

Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Kyoto University

2025/2026



Researchers

40

as of July 2025 ▶ pp. 6–13

Affiliated researchers

96

as of July 2025 ▶ p. 36

Gender equality index

31

Percent of female faculty members
as of April 2025 ▶ p. 19

Faculty & Staff

96

as of July 2025 ▶ p. 36

Postdoctoral fellows

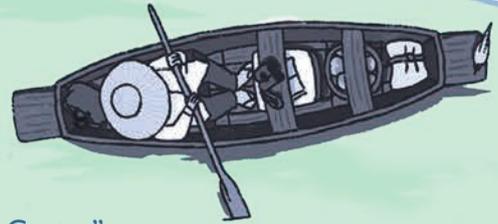
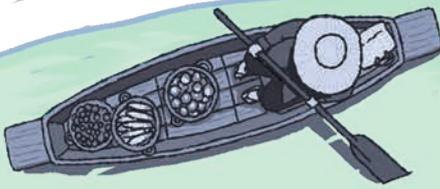
19

hosted in AY 2024 ▶ p. 32

Students

39

Graduate and undergraduate students
hosted in AY 2024 ▶ p. 33



1963 CSEAS established within Kyoto University

1965 CSEAS officially designated as a “Research Center”
under the National Schools Establishment Act

1994 Japan Center for Area Studies established
in the National Museum of Ethnology



CSEAS at a Glance

JSPS KAKENHI projects

42

adopted in AY 2025 ▶ p. 18

MEXT Joint Usage/
Research projects

25

adopted in AY 2025 ▶ p. 14

International initiatives

27

projects implemented in AY 2024 ▶ pp. 14–18

Seminars & Events

93

total held in AY 2024

Visiting fellows

463

total since 1975 as of April 2025 ▶ p. 28

Memoranda of Understanding

59

as of July 2025 ▶ p. 28

Academic communities

17 / 107

SEASIA

member organizations
as of April 2025 ▶ p. 27

JCAS

member organizations
as of April 2025 ▶ p. 26

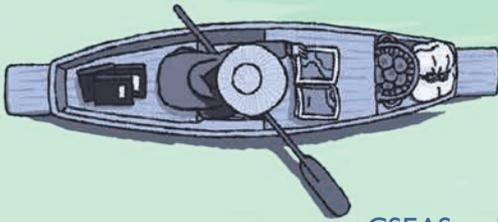
Overseas liaison offices

2

in Bangkok and Jakarta ▶ p. 29

2025

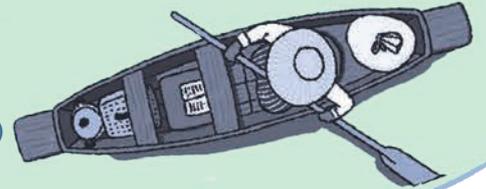
▶ p. 37 History



2022 CSEAS approved as a “Joint Usage/Research Center for Global Collaborative Research (GCR)” by MEXT

2017

CSEAS and CIAS were integrated and reorganized as the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS)



2006 Center for Integrated Area Studies (CIAS) established within Kyoto University with CSEAS and ASAFAS cooperation

2004 CSEAS designated as an “Institute” in recognition of research excellence by MEXT

Awards

44

total since AY 2017
as of August 2025 ▶ p. 19

Library holdings

270,000

Books ▶ p. 24

60,000

Maps & Other documents ▶ p. 25

100,000

Materials
in SEA languages

▶ p. 24

Monographs

145

total published in AY 2022–24

Peer-reviewed papers

154

total published in AY 2022–24

Library Fund

1

as of July 2025 ▶ p. 35

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Greetings

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) brings together researchers specializing in various fields of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences—including life sciences—to engage in transdisciplinary research on Southeast Asia and beyond. To gain a deeper understanding of the region, it is essential to have both a framework for an integrated understanding of a range of academic disciplines and empirical knowledge of “what is happening on the ground.” CSEAS is characterized by transdisciplinary area studies in which researchers bring their own analytical perspectives to conduct field surveys to improve our understanding of what has happened and what is happening in the region.

Asia and the world have been experiencing major changes since 2020. The global pandemic caused by COVID-19 has drastically changed living conditions and lifestyles. International cooperation and free trade, taken for granted until the 2010s, are being rapidly replaced by dominance and conflict. At the same time, the digitalization of society is accelerating without exception, transforming not only people’s lives, but also political and economic systems in Asia and across the world. Each of these factors influences and amplifies the others. We are witnessing a complex interplay among the consequences of technological progress, market economization, and social transformation that occurred up to the 2010s, as well as the reactions to them.

These changes have introduced new challenges to the field of area studies and necessitated a transformation in research approaches. On the one hand, field research and collaboration with local communities are becoming more important and yet more challenging to conduct; on the other hand, the use of big data and understanding cyberspace are becoming increasingly important for conducting area studies. We are determined to meet the new challenges presented by the new environment.

We have continued our research activities amidst the unprecedented global circumstances of the past year, including worsening conflicts in multiple corners of the world, crises of democracy, and setbacks to the free trade regime. In AY2023 and AY2024, many long-term contributing faculty members of CSEAS retired, including Professor Yasuyuki Kono, Professor Yoko Hayami, Professor Caroline S. Hau, Professor Toshihiko Kishi, Professor Junko Koizumi, and Associate Professor Mikiko Ohno. Meanwhile, many young scholars, including Associate Professor Majid Daneshgar (Philology and Islamic Studies) and Associate Professor Yalei Zhai (Economics), Assistant Professor Tomoko Takahashi (International Relations), and Assistant Professor Minami Tosa (Library Science), have arrived. Together, we will continue to develop our activities, adapting to various changes and anticipating those to come.

July 2025

Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University

Fumiharu Mieno



We have produced three short introductory videos to help you learn more about the activities and facilities of the Center. Click the QR code on the right to view: “Area Studies at Kyoto University,” “Academic Diversity of CSEAS,” and “Publication Activities and International Networks.”

 Click on QR codes in this booklet to view the relevant web pages.



Research

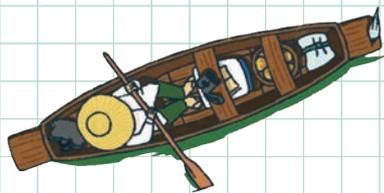
Research Divisions



The five research divisions of the Center—Cross-regional Studies, Political and Economic Coexistence Studies, Social Coexistence Studies, Environmental Coexistence Studies, and Global Humanosphere Studies—form the basis of the Center's research activities. Each research division promotes research mainly in the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences.

(As of 1 July 2025)

Cross-regional Studies



This division fosters area studies approaches through the dynamic development of both information resources and pioneering studies at the cross-regional level. It aims to develop area studies that benefit the public sphere through basic research as well as social cooperation and practice-oriented research.

R. Michael Feener

Professor

Specialties History, Anthropology, Philology, Islamic Studies, Archaeology, Religious Studies, Southeast Asian Studies

Keywords Indian Ocean History / Islamic Law and Society / Religion and Development / Southeast Asian Languages and Cultures / Maldives / Maritime Asia Heritage Survey

Research Interests The main focus of my work is in Islamic Studies, with a particular emphasis on the history of Muslim societies of Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean World. Within that geographic area, my first two monographs dealt with the history of legal thought and practice in Indonesia. My research interests, however, extend beyond legal history and across the broader maritime world of Islam around the Indian Ocean littoral. I have also worked in a number of other areas, publishing on topics including Muslim networks, Qur'anic studies, Sufism, Shiism, trans-regional histories, and local histories (especially of Aceh and the Maldives). I am currently also an Associate Member of the History Faculty at the University of Oxford, a Senior Associate of the Melbourne Law School's Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society, and Director of the Maritime Asia Heritage Survey.



Satoru Kobayashi

Professor, Deputy Director

Specialties Area Studies, Southeast Asian Studies, Anthropology, Comparative Sociology

Keywords Post-conflict Societies / Public Sphere Creation / Rural Transformation in Southeast Asia / Buddhist Societies in Asia / Comparative Studies / Transdisciplinary Area Studies

Research Interests I have been conducting anthropological research on the transformation of rural livelihoods and Buddhist culture in Cambodia for over two decades. I recently edited a book about the changes and continuity in the country's environment, politics, economy, society, and culture since the 1993 political transition. I have also recently initiated a research project on the comparative study of Buddhist societies in Asia, with a special focus on the fluid boundaries between Buddhist and secular orders. I am interested in the knowledge production and social contribution that can be created by Transdisciplinary Area Studies with a focus on multi-scale analysis.



Hiroyuki Yamamoto

Associate Professor

Specialties Area Studies, Media Studies

Keywords Malaysian Studies / Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Print Media / Disaster Response and Information / Theater, Film, and Political Culture / Postwar Internment and Repatriation

Research Interests The diverse peoples of Malaysia have striven to create a harmonious and prosperous society while maintaining and developing their respective cultures. As a way of fostering mutual understanding and managing society, people with different lifestyles and ways of thinking have worked together to create common narratives through theater and film, and have debated national and ethnic imagery through newspapers and magazines. Their experiences offer valuable insights when considering Japan and the world today. I therefore study the interface of nationalism, ethnicity, media, and culture. My two other research pursuits are to study: 1) the impact of Japanese internees on local political processes at the end of World War II, and 2) the reconstruction of social order in the process of recovery from natural disasters.



Yoshimi Nishi

Associate Professor



Specialties Southeast Asian Studies

Keywords Social Disasters / Disaster Response / Disaster Re-telling / Social Cohesion

Research Interests Amidst ongoing globalization and democratization, political behavior is no longer easily understood by indicators such as ideology or economic conditions. In this context, understanding the social rifts that arise as a result of the accumulation of differences in thinking within society is critical to interpreting Southeast Asia today. I incorporate the concepts of reconstruction and social resilience to focus on the “re-telling” of both natural disasters and social disasters such as war, revolution, and political upheaval. In doing so, I seek to identify how and in what ways social rifts arise from social disasters and how societies respond to them.

Maida Irawani (Era)

Program-specific Researcher



Specialties Cultural Heritage Studies, Project Management, Disaster Recovery

Keywords Cultural Heritage Management / Education and Gender Studies / Maritime Asia Heritage Survey

Research Interests As the Project Manager for the Maritime Asia Heritage Survey (MAHS), I oversee multi-country field operations and survey activities across the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, bringing together teams from diverse disciplines to document endangered cultural heritage. I hold a Master’s degree in Education Leadership, Policy, and Change from Monash University, Australia. With extensive experience in post-disaster development, I have worked with international NGOs and the UN on tsunami recovery in Aceh. Since 2013, my research has focused on female leadership and women’s livelihoods in post-tsunami contexts. I have managed several international collaborative projects, including the Aftermath of Aid and Aceh Geohazard Project, and previously served as Project Manager for the Maldives Heritage Survey under the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies.

Krisztina Anna Baranyai

Program-specific Researcher



Specialties Archaeology, Southeast Asian Studies, Geoinformatics

Keywords Southeast Asian Archaeology / Heritage Management / Archaeology / GIS / Database / Maritime Asia Heritage Survey

Research Interests I am the Database Manager for the Maritime Asia Heritage Survey (MAHS). I obtained my Master’s degree in Archaeology from the University of Pécs, Hungary. After working as an archaeologist and museum educator at the Balaton and Göcsej Museums in Hungary for some years, I moved to the United Kingdom, where I gained experience in managing and processing spatial data collected in large-scale field projects. My main interest lies in GIS and spatial data analysis. I joined the Maldives Heritage Survey under the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (OXCIS) in 2019. My technical skills and experience in archaeology and field survey technologies allow me to oversee the data and database management of the expanded MAHS.

Sheak Mahfujur Rahman (Sunny)

Program-specific Researcher



Specialties 3D Digital Documentation, Field Archaeology, Geospatial Technologies

Keywords Maritime Asia Heritage Survey / Digital Cultural Heritage / 3D Documentation / Virtual Museum

Research Interests I am a Digital Heritage Coordinator for the Maritime Asia Heritage Survey (MAHS). I hold a Bachelor’s and a Master’s degree in Archaeology from Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh. My early work in excavations, surveys, and emergency documentation shaped my commitment to preserving sites in regions vulnerable to climate change and other threats to cultural heritage. Today, I combine traditional fieldwork with advanced digital methods. My expertise includes 3D digital documentation, aerial and terrestrial photogrammetry, LiDAR, and geospatial data processing to record and archive heritage sites across Maritime Asia, including Indonesia, the Maldives, Thailand, and Japan. Since joining MAHS in 2023, I continue to oversee the production of high-resolution 3D reconstructions, manage digital workflows, and develop virtual museum resources that make Asia’s heritage accessible for research and public engagement.

Paing Thet Phyto (Sai)

Program-specific Researcher



Specialties Field Archaeology, Digital Cultural Heritage, Geoinformatics

Keywords Settlement Archaeology / Heritage Impact Assessment / Digital Documentation of Cultural Heritage

Research Interests I am the Digital Heritage Content Officer for the Maritime Asia Heritage Survey (MAHS) at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University. My research bridges field archaeology and emerging digital technologies. Trained in archaeological fieldwork, I have participated in numerous excavations, surveys, and documentation initiatives, which have shaped my foundational understanding of cultural heritage preservation. Currently, my work focuses on integrating geospatial technologies with archaeological analysis. My technical expertise includes Remote Sensing, GIS, LiDAR processing, 3D modeling, and Heritage Building Information Modeling (HBIM). By combining field-based methodologies with digital workflows, my research contributes to the advancement of cultural heritage management, with a particular focus on the long-term digital preservation of threatened archaeological sites in Southeast Asia.

Hiroshi Ishii

Program-specific Researcher



Specialties Maritime Archaeology, Modern Conflict Archaeology

Keywords Japanese War Heritage in Australia / Japanese War Heritage in the Chuuk Islands, Federated States of Micronesia

Research Interests As we approach 80 years since the end of World War II and the generation that experienced it gradually dwells, the importance of accurately preserving the memories of the war, a project that mobilized the entire Japanese population, is increasing day by day. The war and its traces are not limited to Japan but extend to the much wider Asia-Pacific region, where physical remnants can be found from the ground to the seabed and memories are passed down among the people who were affected by it. Through maritime and war archaeology, I am interested in understanding the prewar and wartime past, what remains today, and how people use war heritage sites to pass war memories on to future generations.

Fikri Abdul

Program-specific Researcher

Specialties Data Processing, Database Management

Keywords Software Development / Data Processing / Big Data / Process Automation



Research Interests I am a Database Officer for the Maritime Asia Heritage Survey (MAHS). I earned a Postgraduate degree in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from the University of Adelaide, Australia, and a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Libera Università di Bolzano, Italy. Since 2017, I have worked in humanitarian aid as an IT specialist and programmer for United Nations agencies such as IOM and UNICEF in Indonesia, with over a decade of experience in this field. My interests include software development, data processing, big data, and process automation. In 2024, I joined the Maldives Heritage Survey, contributing my expertise in data processing and database management to the expanded MAHS.

