ Directorate-General for Research and Innovation.

**You can read the whole interview [here](#).**

### 8.1.4 161 highly innovative SMEs funded by Horizon 2020 SME Instrument

161 companies from 23 countries have been selected in the latest round of Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Phase 1. For each project, the participants will receive €50,000 to finance feasibility studies. They can also request up to three days of business coaching.

**Full article: [European Commission](#)**

### 8.1.5 European Inventor Award finalists 2015: inventors behind 15 ground-breaking innovations selected

The European Patent Office has announced the 15 finalists for the European Inventor Award 2015. With this prestigious annual award, the EPO honours scientists and engineers in five categories whose inventions have been patented by the EPO and have contributed to technological progress, social development and economic growth. The 10th edition of the award will be held in Paris on 11 June, when the winners will be announced at a ceremony attended by prominent representatives of the worlds of politics, business, research and industry.

**More information [here](#).**





### 8.1.6 Royal Society elects new Fellows

Outstanding scientists, including pioneers in climate modelling, the treatment of infectious diseases and plant genetics, make up the 47 new Fellows and 10 new Foreign Members announced by the Royal Society in early May.

**Source:** [Royal Society](#)

### 8.1.7 EU Boost for Polar Science

A new initiative to enhance the integration of Europe's scientific and operational capabilities in the Polar Regions has been funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme

The €2 million five-year EU-PolarNet programme brings together 22 of Europe's internationally-respected multi-disciplinary research institutions to develop and deliver an integrated European polar research programme that is supported by access to first-class operational polar infrastructures. EU-PolarNet will involve stakeholders from the outset to create a suite of research proposals whose scientific outcomes are directly relevant and beneficial to European society and its economy.

**Full article:** [ResearchinGermany](#)

## 8.2 ASEAN

### 8.2.1 EU-ASEAN Relations in Facts and Figures

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission adopted the Joint Communication: "The EU and ASEAN: a partnership with a strategic purpose". The Joint Communication puts forward concrete ideas for taking EU-ASEAN relations to the next level by providing a more coherent framework for sectoral cooperation and by ensuring a sharper political focus.

**Source and Factsheet:** [European Commission](#)

### 8.2.2 Can Innovation Solve Asia's Most Pressing Challenges?

Asia's emerging economies face serious infrastructural challenges, among others. What role does innovation play in addressing these issues?

**Full article:** [Asian Scientist Magazine](#)

### 8.2.3 Success of ASEAN integration hinges on interconnectivity

Acquiring international bandwidth, creating a timetable for an upgrade and extending computer networks to underserved areas will be essential for governments to build a digital infrastructure for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).





**Full article:** [SciDevNet](#)

#### 8.2.4 Singapore's A\*STAR deepens technology adoption for SMEs through new initiatives

A\*STAR's annual SME Day saw a continued drive to deepen technology adoption through new partnerships with SPRING Singapore, and the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Singapore Productivity Centre and NTUC Health.

Recognising the important role of SMEs in Singapore's economy, A\*STAR continues with its efforts to drive technology transfer and adoption to SMEs. This is done through key initiatives such as Growing Enterprises through Technology Upgrade (GET-Up) and the Technology Adoption Programme (TAP), and simplified licensing for SMEs to help with commercialisation and increased speed to market.

**Full article:** [A\\*STAR](#)

#### 8.2.5 World's first electric taxi for the tropics designed by German-Singaporean research team

The world's first electric taxi designed for tropical megacities has been launched in Singapore. The electric taxi, codenamed EVA, is the first electric vehicle designed as a taxi for tropical megacities.

**Source:** [TUM Create](#)



#### 8.2.6 Vietnam PM calls for more scientific research

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung urged the country to conduct more scientific research, apply more technology and invent more products to support socio-economic development. During a meeting with 63 inventors in Ha Noi, Dung said the Party and State attached importance to promoting scientific research and technological application, and encouraging people to invent more.

**Full article:** [AsiaOne](#)

#### 8.2.7 SHARE the learning!

Mr. Colin Crooks, Acting Head of the EU Delegation, and Dr. AKP Mochtan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN, officially launched SHARE, the "European Union Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region" Programme. SHARE, a new EU flagship programme, supports higher education in ASEAN countries. The EU and a consortium of higher education institutions – led by the British Council – signed an agreement for the implementation of the programme which will run until January 2019.





