

# Arizona State University

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Southeast Asia

# ASU Charter

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ASU is a comprehensive **public research university** measured not by whom it excludes but by **whom it includes** and how they **succeed**; advancing **research and discovery** of public value; and assuming **fundamental responsibility** for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the **communities** it serves.

## New American University

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Arizona State University has become the foundational model for the New American University, a new paradigm for the public research university that transforms higher education. ASU is committed to excellence, access and impact in everything that it does.

**#1 in the U.S.  
for innovation**  
ASU ahead of MIT and Stanford  
—U.S. News & World Report, 6 years, 2016–2023



**#1 in the U.S. and  
#2 in the world  
for global impact**  
Ahead of MIT, New York University and Penn State  
—Times Higher Education, 2022

# Welcome

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**We are proud** that ASU is the academic home of more than **390 students from Southeast Asia** and that the university has impacted the lives of more than **3,330 alumni from Southeast Asia**.

**We are committed to helping our students succeed** – not just academically, but throughout their lives – and be prepared for a rapidly changing world in which new careers are constantly evolving.

**Our legacy of excellence in education grows** because of the strengths of our award winning faculty who invest in collaborative, interdisciplinary and solution-focused approaches to research, education and entrepreneurship.

**We look forward to working with you** to empower the workforce and leadership through discovery and impact.

Warmest regards,

**Julia Rosen**

Vice President of Global Academic Initiatives  
Office of University Provost



# Southeast Asia

## Map

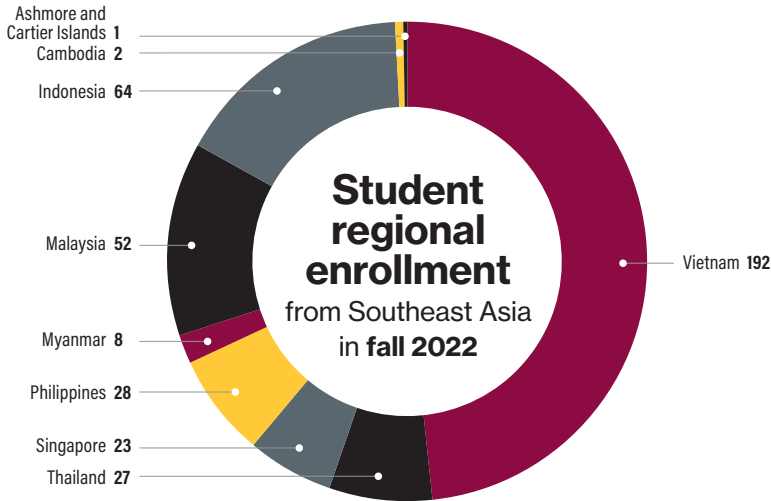
**Southeast Asia is defined by the University Office of Institutional Analysis as including** Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Brunei, Cambodia, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.



# Student enrollment

2022

## Southeast Asia student regional enrollment in 2022



# 397

students from Southeast Asia enrolled at ASU in fall 2022

## 277

undergraduate students

## 120

graduate students

## 125

students enrolled in the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions' Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative from 2016 to 2022

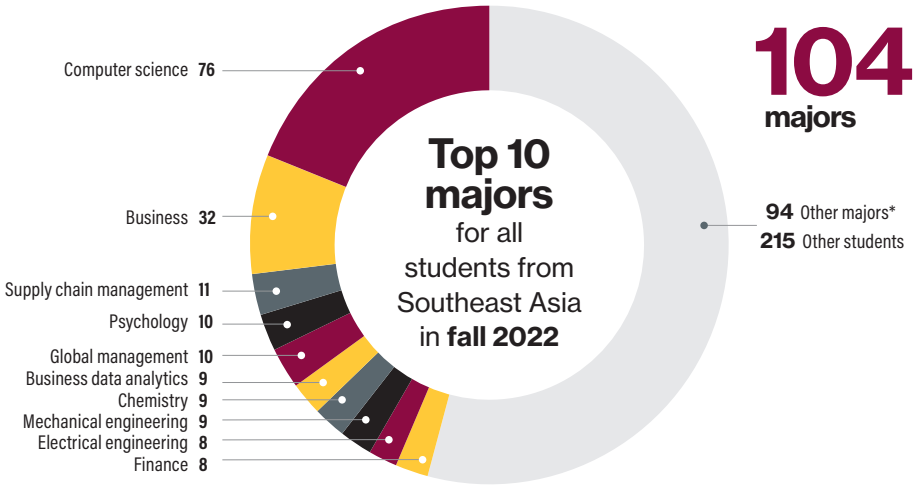
## 351%

increase in international student enrollment from Southeast Asia between fall 2012 and fall 2022

# Student enrollment

2022

## Top ASU programs chosen by students from Southeast Asia in 2022



### \* The remaining 94 majors

include biological sciences, biomedical engineering, Information technology and computer systems engineering, special education and architectural studies



### Jerome Raphael Cabacungan (Philippines)

Computer information systems, BS

Jerome's path began in the Philippines, where he was born and raised. It was the stellar reputation of ASU's W. P. Carey School of Business that brought him to the U.S. to pursue a computer information systems major.

“ I wanted a challenge that covers a number of my interests, such as cybersecurity, programming, business and mathematics. Computer information systems is versatile, which means I have a plethora of choices in terms of a career path. I can be an expert in various areas in both the business and computer fields. The world of business and technology keeps on evolving, and I would love to be part of that growth. ”

# Student stories

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## Thu Thao Nguyen (Vietnam)

Chemistry, PhD

Thu graduates with her doctorate from the School of Molecular Sciences, a journey that began in middle school in Hanoi, Vietnam. The winner of the 2022 SMS Innovation Award, her research has drawn the interest of government and private manufacturing corporations. Upon graduation, she'll move to Pennsylvania where she will launch into her career as a research and development chemist.

“I heard that ASU has a good graduate program and a diversity of culture,” Nguyen continued. “I found that to be true. The professors here are approachable; I feel comfortable discussing research problems with my professors and with my colleagues, which is key to arriving at solutions.”



