Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the fourth annual edition of the EURAXESS ASEAN quarterly newsletter 2018.

December is an opportunity for us here at EURAXESS ASEAN to take stock of our activities throughout the year and map out the route ahead. Over the past 12 months we have reached out to almost 1000 researchers across ASEAN informing them about the research opportunities Europe has on offer. We thoroughly enjoyed interacting with so many bright and inspiring researchers and research administrators. A big thank you is due to our partners at universities, research institutes and government agencies across the region for their much-appreciated support, advice and friendship! We look forward to many more joint activities in 2019!

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and welcome your feedback.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Your EURAXESS ASEAN team
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1 MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) – 2018 Call Open

Are you interested in strengthening your research network with European and Southeast Asian partners? The MSCA RISE Call 2019 is now open with a deadline of 2 April 2019. The call budget is 80 million Euros.

The MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) promotes international and / or intersectoral collaborations through secondments of researchers as well as non-research personnel involved in research and innovation activities. The main features of a RISE project are:

- The project should focus on a joint research and innovation programme (from research to market) between project beneficiaries / partners.
- Beneficiaries may belong to the academic or non-academic world (especially SMEs).
- Partners may belong to the academic or non-academic world and come from third countries.
- The personnel involved in the mobility programme may be PhD students, experienced researchers but also administrative or technical staff involved in the research and innovation programme.

Because they encourage individuals to work in other countries, the MSCA make the whole world a learning environment. They encourage collaboration and sharing of ideas between different industrial sectors and research disciplines while also backing initiatives that break down barriers between academia, industry and business. In addition, they reach out to the public with events that promote the value – and fun side – of science.

The MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) funds short-term exchanges of personnel between academic, industrial and commercial organisations throughout the world. It helps people develop their knowledge, skills and careers while building links between organisations working in different sectors of the economy, including universities, research institutes and SMEs.

For further call information please click here
Meet the ASEAN-based participants in MSCA-RISE projects

**Researcher profile:** Nitsara Karoonuthaisiri completed her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University, USA before joining BIOTEC in 2004. She established and became Head of BIOTEC Microarray Laboratory in 2007 and was appointed to be a Director of Biosensing Technology Research Unit in 2014. Nitsara has published over 50 international peer-reviewed scientific papers and was invited to present her work at more than 80 national and international conferences. Nitsara is a recipient of a Marie Curie International Incoming Individual Fellowship to develop biosensors for the detection of foodborne pathogens. She is well recognized internationally, and was elected as the founding co-Chair of the Global Young Academy in 2010 and was named Young Global Leader 2013 by the World Economic Forum.

**MSCA-RISE Project:** SAFE-Aqua Project *(SustainAble Farming for Effective Aquaculture)*

*Dr Nitsara – thank you for taking the time to share with us on your MSCA RISE experience. The SAFE-Aqua project funded under MSCA RISE has now been running for more than 18 months. Can you tell us how you came up with the research project idea, and how you found your partners?*

We have been working on shrimp biology to help sustain and revitalize the Thai shrimp industry. As you may know, Thailand is one of the world’s largest fishery exporters. We met Prof. Frederic Tangy from Institut Pasteur, who is a BIOTEC international advisory board member, and after discussing about our shrimp research programme and opportunities to work together, we decided to form a consortium for this work and applied for the MSCA RISE programme. The consortium comprises BIOTEC, Institut Pasteur, Wageningen University, Swansea University, and the Spanish company BacMine.

*Can you please give us some feedback on the application process? What were the main challenges?*
The application process is similar to other EC-funded programmes. It is important that you read all the relevant supporting documentation. The application guidelines are clear. The main challenges are to find people who are willing to undertake secondments. Often, researchers cannot do secondments because they are committed to other research projects. Also, the financial support for each secondment may be somewhat limited if you wish to bring along your family and the country living expenses are especially high.

**What do you see as being the clear benefits of MSCA-RISE project?**

Exchange of expertise and best practices, further collaboration, networking, and deepening both professional and personal relationships with colleagues.

**MSCA RISE requires multiple European research partners. How should ASEAN researchers go about building up their network in Europe?**

Also, it is important to keep in mind that there are no borders when it comes to doing good science. International conferences are probably one of the best ways to build and expand networks. Keep in mind that a good research relationship should be win-win - all partners should feel that they gain something from working together. Be very clear about what your niche is, and what you can offer, and understand what your research goals are so that you can find partners to work with you in achieving these goals.

