Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the fourth and final edition of the EURAXESS ASEAN quarterly newsletter. As the end of 2016 approaches, the EURAXESS ASEAN team would like to extend our very best wishes to all of you for a successful start into 2017.

We look back at a fantastic year where we reached out to researchers across the whole of ASEAN. Just last month, we welcomed over 500 researchers at our annual European Research Day event series. Our traveling workshop series stopped in Malang, Jakarta, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok and provided hands-on training on effective proposal preparations for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA).

The highlight of the year has been the launch of the new EURAXESS portal. Packed with many new functions this tool will make it even easier for researchers, entrepreneurs, universities and businesses in Europe, ASEAN and the world to interact with each other.

2017 is set to be an equally exciting year with the return of our annual mobility platform „Advancing your research career in Europe“ that will once again provide information and practical guidance on funding and mobility opportunities. Please do visit our website regularly to stay updated on our activities in 2017.

We would like to thank you for your support and wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!

Your EURAXESS ASEAN team

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess
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EURAXESS has just launched its new web portal making it even easier for researchers, entrepreneurs, universities and businesses in Europe, ASEAN and the world to interact with each other.

Regardless of where you are in your career, what field of research, age or nationality you are, the new EURAXESS portal can help you bring your research forward. Becoming a member of the EURAXESS community brings the following advantages for researchers and related professionals.

**Researchers:**
- Get tailored information on jobs and funding at your fingertips
- Receive email alerts about events and breaking news directly to your inbox
- Use the chance to connect with fellow research professionals
- Find hosting offers: institutions offer lab space

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess
Boost your career: Institutions offer internships for young researchers
Communicate to relocate: Contact directly your channel at the EURAXESS Centre to get support for the relocation to 40 European countries

Recruiters & Funders:
- Publicise your funding and mobility schemes and job opportunities
- Get exclusive access to a global pool of highly qualified talent
- Define and contact specific target groups by working together with our dedicated country representatives in your EURAXESS country/hub

Entrepreneurs:
- Partner up: Partnering is the tool for entrepreneurs and researchers for get together for start-ups or another kind of business
- Find funding for your innovative solution and information tailored to your needs

How Do I Get Started?
- To join the EURAXESS community and to benefit from the extensive and ever-growing range of free services EURAXESS has to offer, you will need to register an account via the LOGIN/REGISTER section. Once you have registered you will be welcomed to your own EURAXESS private area which is where you manage your profile, offers, CV data, and much more. Registration is quick and simple.
- Spread the word and let us turn this into the number one information and networking tool for mobile researchers! Register here

Please e-mail us if you have any questions: asean@euraxess.net
Interview with Mr Notis Pikros, Technical Responsible, EURAXESS Portal Design

Notis, you and your team have been working very hard to design the new EURAXESS portal that has recently been launched. In a nutshell, which are the most important features of this new portal?

Job opportunities, funding as well as personalised services and training are known to be fundamental to a successful research career. At EURAXESS we have adapted to the ever-growing needs of the research landscape by redesigning the EURAXESS portal, a platform for researchers, entrepreneurs, universities and businesses to interact with each other.

On the new EURAXESS portal, researchers, research institutions and companies will be pleased to find a consistent palette of new and improved functionalities designed especially for them. To mention a few, we have a responsive design: the EURAXESS platform will adapt to any type of device, from mobile to tablet and desktop. The portal will address to two new target groups: entrepreneurs and businesses.

Another very important aspect of the revamped portal will be a new type of offer. Aside from job opportunities, visitors to the portal will be able to search for funding, hosting, internship and training offers! Moreover, the new EURAXESS dashboard/private area has been especially designed to match registered users with the best collaboration, job and hosting opportunities. The search functionality has been improved to allow for both free text and pre-defined search, all this to guarantee a better search experience.