## Shirin Pramod Karunakaran (Malaysia)

Architectural studies, BS  
Sustainability, BSD

Shirin's home town is Selangor, Malaysia. She came to the U.S. for college to experience American culture. At ASU, she says she's found much more than that. She joined the Coalition of International Students, as the marketing director, the Malaysian Students' Association, Engineers Without Borders Malaysia Sarawak and Emerging Leaders Asia.

“One major thing that I love about ASU is how strongly integrated the school spirit is into the overall student experience. I owe a lot of my personal growth to the multitude of educational, professional and social opportunities ASU provides for their students. It's a very welcoming environment and I'm definitely proud to call myself a Sun Devil.”

# Student stories

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## Lilly Purdon (Thailand)

Business administration, BA

Lily came to ASU because of the opportunities the university offered, and because it was a globally recognized institution. She also was drawn by the charter stating ASU measures itself “not by whom it excludes but by whom it includes and how they succeed.” In addition to business administration, she intends to double major in law.

“ I love the incredible opportunities ASU has to offer. From numerous on-campus resources, opportunities for startups, scholarships, careers, volunteering, networking and much more. I have grown so much since I moved to ASU. Not only have I broken out of my shell, but I’m more knowledgeable, more driven, more social, and more confident in my abilities, myself and my future.”



## Adrian Sudjuno (Indonesia)

Interdisciplinary studies, BA

Adrian transferred to ASU after a break from community college and works full time while attending classes at ASU. He hadn’t been sure about his next steps until he discovered ASU’s interdisciplinary studies degree, which allowed him to pursue studies in project management and business. He’s looking into a number of internships offered through ASU to further his experiences.

“ There are a lot of things that made me go to ASU. The instructors are very helpful and the students are awesome. While it is a challenge to make new friends remotely, I have been lucky to have good people from each class on Zoom that help me and each other throughout the class.”



# Student stories

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## **Hien Ta** (Vietnam)

Supply chain management, BS  
Global logistics, MS

Hien comes from the south of Vietnam and he has always dreamed of studying in the U.S. After thorough research, he chose the supply chain management program at ASU when he was 16, knowing it would provide many opportunities both in the U.S. and abroad. He has joined many organizations like the Vietnamese Student Union, as vice president, and the Supply Chain Management Association. Also, he has opportunities to intern at companies such as Expeditors International and ON Semiconductor.

**“** ASU is a truly a diverse community where I can meet people from across the world, which has helped me to open up my mind about the world. Furthermore, I have grown a lot since I came to ASU. I have become more independent and confident. ASU has also given me opportunities. I have been able to work with Forbes 500 companies, and win many case competitions like the KPMG case and the PepsiCo case. **”**

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# Alumni

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# 3,323

**alumni from Southeast Asia**  
earned a degree from ASU  
between 1981 and 2023

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# 1,175

**alumni from Southeast Asia**  
have graduated from ASU  
between 2012 and 2023

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**Thunderbird School of Global Management** opened a Center of Excellence in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2019. Since its founding, it has helped recruit students, build academic partnerships, engage the alumni network in the region, and offer customized executive education to organizations in Indonesia. The school plans regional expansions into Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, and Manila, Philippines.

#### **ASU Thunderbird alumni chapters**

Thunderbird alumni chapters are in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam.

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#### **ASU alumni chapters**

There are ASU alumni chapters in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

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### **Maryam Balqis Abdul Rashid** (Malaysia) Sustainability, BA

Maryam traveled 9,021 miles to pursue a major that she felt passionate about. In addition to her bachelor's degree, she'll complete her master's degree through ASU's 4+1 accelerated Master of Sustainability Solutions program.

“ No matter who you are or where you come from, I feel like ASU gives 1,001 opportunities to explore and grow as a person – and that's a huge reason I love studying at ASU. The School of Sustainability has given me opportunities beyond my wildest dreams. ”

# Alumni

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## Clinton Ang (Singapore)

Psychology, BS  
Computer information systems, BA

Started by his great-grandfather, Clinton's family's business has now become the largest independent distributor of wine and spirits in Southeast Asia. Under Clinton's management, the business has grown to operate in 28 countries and to include Cornerstone Wines, a direct-to-consumer business. As a trained fund manager, Clinton also manages the family's equity holdings, which are spread across jurisdictions that include Hong Kong, Europe and the U.S. Clinton credits his psychology degree with giving him a foundation of emotional intelligence, which has proven beneficial in his career.

“ I'm really thankful for ASU and for my days in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. I got involved in sports, Barrett, Singapore Students Association, the Asian Coalition and quite a few other groups. Everything I was exposed to molded me and gave me opportunities, perspectives and readiness for life. ”



## Sambo Dul (Cambodia)

Political science BA; Economics BS; Spanish, BA

At ASU, Sambo started the Community Outreach and Advocacy for Refugees student organization and was active in Amnesty International. She went on to earn a joint degree from New York University School of Law and Princeton University, receiving a JD and master's degree in public affairs. She has taken her educational experiences and her statuses of refugee and immigrant from Cambodia as well as lawyer to benefit hundreds of other people. She was named the 2018 Founders' Day Young Alumni Achievement Award. In 2019, she became the elections director under Arizona Secretary of State Katie Hobbs.

“ I always say that the four years I spent at ASU were some of the best years of my life because I got to do so much and learn so much. It was really where I started to get socially and politically engaged and aware and passionate about the issues that I still work on today. ”

# Alumni

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## Hoang Thi Khanh Ha (Vietnam)

Materials science and engineering, MS

Hoang received an Intel Products Vietnam Grand Challenges Masters Fellowship in 2017 to pursue a master's degree in materials science and engineering. She hoped to acquire critical thinking, practical knowledge and applied skills from ASU to contribute to the Smart City project in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. After completing her degree at ASU, she returned to Vietnam and joined the project. She is currently working at Ho Chi Minh City's Department of Construction as an urban development specialist.