Masaaki Okamoto

Professor, Deputy Director

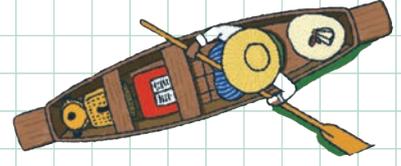
Specialties Area Studies, Political Science

Keywords Digital Politics in Southeast Asia / Security and Society in Southeast Asia / Local Politics in Southeast Asia

Research Interests Due to the significant and transformative impacts of digitalization across multiple aspects of life, particularly in Southeast Asia, we can no longer understand Southeast Asian politics without scrutinizing these impacts, such as those of social networking services (SNS). I investigate the role of SNS in politics in collaboration with data scientists, focusing on visual-based SNS. Amid democratic backsliding, another trend unfolding in Southeast Asia, the socio-political space for non-democratic social organizations has become more conspicuous. I analyze the background behind the rise of such organizations and the perceptions and behaviors of their members. I have also researched the transformation of local politics in Southeast Asia's era of democratic backsliding. As the US and other Western countries promoted the democracy project in developing countries in the wake of the Cold War, decentralization gained popularity. But this popularity has waned, with authoritarian and centralized regimes gaining ground. I examine how local politics and national-local political constellations have been changing within this context.



Political & Economic Coexistence Studies



This division analyzes and develops relevant frameworks for studying and comparing dynamic political and economic transformations in Southeast Asia and beyond. Attempting to understand the transformations and to concretely and constructively contribute to those regions, the division constantly collaborates with regional stakeholders.

Pavin Chachavalpongpun

Professor

Specialties Politics and International Relations

Keywords Thailand's Political Development / Foreign Policy of Thailand

Research Interests My research explores the evolving role of the Thai monarchy as a political institution in the post-Bhumibol era, examining how its power has been consolidated through new strategies that depart from the style of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. As royal institutions have sought to re-adjust and preserve their authority, they have done so in ways that sustain and even expand monarchical influence, despite broader societal pressures for reform. This has triggered unprecedented challenges from younger generations demanding greater accountability and modernization of royal power, putting the monarchy at a critical crossroads. In parallel, I investigate the long-standing relationship between the United States and the Thai monarchy, tracing how American foreign policy — shaped by Cold War-era cooperation and shared security interests — has supported royal stability in Thailand, and how this partnership may need to adapt to emerging democratic movements and shifting regional dynamics, particularly in light of China's growing influence.



Yoshihiro Nakanishi

Professor

Specialties Southeast Asian Studies, Comparative Politics, International Relations

Keywords Conflict in Contemporary Myanmar / Postcolonial State Theory / Indo-Pacific Regional Order

Research Interests Over 20 years have passed since I started studying Myanmar. Focusing on changes over a 150-year timeframe, I have been primarily interested in the relationship between the state and violence, as well as the unique characteristics of the social order in both Myanmar and the region. I began my research by asking why the military regime in Myanmar has remained so durable. Since then, I have branched out a little unsteadily into topics such as democratization, ethnic and religious conflict, judicial politics, Asian diplomacy, the decolonization process, and comparisons with Indonesia and Pakistan. None of these themes is particularly cheerful, and I sometimes encounter tense situations during field research, but this is not a problem because I enjoy that aspect of the research as well.



Yalei Zhai

Associate Professor

Specialties Development Economics, Area Studies

Keywords Rural Poverty in Southeast Asia / Household Decision-making Modeling

Research Interests I collect detailed data on household and individual production and lifestyles that is not reflected in general statistics, and use this data to conduct empirical research on poverty reduction in developing countries. For example, in a paper on migrant workers in Myanmar, I have causally inferred that women from poor families are more likely to invest in "matchmaking" to find a future spouse than to maintain family ties through remittances. As a result, the benefits of migrant work may not reach poor families, limiting its effect on poverty reduction. Through research like this, I seek to identify the important factors in poverty alleviation in developing countries and translate this knowledge into actual poverty reduction.



Taihei Kikuchi

Research Associate

Specialties Area Studies, Burmese History

Keywords Federalism in Myanmar



Research Interests I am re-examining the formation of the nation-state of Myanmar through the discourse surrounding federalism. My current focus is on contemporary documents and memoirs related to politicians from the Shan region. By analyzing debates on British colonial rule (India-Burma separation) from the 1930s through independence as a nation-state and reassessing the centralized state system of the early 1960s, I study how these politicians positioned themselves within the federal state. While Myanmar's history is often portrayed as a linear progression toward national unification, the memoirs of those involved offer insights into the shape the nation may have taken.

Chika Obiya

Professor

Specialties Modern History of Central Asia, Central Asian Area Studies

Keywords Soviet-Socialist Modernization in Central Asia / Nationalism in Uzbekistan / the Turkistan Collection (Turkestanskii sbornik)



Research Interests I conduct modern/contemporary history and area studies research on Central Asia, with Uzbekistan as my primary focus. Recently, I have explored themes such as: socialist modernization during the Soviet era, the relationship between "traditional" and "national" values under Uzbek nationalism during the post-socialist period (following the dissolution of the Soviet Union), and the nature of "imagined society" in the wake of the deconstruction of socialist modernization. I consider these from the perspectives of fashion, Islam, and women. Furthermore, with a view to preserving, sharing, and utilizing rare materials for Central Asian studies, I trace the trajectory of one White Russian émigré family across Russia, Manchuria, Japan, and Uzbekistan through the development of a family archive found in the private sector.

Majid Daneshgar

Associate Professor

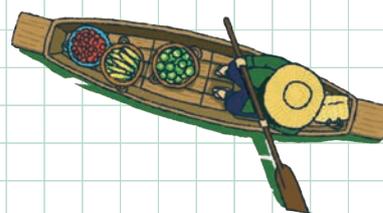
Specialties Orientalism, Philology, Religions, Inscriptions, Manuscripts, Muslim Traditions, Shi'ism, Persianate-Malay

Keywords Southeast Asian Studies / Persianate and Indian Ocean World / Transregional Intellectual Traditions / Shi'ism / Orientalism / Method and Theory in the Study of Religion



Research Interests Through an examination of trans-regional intellectual traditions, exegetical traditions, Shi'ism, Persian-Shi'ism, Orientalism, and method and critical theory in the academic study of religion, I aim to link Southeast Asian studies to the broader Persian and Indian Ocean worlds. Currently, I am also working on tracing the historical evolution of the Persian and Malay worlds through inscriptions, manuscripts, Islamic sciences, modern literature, politics, poetry, Sufism, prayer, and occultism.

Social Coexistence Studies



This division explores changing interactions among culture, society, and ecology in both contemporary and historical periods, aiming to advocate for social coexistence among members of different societies in Southeast Asia and beyond. The division's research covers a broad array of issues, including social, religious, and linguistic transformations; the politics of culture and knowledge production; family and gender; and sexuality.

Decha Tangseefa

Associate Professor

Specialties Political Theory

Keywords Thai-Myanmar Borderlands / Migration / Border



Research Interests Although originally trained in political science and philosophy, I have since 2000 been conceptually situating my research at the intertwining relations of four notions: violence, difference, marginality, and temporality. As an "in-between" person, I have employed various transdisciplinary approaches, blurring the genres of political science, philosophy, anthropology, and history. My research fields lie at the nexus between migration studies and border studies, focusing especially on the Thai-Myanmar borderlands. Since 2008, I have worked with civil society organizations along the border, and from 2008 to 2011, I taught at a college in a border "refugee camp" while also teaching at Thammasat University.

Narumi Shitara

Assistant Professor

Specialties Scholarly Publishing

Keywords Academic Publishing in Non-English-Speaking Countries / Transition of Japanese Southeast Asian Studies / Citation Data Analysis



Research Interests With the recent global trend toward Diamond Open Access publishing, which does not charge submission or subscription fees, many academic journals in Japan, including university journals, have been gaining renewed attention. We believe that this trend will lead to a reevaluation of academic journals in Japan and of the role of universities and research institutions in publishing. Based on research into the current state and challenges surrounding academic journal publishing, as well as experience as a managing editor for institutional journals and series, I am engaged in discussions and activities aimed at promoting open access publishing in Japan. Drawing on my experience as a DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journal) Ambassador and activities within the journal editors' network, I also explore the potential of library publishing in Japan.

Kisho Tsuchiya

Assistant Professor



Specialties Southeast Asian Area Studies, Modern History, Postcolonialism, Cold War, Borderland Studies

Keywords Timor-Leste / Indonesia / the Philippines / Cold War / Postcolonialism / Decolonization / Borderlands

Research Interests I primarily study the unique histories of peripheral and border regions, such as Timor Island, which is divided between Indonesia and East Timor, and Mindanao Island in the Philippines. Through historical inquiry into colonialism, the relationship between war and global knowledge production, narratives of people who do not leave written records, the production of place and space, and the role of borders and human mobility that cannot be fully grasped within the framework of national history, I adopt a stance of rethinking global historical issues from the perspective of peripheral regions.

Minami Tosa

Assistant Professor



Specialties Librarian

Keywords Academic Information / Area Studies

Research Interests As a librarian, I am interested in trends in the circulation of academic information as well as the state of libraries and publishing in Southeast Asia. The situation in each Southeast Asian country is extremely diverse and changing rapidly, influenced by factors such as politics, economics, culture, and historical background. I hope to stay abreast of these changes and to collect, organize, and provide academic books, magazines, newspapers, government publications, and other materials to support research activities.

Mostafa Khalili

Program-specific Assistant Professor, Hakubi Center for Advanced Research

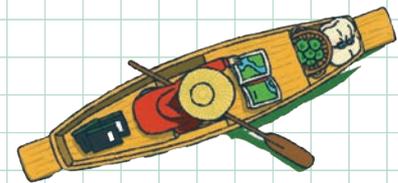


Specialties Political Anthropology, Ethnicity and Nationalism, Cross-border Conflict

Keywords Understanding Ethnonationalistic Mobilizations from Below: Identity Politics Above and Beyond Ethnicity

Research Interests My primary research interest is the exploration of ethnicity and minority nationalism from an anthropological perspective, particularly in politically unstable regions. I aim to develop a conceptual framework for understanding ethnonationalistic mobilizations using an anthropological approach. With the long-lasting Kurdish conflict in the Middle East as a case study, I challenge the prevailing view that ethnic background is the primary cause of conflicts. Instead, my research posits that ethnicity is one of several equally influential socio-political factors that shape identity politics within local power dynamics.

Environmental Coexistence Studies



This division employs interdisciplinary approaches across the natural sciences, medical sciences, and informatics to study a wide variety of issues affecting the geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and human sphere. The division aims to develop knowledge and theories on the long-term sustainability of human societies and human-nature coexistence.

Wataru Yamazaki

Professor



Specialties Food Hygiene, Zoonotic Disease, Animal Infectious Disease

Keywords Pathogen Detection / Food Hygiene / Infectious Disease Control

Research Interests I am interested in emerging infectious diseases triggered by human activity. For example, in Malaysia, the clearing of tropical forests to build numerous pig farms led to the emergence of the Nipah virus in 1997. Wild bats, which were carriers of the unknown virus, came into contact with pigs, and the virus was transmitted to humans through pigs, resulting in numerous deaths. As humans continue to impact wildlife habitats, the occurrence of emerging infectious diseases is increasing worldwide. How can humans, animals, and the environment coexist in a healthy balance? I am collaborating with researchers in Southeast Asia, a region identified as a hotspot for emerging infectious diseases, to study pathogens lurking in animals and the environment.

Osamu Kozan

Professor



Specialties Hydrology

Keywords Sustainable Management of Tropical Peatlands / Indonesia / Scientific Data Dissemination

Research Interests The sustainable reconstruction of forest areas is an urgent priority in Indonesia, where deforestation is rampant. In recent years, long-term industrial forestry rights have been granted to private companies in tropical peatlands. Large corporations are excavating drainage canals to manage water, develop acacia plantations for the pulp industry, and maintain oil palm plantations. Small-scale farmers have settled in the surrounding areas, further accelerating development. Decomposition of organic matter and fires in tropical peatlands accelerate global warming, and the generation of haze has significant adverse effects on the health and livelihoods of local—and regional—residents. We are disseminating scientific data to local communities and collaborating with the Indonesian government to develop a smartphone application for sharing hydrological, meteorological, and fire risk information.

Masayuki Yanagisawa

Associate Professor



Specialties Environmental History in Southeast Asia, Vietnamese Studies, Tropical Agriculture

Keywords Environmental History / Agricultural Development History / Rural Vietnam / Field Archives

Research Interests Throughout history, humans have formed families and associations to cope with natural disasters and socio-economic upheavals. How have human groups accumulated past experiences and adapted to cope with unknown changes? To explore this question, I am currently studying Vietnamese village societies. Over the centuries, Vietnamese villages have built strong village structures and accumulated a wealth of knowledge, surviving challenges from royal and colonial governments, wars with major powers, rapid socialization, the introduction of a market economy, and adapting to global society. By focusing on the functions of villages, I aim to identify their enduring roles across eras.

Ryota Sakamoto

Associate Professor



Specialties Field Medicine

Keywords Legionnaires' Disease / Bhutan / Geriatric Medicine / High Altitude Medicine / Primary Health Care

Research Interests Following the hospitalization of a Legionnaires' disease patient involved in a traffic accident, I am conducting research focusing on the environmental conditions where Legionella bacteria thrive, their relationship with climate, and their impact on the 1976 U.S. presidential election, among other aspects, while examining the interplay between humans and nature. In Bhutan, I have collaborated with local residents to establish a system for health checkups for the elderly. I am also focusing on the role of Village Health Workers in supporting village health, while exploring ways to promote basic medical care. I am paying close attention to the aging population in Southeast Asia and around the world, the social systems supporting the elderly, and the traditional roles of the elderly and how they are changing.

Satoko S. Kimura

Associate Professor



Specialties Underwater Bioacoustics, EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment), Natural Symbiotic System

Keywords Coastal Ecosystems / Aquatic Animals / Top Predators / Marine Mammals

Research Interests I am developing monitoring methods for quantitative observation of large aquatic animals, mainly small odontocetes (dolphins and porpoises). These methods are used to reveal their behavior and ecology, and to assess anthropogenic impacts on both individuals and the species. By using passive acoustic monitoring methods that utilize the sounds produced by animals and biologging methods that attach equipment directly to the animals, I examine the characteristics of the sounds produced by the target species, their vocal behavior, and basic ecological information such as when, where, and how many target animals are present in the target waters. I am also conducting drone surveys, captivity stress checks, and an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of noise from ship traffic and offshore wind power plants.

Chika Yamada

Associate Professor



Specialties Public Health, Area Studies

Keywords Drug Use / Harm Reduction / Social Activism/ HIV/AIDS / Postcolonialism / History of Public Health

Research Interests My research uses debates surrounding drug use in Indonesia to examine how behaviors that were normative in pre-colonial society became socially constructed as "deviant." It further explores how grassroots movements emerged to transgress such constructions, a process known as "de-deviance." Specifically, I analyze the political contexts underlying dominant prohibitionist ideologies, focusing especially on the period of the Suharto regime. Additionally, I investigate the ethical commitments, skills, and creativity—or the forms of "art"—that characterized grassroots movements arising from the HIV crisis in the late 1990s. Collaboratively constructing activists' life stories, I explore how and why activists came to embody these forms of art. I also examine the complex ways grassroots activism has strategically engaged with, been co-opted by, or resisted broader frameworks such as global health and human rights.

