

Bilateral research collaboration with Asia 2021–2024

Call for Research Partnership Grants ASEAN 2022

Application deadline: 30 September 2022

Grant sum: max. 15 kCHF

Project duration: up to 12 months

Eligible countries: ASEAN member states: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

Background

ETH Zurich is the Leading House for the Bilateral Science and Technology Cooperation Programme of Switzerland with East and Southeast Asia. Mandated by the State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation (SERI), ETH Zurich in its role as Leading House Asia (LH Asia) oversees the promotion of scientific cooperation with higher education institutions in Asia for the funding period 2021–2024.

Goals and objectives

The **Research Partnership Grants ASEAN** (RPG ASEAN) fund research projects with collaborating scientists in **ASEAN member states**, which must be based on a **new partnership**.

The goal of this funding instrument is to launch new collaborations between Switzerland-based scientists and scientists based at a university or research institute in one of the ASEAN member states. It covers small scientific studies such as feasibility studies or pilot projects which ideally lead to larger follow-up projects and grants.

The Research Partnership Grants ASEAN can fund the preparation of (I) a joint project proposal for submission to other funding agencies (e.g. national funding agencies or EU funding schemes)¹ or (II) research projects to develop long-term partnerships between two institutions or research groups. The Grant can also cover joint activities to intensify collaborative teaching or curriculum development.

Eligibility

The call is open to all scientific disciplines and fields of research, including social sciences and humanities.

Professors, senior scientists and postdoctoral researchers of Swiss federal and cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education, as well as public research institutes, are eligible to apply. The Switzerland-based scientist is the main applicant (Principal Investigator, PI).

The Asian-based collaborator must be a scientist affiliated with a university or a public research institute from one of the partner countries. The collaborating partner must hold a faculty or senior scientist position or a doctoral degree (Ph.D. or equivalent) with several years of research experience.

ASEAN-based researchers interested in acting as co-applicants must contact their Switzerland-based peers. The LH Asia does not offer match-making services.

¹ Indicate in the proposal the call and agency the research team plans to submit the proposal to.

Partnership

The mutual commitment of the scientists in both countries will be considered as an indicator for the strength of the partnership. This includes commitment of funds and/or in-kind resources by all involved partners. The KFPE Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships² shall be used as a guideline for the project development.

Funding and Budgeting

The maximum grant sum is **15,000 CHF**. The grant will be disbursed in two instalments: 80% after signing the grant contract and 20% after approval of the final report. The grant will be transferred to the Switzerland-based Principal Investigator's project account.

A detailed budget must be submitted with the project proposal. Budgeted expenses must be justified and related to the proposed project activities. A financial contribution of each partner is expected and must be made explicit in cash and/or in kind.

The Research Partnership Grant generally does not cover salary costs. However, there are two exceptions:

1. Partial salary costs can be granted for the author of a joint proposal for a larger project to be submitted to a funding agency (salary costs cannot be covered for the Principal Investigator and Asian-based main co-applicant).
2. Up to 20% of the RPG ASEAN grant can be budgeted for work-related institutional costs. This covers time dedicated to the project by staff in the Swiss institution(s) (person-hours). This does not include partial salary of the Principal Investigator. The coverage of work-related institutional costs to partners outside of Switzerland is not allowed.

Application

The main applicant (Principal Investigator) has to be employed at a Swiss federal or cantonal university, university of applied sciences, university of teacher education, or a public research institute³. Applications must be submitted to the LH Asia through the electronic application tool. The submission of the application takes place in two compulsory steps:

1. Submission of your application details via the online application form.
2. Upload of your application documents with the required appendices in one single pdf document via the online application form.

Applications that do not follow the compulsory two steps, and/or do not respect the one single pdf document guideline will be dismissed.

Timeline

Deadline for submission:	30 September 2022
Evaluation and funding decision:	October–November 2022
Notification:	December 2022
Earliest project start date:	February 2023
Project duration:	Up to 12 months

² https://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11_principles_7_questions/9505-a-guide-for-transboundary-research-partnerships-2nd-edition---2014-

³ Eligible institutions: <https://leadinghouseasia.ethz.ch/resources/eligible-institutions.html>

Evaluation and selection

Applications will be assessed by an evaluation panel. The evaluation is based on the following criteria, without any priority order:

- Scientific and technological merit of the anticipated project results
- Potential for long-term collaboration and follow-up activities
- Originality and feasibility of the proposed activity
- Expertise and complementarities of the partner laboratories/institutes and the applicants
- Contributions by all involved partners, including funding and/or in-kind contributions
- Promotion of early-career and female researchers (soft criteria)

Reporting

The Switzerland-based Principal Investigator is responsible for managing the funds and reporting to the LH Asia. The PI must submit a final scientific and financial report one month after the end of the project.

Contact

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