Finally, the brand-new collaboration tool called “Partnering” will help people and organisations connect, while the Science4Refugees Research Buddy Programme will support refugee scientists in finding European researchers to discuss problems, find solutions and study together, by matching their research field, scientific studies and interests.

In a nutshell, it has been a quite a ride! We’ve surely enjoyed the process, we’ve gained a lot of experience along the way and we are now extremely proud to have launched this portal.
As a researcher, how can the portal help me find a research position? Or a research funding opportunity?

If you are a researcher looking for a job or funding opportunity in Europe, EURAXESS is the best place to start your search! At EURAXESS, researchers will be able to browse through a collection of thousands of research related job vacancies as well as funding opportunities. The search for offers does not necessarily require registration, meaning that researchers will be able to search for opportunities in a free and easy way, without having to create a profile. Both the job and the funding offers are accessible via the pre-defined search functionality (at the top of the EURAXESS homepage), the JOBS & FUNDING section, or the free text search functionality (at the top right hand side of the homepage menu). Once the researcher has found the offer suiting him/her the most, he/she can apply by following the instructions under the "Apply" button.

It is important to note that the institutions publishing at EURAXESS, will provide the necessary details for application (e.g. e-mail address, website etc.) but the application will always happen outside the EURAXESS portal.

Apart from searching for offers, we also warmly invite researchers to edit/upload their CV at EURAXESS, thus making it available to the thousands of potential recruiters registered in our database. Once they have created a researcher profile via the LOGIN/REGISTER section, they will easily be able to edit/upload their CV, via the MY EURAXESS private area.

Finally, another very important aspect of the EURAXESS initiative, that I would like to stress is that once the researcher has found his/her dream job, he/she can benefit from the free, personalised assistance of the EURAXESS Centres, a network of more than 500 units spread across Europe, assisting researchers relocate to a foreign country for their new assignment. Researchers can also access the EURAXESS Career Development Centres, ready to support them with regards to their career development.

Can I use the portal to find international research collaborators for my research project? How so?

Absolutely! We are extremely proud to introduce the PARTNERING section as part of the new portal. This is a tool especially designed to help our visitors - whether they are researchers, entrepreneurs, research institutions/universities or businesses – connect and collaborate. PARTNERING will allow all registered
users to search for both individuals and research organisations/businesses, as well as look for CVs.

Is the portal open to universities and research institutes? What about companies?

Yes, all the above and more! The new EURAXESS portal addresses four target groups – out of which two are new. They are researchers, entrepreneurs (new), universities/research institutes, and businesses (new). Universities/research institutes and businesses will be able to post job, funding and hosting opportunities, find the best talent by browsing through the collection of CVs, as well as search for funding opportunities and collaborators.

How can companies use the portal to recruit research talent?

Businesses that have created a profile on EURAXESS will be able to post their research vacancies and will have access to the collection of CVs in the EURAXESS database. Moreover, adverts published on EURAXESS will also be displayed on one of the 40 national EURAXESS web-sites and on Science AAAS, AlumniPortal.de and Career edu, with whom we mutually exchange job vacancies daily.

Please tell us more about the section of the portal focused on entrepreneurs.

Indeed, entrepreneurs are one of EURAXESS' new target groups. The new EURAXESS portal offers entrepreneurs with great ideas the possibility of finding partners in business and academia to help them get started, to develop their project, as well as access to the EURAXESS funding database and information about EU funded programs.

Does it cost me to join the portal?

No, registration is free. EURAXESS is a pan-European initiative and all available services are free of charge.

How do I join the portal and the EURAXESS community?

To join the EURAXESS community and benefit from the extensive and ever-growing range of free services EURAXESS has to offer, you will need to register an account via the LOGIN/REGISTER section. Once you have registered you will be welcomed to your own EURAXESS private area which is where you manage your profile, offers, CV data, and much more. Registration is quick and simple and we warmly invite you to register now, and you will have your own EURAXESS account in no time!