Kimiya Kitani

Assistant Professor



Specialties Database Development, System Management, Information Processing

Keywords Resource Sharing of Small Datasets/ Southeast Asian Periodicals / Information Services / Open Source Software and Cloud Systems

Research Interests Researchers typically collect hundreds to thousands of datasets during field surveys. This volume is considered too small to conduct analytical research using digital technology. However, it is difficult to sustain the necessary funds to build and maintain databases for such small amounts of data. Therefore, I am interested in research on a database framework that can be easily shared, as a method for storing and publishing research data using cloud systems for small-scale datasets.

Mariko Ogawa

Assistant Professor



Specialties Radar Meteorology

Keywords Radar-based Rainfall Estimation / Tropical Peatlands in Indonesia / Disaster Prevention Weather Information / Electromagnetic Particle Scattering/ Haze Analysis

Research Interests I explore the utilization of atmospheric and hydrometeorological disaster prevention information for fires and floods in Indonesia's tropical peatlands. Specifically, I study the regional and seasonal characteristics of rainfall using meteorological radar, focusing on Bengkalis Regency, Riau Province. By understanding seasonal rainfall amounts and distribution, I aim to identify the onset of fires at an early stage. Additionally, I conduct air quality monitoring to investigate the impact of peatland fires and human activities on air pollution. Through the development of apps, I aim to disseminate and share two-way disaster prevention information in collaboration with local residents and governments.

Yoshio Akamatsu

Program-specific Assistant Professor

Specialties Agricultural Ecology, Rural Development Studies

Keywords District Governments in Bhutan / Rural Revitalization / Sustainable Rural Development / Ayeyarwaddy Delta / Disaster Mitigation



Research Interests Amid the promotion of decentralization in Bhutan in the 1980s, administrative authority and financial resources were delegated to local governments based on administrative reforms. However, rural development has largely focused on top-down initiatives by the central government, leaving unclear the role of local governments, particularly district governments, in regional development. I investigate the current role of district administrations in rural development, with a focus on the "link model," which has proven effective in Bangladesh.

Ye Htet

Research Associate

Specialties Computer Science and Informatics

Keywords Informatics / Visual Analysis / Machine Learning / Environmental Monitoring / Disaster Assessment / Social Media Analysis



Research Interests I am interested in applying computer science and informatics to real-world challenges through interdisciplinary approaches. My background experience lies in visual analysis, which I have applied to the fields of healthcare, horticulture, and livestock farming. Currently, I am creating a database and developing machine learning models for disaster assessment, social media analysis, and environmental monitoring. My recent work focuses on three projects: 1) curating a satellite image dataset and building a post-earthquake damage assessment model for Burma (Myanmar), with particular emphasis on the 2025 Sagaing Earthquake; 2) developing models to uncover hidden patterns in social media videos, focusing on Politainment in Indonesia; and 3) exploring collaborative approaches for water quality assessment of river along the Thailand-Burma border. Through these works, I am motivated to integrate informatics and area studies to generate deeper insights into regional challenges and support evidence-based decision-making.

Noboru Ishikawa

Professor

Specialties Area Studies, Cultural Anthropology

Keywords Non-state Space / Ethnogenesis / "Mountain-Plain" Relations / Plantations / Supply Chains



Research Interests As a cultural anthropologist, I practice two fundamental principles: 1) through fieldwork, I pay attention to human activities and the macro-level dynamics and structures that surround them, and 2) I reflect on history to do so. My primary research site is Sarawak, Malaysia. In recent years, I have also been conducting research in upland regions of the Central Structural Zone of Shikoku in Japan and the Andean-Amazonian borderlands of Peru. Through fieldwork and archival research, I have examined the processes involved in the formation of "states," "nation," and "ethnic groups" in border regions; the "mountain-plain" relationship; plantations and capitalist nature; multi-species relationships; and the historical relationship between Japanese forests and the tropical rainforests of Borneo.

Youdiil Ophinni

Program-specific Assistant Professor, Hakubi Center for Advanced Research

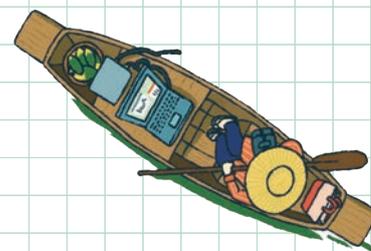
Specialties Virology, Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Immunology, Vaccinology, Area Genomics

Keywords Metaviromics / Viral Spillover / Environmental Metagenomics / HIV/AIDS / Vaccines / Indonesian Area Studies



Research Interests Life unfolds in a permutation of nucleotides. Using next-generation sequencing, we are now able to read its code, DNA and RNA, at an unprecedented scale. My research leverages this technology not only to decipher the genetic makeup of microorganisms and the hosts they occupy, but also to trace their genomic imprints in the soil, water, and air they inhabit. Yet merely doing this is incomplete. More broadly and intricately, life is entangled in the fabric of society and culture, historical narratives, and present-day ecosystems, shaped and polluted by human growth and ambition. At CSEAS, I aim to fuse field microbiology and population genomics with the interpretive richness of Area Studies, building an interdisciplinary lens that holistically combines molecular and genomic empirical evidence with environmental contexts, historical accounts, power structures and governance, and the socio-cultural perspectives of a defined area of interest—hence the name, "Area Genomics." I will first apply this novel framework to the increasingly threatened ecologies of my home country, Indonesia.

Global Humansphere Studies



This division engages in critical analyses of global transformations occurring in the twenty-first century. In its research on urgent economic, political, and socio-cultural issues, the division attempts to transgress contemporary disciplinary boundaries across the social and natural sciences, and aims to find pathways toward the coexistence of both human and non-human communities.

Fumiharu Mieno

Professor, Director

Specialties Southeast Asian Economics, Finance and Development

Keywords ASEAN Financial Systems / Economics and Finance of Laos and Myanmar / Quantitative Economic History of Thailand



Research Interests I am conducting research on the characteristics of ASEAN's financial system from the perspectives of corporate finance, bond markets, and commercial banks. In recent years, I have published research based on my participation in policy dialogues on economic and financial issues in Laos. Also, I have continued to research Myanmar's economy and Thailand's economic history. I have recently begun collaborative research with private sector actors in Laos on the theme of "microfinance institutions" and with the Financial Service Agency of the government of Japan on "the potential for capital circulation between Japan's savings and ASEAN."

Yusuke Murakami

Professor



Specialties Latin American Area Studies, Political Science

Keywords Changing Political Dynamics / State-society Relations / Empirical Analysis of Political Attitudes and Participation / Comparative Studies

Research Interests Since the early 1980s, Latin America has experienced two concurrent phenomena: a transition from military rule to civilian government and the spread of neoliberalism, which thoroughly enforces market economy principles. These changes have significantly altered the political, economic, and social structures of the region. My research aims to compare Latin American countries that have undergone these changes to date, analyze the commonalities and differences surrounding these changes, and develop a framework for comparison with other regions outside Latin America. More specifically, I focus on how changes in state-society relations, particularly the spread of neoliberalism, have impacted politics and changed the nature of political parties.

Mario Ivan Lopez

Associate Professor



Specialties Cultural Anthropology, Southeast Asian Studies, Migration Studies

Keywords Transnational Migration and Care in Super-aging Societies / Japanese Intellectual Knowledge Formation

Research Interests At present I am analyzing the conditions under which the foundations and approaches of interdisciplinary research in Southeast Asian studies in Japan have been developed. Through quantitative and qualitative methods, I aim to clarify the position and characteristics of interdisciplinary area studies in Japan and demonstrate their intellectual contributions to global Southeast Asian studies. Additionally, I am researching the current state and impacts of the international mobility of nurses and care workers from the Asia-Pacific region to other regions in the context of rapidly aging societies. This research aims to propose policies in Japan that could improve the reception system for nurses and care workers from Southeast Asia.

Tomohiro Machikita

Associate Professor



Specialties Labor Economics and Industrial Development

Keywords Asian Industries / Labor Organization / Bargaining Power / Globalization / Urbanization / Agglomeration

Research Interests Asia accounts for over 40 percent of the world's population. Regarding Asia as a single, vast economic space, I am interested in how industries develop there and the resulting impacts on individual societies. As firms in East and Southeast Asia improve the quality of the goods and services they offer, expand their distribution networks and supply chains, adopt new technologies and management practices, and even introduce robots into production and distribution sites, the flexibility of their corporate activity increases. Will this strengthen or weaken the position of workers and their bargaining power? Furthermore, to what extent will the concentration of economic activity in metropolitan areas continue? In addition to these questions, I also investigate challenges such as reducing the risk of traffic accidents.

Tomoko Takahashi

Assistant Professor



Specialties Political Science, International Relations, International Institutions

Keywords International Institutions, International Organizations / Power Politics / Sovereignty / Coalitions / Bureaucracy

Research Interests In the field of International Relations, I study international institutions from the perspective of states, with an emphasis on East and Southeast Asia. I investigate the dynamics of norm-initiating behavior in the context of power politics, state autonomy, coalition politics, and international bureaucracy using statistical analysis, multilingual archival research, and interviews. My recent projects explore the genesis of economic liberalization in international organizations (IOs) and investigate how the extra-institutional ties of rising powers with smaller countries constrain their preferences in turn. Empirical analyses in these projects uncover the unsuccessful attempts by East and Southeast Asian countries and regions to create new IO dynamics, whether through the creation of new IOs or through change from within.

Julie Ann de los Reyes

Program-specific Assistant Professor, Hakubi Center for Advanced Research



Specialties Geography, Political Ecology

Keywords Resource Geographies / Energy Transition / Nature-Society Relations / Green Finance / Environmental Governance

Research Interests Achieving a low-carbon society is one of the most urgent challenges of our time and requires collective action. My research examines the pivotal role of the Asia-Pacific region in facilitating this transition. I examine the relationship between East and Southeast Asia, specifically the emerging interdependencies around technological innovation, green finance, and critical mineral supply chains. Central to this research is a critical examination of whether the ongoing transition helps advance environmentally sustainable and socially equitable systems, or whether it inadvertently perpetuates patterns of environmental degradation and social inequality. This analysis is especially crucial given the region's complex development trajectories and diverse socioeconomic contexts. My goal is to produce cutting-edge research that sheds light on these particularities and that can inform advocacies and policy decisions for a just transition.

Visiting Professors

Caroline Sy Hau	Cultural Studies
Satohiro Serizawa	Cultural Anthropology, Studies of Chinese Overseas
Kenta Kishi	Indonesian Urban Studies, Urban Formation Theory, Artistic Practice and Theory
Junko Koizumi	Modern Thai History and Historiography
Yoichi Nemoto	East Asian Economy, International Finance

Researchers

Yasuko Yamazaki	Hygiene and Public Health (laboratory), Food Sciences, Veterinary Medicine
Kazuo Ando	Tropical Agriculture
Noriko Iizuka	Social Innovation, Environmental Education, Area Studies
Nobuaki Arai	Fisheries Environmental Oceanography

Flagship Projects

MEXT Joint Usage/Research Center

Global Collaborative Research (GCR)



Period AY 2022–2028
Partners 34 Domestic Institutions
 31 Overseas Institutions in the USA, Italy, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Laos

As a research institute of a national university, CSEAS conducts comprehensive research on various regions around the world, with a focus on Southeast Asia, and provides facilities for joint use by researchers nationwide. Within this framework, the Center for Global Collaborative Research (GCR), launched in April 2022, promotes transdisciplinary studies to overcome the challenges of complex global issues and contribute to sustainable growth in local communities.

By leading collaborative research that addresses the needs of the international research community, the GCR fosters field-based, transdisciplinary studies that integrate the humanities and sciences. In addition, by further strengthening CSEAS's presence as one of the leading hubs for Library materials related to Southeast Asia, the GCR aims to cultivate young researchers both within and outside the university. Currently, the GCR is implementing seven collaborative research programs through open calls as well as making library materials, maps, images, databases, and various on-campus facilities available for joint use.

Mission

- Promoting transdisciplinary studies toward the integration humanities and sciences
- Fostering innovation in Area Studies focusing on global issues
- Creating research platforms beyond academia
- Designing collaborative research bridging Japan and Southeast Asia
- Cultivating researchers in an international environment

Joint Research Programs

Incubation	Supporting researchers to develop new projects (2 years)
Pilot Study	Providing short-term preliminary research opportunities for next-gen scholars (2 years)
Publication	Support for publishing, open access, working papers, etc.
Field Residency	Research using the Bangkok and Jakarta Liaison Offices (2 years)
Visiting Fellowship	Inviting foreign researchers to Kyoto as Visiting Research Scholars (2 years)
Resource Sharing	Sharing CSEAS's collection of books, maps, photos, and databases (2 years)
Area Informatics Seeds	Support for research of pioneering new fields introducing area informatics (2 years)

Facilities for Joint Use

Books	Approx. 270,000	Maps & Other Documents	Approx. 60,000	Databases	Approx. 50
Library	Map Room	Meeting Room		Study Room	

Joint Research Programs for AY 2025

Incubation	The Cold War on the Ground: Grassroots Culture and Nationalism in Thailand and Vietnam
	Role of Education and Training in Rural Vietnam: Focusing on Educational Attempts through Regional Cooperation between Japan and Vietnam
	Survey of the Water Environment in the Neurodegenerative Disease-prone Area of Indonesia
	Local Governance and Policy Diffusion under the Competitive Authoritarian Regime: Comparison among Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines
	Exploratory Study on Factors Generating Agroecosystem Diversity in Mountain Villages of Laos and Vietnam
	A Multifaceted Study with a Focus on the Reliefs of Borobudur, Indonesia
	Traversing Connectivity across the Globe for New Horizons in Disaster Risk Reduction: Sharing Good Practices and Challenges in Community Empowerment in Japan, Mexico, and Malaysia
	Elucidation of the Actual Situation and Establishment of Convenient and Rapid Diagnosis Methods for Tick-borne Infectious Diseases in Southeast Asia
	Transdisciplinary Study on the Function of "Semi-naturalized Tea" in the Formation of the Cultural and Agricultural Landscapes in the Mountainous Areas
	Reconsidering Multi-layered Faith: Toward an Alternative Hypothesis on Southeast Asian Religions for the Next Generation
Pilot Study	Impact of Digitization on Small-scale Economy and Community: Interdisciplinary Macro-Micro Study of the Local Diversity in the Jakarta Metropolitan Area
	Southeast Asia in the Age of Human Rights
	The Entanglement of the Early Modern Era and Modern Era: An Overview of Reports on Incidents in Bách Cốc Village, Vỹ Bán District, Nam Định Province, Preserved in the National Archives Centre I of Vietnam
	Basic Survey to Improve "the Quality of Education" in Small Schools in Rural Bhutan
	Transnational Area Studies on Bhutanese Overseas Communities: Focusing on Deterritorialization and Reterritorialization
	The Formation and Development of Indonesian Migrant Christian Communities in Taiwan: Focusing on the Role of Sending Churches
	Visualization of Individual Relationships among Dugongs in Tailbong Island, Thailand, Using Social Network Analysis
	Behavioral Observation Study for Social Interaction Analysis between Captive Asian Elephants and Humans in the Elephant Foundation in Northern Thailand
	Catholics Who Make "Boof" [bu] (Merit): A Focus on Church Politics and Rice Endowment in Sgaw Karen Villages in the Northern Thai Mountains



Top left: Library (see: p.24)
 Top right: Map & Documents Room (see: p.25)
 Left: Research Commons

Field Residency	"Forms of Death" in Mainland Southeast Asia: A Comparative Study of Funeral Practices in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia
	Feminist Economic Solidarity in Strengthening Urban Women's Entrepreneurship through Women Farmers' Groups in Banjarmasin City
	Frontier Societies in Southeast Asia in the Information Age
Visiting Fellowship	International Joint Study on Unique Foraging Behaviour of Eden's Whales in Thailand
	The Everyday Politics of the University of the Philippines: On the Streets, Classroom, and the Malacañang
Resource Sharing	Preservation and Systematic Organization of Local Language Publications in Timor-Leste and the Development of a Linguistic and Cultural Resource Collection
	Practical Research to Share Thai Cremation Books as Academic Resources
Area Informatics Seeds	Straits Settlements Statistical Complication and Rethinking the Potential Needs of Future Generation
	Digital Agarwood Research Center in Indonesia



Fieldwork in Vietnam

Joint Research Workshop

2024 Annual Research Presentation Meeting

Maritime Asia Heritage Survey (MAHS)



Period AY2020–2025

Partner Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Field Offices Maldives, Indonesia, and Thailand

The Maritime Asia Heritage Survey (MAHS) aims to systematically identify, catalog, and digitize historical and cultural heritage in danger of being lost or scattered in the coastal areas of the Maldives, Indonesia, and Thailand, to permanently preserve heritage information, and to build an open-access digital archive. Building on data collected through the Maldives Heritage Survey, which was conducted from 2017 with the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, the MAHS project has continued and expanded its activities under the leadership of Professor R. Michael Feener since 2020.