“The days I spent at ASU were the most beautiful days of my life. It allowed me to expand my horizons and set new challenges. My master's courses at ASU broadened my knowledge. It was a leap of my life to gain deeper insight into the semiconductor industry.”



## Brigitte Lim (Philippines)

Solar energy engineering and commercialization, MS

Brigitte's experiences at ASU helped her see how the solar industry could be beneficial to communities in the Philippines. She co-founded Solar N3E: Solar Network for Energy Education and Employment, a social enterprise that integrates research, training and networking to expand employment opportunities in the Philippines through the solar industry. This effort received the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network Youth Prize. She's now a business developer with Japan Solar in Manila, Philippines. She's also established STEMpower Our Girls, which sponsors talks, career caravans and workshops to empower young Filipinas in science, technology, engineering and math.

“ASU had the most relevant program for me because it wasn't just the physics of solar cells. It was more business and applied photovoltaics, how the technology works, how to market it and commercialize it.”

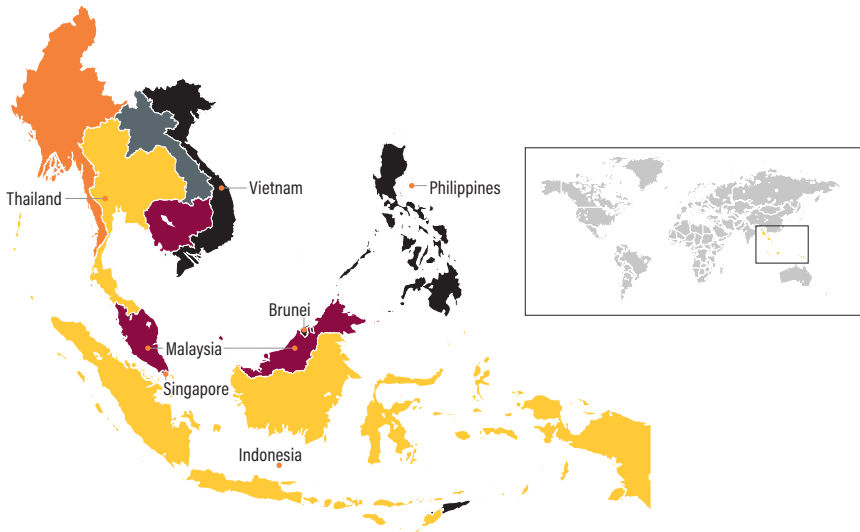
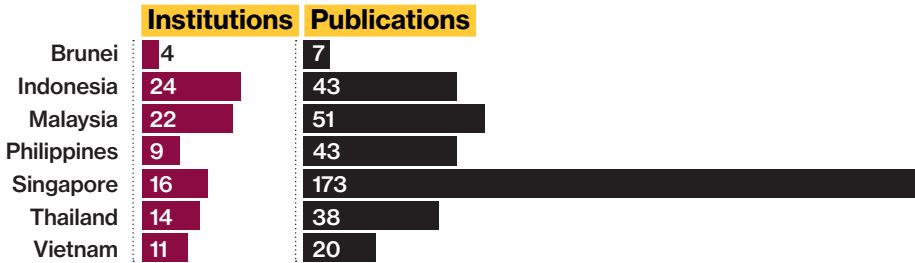
# Academic partnerships and programs

## 2018–2022 papers co-authored by ASU and Southeast Asia researchers

Papers can be mapped to multiple subject areas.

# 375

**papers were co-authored by ASU and Southeast Asia researchers with 100 collaborating institutions between 2018 and 2023**



**The top three institutions in Southeast Asia for co-authored publications were the National University of Singapore (85), Nanyang Technical University (77), and University of the Philippines (27) – a public university.**

# Research awards

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Over the last 10 years, there were **39 grants** awarded for projects in Southeast Asia for a total of more than **\$24.7 million**.

The largest current grant for **\$2.85 million** from the U.S. Department of State funds the **US-ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Program**.

ASU projects in Southeast Asia have impacted resource decision-making in the Lower Mekong River Basin, high-resolution mapping of Sabah's forests, aquaculture, cybersecurity, entrepreneurship, student leadership and future STEM workforce development

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## Notable ASU faculty

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### Datu Buyung Agusdinata

Assistant Professor, College of Global Futures



Working together with subject-matter experts, Agusdinata develops and applies system approaches and tools to understand the dynamic behaviors of complex systems in order to inform decision-making in addressing sustainability issues in domains such as energy, transportation, supply chain, nanomedicine and climate change adaptation. One recent project in Indonesia examined sustaining livelihoods of traditional fishermen in Lombok and Papua, Indonesia, with support from Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold. He received his bachelor's degree in aerospace and mechanical engineering from the Bandung Institute of Technology in Indonesia and his doctoral degree in systems engineering and policy analysis from the Delft University of Technology, Netherlands.

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### Gregory Asner

Professor, College of Global Futures and

Professor, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Asner is an ecologist in the School of Ocean Futures and the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning and director of the Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science. He is recognized for his exploratory and applied research on ecosystems and climate change at regional and global scales. His research spans the areas of spatial ecology and biodiversity, terrestrial carbon cycle, animal-habitat interactions, and climate change. He develops scientific approaches and technologies for investigation and conservation assessments of large ecoregions. Currently, he's performing high-resolution mapping throughout the Malaysian state of Sabah on the island of Borneo, funded by the Carnegie Institution of Washington and Rainforest Trust.

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# Notable ASU faculty

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## **Jeffrey Goss**

Assistant Dean, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

Goss serves a multifaceted role as assistant dean, associate vice provost for Southeast Asia, executive director for the Office of Global Outreach and Extended Education at ASU. Since 2010, Goss has been the principal investigator, or project director, for a portfolio of STEM capacity projects in Vietnam with grants exceeding \$30 million through public-private partnerships with USAID, U.S. State Department, UKAID and industry. These include the Higher Engineering Education Alliance Program; BUILD-IT Alliance (or Building University-Industry Learning and Development through Innovation and Technology); Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, and the Lower Mekong Initiative Young Scientist Program. Most recently, he is the lead for the \$2.8 million US-ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation program, which is designed to help shape the region's future in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, education and workforce innovation.