**Any other advice you would give to researchers thinking about becoming involved in an MSCA-RISE proposal?**

Four key points:

- It is important to write a clear proposal stating how each partner in your consortium will contribute and how each will complement the others.
- Make sure that people are committed to secondments.
- All partners must understand that the financial support provided by MSCA RISE is for secondments and networking activities. Funds to support the actual research costs must be found elsewhere.
- Ensure that all partners are fully committed to the project and its goals.
Dr Tabassi, you are involved in the RISE consortium "Being Lean and Seen". Can you tell our readers what this project is all about?

The “Being Lean and Seen” programme is an EU-H2020 funded collaborative, multidisciplinary programme of research exchanges between 10 international partners over four years (2017-2020). From a wider perspective of advancing knowledge in project management through research exploration, the programme enriches and extends the field beyond its current intellectual foundations and connects it more closely to the challenges of contemporary practices. The multidisciplinary perspective of the work goes beyond the traditional boundaries of the project management body of knowledge to develop a holistic framework which will enable the successful delivery of projects both now and in the future.

Our project is based on three major pillars:

- **Being Lean**: Adapt, enhance and advance management practices from other industries in response to the need for efficiency and effectiveness of projects.

- **Begin Seen**: Incorporate the perspective of the people responsible for delivering projects by accentuating the psycho-social aspects.

- **Being Lean and Seen**: Adapt projects to dynamic environments in order to sustain competitive advantage in the long run with Dynamic Capabilities and adapt project management methods to developing countries.

We are doing this research with 10 innovative interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborating partners undertaking 7 work packages. Overall, 49 separate secondments totalling 73 months to collect and analyse data have been set for this programme.
In your views, how do you and USM benefit from your participation in MSCA-RISE?

The RISE gives us the opportunity to develop our knowledge about Lean and Agile management for performance improvement. By having 6 secondments in the UK and Germany we will give this opportunity to our staff to make themselves more familiar with the current practices of project managers there. Therefore, new ideas on managing projects will be come out from such great experiences.

Aside from knowledge sharing, USM starts to develop a networking and globalization programme with our participants in the RISE project. As I have pointed out before, we are 10 participants in this project, 9 from Europe and USM from Asia. Through the first secondee that we hosted Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans Peter Schelkle from HTGW Germany at USM, we facilitated the programme of having a MOA with them. The plan was successful, and the MOA was signed by the authorities at both universities after few months from his secondment.

For someone interested in joining an MSCA-RISE consortium, what would be your top 3 tips?

My top three tips to researchers who are interested in joining international research programmes with Europe could be:

1. Focus on Quality rather than Quantity in your current research and publication. Instead of having too many publications in none cited journals, you may do your best to have few in well-known and reputable journals in your field.

2. Attend to any international networking events, such as international conferences, workshops, training courses, symposiums, etc. that include academy and industry participants from Europe.

3. Develop a proposal based on a global issue in the area of your expertise and then invite at least three participants from Europe. This will increase your chance to be accepted by potential researches in the field and facilitate the networking development.

Thank you Dr Nitsara and Dr Tabassi!
2 Erasmus+ Capacity Building in the field of higher education - Focus on Asia

Capacity-building in the field of higher education supports the modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of higher education in Partner Countries. Since 2014, a number of Asian Higher Education Institutions (from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) are able to participate in these projects addressing challenges in the management and governance of their higher education institutions.

The projects aim to encourage cooperation between the EU and Partner Countries and support eligible Partner Countries in addressing challenges in the management and governance of their higher education institutions. This includes improving the quality of higher education, developing new and innovative education programmes, modernising higher education systems through reform policies as well as fostering cooperation across different regions of the world through joint initiatives.

There are 2 types of capacity-building projects:

- **Joint projects**: aimed at organisations to help improve curriculums, governance, and the strengthening of relations between higher education systems.

- **Structural projects**: aimed at promoting reforms in higher education systems, modernising policies, governance and strengthening relations between higher education systems and the wider economic and social environment.

Capacity-building projects can be:

- **National projects** involving institutions from only one eligible Partner Country
- **Multi-country projects** within one single region, involving at least two countries from this region
- **Multi-country projects** involving more than one region and involving at least one country from each region concerned

The European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) organised an online Infosession on Erasmus+ Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education: Focus on Asia on 30th November 2018.

The presentations are available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess).
3 EURAXESS Tutorial: How to post a job offer on the EURAXESS portal

The EURAXESS Jobs portal is a great tool to find research positions in European Union Member States and Associated Countries. On average, 60,000 jobs are published annually by almost 15,000 registered organisations, most of them located in European countries. With over 2 million visitors annually and 1.2 million pageviews per month, the EURAXESS portal has become a key resource for mobile research talent from all parts of the world looking for their next career step. The EURAXESS Jobs portal is available for all EURAXESS members including those located in ASEAN. The EURAXESS Jobs portal offers the opportunity to alert EU-based researchers to research opportunities in their home country or institution.