Thank you Notis!
2 Focus: Sweden – Inventing Tomorrow’s World

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by 40 countries, of which we will profile one in each of our EURAXESS ASEAN e-newsletters. Here we focus on Sweden.

Many of the world’s important inventions originate in Sweden, and the rapid pace of innovation shows no sign of slowing down. The Swedish government continues to invest more than ever in research and innovation. Sweden’s history of recognising and rewarding achievement in research, excellence and innovation is reflected in its status as the home of the Nobel Prize: Sweden itself has produced 29 Nobel Laureates since establishing the prize in 1895.

Sweden’s science infrastructure is world-class and the synergies generated by the close connection between Swedish universities, research institutes and the private sector further leverage the R&D output. Not only is Sweden home to the largest number of multinational companies per capita, but it also serves as a base for tomorrow’s emerging industries. The Global Innovation Index 2016 (GII) ranks Sweden as the 2nd most innovative country in world.

- The historic tradition of inventors, a commitment to gender equality, and a strong belief in the individual are key factors for Sweden maintaining its place as one of the world leaders in research and innovation.
Close collaboration between research institutes and the private and public sectors provides a foundation for global Swedish companies and investing in the companies of tomorrow

Swedish R&D expenditure totals about 3.3% of GDP on average, keeping Sweden topped ranked among the OECD countries. Medicine and bioscience, technology, and climate are examples of areas where Sweden has made strategic investments to build up the cutting-edge research of today

Sweden offers over fifty universities and university-colleges

A Swedish national innovation strategy launched in 2012 to further enhance the Swedish innovation climate and innovation capacity, with year 2020 in sight

7 Reasons to choose Sweden for your research experience

1. An innovative and competitive economy
2. Sweden has a long and proud history of academic excellence, with outstanding universities dating back to the 15th century
3. Excellent research infrastructure with continuous investments in cutting edge facilities, including Science for Life Laboratory (SciLifeLab) and the MAX IV Laboratory. Furthermore, both the European Spallation Source (ESS) and EISCAT_3D are currently under construction.
4. Higher education and research quality is among the best in the world
5. Open and international climate where influences and competences come together, creating new ideas and solutions
6. Swedish society is known for its inclusiveness and egalitarianism
7. Close cooperation between industry and academia facilitates innovation, a home of trendsetters and early adopters, encouraging new ideas and critical thinking

Research-funding in Sweden

Central government is the largest financier of research at higher education institutions. The most important central government financiers outside the direct state contributions for research and postgraduate education to higher education institutions are the research councils, the Swedish Agency for Innovation
Systems and other research-funding agencies. Funding for research also comes from research foundations, the EU, municipalities and county councils. Industry invests more three times as much as central government in research and development. However, almost all of the R&D investment that comes from industry remains within the business sector.

**Research-funding agencies**

There are four major research-funding agencies. The largest is the Swedish Research Council, which in 2015 shared out about SEK 5,6 billion to basic research in natural sciences, technology, medicine, the humanities and social sciences.

The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas) supports basic and needs-driven research in the fields of environment, land-based industries and spatial planning. In 2015 Formas distributing about SEK 1,11 billion.

The Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte) supports and initiates basic and needs-driven research in the fields of the health and health care, labour, and welfare including the social services and social relations. In 2016 Forte is distributing SEK 600 million.

The Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA) distributing about SEK 2,6 billion in 2015, primarily to needs-driven research in the fields of technology, transport, communications, health and working life. In addition to the agencies mentioned above, several other agencies finance research funding in various areas. In these cases, it is common for a lesser amount of the agency's appropriation to go to research funding.

**Research foundations**

A number of foundations that fund research were established in the mid-1990s using capital from the former wage earner investment funds. These foundations are the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF), the Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (MISTRA), the Knowledge Foundation (KK), the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies, and the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems.
Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT).

Support from public research foundations is an important addition to central government investments in research. It is estimated that these foundations will have invested almost SEK 1.3 billion in research in 2015.