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## **Jon Miller**

Director, Decision Theater®

Miller's project, titled NexView: Interdisciplinary modeling and visualization to support resource decision making in the Lower Mekong River Basin, is supported by a grant from the Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. As director of the Decision Theater at ASU, Miller leads efforts to model, simulate and visualize complex problems leading to informed policy discussions through better understanding and the ability to forecast the outcomes of policy decisions. He leverages the skills and experiences of a 34-year military career, executive leadership positions in private sector aerospace firms, and responsibilities as a senior executive service member of the Department of Homeland Security. He has coached and mentored executive leaders in a variety of environments across a spectrum of the most challenging issues.

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# Featured ASU faculty

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## **Rimjhim Aggarwal**

Associate Professor, College of Global Futures

Aggarwal's research and teaching interests lie at the interface between sustainability science and international development. A central focus of her research has been on examining the links between globalization, resilience of social-ecological systems, and human well-being. She's currently engaged in research projects examining the impacts of globalization and climate change on agricultural and water governance, farm livelihoods and food security in India, Nepal, Thailand and Arizona. She has also worked as a senior consultant for the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research and the World Bank.

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## **Gary Bitter**

Emeritus Professor, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College

Bitter has researched emerging technologies for the last 50 years. His research includes the impact of integration of technology into the curriculum on student achievement and attitude, anytime anywhere mobile learning, and online, app-delivered video-based student learning, and teacher professional development. His focus on e-learning explores the viability of the smartphone as a student and teacher resource of the future. Bitter is currently researching the effect of an m-learning English-speaking software app on students in Thailand at Chiang Rai Municipality Schools 6 and 7. This research includes delivery of the instruction via apps on smartphones. The apps include 12 instant feedback modules with gamified, progressive lessons, which result in faster and more engaging learning results.

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## **Lena Booth**

Associate Professor, Thunderbird School of Global Management

Booth is the deputy dean of Thunderbird Academic Enterprise and finance professor at Thunderbird. She teaches strategic financial analysis, corporate financial management, global financial management and advanced topics in finance such as global private equity. Born in Malaysia and educated in Singapore and the U.S., she speaks and writes in English and Malay and speaks Chinese, including a few Chinese dialects. In addition to teaching in the MBA/MGM, Master of Science, online MBA and EMBA programs at Thunderbird, Booth has also participated in executive education programs with multinational companies, including Bank Mandiri in Indonesia, and presented research and taught executives in Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

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# Featured ASU faculty

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## **Nalini Chhetri**

Clinical Professor, College of Global Futures

Chhetri is the associate director for international initiatives. Her work centers on climate impacts and communication, technological impacts in developing nations, knowledge systems, gender and urban sustainability. Her career also included directing sustainable development programs for international nongovernmental organizations for more than a decade. She works with think tanks and agencies in Bangladesh, China, Ghana, Guyana, India, Jordan, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Vietnam and the U.S. She has consulted for the United Nations and European bilateral agencies.

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## **James Eder**

Emeritus Professor, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Eder's research interests have long concerned how the tribal and peasant peoples of Southeast Asia, particularly those of the Philippines, have experienced development and change. His fieldwork in the Philippines has centered on Palawan Island, where his interests include demographic and subsistence change among the Batak, a tropical forest foraging people. One current research project, Migrants to the Coasts, examines the challenges that the continued migration to Palawan of ethnically diverse fisherfolk from elsewhere in the Philippines pose for the establishment of marine protected areas and other elements of successful community-based coastal resource management programs. Another current research project, Re-Envisioning the Upland Philippines, aims to better capture the ecological, economic and social transformations presently underway in the nation's uplands than present models allow. His most recent research project concerns ethnic identity, Islamic consciousness and Muslim-Christian relations in Palawan.

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## **Andrew Inkpen**

Professor, Thunderbird School of Global Management

Inkpen is the J. Kenneth and Jeanette Seward Chair in Global Strategy, a professor of management and director of the Thunderbird Case Series. His research focuses on global strategy, the management of multinational firms, and the management of strategic alliances and international joint ventures. In recent years, he has focused on the global energy industry. He has taught at the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, in addition to other U.S. and international institutions.

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# Featured ASU faculty

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## **Huê-Tâm Jamme**

Assistant Professor, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Jamme is in the School of Geographic Science and Urban Planning. She studies transitional urban forms and urbanisms from a comparative perspective. Using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods, she focuses on urban dwellers' lived experience. Her research explores in particular whether the development of information and communication networks shapes inclusive urban spaces. Jamme currently leads a research project centered on the gig economy and women's upward mobility in the capitals of Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. In previous research, she investigated the socio-spatial consequences of the transition toward auto-mobility in Vietnam.

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## **Hjorleifur Jonsson**

Professor, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Jonsson is a professor in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change. He has focused his research on hinterland farming populations in mainland Southeast Asia. His work has concerned the dynamics of identity, cultural practice and social life at the intersections of minority communities and state structures. The focus of his work has ranged among regional history and contemporary identity work and political protest. Most of his research since 1990 has been among Mien people in Thailand, but he has also done research in Cambodia and Vietnam, and since 2005, among Lu Mien in the U.S. who are refugee immigrants from Laos.

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## **Sreetharan Kanthaswamy**

Professor, New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Kanthaswamy is in the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences and specializes in population, forensic and conservation genetics. He is also a research geneticist at the California National Primate Research Center at the University of California, Davis. His research on primate genetics and genomics is centered on the investigation of anthropogenic and natural forces that shape and structure genetic variation of natural and captive animal populations. His forensic science research is based on the analyses of traces of blood, saliva and hair collected at crime scenes or from civil cases for DNA typing. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur and his doctorate from the University of California, Davis.