EURAXESS welcomes any type of employers, public, private, academia, industry, business players, etc. All of these only to help researchers and institutions identify the best fit with their interest and needs.

The publication of jobs on the EURAXESS Jobs portal is free of charge. EURAXESS only facilitates the publication of offers and does not intervene in the relationship between the applicants and their potential employer. The responsibility for the advertisements published lies entirely with the publishing institution/employer, who is also fully responsible for the recruitment and selection processes.

Our colleagues at EURAXESS Brazil & LAC have prepared a step-by-step guide explaining how to post job offers on EURAXESS - one of the largest networks supporting researcher mobility in Europe and beyond.

The step-by-step guide is available here.

EURAXESS helps you succeed - Tutorials
Find this and other tutorials we produce to help you get the most out of the EURAXESS portal and European funding opportunities on EURAXESS LAC website (lac.euraxess.org) by clicking on “Publications” and then on “Guides”. Some examples:

- How to post hosting offers on EURAXESS portal?
- How to become a Horizon 2020 Evaluator?
- How to submit a MSCA Individual Fellowship proposal
EURAXESS ASEAN

4 EURAXESS Prize Winners 2018 return from Europe

The five EURAXESS Prize winners 2018 have returned from their European trips visiting research peers across the continent to exchange ideas, explore research collaborations and to expand their professional network. Visit the EURAXESS Website to find out more about our winners.

The five awardees represent the whole spectrum of scientific disciplines and are clearly making their mark in their respective fields. The innovative ideas they are developing are truly impressive. Mr Pawin Taechoyotin from Thailand’s Ministry of Digital Economy and Society is developing a substance detection system that will be able to make invisible substances, such as gas, appear on a computer screen while his Malaysian peer Dr Prabhakaran is developing an affordable cholera vaccine. Singaporean biomedical engineer Dr Yin Chin is working on a new-generation of implantable medical devices that are entirely biocompatible. Vietnam’s EURAXESS Prize winner 2018 Ms Vo Quoc Thao Nguyen from Saigon proposes replacing plastic straws with environmentally friendly natural straws made of a grass that is abundant in the Mekong Delta. And Indonesian researcher Dr I Made Andi Arsana from the Universitas Gadjah Mada is dedicated to improving the livelihoods of fishermen by building a device that allows access to online maps that show the location of fish in the ocean.

Please look out for announcements on the 2019 edition on the EURAXESS ASEAN Facebook page and our website.
EURAXESS ASEAN caught up with our five awardees to find out where their trip took them and how the experience has helped their career.

**EURAXESS PRIZE Winner:** Mr Pawin Taechoyotin  
**Home Country:** Thailand  
**Winning Idea:** “Breaking the Wall of Safety and Security” – a gas detection system using a low-cost multi-spectral camera system.  
**European research organisations visited:**  
Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Optics and Precision Engineering in Jena, Germany  
Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light in Elangen, Germany

**EURAXESS PRIZE Winner:** Ms Vo Quoc Thao Nguyen  
**Home Country:** Vietnam  
**Winning Idea:** “Breaking the Wall of Plastic Straw”. Instead of plastic straws, it is better to use friendly environmental straws from a particular grass called “Lepironia” which grows naturally in the Mekong Delta area.  
**European research organisations visited:**  
The Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering Team at the University of Kassel in Witzenhausen, Germany  
Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Bio-economy e.V. (ATB) in Potsdam, Germany

“An inspiring adventure for both technological advances and multiple perspectives of the world.”  
Pawin Taechoyotin

“The EURAXESS Prize is part of EURAXESS ASEAN’s support of the Falling Walls Lab competitions in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam and is awarded to the first winner of each competition. The EURAXESS Prize has a value of 600 Euros and offers the unique opportunity for the awardee to visit a research lab or university in any of the 28 Member States of the European Union. The Prize serves as a career-advancement bursary enabling the winners to expand their professional network through linkages and future collaboration with their research peers in the European Union.”  
Ms Vo Quoc Thao Nguyen

“Falling Walls Lab 2018, we are here, 100 innovators from all over the world, doing different things but for the same purpose, improving the world. – Once in a lifetime experience!”  
Ms Vo Quoc Thao Nguyen
EURAXESS PRIZE Winner: Dr I Made Andi
Home Country: Indonesia
Winning Idea: "Breaking the Wall of Technological Injustice", developing a GPS-based device to enable fisherman to catch more fish.
European research organisations visited:
Gobal Ocean Initiative - Wold Maritime University in Malmo Sweden