The digital archive includes field survey records and digital photographs, as well as 3D models of archaeological sites and buildings, orthomaps, CAD drawings, deep-zoomed manuscripts, video recordings of oral history interviews, and other digital assets. The complete 3D point cloud of LiDAR data is available for free download at Open Heritage 3D.

In addition, “MAHS Channels” have been established on YouTube and Sketchfab in an attempt to visualize the data from multiple angles. The MAHS website offers an illustrated glossary, a virtual library of open-access publications, an interactive 3D timeline, and a blog as ancillary resources for understanding the context of the study area. Finally, the MAHS actively disseminates the

latest news and research updates through social media outlets.

The MAHS is based at the Digital Heritage Documentation Lab at CSEAS in Kyoto, Japan, and has field teams at each survey site. All field teams receive training in the technical operation of digital equipment and basic field survey methodology. Field survey data is uploaded to the cloud and sent to the Kyoto lab. In Kyoto, these data are used to create 3D models and maps, integrate multimedia resources, and incorporate all records into an open-access database. To date, MAHS has generated more than 95,000 data records at approximately 1,750 sites, 1,110 materials, resulting in 94 collections.

The overarching goal of the MAHS is not only to document the heritage at risk in the region, but also to collect, preserve, and share digital resources that are freely available to anyone looking for new ways to explore endless questions, with a wide range of users in mind. This MAHS initiative, which extends to the next generation, is not only an innovative approach to digital humanities and heritage management, but also has the potential for Kyoto University to become a future leader in area informatics, contributing to the development of other fields and broader research areas.



MAHS field teams conducting cultural heritage surveys in the Maldives, Indonesia, and Thailand

Industry-Academia Collaboration Program

Conceptualizing the Future of Air Conditioning



- Period** AY2021–2026
- Cooperating Department** Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS)
- Partner** Daikin Industries, Co., Ltd.
- Mission** Creating Future Air Conditioning Concepts and Business Roadmaps for Southeast Asia
Creating a New Architecture and Air Conditioning Culture for Open-Type Residences in Tropical and Subtropical Regions

CSEAS has been collaborating with Daikin Industries in an industry-academia joint research program since April 2021. Based on a comprehensive partnership agreement signed by Kyoto University and Daikin Industries in 2013, the program aims to conceptualize the future of air conditioning by working together with researchers in Asia and Africa. In the past, engineering-oriented collaborative projects were conducted at other institutions of Kyoto University to identify themes and realize innovation in the fields of air, environment, and energy studies. In response to the worldwide interest in air quality and health during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, a broader range of disciplines has started to participate in this industry-academia joint research, contributing to well-being, education, and awareness.

In the future, the Asia-Africa region is expected to experience a significant increase in demand for air conditioners, driven by rising incomes and expanding markets. However, crucial challenges related to air conditioning in the region remain, such as reconciling rising demand for electricity with environmental conservation and building social systems that are inclusive of the poor.

Based on Daikin Industries' technological development capabilities and business experience in Asia and Africa, the program seeks to create new concepts through the participation of diverse researchers and specialists. In 2024, the fourth year of the program,

CSEAS organized a transdisciplinary workshop in Surabaya, Indonesia on the challenges of creating new urban living, contributing to advancing quality of life in the era of climate change. Daikin Industries is a major player in the global air conditioner market and has experience developing various technologies beyond air conditioning. The program is expected to foster an unprecedented industry-academia collaboration by leveraging the strengths of CSEAS faculty members' deep understanding of Southeast Asia's climate, cultures, histories, and political systems, as well as their expertise in transdisciplinary research, including direct collaboration with local government agencies, civil society, and residents.



Program participants make field visits to ministries, local governments, NGOs, and residences in Indonesia

Japan-ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Platform (JASTIP) Promotion of Sustainable Development Research



- Period** AY2015–2020, 2020–2024
- Partners** National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN), Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology, Malaysia (MJIIIT)

This project aims to establish a platform for promoting joint research between Japan and ASEAN toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), strengthening partnerships with the private sector and policymakers, and fostering next-generation researchers and science and technology innovation personnel. Initiated in 2015, the project will continue until March 2025. The project is led by CSEAS, together with Kyoto University ASEAN Center, Institute of Advanced Energy, Graduate School of Energy Science, Graduate School of Agriculture, Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere, and Disaster Prevention Research Institute, in cooperation with universities and research institutions in Japan and ASEAN. In the field of environment and energy, we continue research on the introduction of renewable energy sources, with particular emphasis on photocatalytic and solar cell materials, with the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) of Thailand. We conduct social impact studies and apply the solvent reforming method (a more efficient method of extracting energy from biomass), which has

been introduced on a trial basis in Thailand and Laos, to neighboring countries. In the field of bioresources and biodiversity, we are conducting research with the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN) on natural products for drug discovery, effective use of wooden materials, wooden material conversion using microflora and biological environmental restoration. While promoting industry-academia collaboration to implement research outcomes in society, we also continue to work on the conservation of genetic resources in the ASEAN region and the fair distribution of benefits. In the field of disaster prevention, we are developing forecasting methods for heavy rainfall, floods, sediment, and storm surge disasters using rainfall observation information in cooperation with researchers and governments of ASEAN countries. We also conduct analysis and forecasting of water circulation, fire, and air pollution in peatlands; flood, sediment, and storm disasters in the Mekong River; and volcanic eruptions and mud flows in ASEAN countries.

Research Unit

Kyoto University Research Coordination Alliance Data-oriented Area Studies Unit (DASU)



Period AY2020–2024

Departments Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies, Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto Institute of Economic Research, Kokoro Research Center, Institute for Research in Humanities, School of Government, Institute of Advanced Energy, Graduate School of Energy Science, Graduate School of Medicine, Graduate School of Agriculture, Field Science Education and Research Center

This unit aims to develop a “data science-based comprehensive area studies,” which attempts to reconstruct our understanding of contemporary social issues by integrating area studies and informatics. While area studies aim to understand a region as a whole from a pan-disciplinary standpoint, informatics has come to demonstrate its pan-disciplinary usefulness in the midst of recent

developments in data science. Through the joint research and dialogue, DASU synthesizes approaches from the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences to enhance policy effectiveness, risk evaluation, and simulation studies for the development of political, economic, and social systems in Japan, Asia, and the Pacific Region.

Featured Projects

Development of the Integrated Hydrometeorological Monitoring System “SIMOCAKAP” in Indonesia’s Tropical Peatlands

CSEAS is engaged in various initiatives to address the large-scale forest fires caused by the development of tropical peatlands in Indonesia. As part of these efforts, we have integrated multi-year atmospheric environment measurements and hydrometeorological observation data from weather radar to develop the weather, peatland fire, and air pollution monitoring app “SIMOCAKAP.” In collaboration with residents, the Indonesian government, and local universities in Riau Province, we aim to facilitate the two-way dissemination and sharing of disaster prevention information.

Supporting Human Resources for Community Development through University-Society Collaboration in Trashigang District, Eastern Bhutan

Rural areas in Bhutan are facing serious problems, such as depopulation, abandonment of agriculture, lagging healthcare, and loss of culture. Based at the GNH Community Engagement Center at the Sherabtse College of the Royal University of Bhutan, this project aims to strengthen and sustain the capacity of students, educators, and residents to actively address rural issues. We do this through activities such as providing technical guidance on agriculture, installing basic medical equipment, implementing training programs, and establishing a community museum.



Official visit to the governor of Bengkalis Regency together with representatives from the National Research and Innovation Agency and local universities (July 2024)



Opening ceremony of the Bartsham Community Museum (December 2024)

Aceh Tsunami Memory Graph: Researching the Role of Recording and Sharing Landscape Changes in Communities Affected by Large-scale Natural Disasters

CSEAS is researching the application of the camera app “Memory Graph” in tsunami-affected areas in Indonesia. This app, which supports consistent composition photography, is utilized to compare past and present photos and to make fixed-point observations. We are working with local organizations such as the National Archives of Indonesia (ANRI) and the Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center at Universitas Syiah Kuala (TDMRC-USK) to address the challenges involved in recording changes in the landscape of disaster-affected areas, as well as to share experiences of disaster and recovery across regions and pass them on to future generations.

Aceh Tsunami Memory Graph Contest
(Aceh Province, Indonesia, December 2024)



Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Projects

As of July 1, 2025

Title	Principal Investigator	Period (AY)	Category
Development of Evidence-based Quantitative Area Studies	Shoichiro Hara	2021–25	Scientific Research A
An Interdisciplinary One Health Approach to Inclusive Animal Infectious Disease Control in the Philippines	Wataru Yamazaki	2024–28	
Comparative Study of the Interrelationship of the Buddhist and Secular Orders in Southeast Asian Theravada Buddhist Societies	Satoru Kobayashi	2025–28	
A Comparative Study on the Instabilizing Party Systems in Andean Countries since the 2010s	Yusuke Murakami	2025–28	
Creative Community Research to Protect the Health of the Senior Citizens Living in Bhutan	Ryota Sakamoto	2021–25	
Re-organizing Community in the Red River Delta, Vietnam: Diversification of Household Economy and Stabilization of Livelihoods	Masayuki Yanagisawa	2021–25	
The Mekong River Basin in Environmental Literature: Rivers and Beliefs in Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos	Hideki Hiramatsu	2024–26	
Basic Research of the Viet Kieu Community in Mainland of Southeast Asia Based on Analyses of Vietnamese Buddhist Temples	Mikiko Ono	2022–25	Scientific Research B
Interdisciplinary Analysis of Drug Use and Its State Control in Indonesia	Chika Yamada	2022–26	
Collection of Scientific Data on Tropical Peatland Fires and Its Application to Fire Risk Assessment	Osamu Kozan	2023–25	
Property Rights and Customary Law in Indonesia	Kosuke Mizuno	2024–27	
Practical Research on Fire Prevention in Tropical Peatlands: Exploring Air Pollution and the Seasonal and Regional Characteristics of Rainfall	Mariko Ogawa	2025–27	
Digital-Driven Multi-layered Social Transformation and Power Restructuring: Case of Indonesia	Masaaki Okamoto	2025–28	
Coping Mechanism with Uncertainty and Risks of the Urbanizing Rural Villages in Southeast Asia	Yasuyuki Kono	2025–27	
Islam and Society after Post-Socialism: Their Dynamism in Contemporary Uzbekistan	Chika Obiya	2025–28	Scientific Research C
Japanese Intellectual Knowledge Formation in Multidisciplinary Research within Southeast Asian Area Studies	Mario Lopez	2023–25	
A New Phase in Research on the Siam-British Treaty of Amity and Commerce (1855): Focusing on East Asian Factors	Junko Koizumi	2024–26	
Collaborative Re-creation of the Field through Performance: Collaboration and Development of Anthropological Educational Practices	Noriko Iizuka	2024–26	
Attempt to Evaluate Chronic Stress Using Telomeres in Small Cetaceans within and outside Their Habitat	Satoko S. Kimura	2024–26	
Longitudinal Study of Sedation and Artificial Hydration and Nutrition in End-of-Life Care	Taizo Wada	2024–27	
Care and Aging in Thailand under the Third National Policy on Aging: Between Production and Merit-making, Autonomy and Dependence	Yoko Hayami	2024–27	
A Study to Compare Disclosure and Visibility of Infectious Disease Information at International Tourist Destinations in Southeast Asia	Minako Yoshikawa	2024–26	Challenging Research (Exploratory)
The Development of a Cross-Institutional Platform for Sharing Bibliographical Information of Core Journals for Southeast Asian Area Studies	Kimiya Kitani	2024–26	
The Islamization of Ethnic Minorities: An Empirical Study of Transformations in Maritime Southeast Asia	Noboru Ishikawa	2025–28	
A Study on the Coalition and Fragmentation among Armed Groups in Myanmar's Civil War	Yoshihiro Nakanishi	2025–27	
Development of a Highly Sensitive Detection Method for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Viruses in Livestock Foods and Surveillance	Yasuko Yamazaki	2025–27	
Library Publishing in Japan: A Basic Survey for the Promotion of Diamond OA	Narumi Shitara	2025–27	
Challenging Deviance at the Intersection of Social Activism, Global Health, and Coloniality in Indonesia	Chika Yamada	2025–27	
Research on the Formation of Russo-Chinese Trade and Information on the Qing via Europe in the First Half of the 18th Century	Tomomi Nakamura	2022–26	Early-Career Scientists
Reconsidering the Twentieth Century through Mindanwan People's Life-Histories: An Investigation on the Formation of Grassroots Conservatives	Kisho Tsuchiya	2023–25	
A One-Health Metagenomic Study of Viruses at Indonesia's Threatened Human-nature Interface	Youdiil Ophinni	2024–25	
Minorities (dis)Engagement in the Majority-led Social Movements: A Relational Approach towards Understanding the Perception of Nation Consciousness among Ethnoreligious Minorities in the Middle East	Mostafa Khalili	2024–26	
Alternatives to International Institutions: Explorations by China and the East Asian/ Southeast Asian Regions	Tomoko Takahashi	2025–29	
Who Fled and Who Was Left Behind?: A Casual Inference on the Role of Household Wealth in Shaping Fleeing Patterns	Yalei Zhai	2025–28	
Balancing Forest Conservation and Livelihood Security in Laos: Empirical Research on Insect Food	Naoki Fukushima	2025–27	
Retiring Coal Plants in Developing Country Contexts: Challenges and Opportunities in Southeast Asia	Julie Ann de los Reyes	2025–27	Research Activity Start-up
Rethinking Southeast Asian Urbanization through the Spread of Crime Prevention Devices in Jakarta	Genta Kuno	2024–25	
Cinema and Society in Contemporary Uzbekistan: Toward Diversity and Innovation of Women's Image	Olga Khan	2025–26	
An Ethnographical Study of Nomadic Traditions in Uzbekistan	Natsumi Shida	2025–26	JSPS Fellows
Identifying the Factors behind the Long-term Stability of Hun Sen's Regime in Cambodia	Atsushi Yoshida	2025–26	
School Consolidations and Place-Based Education in Rural Bhutan	Kohei Morishita	2025–27	Fostering Joint International Research B
Development of a Practical, Highly Sensitive Diagnostic Method for African Swine Disease in Vietnam and Elucidation of Its Environmental Dynamics	Wataru Yamazaki	2022–26	

Awards and Honors



Recipient	Award	Month/Year	Award Winning Research/Title
Chika Yamada Youdiil Ophinni	Best Oral Presenter Award, the 1st International Conference on Drugs Research and Policy	May 2024	Reimagining Harm Reduction through its Genealogy in Indonesia
Hiromu Shimizu	The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	November 2024	(for distinguished achievements and service to the public good in Japan)
Noriko Iizuka	The 14th Japan Consortium for Area Studies (JCAS) Award for Social Collaboration	November 2024	Manalabo Environment and Peace Learning Design "Chikyu Tankentai" Activity
Natsumi Shida	The 15th JSPS Ikushi Prize	February 2025	"Tradition" and Living Culture of Uzbek Herders Observed through Carpet/Rug Weaving
Kisho Tsuchiya	The 14th Mishima Kaiun Academic Award (Best book in Japanese and Asian Humanities)	July 2025	<i>Emplacing East Timor: Regime Change and Knowledge Production, 1860–2010</i>
Yoshimi Nishi	The 40th Daido Life Foundation Incentive Award for Area Studies	July 2025	Interdisciplinary studies on social change and reconstruction in Aceh Province, Indonesia, following the earthquake and tsunami disaster during the civil war



Assistant Professor Kisho Tsuchiya receiving the Mishima Kaiun Academic Award



Associate Professor Yoshimi Nishi at Daido Life Foundation Award for Area Studies ceremony

Gender Equality Promotion

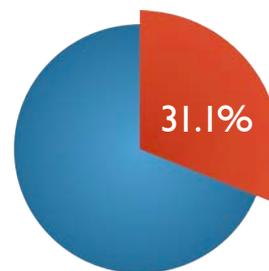


The CSEAS Gender Equality Promotion Committee, established in 2016, initiates the following activities based on Kyoto University's and CSEAS's Action Plan for Gender Equality Promotion.