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# Featured ASU faculty

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## Uday Kulkarni

Emeritus Professor, W. P. Carey School of Business

Kulkarni has more than 30 years of research, teaching and industry experience in business analytics, knowledge management and database management. His research spans multiple areas, including understanding consumer brand engagement via online platforms, identifying antecedents of business analytics capability of firms, assessing knowledge management capability of organizations and analyzing knowledge-intensive business processes. He has also conducted research in the areas of decision-making support using data- and knowledge-based systems, application of artificial intelligence and knowledge-based systems to various eBusiness and manufacturing processes. He has been invited by international universities from Vietnam, India and Peru to teach executive MBA elective courses.

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## Sangmi Lee

Assistant Professor, New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Lee's current research focuses on how Hmong living in the diaspora have maintained extensive kinship networks and various cultural and economic practices across national borders despite the uncertainty about the location of ancestral homeland while also experiencing ethnic cultural differences based on their partial affiliation with different nation-states of residence. For this project, she conducted comparative, long-term ethnographic fieldwork with the Hmong communities in central Laos and the U.S. (California).

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## Han Hsien Liew

Assistant Professor, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Liew is assistant professor of Islamic studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. His research focuses on the history of Islamic political thought and Islamic scholarly culture in the premodern Middle East and Southeast Asia. He is currently working on a book project titled "Piety, Knowledge, and Emotions in Islamic Rulership: Ibn al-Jawzi's Ameliorative Politics." This book sparks new approaches in the study of Islamic political thought and probes the interconnections between politics, rhetoric and emotions. He received his PhD from Harvard University and is originally from Penang, Malaysia.

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# Featured ASU faculty

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## **Michael Little Crow**

Assistant Teaching Professor, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Little Crow is from the Turtle Mountain Anishinaabe-Cree people and an Indigenous math educator in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. He and his co-founder Uraivan Pinthong created OPEN Global Village to support two education abroad projects to Thailand and one sabbatical teaching mathematics through robotics in Kazakhstan. He empowers learners of all ages to connect with the power of mathematics inside themselves, using the human development aspects of math to help individuals from around the world reach their full human potentiality.

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## **Huan Liu**

Professor, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

Liu is a professor of computer science and engineering in the School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence. He was recognized for excellence in teaching and research in computer science and engineering and received the 2014 President's Award for Innovation. His research interests are in data mining, machine learning, social computing and artificial intelligence, investigating interdisciplinary problems that arise in many prevalent, data-intensive applications with high-dimensional data of disparate forms such as social media. Before he joined ASU, he worked at Telecom Australia Research Labs and was on the faculty at National University of Singapore.

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## **Daniel Rothenberg**

Professor of Practice, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Rothenberg is in the School of Politics and Global Studies, is co-director of the Center on the Future of War and is a member of the Center for Asian Research at ASU. His research focuses on human rights documentation and analysis, and on transitional justice with a focus on genocide, truth commissions and post-conflict reconstruction. Rothenberg has designed and managed rule of law projects in Afghanistan, Iraq, central Africa, Southeast Asia and throughout Latin America, including programs to train human rights NGOs, aid Indigenous peoples in using international legal remedies, support gender justice and collect and analyze first-person narratives from victims of severe human rights violations.

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# Featured ASU faculty

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## **James Rush**

Affiliated Faculty, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Rush specializes in Southeast Asian history and is a member of the Center for Asian Research at ASU. His work explores issues of colonialism and religion in 19th- and 20th-century Indonesia and includes the books “Southeast Asia: a very short introduction,” “Opium to Java: Revenue Farming and Chinese Enterprise in Colonial Indonesia, 1860–1910,” and “Hamka’s Great Story: A Master Writer’s Vision of Islam for Modern Indonesia.” His earlier work includes the biography project of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (Philippines). From 1987 to 2008, Rush conducted oral history interviews with more than 100 Magsaysay Awardees and edited eight volumes of biographical essays (1991–2010). Prior to joining ASU, he was a Peace Corps volunteer in Malaysia and subsequently studied modern Southeast Asian history at Yale University, where he received his PhD.

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## **Juliane Schober**

Professor, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Schober is the director of the Center for Asian Research and professor of religious studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. Her primary areas of research include Theravada Buddhist practices in Southeast Asia, especially Myanmar; anthropology of religion; material culture, media and aesthetics; icons; ritual; modernity, politics and religion; colonial studies; conflict and civil society; and sacred biography. She founded the Theravada Studies Group, an academic organization affiliated with the Association for Asian Studies, to promote comparative and scholarly exchanges in the social sciences and humanities about Theravada Buddhist traditions in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Southwest China and globally through pilgrimage and diaspora networks.

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# Featured ASU faculty

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## **Jorge Sefair**

Assistant Professor, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

In the School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence, Sefair's research interests include network optimization, robust optimization, integer programming, applications of optimization in environment, public policy, urban planning and finance. His current research focuses on the use of optimization techniques for the design of resilient systems that maintain a critical level of operation even under adverse uncertain circumstances. In particular, he is motivated by applications of operations research in environment, public policy and urban planning. A \$2.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation is supporting his work that links current and future hydrologic change to hydropower, human nutrition and livelihoods in the Lower Mekong Basin.

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## **Nancy Spahr**

Instructor, Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation

Spahr has been a nurse for more than 50 years and has worked in a wide variety of settings that include the U.S. Peace Corps, medical-surgical nursing, emergency nursing, nursing administration, ambulatory care and nursing education. She currently teaches at ASU in the RN-BSN program as well as with the online BSN program. Education, teaching and mission work are Spahr's passions and she has been able to combine these through her work with a nonprofit organization called Vital Links for Humanity. Through this organization, she has participated in many medical mission trips to Vietnam, providing educational programs for the nursing staff of several large hospitals, clinics, and the nursing college in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. She has also helped to provide medical care for rural villages and orphanages.