"With SHARE, we want to share EU experience with ASEAN. We want to help improve standards and quality of Higher Education Institutions in the ASEAN region. The EU is the gold standard in international higher education policy; since we draw on the experience of the Bologna process and the European Higher Education Area. SHARE contributes to the harmonisation of ASEAN higher education standards, supports the mutual recognition of diplomas. Hence, SHARE promotes the mobility of students. 500 SHARE scholarships provide new opportunities for international learning, leading to life changing experiences for ASEAN students" Colin Crooks said.

"SHARE is landmark programme epitomizing the close partnership between ASEAN and the EU. The ASEAN Member States are preparing our citizens to become a skilled and highly qualified workforce in all sectors. Our Higher Education institutions stand out as the key to enhancing the competency and quality of ASEAN human capital" added Dr AKP Mochtan.

The EU Consortium consists of the British Council, Campus France, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), EP-Nuffic, which is the main expertise and service centre for internationalisation in Dutch education, the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the European University Association (EUA).

**Source: EU Delegation Indonesia**

### 8.2.8 Advancing universal health coverage in Asia

EU-funded researchers sought to find out why through a landmark evaluation of healthcare systems in six Asian countries. The conclusions highlight the influence of insurance schemes' affordability, understanding what motivates people to take out insurance policies, and how public money is spent.

**Full article: [European Commission](#)**





## 9 Grants & Fellowships

### 9.1 In Focus: Merlion Programme supports researcher mobility between Singapore and France

The PHC Merlion Program is a joint French-Singaporean collaboration, managed by the Institut Français de Singapour, in partnership with Singaporean institutions to encourage and support new scientific research development between French and Singaporean laboratories, through funding the scientists' trip exchanges. There are three different funding opportunities:

#### Merlion Project:

- Funding of missions between France and Singapore for researchers, post-doctoral and doctoral students involved in a joint research project. Up to €30,000 over two years

#### Merlion Workshop:

- Co-organising a workshop based on a common theme, to be held in either France or Singapore, with the aim of eventually leading to a bilateral research agreement. Up to €30,000

#### Merlion Ph.D:

- Funding of stays in France of up to 6 months per year (maximum 3 years) for Ph.D students from a Singaporean partner laboratory and up to 3 years. Up to €23,000 over three years

#### Eligibility and composition of the team:

1. A research team affiliated with a research organization in France;
2. A research team affiliated with one of the following Singaporean partners:  
Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI), Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)
3. Optional : An industrial partner to form a tripartite collaboration.

**The 2015 Call will open on 1 June 2015.**

Further information can be accessed [here](#). Please do contact Mr Florent Beau (florent.beau@diplomatie.gouv.fr) if you require assistance.





## 9.2 H2020

The European Commission has launched the first calls under Horizon 2020. Calls in the 2014 - 2015 budget focus on the three key pillars of Horizon 2020:

- **Excellent Science:** Around €3 billion, including €1.7 billion for grants from the European Research Council for top scientists, and €800 million for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships for younger researchers.
- **Industrial Leadership:** €1.8 billion to support Europe's industrial leadership in areas like ICT, nanotechnologies, advanced manufacturing, robotics, biotechnologies and space.
- **Societal Challenges:** €2.8 billion for innovative projects addressing Horizon 2020's seven societal challenges, broadly: health; agriculture, maritime and bioeconomy; energy; transport; climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials; reflective societies; and security.



To find out more about EU funding opportunities for your research or innovation project please visit the [European Commission's Participant Portal](#) where all calls will be published.

International researchers are also invited to join the [database of independent experts for European research and innovation](#). Distinguished specialists are strongly encouraged to join the database of independent experts, through which they can participate in the evaluation of project proposals and monitoring of actions, submitted under Horizon 2020.

## 9.3 European Research Council (ERC) Grants

### 9.3.1 ERC Advanced Grants

ERC Advanced Grants allow exceptional established research leaders of any nationality and any age to pursue ground-breaking, high-risk projects that open new directions in their respective research fields or other domains. The ERC Advanced Grant funding targets researchers who have already established themselves as independent research leaders in their own right.

**Deadline for application is 2 June 2015.**

More info [here](#).

Additionally, ERC grant holders can apply for top-up funding ([Proof of Concept Grant](#); PoC) to explore the innovation potential of their research results.

**Call now open.**

**Deadlines: 1 October 2015**





## 9.4 European University - Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowships Deadline 25 October 2015



The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) offers one-year Jean Monnet Fellowships (renewable for one more year) to scholars who have obtained their doctorate more than 5 years prior to the start of the fellowship, i.e. 1 September 2015 for the academic year 2015/16. The Fellowship programme is open to post-docs, tenure track academics and those wishing to spend their sabbatical at the Robert Schuman Centre. We invite you to become part of a lively and creative academic community. The Centre offers up to 20 Fellowships a year.