First, the Committee organizes the "Seminar on Gender Issues in Academia" and the "Special Seminar: Frontiers of Gender Studies in Asia." These seminars provide opportunities for domestic and overseas researchers and institutions to share information and exchange ideas on their challenges and achievements in promoting gender equality, as well as to learn about the latest academic trends in gender studies.

Second, the Committee aims to improve support for CSEAS staff with small children, for example, by maintaining a child-care space at CSEAS and providing support for childcare during CSEAS-organized and -sponsored events.

Finally, we publish information and reports on the Committee's activities on our homepage to stimulate further discussion and feedback.



Gender balance at CSEAS
(Percentage indicates the proportion of female faculty members as of April 2025)



Child-friendly multipurpose resting room in the East Building of CSEAS, which was renovated in 2020

Publications



Since its beginning, CSEAS has prioritized publishing research results. The academic journal *Tonan Aija Kenkyu* began with the founding of the Center. Since the 1960s monographs have been published in both Japanese and English, and over the years, we have engaged in various publication initiatives. A complete list of CSEAS publications is available on the website of the Editorial Office.

Monographs

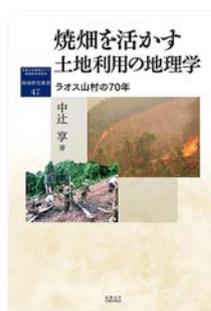
Series	Language	First Issue	Title	Publisher
Kyoto Area Studies on Asia (Chiiki Kenkyu Sosho)	Japanese	1996	48	Kyoto University Press
Monographs of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies	English	1966	21	University of Hawai'i Press
Kyoto Area Studies on Asia	English	1999	31	Kyoto University Press and Trans Pacific Press
Kyoto CSEAS Series on Asian Studies	English	2009	24	Kyoto University Press and NUS Press
Kyoto CSEAS Series on Philippine Studies	English	2019	3	Kyoto University Press and Ateneo de Manila University Press

Kyoto Area Studies on Asia (Chiiki Kenkyu Sosho, in Japanese)



Living Between Nomadic Pastoralism and Sedentary Agriculture: An Ethnography of Settled Mongolians
Shuangyue Bao, 2025

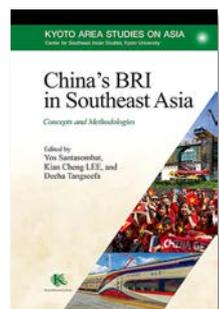
Since modernization, the Mongols of eastern region of Inner Mongolia autonomous, China, have settled down and taken up farming, creating a semi-agricultural, semi-pastoral way of life. Adaptation to harsh environments and constantly shaken by the turbulent times of nation-states, they have transformed their livelihood, land ownership, and concepts of tradition. They describe themselves as “people living in the gap.” This ethnography transcends conventional anthropological Mongol studies and reexamines the very concept of “nomadism.”



Making the Most of Shifting Cultivation: A 70-year Geography of Land Use in Hill Villages in Laos
Susumu Nakatsuji, 2025

The “landscape mosaic” conceals a remarkable diversity. Focusing on subtle environmental differences and utilizing aerial and satellite photographs, this study empirically confirms the flexible transformations in the lives of farmers despite the influences of national policies that impose centralized systems and the introduction of cash crops. Spanning 70 years of land use since the 1940s, this groundbreaking work illuminates the practices of shifting cultivators.

Kyoto Area Studies on Asia



China's BRI in Southeast Asia: Concepts and Methodologies
Yos Santasombat, Kian Cheng Lee, and Decha Tangseefa (eds), 2025

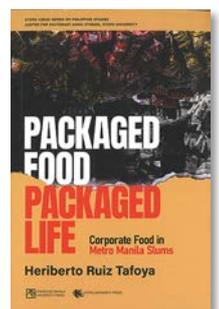
While the BRI's development of infrastructure creates opportunities for ASEAN countries in trade, engineering, agribusiness, and finance, it also poses serious and fundamental challenges to local communities, state sovereignty, the global economic order, and international legal frameworks. This book examines how China's BRI impacts socioeconomic and cultural realities in Southeast Asian countries from various perspectives, using ethnographic methods to foreground the voices and experiences of local people.



Money-lending Contracts in Konbaung Burma: Another Interpretation of an Early Modern Society in Southeast Asia
Teruko Saito, 2024

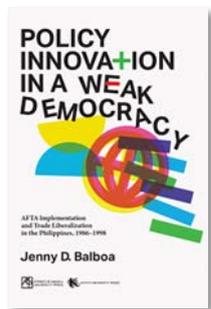
People in the Burmese dynastic societies of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries exchanged various contracts. Debt deeds, or *thet-kayits*, are particularly valuable sources of information on the socioeconomic conditions of the time. Through an analysis of more than 3,000 local historical documents, the author vividly portrays the specific ups and downs of the lives of ordinary people in early modern Burma, including disputes over debts and the flexible civil court system for adjudicating them, and the wisdom of life. Using Burma as a case study, this book empirically demonstrates the potential of early modern Southeast Asian research based on previously largely unexplored sources, presenting a new image that overturns conventional historical perspectives.

Kyoto CSEAS Series on Philippine Studies



Packaged Food, Packaged Life: Corporate Food in Metro Manila Slums
Heriberto Ruiz Tafuya, 2023

This book argues that the widespread consumption of corporate-branded packaged food in slums does not merely stem from individual lifestyles. Drawing on fieldwork and an exhaustive review of related literature, the author identifies the constraints that characterize a packaged life not as a definitive status but as an ongoing process. The book is a pioneering work on packaged food diets in the Global South, serving as a reliable reference for readers interested in the retail and consumption of processed food, particularly among marginalized communities.



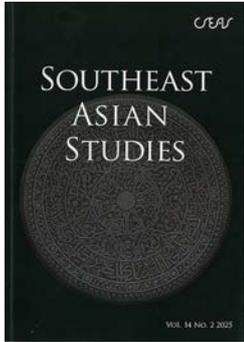
Policy Innovation in a Weak Democracy: AFTA Implementation and Trade Liberalization in the Philippines, 1986-1998
Jenny D. Balboa, 2022

Having achieved independence after a long period of colonialism, the Philippines was a developing country with a strong protectionist tendency rooted in nationalism and a fragile political economy. However, the government established through the People Power Revolution implemented notable trade reforms. How was this possible? This book vividly captures the Philippines' experience, offering significant insights into the path toward internationalization under decolonization and the emergence of a new, open regionalism.

Journals

CSEAS publishes two academic journals covering a wide range of fields in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities, with the aim of raising cutting-edge issues. Both journals are available online, including the latest issues. From 2025, we will strive to publish research results more quickly through an early publication system.

Southeast Asian Studies



Published in April, August, and December

First published in 2012, the journal aims to promote excellent, agenda-setting scholarship and provide a forum for dialogue and collaboration both within and beyond the region. *Southeast Asian Studies* engages in wide-ranging and in-depth discussions that are attuned to the issues, debates, and imperatives within the region, while affirming the importance of learning and sharing ideas on a cross-country, global, and historical scale. An integral part of the journal's mandate is to foster scholarship that is capable of bridging the continuing divide in area studies between the social sciences and humanities, on the one hand, and the natural sciences, on the other hand. To this end, the journal welcomes accessibly written articles that build on insights and cutting-edge research from the natural sciences. Indexed in Scopus and Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI).



Japanese Journal of Southeast Asian Studies



Published in January and July

In 1963 *Tonan Ajia Kenkyu* was started as a bilingual quarterly journal that reflects the Center for Southeast Asian Studies' strong commitment to publishing the best of empirically grounded, multidisciplinary, and contemporary research in the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities. In 2012, our center relaunched *Southeast Asian Studies*, an all-English journal as a sister journal of *Tonan Ajia Kenkyu*. In accordance with the launching of a new English journal, *Tonan Ajia Kenkyu* has been reorganized as an all-Japanese biannual journal. Peer-reviewed by a broad range of specialists, the journal accepts articles for review all year round.



Publications

Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia



The *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia* is a multilingual online journal dedicated to fostering vibrant public discourse and intellectual exchange across Southeast Asia. Through the publication of timely and accessible articles, the journal seeks to expand the audience for significant scholarship, critical dialogues, and reflective essays emerging from the region. It further strives to connect intellectuals, civil society actors, journalists, and others engaged in cultural initiatives and knowledge production, nurturing enduring networks of collaboration.

Each issue is curated around a unifying theme and features not only the latest research findings but also reviews of locally published books in Southeast Asian languages. All articles are translated into Japanese, Thai, Indonesian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Myanmar, and from September 2025, Khmer, ensuring broad regional reach. Additionally, the journal's monthly "Trendsetters" column offers a platform for early-career researchers to disseminate their work through the global networks of CSEAS.



Kyoto Working Papers on Area Studies

Kyoto Working Papers on Area Studies is a series published jointly by the three area studies institutions of Kyoto University: the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS), the Center for African Area Studies (CAAS), and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS). You can find all titles published to date on the website.



CSEAS Classics (Japanese Only)



In 2020, CSEAS launched a website to share the research outcomes of former CSEAS members in the form of open-access monographs and papers. Currently, nine books from the South-east Asian Studies Series and 19 Discussion Papers are available. We hope you will take the opportunity to read these studies published from the 1970s to the 1990s.



GCR Working Paper Series



The GCR Working Paper Series is intended to quickly disseminate the results of joint research and collaboration at the MEXT Joint Usage/Research Center for Global Collaborative Research. In addition to research papers, we periodically publish a variety of research results, including survey reports, materials, book reviews, and records of workshops and symposiums.



Featured Books



Political Crisis in Contemporary Peru: Shaky Democracy and Structural Problems

Series Asia Pacific Studies Vol. 7 (in Japanese)
Yusuke Murakami (ed)
Kokusai Shoin, 2024

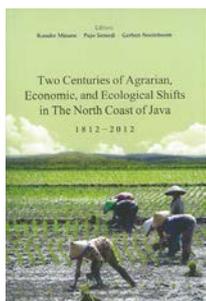
This book of seven essays analyzes the changes and continuities of 21st-century Peruvian politics following the Fujimori regime of the 1990s. Focusing on the core issues of state-society relations and decentralization, it also explores the country's future prospects. The essay topics range from the state of political parties and social conflict amid neoliberalism to the reorganization of central-local relations and institutional reform.



Women, Marriage, and Home in Central Eurasia from the 19th to the 21st Century

Series Asia Pacific Studies Vol. 6 (in Japanese)
Masumi Isogai and Chika Obiya (eds)
Kokusai shoin, 2023

Focusing on Turkic Muslims in Central Eurasia, the volume analyzes women, marriage, and the family, providing insights for the examination of common dynamic phenomena while attempting to view the present from a historical perspective. Chapters 1–3 examine the connections between intellectuals in Central Eurasia and the Middle East from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, focusing on discussions surrounding Muslim women. Chapters 4–5 analyze important events related to contemporary marriage in Central Asia from a cultural anthropological perspective, taking into account the context of modern history.



Two Centuries of Agrarian, Economic, and Ecological Shifts in the North Coast of Java, 1812–2012

Kosuke Mizuno, Pujo Semedi, and Gerben Nooteboom (eds)
Gadjah Mada University Press, 2023

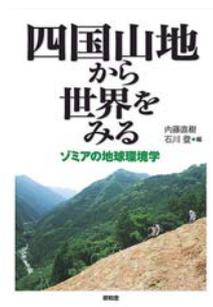
What is the impact of the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, Reformasi, or democratization since 1998 and constant economic development in 1990–1997 and 2004–2012 on rural Javanese society? This book has attempted to answer these questions by conducting a 1,000-household socioeconomic survey of six villages in Comal, in the north-coastal area of Java Island in 2012. This book also seeks to locate findings of these fieldworks in the Long historical context in the same area by comparing a 500-household survey in 1990 in the same villages, as well as data from a household survey conducted in the same area from 1903–1905 by the General Syndicate of Sugar-mill Owners of the Dutch Indies.



Governing Philosophy and Violence: State and Society in Indonesia after Independence (in Japanese)

Sachiko Imamura
University of Tokyo Press, 2023

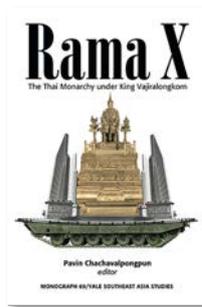
This study aims to elucidate the illiberal nature of Indonesia that remains even after the democratization that began in 1998. It clarifies the governing ideology, known as "Pancasila" (the five principles of the state), which was firmly established by the Soeharto regime, and examines the consistent use of violence. Through a detailed analysis of past tragedies that remain unexplained, this study highlights the continuity in Indonesian politics.



Exploring the World from the Shikoku Mountains: Zomia's Global Environmental Studies (in Japanese)

Naoki Naito and Noboru Ishikawa (eds)
Showado, 2024

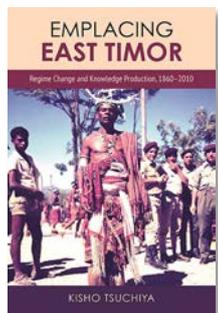
This book probes the reasons why people continue to live in the depopulating mountain villages of Japan's Shikoku island. "Zomia" in the subtitle refers to autonomous spaces distributed across the mountainous regions stretching from the Himalayas to Southeast Asia and China. Drawing on the perspective of Southeast Asian studies, this book considers the mountain villages of the Shikoku Mountains as one such Zomia space. Researchers from various fields present perspectives and methodologies for reinterpreting Shikoku, shedding light on the dynamism that has shaped Japan's mountain village landscape, along with changes in the nation, social system, economy, science, and technology since the modern era.