The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation (RJ) is yet another foundation which was created with public funding and which supports research in Humanities and Social Sciences.

**Private research funders**

Many private financiers also give significant amounts to research. These include the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation, which in 2015 distributed SEK 1.7 billion. Over the last five years, almost SEK 4 billion has been awarded to scientific research and education at higher education institutions and academies. In addition, the Swedish Cancer Society distributes SEK 385 million in 2016 for research in its field.

**Income received by higher education institutions for research and development**

The revenue received by other higher education institutions for research and development totalled SEK 36.6 billion in 2015. This is an increase of around SEK 1.6 billion, or 4.5 per cent, in fixed prices compared with Statistics Sweden’s (SCB) analysis of the revenues of 2013. Both direct government appropriations and higher education institution revenues from external financiers have increased. Public funding accounted for over 80 per cent of these revenues.

Just under half of the total funds come from direct appropriations for research and postgraduate studies at higher education institutions. Remaining funds come from external financiers, both public and private.

**Where can I find out more?**

EURAXESS Sweden provides information and assistance to mobile researchers interested in research opportunities in Sweden. The portal contains practical information concerning professional and daily life in Sweden, research news, as well as information about jobs and funding opportunities. The Centres provide assistance in matters related to mobility and help researchers and their families to plan and organize their move.

For more information and enquiries

[http://ec.europa.eu](http://ec.europa.eu)
The Swedish Research Council: [www.vr.se](http://www.vr.se)

Vinnova: [www.vinnova.se](http://www.vinnova.se)

Formas: [www.formas.se](http://www.formas.se)

Forte: [www.forte.se](http://www.forte.se)

Sweden.se - The official gateway to Sweden: [www.sweden.se/eng/](http://www.sweden.se/eng/)

Nationwide Swedish research website: [www.forskning.se](http://www.forskning.se)

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research: [www.stratresearch.se/en/](http://www.stratresearch.se/en/)

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth: [www.growthanalysis.se/en/](http://www.growthanalysis.se/en/)

Official website of the Nobel Foundation: [www.nobelprize.org/](http://www.nobelprize.org/)

The Swedish Space Corporation: [www.ssc.se](http://www.ssc.se)
Interview with Mr Dan Andrée, Special Advisor to the Swedish Ministry of Education and Research and the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA)

Mr Andrée, please tell us a little about yourself and the organisation you represent?

I work mainly with EU research and innovation policy, particularly the European Union’s Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Ministry of Education and Research is responsible for coordinating research policy in Sweden.

What makes Sweden an exciting destination and partner for international researchers?

Sweden is in the top in Europe with regards to R&I spending and also in the top in many worldwide Innovation Score-boards. Equally important for researchers coming to Sweden is the social welfare system which is certainly one of the best in the world with extensive benefits e.g. parental leave for both parents.

Sweden has close political and economic ties to Southeast Asia. What are her priorities in terms of science, technology and innovation in ASEAN?

One area which is very important is AMR (antimicrobial resistance) and the Swedish Research Council has received additional funding for this area and ASEAN is a most important region to collaborate with in this field. The Swedish Development Agency also has a strong interest to support countries in the area e.g. in Cambodia.

Swedish institutions have established several joint labs in various countries in ASEAN? Which one would you say is the biggest success story?

I am very impressed with the established cooperation (called TRAC) between 5 Swedish Universities (Karolinska, Uppsala, Linköping, Gothenburg and Umeå) with three Vietnamese Universities (Hanoi Medical University, Research Institute for Child Health and HCM University of Medicine and Pharmacy). Both Karolinska and Uppsala have a team in Hanoi and one focus area is antimicrobial resistant.

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess
Where do you see the biggest opportunities for increased science, technology and innovation cooperation between Sweden and countries in ASEAN?

I think it is scope for much broader cooperation in both research and innovation. Many of the countries have a high potential and growing fast so there could be many opportunities for Swedish businesses in the region. I think the model used by TRAC could also be pursued in other countries in the region and in other areas of research and innovation.