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# Featured ASU faculty

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## **Zhihua Wang**

Associate Professor, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

Wang is originally from Zhejiang Province of China. He spent nine years in Singapore (1997–2006), a small, beautiful tropical island in Southeast Asia, where he completed his bachelor's and master's degrees and later worked as a researcher in Nanyang Technological University. Prior to joining ASU's School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, he worked in the Environmental Engineering and Water Research program at Princeton University. His research interests include multiscale urban climate modeling, land-atmospheric interactions, landscape and infrastructure management, urban environmental sustainability study and energy efficiency analysis.

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## **Douglas Webster**

Emeritus Professor, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Webster has worked on urban development issues for 35 years, primarily in East Asia, but also in Latin America, Africa and North America. His current interests are comparative city building, or how cities are differentially built in different jurisdictions and cultures; comparative urban form and dynamics; urban competitiveness and resilience; and peri-urbanization, a transition zone between rural and urban areas, which occurs on the fringes of cities worldwide. His current research focus is on the impact of China's One Belt One Road Strategy on the urban systems and sub-national economies of the Greater Mekong Subregion, which includes Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Southwest China, Thailand and Vietnam. He is also interested in peri-urbanization in China and in Thailand and urban resiliency in the Greater Mekong Subregion, particularly Thailand. He was the senior urban advisor to the Thai government from 1993 to 1998.

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# Academic partnerships in Southeast Asia

2

## ASU-Cintana Institution

Comprehensive partnership with multiple levels of engagement

8

## General collaboration agreements

University-to-university agreements

1

## Collaborative degree program

International accelerated degree programs

3

## Student exchange agreement

International bilateral exchange agreements

2

## Memorandum of understanding

Signed agreements between universities

## Partnership countries

Indonesia  
Malaysia  
Philippines  
Singapore  
Thailand  
Vietnam



## University partners

1. Asian Institute of Management
2. Bach Mai Hospital
3. Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Education
4. Mahidol University
5. Mapúa University (ASU-Cintana Alliance)
6. Monash University Malaysia
7. National University of Singapore
8. OSAC International College
9. RMIT University Vietnam
10. The American University in Vietnam
11. Universitas Esa Unggul (ASU-Cintana Alliance)
12. Universiti Sains Malaysia
13. University of Labour and Social Affair
14. Viet Nam National University, Ho Chi Minh City
15. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

### Other partnerships:

15. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



# Student exchange programs

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## **ASU Cambodia and Vietnam: Countries of Historic Resilience Facing a Future of Rising Seas**

This program explores economic, political and cultural survival in the face of human and natural challenges by enabling students to experience a region that has witnessed the rise and fall of civilizations, change and resilience. Students visit two countries and compare them as they travel through history and across geographies that include the Mekong Delta and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) in Vietnam and the ruins of Angkor Wat, Cambodia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Students see firsthand how ancient and new adaptation strategies can help solve flooding challenges, and from local citizens and leaders they learn about innovative ways to confront current challenges in their daily lives.

## **ASU Project GO (Indonesian)**

In addition to four hours per day of language class, students and their Indonesian activity partners participate in at least three hours per week of extracurricular activities, including basic skills exercises (buying food, negotiating cab rides, asking for directions, etc.), visits to historic sites, and hands-on activities, that include Indonesian martial arts, southeast Asian culinary classes, batik painting lessons, etc. Project GO provides funding for tuition, room and board, books, insurance and visa.

## **ASU Sun Devils in Vietnam**

This internship enabling students to gain valuable work experience is a month-long English-only program in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The program provides students an opportunity to immerse themselves in the Vietnamese workplace, visit ancient historical sites, and learn about Vietnamese language and culture.

## **ASU Thunderbird Capstone Consulting Projects (Myanmar, Vietnam)**

ASU's Thunderbird School of Global Management offers extensive applied learning opportunities, including one-of-a-kind immersive consulting projects for real client organizations around the world. These competitive, capstone projects give Thunderbird students the opportunity to apply their education, gain unparalleled hands-on experience, and make a deep impact on their client organization's business operations. Teams of student consultants spend five to six weeks in the field working directly with a client organization. Teams have worked with businesses in Rwanda, Albania, Chile, Peru, Romania, Myanmar and Vietnam.

## **Critical Languages Institute (Indonesian)**

The ASU Critical Languages Institute offers intensive summer courses and summer study abroad programs for less commonly taught languages, including Indonesian.

## **GIE: Innovation and Urbanization in a Biodiversity Hotspot (Malaysia and Singapore)**

Experience four sites: Singapore, Penang, The Habitat Penang Hill, George Town. Students learn about the history, the cultural influences, the economy and the environment (for humans and for wildlife) of Malaysia and Singapore, work with University of Sains Malaysia students at The Habitat, and visit UNESCO world heritage sites in George Town.

# Student exchange programs

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## **GIE: Mindfulness and Culture Abroad (Thailand)**

Students will travel to Chiang Mai, Thailand to study a variety of mindfulness practices and experience the unique Thai culture. Students are able to better understand themselves, multiple perspectives, and different worldviews. A variety of mindful and cultural activities gives students the chance to live as a Buddhist monk, visit a temple in the forest, and create their own Thai feast.

## **Monash University Malaysia**

Study abroad in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The university has more than 1,500 international students from 60+ countries. Monash University, one of Australia's largest universities and ranked in the world's top 1%.

## **Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)**

ASU students have the opportunity to be exchange students at the young and research-intensive Nanyang Technology University in Singapore. Students can take a variety of courses from different departments.

## **National University of Singapore**

The Summer Engineering Research Internship for U.S. Students at National University of Singapore is open to undergraduate students in engineering. Successful applicants participate in research internships at NUS labs. In addition to developing research skills and finding out what's at the cutting edge in engineering and technology, students learn from faculty and researchers who are experts in their field.

## **RMIT University Exchange Program (Vietnam)**

Students can choose to study at either the Ho Chi Minh City campus or the Hanoi campus of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University. Vietnamese culture is a distinct fusion of Chinese, Japanese, American and French cultures. Living and studying in Vietnam gives the students an opportunity to explore a unique, historic, yet rapidly developing country.