Rama X: The Thai Monarchy under King Vajiralongkorn

Pavin Chachavalongpun (ed)
Yale University Southeast Asia Studies, 2024

This book focuses on King Vajiralongkorn's attempt to strengthen his power by employing a different method from the one used by his father, Bhumibol. The pro-monarchy institutions have readjusted their relationship, primarily for their own interests, hence perpetuating the changing nature of monarchic power. But the young generation has reacted to the growing power by demanding royal reforms, and in the process trespassing against the overly protected realm of the monarchy even in the face of the *lèse-majesté* law. The Thai monarchy has arrived at a crossroads, and yet has chosen to resist popular will and disregard call for reforms.



Emplacing East Timor: Regime Change and Knowledge Production, 1860-2010

Kisho Tsuchiya
University of Hawai'i Press, 2024

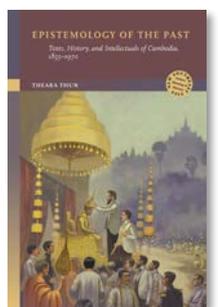
This book explores the relationship between the cycle of regime change and that of global knowledge production, offering an alternative framework to periodize the history from 1850s to 2010s. Using multi-archival historical research, the author introduces sources in several languages and provides missing links, including secret documents in Portuguese archives and the National Archives of Timor-Leste, Japanese wartime sources, and Timorese sources in the Archives of Timorese Resistance. The book skillfully synthesizes nationalism studies and borderland studies, creating a comprehensive approach to modern East Timorese national imaginings, the historical role of territorial borders, and its postcolonial problems.



Has Cambodia Changed? Observations of Political Transition from 1993-2023 (in Japanese)

Satoru Kobayashi (ed)
Mekong Publishing, 2024

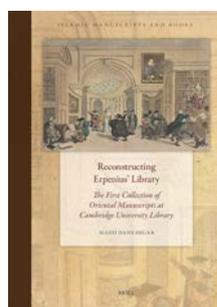
Following two decades of civil war and social turmoil, in 1993, the Kingdom of Cambodia was re-established and elections were held. What has the democratization, supported by the international community, brought to the people of Cambodia? While society stabilized and economic activity flourished, vast forest areas have been destroyed and the country's once-rich fishing environment has significantly deteriorated. As the monetary economy has taken hold, rural migration to cities and abroad has increased. This book vividly depicts the changes in Cambodia's natural environment, economy, society, and culture since 1993 through the work of 12 Japanese field researchers. By addressing the question "has Cambodia changed?" from multiple perspectives and fields, it reexamines the universal characteristics of modernization and globalization, and portrays Cambodia's unique development within the regional and global context of 21st-century Southeast Asia as a comprehensive historical experience.



Epistemology of the Past: Texts, History, and Intellectuals of Cambodia, 1855-1970

Theara Thun
University of Hawai'i Press, 2024

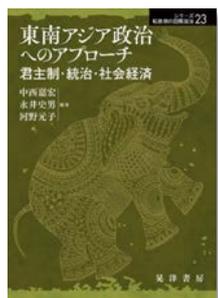
This book examines how certain types and forms of historical knowledge are created, understood, and used and how that knowledge has evolved over time. It brings together and explores a large collection of original manuscripts and printed texts—notably, Khmer chronicle manuscripts and colonial-era works of French scholar-officials. It discloses multilayers of intellectual traditions and diverse views of Cambodian and, more broadly, Southeast Asian scholars engaging with European colonial scholarship. This work will be essential reading for those interested in intellectual history, transculturation, historiography, intertextual studies, narrative studies, literature, colonialism, and nationalism.



Reconstructing Erpenius' Library: The First Collection of Oriental Manuscripts at Cambridge University Library

Majid Daneshgar
Brill, 2024

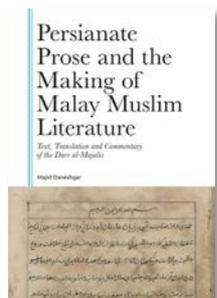
This volume is the first comprehensive study of one of the most important collections of oriental manuscripts, in more than ten languages, in early modern Europe which belonged to Thomas Erpenius (d. 1624), the renowned Dutch Arabist, orientalist and the first Chair of Arabic Studies at Leiden University. This book reconstructs his personal library which was the center of scholarly debates for centuries, full of rare and sometimes unique materials. This volume provides detail on Erpenius' life and career, his manuscript collections and their reception and preservation in Cambridge. Thus, examining Erpenius' collection demonstrates that he and most of his entourage wished to explore Eastern textual heritage to learn about oriental literature.



Approaches to Southeast Asian Politics: Monarchy, Governance, and Socioeconomics

Series International Politics at Crossroads No. 23 (in Japanese)
Yoshihiro Nakanishi, Fumio Nagai, and Motoko Kawano (eds)
Koyo Shobo, 2025

Southeast Asia is now one of the world's growth engines, alongside China and India. The politics of this region are diverse, complex, and full of mysteries. To understand the essence of Southeast Asia, which feels distant despite its proximity to Japan, this book discusses monarchy, governance, and socioeconomics based on a deep understanding of the region.



Persianate Prose and the Making of Malay Muslim Literature: Text, Translation and Commentary of the Durr al-Majālis

Majid Daneshgar
Edinburgh University Press, 2025

This book is about the Persianate origin of a large number of Muslim pious literature produced from Africa to South-East Asia. Particular attention is paid to "Durr al-Majālis," a collection of Muslim stories produced by Sayf Zafar (13th-14th CE), during the Delhi Sultanate. Durr al-Majālis' stories were reproduced and circulated in Persian, Arabic, African, Afghan, Bengali, Chinese, Turkish, Turkic, Kurdish, Indian, and Malay contexts. Not only used by rulers, scholars and thinkers but also by villagers, warriors and even illiterate people who relied on oral reading, it contains various accounts. This book shows how this Persian collection of stories shaped the idea of Islam, Islamic teachings and stories across the Muslim World, and in the Malay-Indonesian World in particular.

Library & Information

Library



Collection Development and Sharing of Academic Publications

The CSEAS Library has been an essential foundation in the promotion of research activities in the field of Southeast Asian studies. As a result of ongoing collection development focusing on academic publications on Southeast Asia, the library holds approximately 270,000 items and assures access by both domestic and overseas patrons through its open access policy and reference services. With over 100,000 items in Southeast Asian languages (primarily in Indonesian and Thai, but also in Vietnamese, Burmese, and other languages), the collection is one of the largest of its kind in Japan. We continue to systematically acquire up-to-date materials through the CSEAS overseas liaison offices in Bangkok and Jakarta, and also collect colonial-era archival materials in microfilm form.



The main library is a red brick building of the former Kyoto Textile Company that was built in the 1880s

Opening hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00–17:00
Tel: +81-75-753-7306 Fax: +81-75-753-7364
E-mail: libinfo@cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Researcher-Librarian Collaboration

While the library is devoted to collecting and providing access to historical documents and academic works on Southeast Asia, it is also keen to respond to changes in the region and work together with researchers. For example, the Center for Global Collaborative Research now has a program specifically to provide sufficient funding for the acquisition of library materials related to proposed document-based research (see Global Collaborative Research, page 14). Since 1986, numerous librarians from Southeast Asia and the United States have spent 6 months at the Library as fellows, contributing to the open and collaborative atmosphere and development of the Library while pursuing their academic research interests. We are looking forward to working with many others in the future.

Special Collections

Charas Collection

This collection, donated by Charas Pikul, a former officer of the Thai government, consists of approximately 9,000 items. It includes approximately 4,000 *Nang Sue Ngan Sop*, or cremation volumes, of important figures. The volumes contain unique information, such as personal records of the deceased, reprints of their previous publication, and local geographic information. Our collection of cremation volumes is the largest outside of Thailand.

Foronda Collection

This collection, donated by the late Marcelino Foronda, a Filipino historian, consists of approximately 7,000 items. These include important documents of Philippine history, literature, and ethnography (especially on the Ilokos region). The collection also contains Catholic prayer books, underground publications, and books that were banned during the Marcos regime.

Ocampo Collection

This collection, donated by Ambeth Ocampo, a Filipino historian and writer, consists of approximately 1,000 items published in the Philippines from the second half of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. The items range from Catholic prayer books to government reports, including Congressional records.

Ishii Yoneo Collection

This collection was donated by Yoneo Ishii, a professor emeritus of Kyoto University who worked for CSEAS from 1965 to 1990. The collection consists of more than 10,000 items, including historical legal records from Thailand, documents written in Southeast Asian languages, and several rare original items written by Bastian, Cabaton, and Hallet.

Indonesia Islam Collection

The number of the collection is around 2,000. This contains books on Islamic studies and their updates by collecting publications from a dozen number of main publishers. The collection is varied from translations of Islam classics, Islamic political ideologies, and introductory books for the general public.



The Siam Rashtra Daily News (1934), a Thai daily newspaper published during World War II. Available at the Kyoto University Digital Archive of Rare Materials:
<https://rmda.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp>



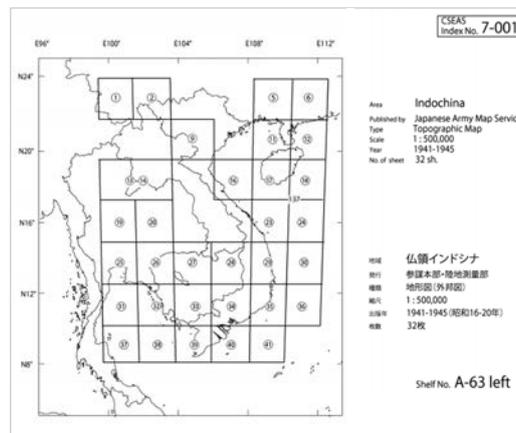
Viage de novios: tanda de valsas (por T. Araullo), sheet music published in the Philippines in the 19th century

Map & Documents Room

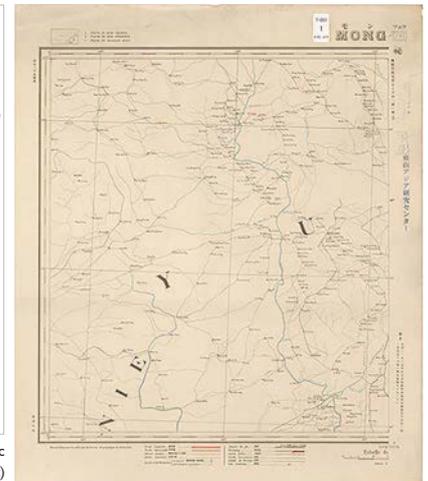
Collection and Sharing of Maps, Aerial Photographs, and Other Materials



The Map and Documents Room primarily houses cartographic materials, mainly from Southeast Asia, many of which are open to the public. Overall, the Room houses approximately 48,000 maps of various types, 10,000 aerial photographs, and the Human Ecology File, which was transferred from the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii in 2000. Maps in particular are fundamental resources used across disciplines for studying the influences and interactions between human activity, society, and the environment. The Room is committed to the widespread sharing of these valuable resources, and is exploring new utilization methods based on the digitization of materials.



From the online map catalog search screen: a map catalog entry with basic details and shelf location (left) and a thumbnail image of a map (right)



Information Processing Office

Development of ICT-enabled Services

CSEAS collaborates with institutions and researchers in Southeast Asia and related regions through various joint projects. The Information Processing Office promotes the active utilization of ICT, not only to maintain and manage the Center's information infrastructure, but also to participate in research activities and build new platforms in the field both domestically and internationally.

Using integrated cloud services such as Google Workspace for Education and content management systems like WordPress as its core tools, the Office is responsible for constructing and providing infrastructure that supports in-house communication, information collection, dissemination, and preservation. Additionally, since the spread of COVID-19, the Office has actively supported the introduction of remote meeting systems, including hybrid formats. Furthermore, starting in 2024, the Office has introduced the simultaneous interpretation system "On'yaku" to facilitate active communication in meetings.



Meeting using the simultaneous interpretation system "On'yaku"

Social Contribution

The Information Processing Office supports community activities related to information services and systems as follows:

- As experts in various Google products such as Gmail and Chrome, the Office contributes to the development of these services
- As an official WordPress plugin developer, the Office publishes and provides multiple plugins, including "WP Add Mime Types," which are used on over 50,000 websites
- As a member of the organizing committee for the WordPress event "WordCamp Japan 2021" and other activities, the Office contributes to the open-source community



WordCamp Japan 2021 online event stage (using oVice)

Academic Community

Japan Consortium for Area Studies (JCAS)



Member Organizations 107 organizations (as of April 2025)

Executive Organizations 10 organizations (11th term, AY 2024–25)

Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University / Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, Hokkaido University / Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University / Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies / Institute of Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Studies, The Sophia University / International Center for Chinese Studies, Aichi University / National Museum of Ethnology / Japan Society for Southeast Asian Studies / Japan Association for Malaysian Studies / MOYAI Network

The Japan Consortium for Area Studies (JCAS) is a novel organizational network comprising research and educational institutions, academic societies, and non-governmental organizations engaged in research on various regions of the world. Established in 2004, JCAS aims to connect area studies organizations and groups of researchers scattered across universities and research institutions, facilitating knowledge exchange and research activities that transcend organizational boundaries.

JCAS currently has three main activities. The Japan Consortium for Area Studies Award (JCAS Award), which is open for applications every April, recognizes outstanding works, projects, and activities in area studies, regardless of whether the nominees belong to JCAS member organizations.

The annual meeting, held around November each year, is an opportunity for member organizations to get together. It includes the JCAS Award ceremony, lectures by award winners, and a symposium on a unique theme that is open to the public.

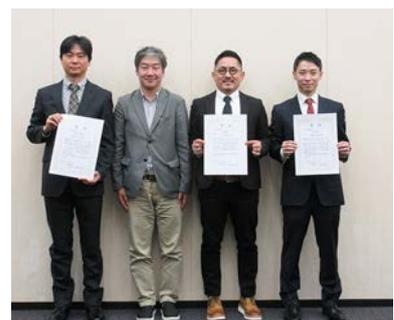
The *JCAS Review*, the official journal of JCAS, is an online platform for sharing research results across disciplines, regions, and organizations. Since 2017, it has been published online as the successor to the print edition. Lectures by the JCAS Awardees are included in this journal.

CSEAS is one of the executive organizations supporting the operations of JCAS, and the secretariat is located at the Center for the 2024–2025 academic year.