As you know, EURAXESS ASEAN supports researcher mobility between ASEAN and Europe. Can you share with us your views on researcher mobility?

Mobility is a very high priority for Sweden both internally, within Europe and outside Europe. I have been involved many times in EURAXESS in the US and the Destination Europe and I’m always impressed by the high quality of the EURAXESS events.

What new initiatives are you working on?

The Swedish Government presented recently its 4-year Research Bill. The bill presents the Government’s view on the direction of research policy with a ten-year perspective, focusing in particular on measures in 2017–2020. Important cornerstones of the bill include increased basic appropriations to higher education institutions, initiatives in research linked to global societal challenges and increased resources to strengthen Sweden’s innovative capacity. There will be an increase of spending of €300m during the period.

One new interesting initiative that we have proposed is that VINNOVA have been asked set up a specific secretariat to coordinate Sweden’s cooperation with countries outside the EU and there will also be some new funding for this activity.

Thank you!
3 In Focus: Marie Curie Fellows in Southeast Asia

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), named after the double Nobel Prize winning Polish-French scientist famed for her work on radioactivity, support researchers at all stages of their careers, irrespective of nationality. Researchers working across all disciplines, from life-saving healthcare to 'blue-sky' science, are eligible for funding. In addition to generous research funding, scientists have the possibility to gain experience abroad and in the private sector, and to complete their training with competences or disciplines useful for their careers.

Over the past 20 years, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions have supported nearly 100,000 excellent researchers, boosting their research careers and widening their professional networks. A good 300 of these Marie Curie Fellows are nationals of Southeast Asian countries. Many have returned to their home countries after successful research stints in Europe and are now encouraging their peers to embark on similarly rewarding research experiences with the help of an MSCA fellowship.

EURAXESS ASEAN is dedicated to identifying the Marie Curie Fellows that are scattered across the region and bringing them together in a regional network. Ten highly accomplished and enthusiastic fellows met for the first time in Bangkok almost two years ago and hit off immediately. All share the desire to promote the MSCA opportunities to researchers in ASEAN. Many regularly share their experience in information sessions organised by EURAXESS ASEAN. Just as important though is their commitment to the exchange of research expertise and best practice with the common goal of forwarding the research communities in Southeast Asia.

Earlier this year, a group of Marie Curie fellows met in Hanoi to develop a work plan for a new chapter under the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA). The new chapter will create a common platform for networking, discussion and knowledge interchange for the Marie Curie fellows in Southeast Asia.
The outlook for this future chapter looks promising! Intra-ASEAN collaboration between the members of the network is already taking place. Dr Tatas from Indonesia and Dr Moritz Müller from Malaysia have just formalised the joint supervision of a PhD student which “will hopefully be the first of many co-supervised PhD and MSc projects”. Dr Müller continues “[The PhD student] Changi Wong is working on the carnivorous pitcher plant (Nepenthes sp.). Pitcher plants are very diverse in Borneo and several species only exist here. His main interest is to understand what compounds can be found in the plants, what role they play for the plants (i.e. for adaptation to different environments such as those living in high- vs lowlands), and ultimately if any of the compounds can be used for biotechnological and/or medical purposes such as anti-cancer activity. He is looking at the different compounds/metabolites in Tatas’ lab since he got a fantastic setup for high end analyses. In the later parts of his PhD, he will go to Germany and/or Scotland to undertake some of the biomedical tests. We are also going to apply for the MSCA-RISE for this project. Changi will regularly go back and forth between both Tatas’ and my university over the coming two years.” You can find out more about Tatas and Moritz below.

The launch of the new MCAA chapter is likely to take place in early 2017 with a number of exciting outreach activities already in planning!