## **Sage Family Southeast Asian Studies Scholarship**

The scholarship supports ASU undergraduate students' travel and study abroad in Laos and neighboring Southeast Asian countries. Established by ASU alumnus William Sage and offered through the Center for Asian Research, the scholarship is a tribute to his lifelong interest and work in Laos and Southeast Asia.

## **Scholarship for Service Cambodia**

Students develop field research skills including species identification, research design and implementation, conservation grant writing, ecosystem health assessments, and wildlife monitoring. Students spend the night in a floating village where they learn about climate-challenges and adaptation strategies. Students engage with villagers in long-term community projects and research, participating in festivals.

## **Singapore Management University**

This exchange program offers a smaller class size and a creative thinking approach that provides ASU's W. P. Carey School of Business students with the option of taking courses that fit directly into their major, including courses in finance, economics, management and marketing.

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# Academic partnerships and programs

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## **USAC Thailand Program**

The USAC program is located at Chiang Mai University, a university recognized throughout Southeast Asia for its high academic standards. Founded under a Royal Charter in 1964 by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, CMU was the first institution of higher education in Northern Thailand. The curriculum integrates multiple disciplines to respond to the ever-changing issues and events surrounding the country. The program is ideal for students who are interested in the economics, philosophy, politics, religions, culture and language of Thailand.

## **ASU offices in Southeast Asia**

### **ASU Representative Office in Vietnam**

ASU established a licensed Representative Office in Saigon High Tech Park in 2013, staffed by a talented local in-country team committed to fostering long-term relationships with government, industry and academia.

### **Maker Innovation Spaces (Vietnam)**

Supported by USAID BUILD-IT, ASU has partnered with Vietnamese universities, Saigon Hi-Tech Park and local Fab Lab in Danang to launch three fully functional Maker Innovation Spaces. With the support of key partners from the science and technology industry, a full range of applied project and industry-based curriculum initiatives are available to Vietnamese faculty and students. Since 2018, nearly 4,000 students have participated in these applied curriculum opportunities.

## **Thunderbird Office in Jakarta, Indonesia**

Located in a prime business area in Jakarta, this office focuses on alumni engagement and student recruitment, and partners with corporations, governments and not-for-profit entities seeking to develop their leaders.

## **ASU organizations and collections**

### **Southeast Asia Council**

The Southeast Asia Council at ASU brings together faculty, graduate students and associates who all share an academic interest in the region, including Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. Aside from their research, these faculty members also mentor and teach graduate and undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines. The faculty represents a broad range of disciplines and offer a degree in Asian studies as well as certificate programs. The council organizes events at ASU, including film showings and lecture series.

### **The Anthropology Collections by School of Human Evolution and Social Change**

The school maintains research collections that focus on Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand:

- The Anna Gillespie Collection (Laos)
  - Betty Grenig Collection (Vietnam)
  - The Joel Halpern Collection (Laos)
  - The Jane Hanks Collection (Thailand)
  - The William Sage Collections (Laos)
  - Mimijac Palgen Collections (Cambodia)
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# Academic partnerships and programs

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## Community outreach

### Habitat for Humanity (Indonesia)

Susanto Samsudin, a Thunderbird alumnus, is the president of Habitat for Humanity Indonesia. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps people in the community build or improve a place they can call home. This program is supported by the Thunderbird alumni chapter in Indonesia where alumni serve as volunteers and help raise money for the organization.

## Faculty programs

### HEEAP 2.0: Higher Engineering Education Alliance (Vietnam)

In 2012, HEEAP launched its second five-year phase with an investment of \$20 million from U.S. Agency for International Development, Intel, National Instruments, Pearson and others to expand the faculty development program and build capacity for international accreditation and technology solutions at the eight partner institutions. The Vocational and University Leadership and Innovation Institute, a three-year HEEAP project funded by USAID, provided educational capacity-building workshops and now efforts support academic leadership within the Vietnamese educational system: ministry officials, university rectors, mid-level administrators, academic and professional staff, and engineering program faculty leaders. These programs foster systemic change across the institutions responsible for preparing the next generation of the engineering workforce. To date, 7,800 participants in U.S.-based and in-country workshops have been trained in Phase 2. Intel is the key investor in this phase with a commitment of \$7 million.

### SETI Alliance (Vietnam)

ASU and the Vietnamese Ministry of Science and Technology aim to advance research and academic programs in science, engineering, technology and innovation across Vietnam. The SETI Alliance is a framework through which ASU, the Vietnamese Ministry of Science and Technology, Vietnamese technical universities, research institutes, and private industry can share knowledge, culture and experience. The alliance pioneers a new model for global STEM education, providing students from both Vietnam and the U.S. with opportunities to study abroad, participate in student exchange and summer programs, and gain practical experience in overseas cooperative education and internships.

## Global initiatives

### The Francis and Dionne Najafi Global Initiative

The Francis and Dionne Najafi Global Initiative contributed \$25 million to the Thunderbird School of Global Management for an accredited online certificate program, Global Management and Entrepreneurship, consisting of five world-class courses in 40 languages available worldwide. Of the 100 million learners Thunderbird intends to educate by 2030, it is estimated that 70% will be women. Never before has such an ambitious global higher education program been launched. The certificate will be covered by full scholarships; there is no cost to students because of the philanthropic support undergirding the initiative. In year one, the initiative aims to reach learners in their native languages in Iran, Kenya, Mexico, Indonesia, Egypt, India, Senegal,

# Academic partnerships and programs

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Brazil, and Vietnam. By year two, the program will be expanded to at least 25 languages across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. By year four (perhaps earlier), the program will have expanded to Europe and Central Asia and comprise 40 languages.

## Research

### **Bakrie Initiative in Geological Hazards (Indonesia)**

ASU's School of Earth and Space Exploration teamed up with the Indonesian-based Bakrie Group to develop the Bakrie Initiative in Geological Hazards to support and promote research in Indonesia on the core geologic topics of volcanoes, earthquakes and hydrothermal systems.