More [here](#).

## 9.5 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions– Call for Individual Fellowships is now open

Are you an experienced researcher thinking about your next career move? Individual Fellowships fund researchers looking to enhance their career development and prospects by working abroad. These Fellowships offer ASEAN researchers an opportunity to spend up to two years working at a university, research institute or company in Europe.

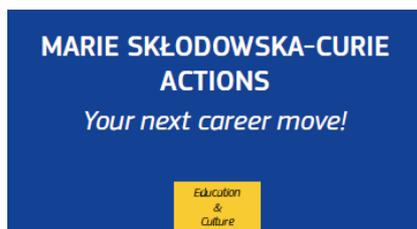
More info [here](#).

## 9.6 EMBO Courses and Workshops

EMBO offers the largest number of life science events in Europe. EMBO Courses & Workshops funds approximately 80 events attracting more than 8,000 participants every year. Funding is available to organize [conferences](#), [EMBO | EMBL Symposia](#), [workshops](#), [EMBO | FEBS Lecture Courses](#), [Global Exchange Lecture Courses](#) and [practical courses](#), as well as for [keynote lectures](#). [Travel grants](#) support the attendance of participants from countries with less-developed scientific infrastructures. EMBO assists the organizer with the design of a poster, set-up of a website and registration system, and with promotion of the event.

The consistent high quality and novelty of EMBO Courses & Workshops is ensured through a [committee of EMBO Members](#), which selects the events that EMBO funds. Dedicated scientific organizers guarantee the long-term success of the programme to share research results and train scientists at all career stages.

Further [details](#).





## 9.7 National EURAXESS portals



The latest information on open calls for national grants and fellowships in the **40 member countries of the EURAXESS network** can be accessed on the respective national EURAXESS portal.

[Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Bosnia-Herzegovina](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Croatia](#), [Cyprus](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Denmark](#), [Estonia](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [FYRoMacedonia](#), [Germany](#), [Greece](#), [Hungary](#), [Iceland](#), [Ireland](#), [Israel](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Malta](#), [Montenegro](#), [Netherlands](#), [Norway](#), [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Romania](#), [Serbia](#), [Slovakia](#), [Slovenia](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#), [Switzerland](#), [Turkey](#), [UK](#).

Besides providing information on funding opportunities for incoming international and European researchers, staff at the EURAXESS Service Centres offer individual assistance on all aspects of researcher mobility.

## 9.8 Austria: Lise Meitner Programme for Scientists from Abroad

This programme targets highly qualified scientists of any discipline who could contribute to the scientific development of an Austrian research institution by working at it. It funds 12 or 24 month postdocs with an annual personal allowance between EUR 62,500 and EUR 68,700.

Requirements: completed doctoral studies, record of international scientific publications, invitation from an Austrian research institution and co-application with an Austrian researcher. No age limit.

Applications continuously reviewed.

**Further information can be found [here](#).**

## 9.9 Belgium: Federal Science Policy Office – Postdoc fellowships to non-EU researchers

The stimulation of international mobility and the attraction of researchers from abroad is one of the priorities of the European Research Area. In this context, and intending to stimulate S&T cooperation, the Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) implements a fellowship scheme for highly qualified non EU researchers (i.e., postdoctoral level or equivalent experience), granting them an opportunity to work 6 to 18 months in a Belgian research team.

**More information [here](#).**

## 9.10 Germany: Green Talents Competition 2015

Participate in the fully funded two-week science forum and take advantage of the unique access to top science and research institutions in Germany. Present yourself and your research in person during individual appointments with experts of your choice



TAKE PART IN THE GREEN TALENTS COMPETITION 2015  
Win a two-week science tour & a fully funded research stay



Tap the potential of a fully funded research stay at an institution of your choice in 2016.

**Deadline for application is 2 June 2015**

**More information [here](#).**

### 9.11 Germany: Alexander von Humboldt Foundation - Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES)

Top opportunities for researchers from developing countries who fulfil the following criteria:

- Researchers with above average qualifications in a developing or transition country (see [list of countries](#)),
- Intention to carry out long-term research of own choice (6 to 24 months) at a research institution in Germany together with a chosen academic host,
- Research outline includes aspects that are important for the continued development of applicant's home country or region of origin and
- Desire to contribute to the exchange of knowledge and methods between Germany and country of origin.

As many as 80 Georg Forster Research Fellowships can be granted annually. In the last few years, about one third of applications were successful (see also [positive selection decisions](#) since March 2013).