Recent JCAS Annual Meetings and Public Symposia

Date	Venue	Theme
November 30, 2024	CSEAS Kyoto University, Kyoto*	Considering Systems to Utilize the Academic Contributions of Area Studies
November 18, 2023	ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo*	Reflecting on the “Variety of Food” and “Connections” from Regional Perspectives Today
November 19, 2022	Gifu Women’s University, Gifu*	A New Era for Japan and South Asia: Perspectives from Gifu through a “Glocal” Lens
October 30, 2021	Online	Area Studies and the Global Agenda: Perspectives from “In-Depth Research”
November 21, 2020	Online	Area Studies and Global Studies as Action: Learning, Communicating, and Supporting Each Other
November 2, 2019	National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka	Cultural Power in the Age of Globalization: Managing “Regional Knowledge”
November 1–2, 2018	Osaka University, Osaka	Co-creation with Regions: New Possibilities for Area Studies—Focusing on Initiatives in Japan, Yunnan, and Mongolia
October 28–29, 2017	Tohoku University, Sendai	Future Earth and the Possibilities for Collaboration with Area Studies Researchers

*Hybrid event with online participation



Commemorative photo of the award winners after the JCAS Award Ceremony (top: November 18, 2023; left: November 30, 2024)

Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA)



The Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies in Asia (SEASIA) was established in October 2013 by ten leading area studies institutions in Northeast and Southeast Asia. CSEAS served as the first secretariat of SEASIA, playing a pivotal role in its establishment, and has resumed its secretariat duties since 2022. To date, it has played an active role in the consortium’s operations, serving on the governing board and conference committees, and has been working to promote and advance SEASIA’s common vision of contributing to understanding of Southeast Asia through education and research.

The SEASIA Biennial International Conference began with the Kyoto Conference in 2015 and has been held four additional times since then. In addition, the Asian Conference for Young Scholars of Southeast Asian Studies (AYSEA) was held in 2016 and 2023. During the COVID-19 pandemic, online webinars featuring talks by young researchers were held to provide opportunities for intensive discussion and dialogue, thereby continuing academic exchange.

The 5th SEASIA Conference was held in 2024 at the University of the Philippines Diliman. Under the theme “De/Centering Southeast Asia,” over 400 participants from more than 25 countries worldwide, representing diverse research fields and backgrounds, gathered to engage in active discussions aimed to produce and practice knowledge from the perspective of Southeast Asia.

Looking ahead, the 3rd AYSEA conference is scheduled to take place in 2025, followed by the 6th SEASIA Biennial Conference at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore in 2026.

The network map on pages 30–31 showcases SEASIA member organizations.



Top: 2024 SEASIA Governing Board
Left: 2024 SEASIA Biennial International Conference Opening Ceremony
Bottom: Panel presentation at the conference



Academic Community

SEASIA Biennial International Conference

Date	Venue	Theme
5th July 18–20, 2024	UP Diliman, Manila	SEASIA 2024 Conference: De/Centering Southeast Asia
4th June 9–11, 2022	BRIN and Le Meridien, Jakarta	SEASIA 2022 Conference: Managing Disruption, Developing Resilience for a Better Southeast Asia
3rd December 5–7, 2019	Academia Sinica, Taipei	SEASIA 2019 Conference: Change and Resistance: Future Directions of Southeast Asia
2nd December 16–17, 2017	Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok	SEASIA 2017 Conference: Unity in Diversity: Transgressive Southeast Asia
1st December 12-13, 2015	Kyoto International Conference Center	SEASIA 2015 Conference

Asian Conference for Young Scholars of Southeast Asian Studies (AYSEA)

Date	Venue	Theme
2nd September 11–12, 2023	Academia Sinica, Taipei	AYSEA 2023: The Future Directions of Southeast Asian Studies in the Post-Pandemic Era
1st November 9–12, 2016	National Chengchi University, Taipei	AYSEA 2016: Democratization, Regionalization and Globalization in Southeast Asia



Group photo at the 5th SEASIA Biennial Conference (July 18–20, 2024, University of the Philippines Diliman)

Global Academic Networks

Memoranda of Understanding



CSEAS actively promotes Southeast Asian studies by establishing institutional linkages with leading universities and research institutes in the region and across the globe. To foster academic exchange and cooperation, CSEAS has signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) to exchange faculty members and researchers; exchange academic information, including library materials and research publications; and conduct joint research activities, including seminars, conferences, and symposia.

The Center has been actively engaged in research exchange and joint projects for multiple years based on MOUs with the National Chengchi University of Taiwan, Hasanuddin University in Indonesia, the Faculty of Science at Prince of Songkla University in Thailand, the University of the Philippines, the National University of Singapore, and Hanoi Agricultural University, among others. Additionally, we have signed agreements with Yezin Agricultural University and the Center for Historical and Traditional Areas of the Institute of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education in Myanmar, enabling comprehensive area studies in the country.

In 2024, we collaborated with the Research Institute of Global Chinese and Area Studies at Huaqiao University, the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia, the Greater Mekong Subregion Studies Center at Nakhon Phanom University, and the Na-



The MOU signing ceremony with the National Centre for Borderland Ethnic Studies in Southwest China, Yunnan University (November 25, 2024)

tional Centre for Borderland Ethnic Studies in Southwest China at Yunnan University. In 2025, we collaborated with the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science at the University of Riau, the Institute for International and Area Studies at Tsinghua University, and Yayasan Lentera Studi Indonesia.

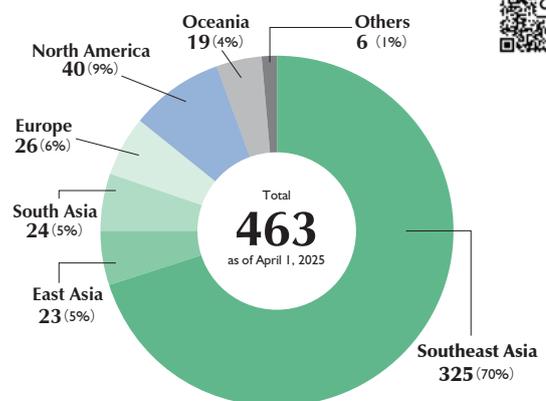
Please see the Global Network Map on pages 30–31 for the comprehensive list of institutions that have academic exchange agreements with CSEAS.

CSEAS Fellowship

Each year, CSEAS invites approximately fourteen researchers who conduct area and comparative studies on Southeast Asia to be Visiting Research Scholars at the Center. This includes invited researchers accepted through the Joint Usage/Research Center for Global Collaborative Research (GCR), of which CSEAS is the host institution.

Visiting Research Scholars are generally invited for a stay of three to six months, during which they conduct research, write papers or books, and collaborate and interact with those at the Center and the broader university community. At CSEAS, Visiting Research Scholars can conduct multifaceted research on various regions through interaction with faculty and visiting researchers. In addition, by participating in the Center's interdisciplinary research activities, they can broaden their perspectives on comparative research.

Since its establishment in 1975 (when it was known as the Foreign Researcher Program), over 450 researchers from abroad have participated in the program, with more than 70 percent



Visiting Research Scholars by Region since 1976
See the Network Map (pages 30–31) for the number by country

coming from Southeast Asia. CSEAS also accepts researchers under the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Post-doctoral Fellows as well as researchers who have received grants from other domestic and international organizations.

Overseas Liaison Offices

CSEAS has two overseas liaison offices. The Bangkok Liaison Office was established in 1963 and is currently in the Sukhumvit area. The Jakarta Liaison Office was established in 1970 and is in Kebayoran Baru, South Jakarta. The offices are a base for research activities not only in Thailand and Indonesia, but across mainland and maritime Southeast Asia. In addition to CSEAS faculty members, researchers from other departments within Kyoto University and from other universities are stationed here as resident staff. They collect local language books, statistics, official documents, maps, and other materials on an ongoing basis. Through the offices, CSEAS also promotes joint research with local researchers and research institutions. Since CSEAS began its activities as a Joint Usage/Research Center in 2010, some of the resident researchers have been selected through an open recruitment process.

Since its establishment in June 2014, the Kyoto University ASEAN Center in Bangkok has collaborated closely with CSEAS's Bangkok Liaison Office and has become a hub for academic research networks in Southeast Asia.

Bangkok Liaison Office

Location: 12CD, GP Grande Tower, 55, Soi 23, Sukhumvit Rd, Klongtoey Nua, Wattana, Bangkok, 10110 THAILAND
 Phone: +66-2-664-3707
 E-mail: bangkok@cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp



Jakarta Liaison Office

Location: Jl. Kertanegara No. 38, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan, Jakarta 12180, INDONESIA
 Phone: +62-21-726-2619
 E-mail: jakarta@cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp



Research Exchange

CSEAS actively engages in academic exchanges with researchers worldwide through international conferences and seminars, while also utilizing academic exchange agreements and programs for inviting foreign scholars.

CSEAS co-hosts joint conferences with the Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies (KASEAS), alternating between Kyoto and South Korea each year. CSEAS also maintains close ties with the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at National Chengchi University in Taiwan, having co-hosted a workshop on the political development of Southeast Asia in Kyoto and Taiwan.

CSEAS offers opportunities to students and members of the public to participate in lectures by scholars who have made significant contributions to Southeast Asian studies. In 2023, CSEAS hosted a special lecture by Dr. Thongchai Winichakul, a historian from Thailand, to commemorate his receipt of the Fukuoka Grand Prize. In 2023, marking the 50th anniversary of Japan-ASEAN friendship and cooperation, CSEAS hosted special lectures at Kyoto University by Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN, to engage in dialogue with students on the future of ASEAN and Japan-Southeast Asia relations.

The monthly CSEAS Colloquium, the “Tonan Talk,” and book talks also provide valuable opportunities for exchange of opinions.

2024–25 CSEAS Colloquia

AY	Title	Speaker
2024	The First East Asian Economic Miracle: Wages, Living Standards and Foundations of Modern Economic Growth in Southeast Asia, 1880-1938	Jean-Pascal Bassino
	Does Malaysia Need a Pure FPTP System? – Electoral System in Post-Transition Malaysia	Wong Chin Huat
	The Shadow Side of the Rootedness: How Geographic Stability Across Generations Increases Populist, Ethnic Nationalist, Authoritarian, and Chauvinist Attitudes	Andreas Wimmer
	Subsidence: Surfacing Life in a Sinking City	Allan Edward Lumba
	An Authoritarian Security Community in Mainland Southeast Asia: Regional Dynamics in an Actor-centred Theory of Transnational Authoritarianism	Gregory Raymond
	Telling Apart: How Ethnicity Became Political in Early Modern Siam	Matthew Reeder
	Humanitarian Confessions	Philip Fountain
2025	Networks of Power and Business: Indonesia's Political Economy	Wahyu Prasetyawan
	Local Anti-Crime Campaigns in Southeast Asia	Sol Iglesias
	Non-Diplomatic Relations between Bhutan and China: A Historical and Contemporary Perspective	Sonam Kinga
	Art Meets Anthropology: Balancing <i>Tatemaie</i> (public face) & <i>Honne</i> (private face)	Jeanine Schreurs
	Elusive Inclusive Growth in the Philippines: State Tradition and Policy Choices (Manufacturing, MSMEs, CCT)	Maria Victoria Raquiza
	Japan's Legal Transplants and Their Discontents: A Critical Appraisal	Ratno Lukito
	Extinct or Still Around? Javanese Large Mammals (the Javan Tiger, Rhinoceros, Elephant) and Their Histories	Jiří Ják

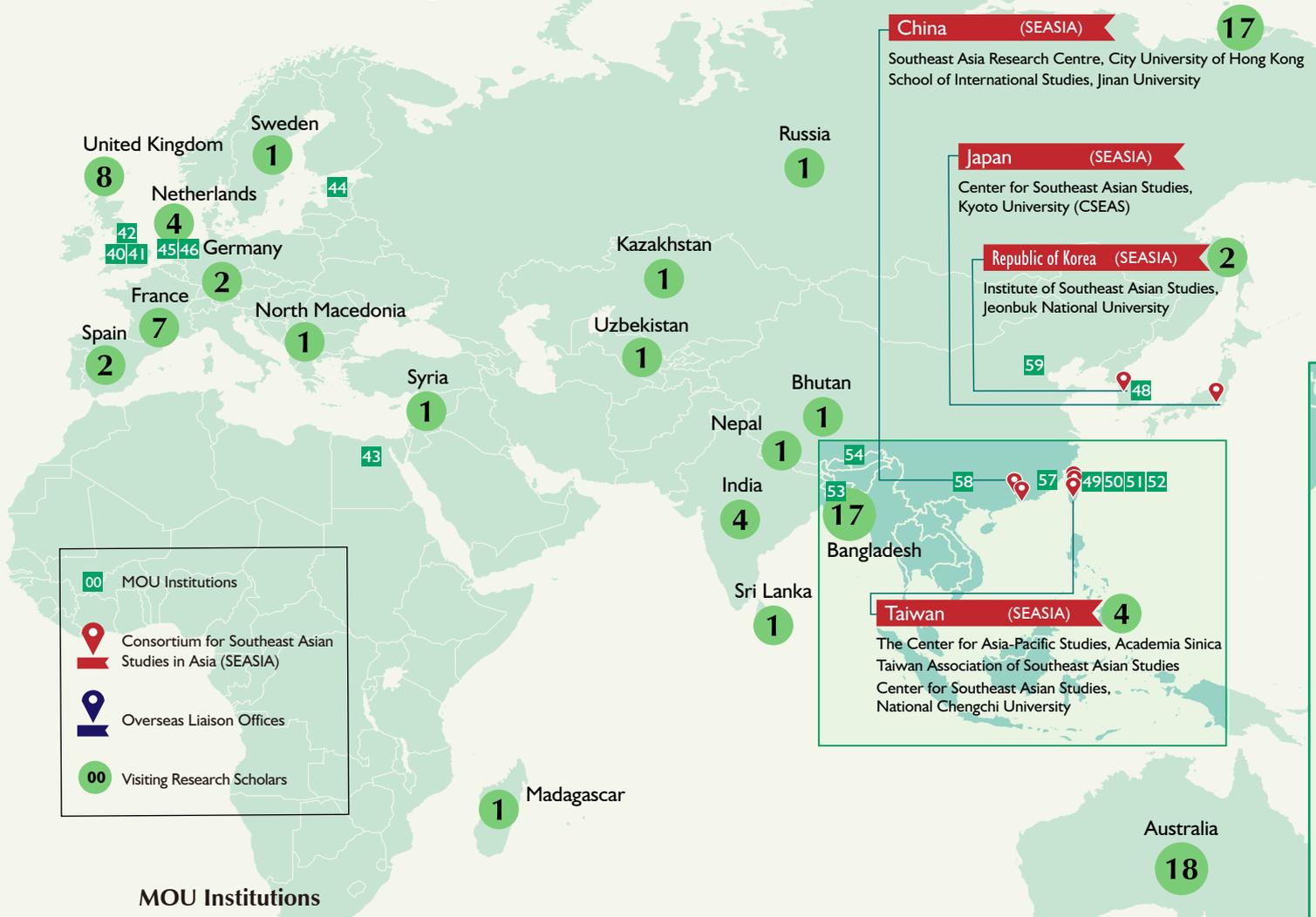


Posters for the special seminar by Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN (left), and the special lecture by Professor Thongchai Winichakul (right)



CSEAS holds a monthly welcome and farewell party called “Get Together” to foster friendship among foreign scholars and faculty members.