"Falling Walls Lab is a journey beyond borders. It is a scientific pilgrimage to test my ideas beyond the computer screen."
Dr I Made Andi

EURAXESS PRIZE Winner: Dr Chin Sau Yin
Home Country: Singapore
Winning Idea: Developing next generation implantable devices, that are entirely biocompatible, do not require an onboard battery or power source yet can be actively controlled after implantation.
European research organisations visited:
Department of Biomedicine, University of Basel, Switzerland

"It is not often that an opportunity presents itself to an early-career scientist such as myself to give a seminar talk at a department in a renowned European institution such as the University of Basel. I enjoyed sharing my work with the various researchers that I met there, who were also extremely generous hosts, and I had the opportunity to learn about the interesting research being done there. I received great feedback from the researchers that I met and hopefully we can continue discussions which will lead to collaborations down the road."
Dr Chin Sau Yin

EURAXESS PRIZE Winner: Dr Guruswamy Prabhakaran
Home Country: Malaysia
Winning Idea: Developing an affordable Cholera Vaccine
European research organisations visited:
Robert-Koch-Institute Berlin, Germany
Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

"The Falling Walls Lab finals in Berlin was truly inspiring and has offered me the opportunity to interact with innovators and senior academics from all over the world who spoke on scientific issues of global concern. The EURAXESS Prize gave me the unique opportunity to visit two top research institutes in Paris and in Berlin."
Dr Guruswamy Prabhakaran
Scientists and engineers increasingly find themselves called to engage with the public, whether discussing research with friends and family, joining the conversation on a community issue or engaging with the media, among other scenarios. Many academic programs, however, do not offer communication and engagement training as part of their curricula.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), acting on its mission to “advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people,” responds to this need by offering scientists resources and opportunities to engage effectively with the public.

The AAAS Center for Public Engagement with Science and Technology (“the Center”) offers a range of programs designed to enable scientists to learn more about and improve their practice of public engagement. In November 2018, the Center offered a seminar during the 2018 European Research Day in Ottawa, highlighting public engagement best practices. This one-hour seminar summarizes content from our Communicating Science workshops. Since 2008, we have provided more than 225 workshops for more than 7,000 scientists and engineers at universities, science society meetings, and government agency labs in the US and abroad. Here, we share a brief overview of the Science Communication and Public Engagement Fundamentals seminar.

What is Public Engagement with Science?

AAAS defines public engagement as “intentional, meaningful interactions that provide opportunities for mutual learning between scientists and members of the public.” As former AAAS chief executive officer Alan Leshner put it in a 2003 Science editorial, “we need to engage the public in a more open and honest bidirectional dialogue about science and technology and their products, including not only their benefits but also their limits, perils, and pitfalls. We need to respect the public’s perspective and concerns even when we do not fully share them, and we need to develop a partnership that can respond to them.”

Many of the challenges we face as a society – from climate change to public health to artificial intelligence – have science and technology at their core. To move forward on these issues and make decisions as a society, we must foster dialogue among scientists and other members of
society. Rather than simply informing society, a public engagement approach builds on public understanding and uses conversation to address questions or concerns on scientific topics. This two-way model of communication also allows scientists to learn from the public, enriching their research with new viewpoints and direct input from people affected by that research.

**The Framework**

The AAAS framework for public engagement with science (at right) can guide scientists in planning, implementing and evaluating their public engagement.

![AAAS Framework for Public Engagement with Science](image)

**Planning for Public Engagement**

Careful planning is essential to successful public engagement. The first step is to identify your *goal* for engaging. Answer these questions to form an actionable goal: Why do you want to engage? What do you hope will happen as a result? Use your goal as a guide to identify the relevant audience(s), essential topics of discussion, best channels for connecting with the audience, and how you’ll evaluate your success.

Second, it’s critical to consider your *audience*. Be as specific as you can, such as 8th grade students at a middle school in your hometown or staff in your local government representative’s office. Then, consider that audience’s unique values, needs, and concerns and, importantly, what you have in common with that audience. This will help you connect with...
them. Think about what they will want to know from you. Anticipate their questions.

Third, develop three key ideas around which to center your discussions. Even seasoned scientists can find that confidence in their own expertise wanes when away from the bench. Developing messages ahead of time, centered around key ideas relevant to the audience, helps instill focus and confidence and prepares you for an audience-driven conversation.