### **NexView: ASU Decision Theater Supports U.S. Government Science in the Mekong River Basin**

Under the guidance of the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Geological Survey and ASU, in cooperation with the Mekong River Commission and assistance from Vietnamese and Cambodian university faculties, build on existing regional research efforts while collecting and creating new information in a product called NexView, and The ASU Future H2O program will contribute scientific and technical data and models to NexView.

ASU's Decision Theater® will integrate and conduct data analytics while visualizing available models and information, including inputs from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to facilitate informed discussions and decision and policymaking.

## Student programs

### **Barrett, The Honors College's GlobalResolve (Southeast Asia)**

Through GlobalResolve, Barrett students and ASU faculty collaborate with international universities, residents of rural villages, local governments, financial institutions, and nongovernmental organizations to develop and disseminate no-tech, low-tech and high-tech solutions that address pressing needs in Global South communities.

### **BUILD-IT: Building University-Industry Learning and Development through Innovation and Technology (Vietnam)**

Sponsored by U.S. Agency for International Development and industry partners, the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering's BUILD-IT is designed to build a world-class model for innovative technology and engineering higher education. The BUILD-IT public-private ecosystem is designed to produce graduates who can solve problems and engineer solutions for Vietnam's social and economic development. Between 2015 and 2020, the number of BUILD-IT activities reached more than 10,000 tertiary institution faculty and teaching staff with 11 key partner institutions and a total of more than 39,000 participants in BUILD-IT activities (33% female).

### **Leadership Education for Engineering Accreditation Program (Indonesia)**

ASU, the U.S. Agency for International Development/Indonesia Higher Education Leadership and Management project, and Andalas University in Padang, Indonesia, launched a collaborative effort under the LEEAP initiative that customizes support for Indonesian university-level engineering programs to become globally competitive,

# Academic partnerships and programs

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and meet with regional and international standards. Through LEEAP, ASU works with Andalas University in Padang to position it as a leader in the region who can mentor other universities in Indonesia.

## **Lower Mekong Initiative Young Scientist Program (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam)**

Funded by the U.S. Department of State, the Lower Mekong Initiative Young Scientist Program fosters collaboration, knowledge sharing and the creation of a network of young scientists in the LMI countries: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The program supports the region's early-career researchers as they develop solutions to transboundary challenges along the Mekong River. The ASU program's activities include a four-week thematic placement program at partner institutions in different LMI countries, annual symposiums and competition for seed funds. It creates a collaborative community that develops solutions to challenges people face along the Mekong River. Throughout the LMI, the U.S. and the Lower Mekong countries promote equitable, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through education, science and the environment.

## **Partnership with University of Ngurah Rai (Bali, Indonesia)**

The Critical Languages Institute at ASU started offering classes in Indonesian in 2017 through a partnership with the University of Ngurah Rai in Bali, an island province of Indonesia. The institute specializes in teaching language for which there is a shortage of proficient speakers. The languages are designed as critical by various U.S. agencies, that need skilled speakers who have a cultural understanding of the countries.

## **Projects in Human-Centered Design (Vietnam)**

With the Global Engineering Projects in Community Service or EPICS, ASU engineering students collaborated with Vietnamese engineering students and Tra Que Vegetable Village, a sustainable farming organization, to co-develop an environmental sensor that provides local farmers with additional data to make important decisions about the crops. Students worked long days at the ASU-supported Maker Innovation Space in Da Nang, Vietnam, to incorporate the local feedback from Vietnamese academics and industry stakeholders into their design. Global EPICS exemplifies ASU's mission to offer students practical community service projects that collaboratively build a better world.

## **Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (Southeast Asia)**

The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative is former U.S. President Barack Obama's signature program, designed to strengthen leadership development and networking in Southeast Asia. Through a variety of programs and engagements, including U.S. educational and cultural exchanges, regional exchanges, and seed funding, YSEALI seeks to build the leadership capabilities of youth in the region, strengthen ties between the U.S. and Southeast Asia, and nurture an Association of Southeast Asian Nations community. The YSEALI program helps provide young innovators with the necessary skills and models to advance small and medium enterprises in the agricultural sector. In 2020, YSEALI – in partnership with ASU – hosted a regional agribusiness incubator workshop. The five-day program focused on identifying and developing sustainable agribusiness opportunities in the 10 ASEAN member countries and Timor-Leste. In 2021 and 2022, engagement was virtual.

# Academic partnerships and programs

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## Other activities

### **STEMCON Annual Conference (Vietnam)**

Since 2012, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Conference or STEMCON, previously known as the Vietnam Engineering Education Conference, has evolved as the premier science and engineering education conference in Vietnam. The conference program and funding is supported by the ASU industry and government partners in Vietnam. Past themes of this annual conference revolve around topics in higher education innovation, workforce competitiveness, the maker movement and entrepreneurship. Annually, STEMCON draws more than 500 participants each year from industry, government and academia. More than 4,000 participants have attended this conference over the past eight years.

## ASU-Cintana Alliance

### **Mapúa University (Philippines)**

Mapúa University is a premier engineering and technological university in the Philippines and has the most number of engineering programs in the Philippines declared as Centers of Excellence by the Commission on Higher Education. It is one of the most digitally innovative universities in the country, having received awards from Cengage, Coursera, and Wiley.

### **Universitas Esa Unggul (Indonesia)**

Universitas Esa Unggul has a vision to become a world-class university recognized for high quality, creativity and entrepreneurship. In the last decade, the university has experienced very rapid development, both in terms of research results and community service, leading to global recognition. Esa Unggul is consistently ranked as one of the leading non-public universities in Indonesia.

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**#1 in the U.S.  
for innovation**

**ASU ahead of MIT and Stanford**

**— U.S. News & World Report, 3 years, 2016–2023**

**#1 in the U.S. and  
#2 in the world  
for global impact**

**Ahead of MIT, New York University and Penn State**

**— Times Higher Education, 2022**