In addition, the Humboldt Foundation grants up to four [Georg Forster Research Awards](#) every year to leading researchers from developing countries.

**Further [details](#)**

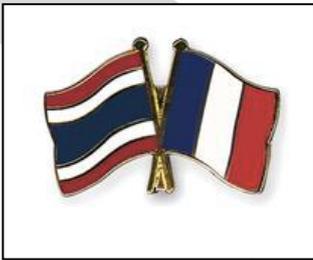
### 9.12 Poland: Foundation for Polish Science: IDEAS FOR POLAND

The objective of the programme is to encourage young, brilliant researchers from all over the world to choose Poland as the place to carry out their research projects submitted for the ERC competition. The program is designed for people whose previous scientific record demonstrates that they are highly independent as researchers, and warrants that they will conduct world - class quality research.

**Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

**Details [here](#).**





### 9.13 Franco-Thai Cooperation Programme in Higher Education and Research 2016 – 2017

To encourage exchanges between French and Thai higher education institutions and research bodies, and to develop sustainable collaborative research activities, the Joint Franco-Thai Committee launches the present Call for Proposals.

**Deadline 15 July 2015.**

More [here](#).

### 9.14 Thailand and the UK Medical Research Council Joint Call in Infectious Diseases and Cancer

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is working with National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and Thailand Research Fund (TRF) to support research within the remits of both Thai funders to tackle disease areas of critical importance to the Thai population.

**Deadline is 2 June 2015.**

More information [here](#).





## 10 Jobs

There are currently **8143** research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe and partner countries and in all disciplines) accessible via the [EURAXESS Jobs database](#)

**AUSTRIA (Leoben):** Montanuniversität Leoben has a vacant position for full-time Senior Scientist at the Department of Economic and Business Management (Chair of Economic and Business Management) expected from June 2015 in a permanent employment relationship.

### [Details](#)

**DENMARK (Copenhagen):** University of CopenhagenThe Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen, invites applicants for a position as Associate Professor in the field of Development and Resource Governance, Institutions and Conflict.

### [Details](#)

**NORWAY (Oslo):** The Norwegian PSC Research Center (NoPSC) at the Oslo University Hospital (OUH) and the University of Oslo (UiO) offer a Post doctoral positio in genomics or computational genomics.

### [Details](#)

**United Kingdom (Bedford):** Cranfield University is seeking a postdoctoral Research Fellow to undertake research in environmental and chemical risk assessment as part of an EPSRC multidisciplinary grant that will involve co-ordinating input from a number of different academic institutions.

### [Details](#)

### [Examples of Jobs supported by Marie Curie Actions Research Fellowships](#)

**12 Early Stage Researcher (ESR) positions** are available in Marie Curie European Training Network (ETN) PredictAble **in Barcelona, Spain.**

### [Details](#)

**PhD position** at The Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry and Molecular Imaging (LBCMI) at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de **Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland.**

### [Details](#)

**Early Stage Researcher** post Marie Skłodowska Curie Initial Training Network (ITN) MEDICIS PROMED "MEDICIS-produced radioisotope beams for medicine" in **Manchester, UK.**

### [Details](#)





# 11 Events

## 11.1 EURAXESS Links ASEAN Events June to August 2015

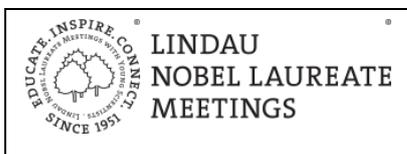


Country	Title of Event/Activity	Date/Venue	Audience	Objectives
Malaysia Thailand	Advancing Your Research Career in Europe: Funding and Fellowship Opportunities for Southeast Asian Researchers	22 & 23 June 2015 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 25 & 26 June 2015, Bangkok, Thailand	Southeast Asian researchers, research administrators, policy-makers	Information event offering detailed information on European funding opportunities for Southeast Asian Researchers
ASEAN	Inauguration of the SEA MCAA Chapter	August 2015, Bangkok, Thailand	MCAA members from/in ASEAN	Inauguration of regional chapter of a Marie Curie Alumni Network

\* Not listed are presentations on EURAXESS Links and European mobility schemes at research institutions held by the Regional Representatives upon invitation across ASEAN. If you would like for our team to visit your research organisation please email us at: [asean@euraxess.net](mailto:asean@euraxess.net)



## 11.2 Germany: 65<sup>th</sup> Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting, 28 June – 3 July 2015



At the Lindau Meeting in 2015 a record number of 69 Nobel Laureates will congregate to meet the next generation of leading scientists and researchers. The 65th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting will be attended by more than 650 excellent students, PhD candidates, and post-docs from all three natural science Nobel Prize disciplines: medicine & physiology, physics, and chemistry. The programme of this interdisciplinary Lindau Meeting will feature a multitude of lectures, panel discussions, and master classes.