Marie Curie Fellows in Profile
Name: Moritz Müller

Nationality: German

Current place of work: Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus, Malaysia

Research expertise: Moritz obtained his PhD at the University of Southampton, UK. He is a biogeochemist who worked on the interaction of microbes and sulphides for his PhD and then moved to Borneo where he is now working as a Senior Lecturer at Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus. During his PhD, he used combinations of electrochemical, bacterial and biomarkers measurements to show a Marinobacter species significantly enhanced alteration / oxidation of metal sulphides. His research involved mobility to the Universities of Bristol and Manchester. His current group’s research focus is on (mostly) aquatic samples and microbes; as well as endophytic fungi. Research interests are related to ecology (baseline biodiversity and their role in release of Greenhouse Gases) but also of an applied nature, such as their potential use for bioremediation or antibiotic production.

Moritz’ Marie Curie experience in a nutshell: During the Fellowship, I had the honour to learn from world-class researchers which has allowed me to find my own research identity. Me and my students are profiting from the many connections I made during the fellowship and it has really shown me how important networks are.

Website Link:
Moritz on LinkedIn
Name: Tatas Hardo Panintingjati Brotosudarmo  
Nationality: Indonesia  
Current place of work: Ma Chung Research Center for Photosynthetic Pigments (MRCPP), Universitas Ma Chung, Malang, East Java, Indonesia  
Research expertise and interests: Biochemistry & biophysics on photosynthesis systems and their applications  
Tatas’ offer to other researchers:  
If you are interested in the topic related to biodiversity and natural products, I can offer you joint research projects, joint papers, and hosting MSc/PhD students. My group works on the understanding of structure and function of pigments and pigment-protein complexes in the photosynthetic organisms with focus on biochemistry, chromatography, imaging and spectroscopy. My group also works in developing applications and technologies in the area of functional food products, renewable energy and remote sensing for agriculture management.  
Tatas’ Marie Curie experience in a nutshell:  
My Marie Curie experience was not about the past, but it is about the present and the future. The benefit to be a part of the Marie Curie Research Training Networks was not limited to academic aspects, in fact it has incubated my capacities to be a networker, an entrepreneur and a leader. After my return, I have succeeded to lead my laboratory in 2015 to be recognised as the private university based National Center of Excellence by the Indonesia State Minister of Research, Technology and Higher Education. Recently, I won the 22nd Science and Technology Award from the Indonesia Toray Science Foundation – Toray Industries Japan.  
Website link:  
Tatas on LinkedIn  
http://mrcpp.machung.ac.id/
In Case You Missed IT…

Over 500 researchers attend annual European Research Day Training Sessions

EURAXESS ASEAN hosted a record number of participants at its annual European Research Day (ERD) training series with a week-long traveling workshop series with stops in Malang, Jakarta, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. Well over 500 researchers of various disciplines and from universities and research institutions across ASEAN received hands-on training on effective proposal preparations for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). The presentation slides are available for download here.

Application for MSCA-Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) open until 5 April 2017

RISE is one of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions aiming at international and inter-sector collaboration through promoting research and innovation exchanges of staff. MSCA-RISE will support short-term mobility of research and innovation staff at all career levels, from the most junior (post-graduate) to the most senior (management), including administrative and technical staff. Details can be found here.

Application for ERC Consolidator Grants open until 9 February 2017

ERC Consolidator Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme. Applicant Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal. The Principal Investigator shall have been awarded their first PhD over 7 and up to 12 years prior to 1 January 2017. Details can be found here.

Like us on Facebook for regular updates on funding and career opportunities.
About us

EURAXESS ASEAN is a networking tool for European and international researchers active in ASEAN and for ASEAN researchers wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe. EURAXESS ASEAN provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for EU-ASEAN and international collaboration and for trans-national mobility. **Membership is free.**

Visit us at asean.euraxess.org and join the EURAXESS ASEAN community.

EURAXESS Worldwide networks have thus far been launched in North America (USA & Canada) Japan, China, India, in ASEAN and Brazil.