While scientists often leave the most impactful information – the findings – until the end of a scientific paper, the public is used to seeing that information up front (think of a newspaper headline). To capture your audience’s attention, discuss your “bottom line” information at the outset, being sure to explain the “so what?” or why it matters to the audience.

Formalize your key ideas into three messages that are miniature, memorable, and meaningful to help you convey them as clearly and effectively as possible. Miniature messages are concise, distilled into key words or phrases that are easy to remember. Make your messages memorable using verbal cues such as alliteration or rhymes, or use analogies, pop culture references, or stories. Finally, make messages meaningful by infusing emotion and connecting to the audience’s values, interests, and concerns.

For example, AAAS summarizes our What We Know initiative in three short messages: 1) climate scientists agree, climate change is happening here and now, 2) we are at risk of pushing our climate system toward abrupt, unpredictable, and potentially irreversible changes with highly damaging impacts, and 3) the sooner we act, the lower the risk and cost, and there is much we can do. This summary suffices for a 30-second description of the initiative and can also be explored more fully during a longer conversation.

The key points in this example can be miniaturized even further using three words: reality, risk, and response, which are memorable thanks to alliteration (each word begins with the letter ‘r’). Addressing common questions such as “what can we do?” and discussing the impacts of and responses to climate change relevant to a particular audience as a part of a conversation makes the messages meaningful.

Finally, use your audience’s language and avoid technical terms that are specific to your discipline. An audience who is reluctant to ask for clarification will not get much out of a conversation.

Implementing a Public Engagement Plan

Once you’ve identified your goal, audience, and message, develop a concrete plan for action. Start by reflecting on how you wish to be perceived by your audience and who you represent. If appropriate, work with your institution’s media relations or outreach office. Then, identify how and when you’ll connect with your audience.
AAAS identifies five major approaches to public engagement: 1) everyday engagement, informal and incidental interactions, such as a chat with a taxi cab driver, 2) public dialogue, which focuses on cultivating conversation about science, such as a Science Café or Facebook Live chat, 3) policy deliberation, focusing on specific actions in response to science-society issues, such as in meetings with a policymaker or a town hall meeting, 4) knowledge co-production, integrating public participation into research via citizen science, for example, and 5) university-led cooperative engagement, or providing expert consultation to professional communities, including cooperative extension.

Consider which approach works best for your goal and your audience. Then, solidify your next steps: what will you do tomorrow, this week, this month, etc., to put your plan into action?

Evaluating Public Engagement

The final element of public engagement is evaluation. Tune into your audience as you engage. Be responsive to their body language. Ask questions to check for understanding. After engaging, evaluate yourself. Ask “what went well?” “what should I change?” and “did I accomplish my goal?” Adjust accordingly. Finally, a formal evaluation such as an audience survey, a phone call, or a reflection on what happened because of the engagement will prepare you for future engagement opportunities.

Effective public engagement happens over the course of a career and evolves over time. We encourage you to continue to develop your public engagement skills. Visit our online Communication Toolkit for additional resources or email us at CommunicatingScience@aaas.org.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Center for Public Engagement with Science and Technology provides scientists with communication resources, including Communicating Science workshops and an online Communication Toolkit, and facilitates dialogue between scientists and the public.

*With thanks to our lovely colleagues Viky and Dimah at EURAXESS North America.
6 Fantastic Turnout for European Research Days organised by EURAXESS ASEAN in Indonesia and Malaysia

More than 500 researchers and representatives of research support offices from across Indonesia and Malaysia joined the European Research Days 2018 which took place in Yogyakarta and Medan in Indonesia and Penang in Malaysia. EURAXESS ASEAN, the British, French and German Embassies, Campus France, Institut Français d'Indonésie, Université de Poitiers, DAAD, the British Council, and Nuffic Neso all presented on a wide range of funding opportunities and support mechanisms available to researchers in both countries.

Three best practice sharing sessions with expert speakers provided fantastic guidance on some of the most important issues for researchers in their career development journey: effective science communication, successful proposal preparation and international collaboration.

The enthusiasm shown by the participants is a clear indication that there is enormous opportunity for increased research cooperation between Indonesia and Europe.

We look forward to a big increase in the number of successful proposals coming from researchers in the region.

Presentations from these events can now be downloaded:

Indonesia
Malaysia
7 About us

EURAXESS ASEAN is a networking tool for European researchers active in Southeast Asia and for international 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, Korea, and in ASEAN (currently focusing on Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia). As of March 2017, the EURAXESS Brazil network has been expanded to cover Latin America and the Caribbean States as well.