Please find more information on the meeting programme as well as the participating Nobel Laureates and young scientists [here](#).

## 11.3 Belgium: A new Start for Europe: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation, 22 – 23 June 2015



In the presence of Commissioner Moedas, this conference will **bring together some 500 participants from key research and innovation organisations to discuss EU policies** on three interconnected topics: **Open Science**, the **European Research Area** and **Innovation**.

The conference will cover a broad range of issues including:

- the results and outcome of the '[Science 2.0: Science in Transition](#)' consultation
- the ERA Roadmap
- open labour market for researchers
- building up an innovation ecosystem
- future markets

**ERA survey available [here](#)**

**Further information [here](#)**

## 11.4 Pint of Science Festival also in Europe



The festival took place over three days in the evenings of Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th May 2015. It happened simultaneously in the UK, Ireland, France, Italy, USA, Spain, Germany and Australia.

In 2012 Michael Motskin and Praveen Paul were two research scientists at Imperial College London. They started and organised an event called 'Meet the Researchers' which brought people affected by Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, motor neurone disease and multiple sclerosis into their labs to show them the kind of research they do. It was inspirational for both visitors and researchers. They thought if people want to come into labs to meet scientists, why not bring the scientists out to the people? And so Pint of Science was born. In May 2013 they



held the first Pint of Science festival which featured some of the biggest names in their fields to explain their ground-breaking work to lovers of science and beer. It was a phenomenal success of course!

The aim of the organisers is to deliver science talks in a fun, engaging and approachable way by bringing them to a pub close to you. They will bring you the most interesting and knowledgeable scientists around to give a talk about their research. You just sit back, sip your drink, listen and then you can either ask questions, have a drink with them or even tell them about your crazy idea to save humanity.

If you are thinking of organising a talk for next edition or want to know more about this science communication event, you may contact Pint of Science team at [contact@pintofscience.com](mailto:contact@pintofscience.com).

**Read more:** [Pint of Science](#)

## 11.5 Thailand: Women Conference, 22 – 24 June 2015

This British Council and Thailand Research Fund supported conference invites participants from both UK and Thai institutions to advance understanding of female entrepreneurship in Thailand, the UK and other cultural settings. Emphasis is placed on analysing the strengths, challenges and business models of female entrepreneurs as well as strategies to promote and support women entrepreneurship.

**Details [here](#)**

**For more information on research events across Europe and across all disciplines please visit the [European Commission managed page "What's New in European Research"](#)**



# 12 Resources

## Latest Calls

Here you can find the latest calls on the newly set up [Research Participant Portal](#).

## International Cooperation Activities

Access the [portal of the European Commission's International Cooperation Activities](#) here.

## Other Research Career Sites

The Chronicle of Higher Education Careers Service: <http://chronicle.com/jobs/>

Find A Postdoc: <http://www.findapostdoc.com/>

Find Scholarships in Europe: <http://www.scholarshipportal.eu/>

Find PhDs in Europe: <http://www.phdportal.eu/>

Academic Jobs EU: <http://www.academicjobseu.com>

Euro Science Jobs: <http://www.eurosciencejobs.com/>

The European Job Mobility Portal: <http://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp?lang=en>

EMBO excellence in life sciences: <http://www.embo.org>

EuroBrussels: <http://www.eurobrussels.com/>

Jobs at ITER: <http://www.iter.org/jobs>

Nature.jobs: <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/index.html>

Jobs.ac.uk: [www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk)

Research Jobs in Germany: [Research-in-Germany.de](http://www.research-in-germany.de)

[Scholarship Database of the German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\)](#)

Research Jobs in the Netherlands: <http://www.academictransfer.org/>

Brainpower Austria: <http://www.brainpower-austria.at/>

## About EURAXESS Links ASEAN

EURAXESS Links ASEAN is a network of European and non-European researchers, scientists, and scholars working in or commuting to ASEAN. This multidisciplinary network includes members at all stages of their careers. It allows them to connect with each other and with Europe, ensuring that they are recognized as an important resource for European research, whether they remain in ASEAN or return to Europe. For further information and to sign up for membership in our network, as well as in the virtual SINAPSE community of European and non-European researchers abroad, please go to our [website](#) and



click on the Join the EURAXESS Links ASEAN community hyperlink on the right-hand side of the page.