Global Network Map



MOU Institutions

Indonesia

- 1 Research Institute and Graduate Programs, Hasanuddin University
- 2 Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University (UIN), Jakarta
- 3 Cenderawasih University
- 4 Sultan Agung Tirtayasa University
- 5 Institute of Tropical Disease, Universitas Airlangga
- 6 Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya
- 7 Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center, Syiah Kuala University
- 8 Mataram University, Udayana University
- 9 International Centre for Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies
- 10 National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia
- 11 Graduate Program in Disaster Science, Universitas Syiah Kuala
- 12 University of Palangka Raya
- 13 Institute of Research and Community Services, Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya
- 14 Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, University of Riau
- 15 Islamic State University Sunan Kalijaga
- 16 Yayasan Lentera Studi Indonesia

Cambodia

- 17 Royal University of Fine Arts
- 18 Royal University of Agriculture
- 19 Royal University of Phnom Penh
- 20 Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap

Singapore

- 21 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore

Thailand

- 22 Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University
- 23 Faculty of Nursing, Khon Kaen University
- 24 Faculty of Science, Prince of Songkla University
- 25 Buddhist Research Institute, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University
- 26 Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University
- 27 Asia Centre
- 28 Faculty of Agriculture, Khon Kaen University
- 29 Greater Mekong Studies Center, Nakhon Phanom University

Philippines

- 30 Cebuano Studies Center, University of San Carlos
- 31 College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Cavite State University

Vietnam

- 32 Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Vin University

Malaysia

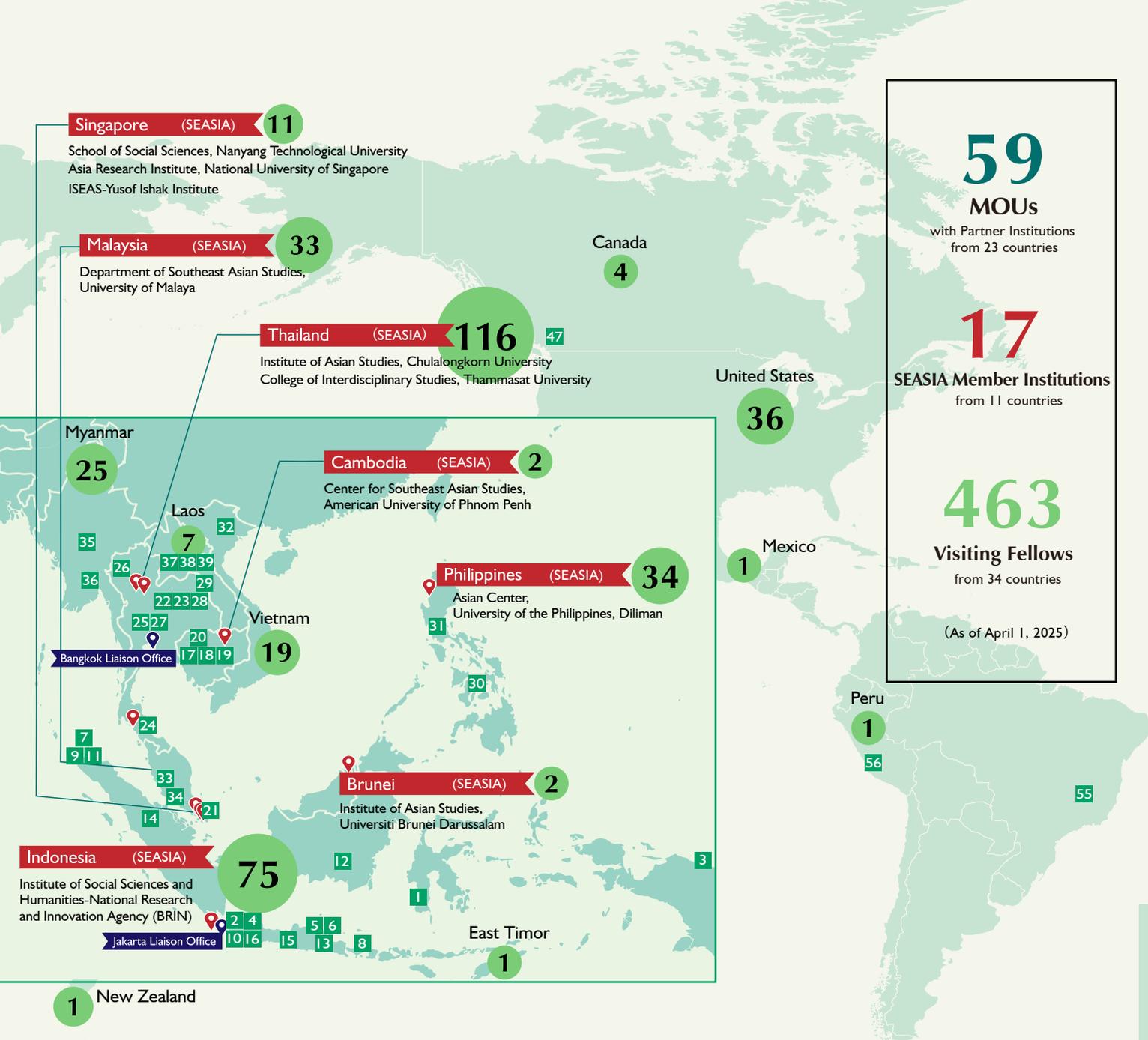
- 33 Forest Research Institute Malaysia
- 34 Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University

Myanmar

- 35 Yezin Agricultural University
- 36 SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition

Laos

- 37 Faculty of Forestry, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Social Science, National University of Laos
- 38 National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- 39 Lao Academy of Social and Economic Sciences of the Lao People's Democratic Republic



- United Kingdom**
 - 40 Department of Geography, University of Leicester
 - 41 Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
 - 42 Centre for Tropical Medicine & Global Health, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit, Oxford University
- Egypt**
 - 43 Center for Asian Studies, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University
- Estonia**
 - 44 School of Humanities, Tallinn University
- Netherlands**
 - 45 International Institute for Asian Studies
 - 46 Department of Art & Culture, History, and Antiquity, Graduate School of Humanities, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- Canada**
 - 47 School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, University of British Columbia
- Republic of Korea**
 - 48 The Research Institute of Asian Women, Sookmyung Women's University

- Taiwan**
 - 49 Center for Asia-Pacific Area Studies, Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, Academia Sinica
 - 50 Center for Southeast Asian Studies, National Chengchi University
 - 51 Center for Southeast Asian Studies, National Chi Nan University
 - 52 Department of Southeast Asian Studies, National Chi Nan University
- Bangladesh**
 - 53 International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh
- Bhutan**
 - 54 Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan
- Brazil**
 - 55 Federal University of Minas Gerais
- Peru**
 - 56 Institute of Peruvian Studies
- China**
 - 57 Research Institute of Global Chinese and Area Studies, Huaqiao University
 - 58 The National Centre for Borderland Ethnic Studies in Southwest China, Yunnan University
 - 59 Institute for International and Area Studies, Tsinghua University

Academic Programs

Southeast Asia Seminar



Since 1977, CSEAS has been nurturing the next generation of researchers studying Southeast Asia and related regions through its annual “Southeast Asia Seminar,” an one-week intensive field-participation seminar. Young and senior researchers learn together and exchange ideas, expanding academic and non-academic networks. The seminar features interdisciplinary research and field-based studies, and participants are recruited based on the unique themes of each year. The program includes lectures by faculty members from within and outside the Center, on-site visits, and discussions.

Following the 33rd seminar (2009) held in Kyoto as an English-language seminar, the 34th (2010) and subsequent seminars have expanded recruitment to overseas participants and have

been held overseas in collaboration with universities in Southeast Asia. As of 2024, the seminar has been held 48 times in 11 countries, with a total of 1,090 participants.

The 48th seminar (2024) was held in Jakarta and Surabaya, Indonesia, under the theme “Co-creation of New Urban Living: Advancing Quality of Life in the Climate Change Era,” as part of a joint research program between CSEAS and Daikin Industries, in collaboration with local institutions.

The 49th seminar (2025), titled “Global Disruptions and Southeast Asia: Exploring histories, narratives, and transdisciplinary challenges,” will be held in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville Province, Cambodia.



The 47th Southeast Asia Seminar (December 2023, Tak Province, Thailand)



The 48th Southeast Asia Seminar (October 2024, Jakarta and Surabaya, Indonesia)

Postdoctoral Fellowship



CSEAS accepts post-doctoral researchers in a variety of fields. These include the Center’s Research Associates, Hakubi assistant professors, JSPS Postdoctoral Fellows, intra- and inter-university

project researchers, and Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Projects researchers. Furthermore, while not officially employed, we also host young researchers as Affiliated Researchers.

As members of CSEAS, these young researchers are provided desks in shared research rooms and engage with researchers in different fields as they go about their daily research. They also interact with a wide variety of researchers, from Japan and elsewhere, who attend international and domestic seminars held at CSEAS, and they organize and conduct seminars and workshops. By striving and discussing together, these young researchers have launched new projects.



Young researchers from around the world gather at CSEAS

Graduate Program



CSEAS collaborates with graduate schools in Kyoto University as academic interests interface with Southeast Asian Studies. For example, CSEAS and the Department of Tropical Agriculture have offered a joint graduate-level course on Southeast Asian Studies since 1981. Since 1993, CSEAS has offered graduate courses in the Division of Southeast Asian Area Studies for the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies. In 1998, the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS) was established by transferring graduate students who formerly majored in the Division of Southeast Asian Area Studies at the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies. Since then, CSEAS has supported ASAFAS graduate education for more than 25 years, maintaining a close and cooperative relationship with the school in facilitating the launch of the Division of Global Area Studies in 2009 and offering several joint courses. Faculty members offer courses in Environment, Society and Culture; Ecology and Environment; and Society and Development (Division of Southeast Asian Area Studies). CSEAS and ASAFAS faculty cooperate in providing lectures, seminars, thesis supervision, and degree examinations, as well as coordinating open campus events and pre-

paring entrance examinations. CSEAS faculty also participate in the Islamic World Studies program (Division of Global Area Studies) and coordinate joint courses with the Graduate School of Medicine's School of Public Health and teach modules in the Division of Field Medicine.

In March 2022, CSEAS published the open-access book *CSEAS Beginner's Guide to Southeast Asian Studies* in Japanese. The guide selects 15 classic books on Southeast Asian Studies and offers study questions written mainly by faculty members of CSEAS and ASAFAS. It is currently being used in graduate-level classes and seminars.



CSEAS Beginner's Guide to Southeast Asian Studies, edited by Yoshihiro Nakanishi and Tatsuki Kataoka, in Japanese. (<https://edit.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/syogakusya/>)

Undergraduate Program



With a rich history of multidisciplinary and international research, CSEAS supports Kyoto University's internationalization efforts by expanding its educational reach from postdoctoral and graduate programs to undergraduate students. CSEAS faculty offer seminars for the Liberal Arts and General Education courses offered by the Institute for Advanced Studies (ILAS) and small-group courses (ILAS Seminars). The ILAS Seminars for first-year undergraduates have included unique courses such as "Life and Health in Bhutan" and "Interpreting Asia through Film."

Since 2015, CSEAS faculty has offered Liberal Arts and General Education Courses taught in English, and since 2017, seminars in the Liberal Arts and General Education Intensive Lecture Program. These seminars cover topics such as intercultural communication through Southeast Asia, human geography, religious studies, comparative religious studies, an introduction to Asian societies, an introduction to cultural anthropology, and an introduction to globalization.

Highschool-University Collaboration Program



As part of its highschool-university collaboration initiative, CSEAS participates in the Super Global Highschool (SGH) program sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Students from designated SGH schools visit CSEAS to give presentations and hold discussions on common issues facing Japan and Southeast Asia, thus experiencing active and multifaceted learning. Since 2018, CSEAS has also produced online videos to introduce the various research activities of the faculty (see page 34). CSEAS actively participates in Kyoto University's campus guide program, which involves partnerships with neighboring prefectural education boards, the experiential science lec-

ture series "ELCAS" for high school students, and the production of university guidebooks such as "Invitation to Knowledge and Freedom" and "KyotoU Future Commons."



A lecture offered by CSEAS as part of ECLAS, an experiential science lecture series for high school students

Outreach

Visual Documentary Project (VDP)



The Visual Documentary Project (VDP) is an initiative that solicits and screens short documentaries produced by Southeast Asian filmmakers. The project aims to provide a platform for individuals engaged in Southeast Asian studies and Southeast Asian filmmakers; showcase documentaries reflecting their experiences to a wider audience, including the research community and the public in Japan and abroad; and address the various issues they face.

CSEAS launched the VDP in 2012. From 2014 to 2019, the project was conducted in partnership with the Japan Foundation Asia Center. Until 2023, the VDP solicited and selected short documentary films based on a new theme every year. The project invited filmmakers of the selected works to screen their films and held screening events. To date, nearly 850 works have been submitted, and 54 have been selected for screening. Since 2013, the VDP has added Japanese subtitles to selected films and has screened them at various international events in cooperation with documentary film festivals

and academic institutions in different countries. These include the Kyoto International Film Festival, the Cambodia International Film Festival, and the Bopana Audiovisual Resource Center.

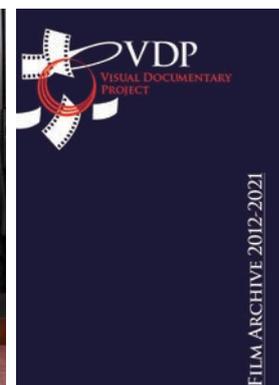
In 2023, VDP launched a digital archive on its website and began lending selected works for educational and nonprofit purposes.

In 2025, VDP will call for documentaries under the theme of “deviance.”

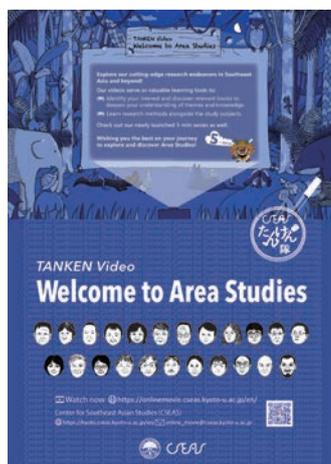


Left: VDP 2023 “Laugh!” screening event featuring invited directors of selected films (December 2023)

Right: VDP Film Archive 2012–2021 booklet edition (<https://vdp.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Visual-Documen-tary-Project-Film-Archive.pdf>)



TANKEN Video: Welcome to Area Studies



“TANKEN Video: Welcome to Area Studies,” distributed by CSEAS, is a series of documentaries featuring researchers engaged in cutting-edge research in Southeast Asia and other parts of the world. “TANKEN” means expedition in Japanese.

CSEAS began disseminating online videos in Japanese and English in 2018. Since 2021, local languages have been incorporated. In 2023,

the TANKEN Video 5-minute series, focusing on a single theme, was launched as a spin-off series. Textual video descriptions include bibliographic information related to each research project, encouraging audiences to further explore the content introduced in the videos. By sharing the fieldwork experiences of each researcher, the videos strive to raise interest in area studies among middle and high school students as well as the general public.

TANKEN videos present information not only about specific areas and research topics, but also about research methods. CSEAS hopes the videos will inspire audiences to explore area studies and enjoy discovering the world from a broader, area-oriented perspective.



TANKEN Video's 5-minute Series Mascot: Barong

Book Talk on Asia



In January 2021, CSEAS launched Book Talk on Asia, a Japanese-language audio program introducing new books on Asia. The program was produced by the Center's Editorial Office and ran until December 2023, with episodes airing twice each month. Each episode features a guest author, with then-Associate Professor Yoshihiro Nakanishi serving as the interviewer. The program delves into the background of the author's work and the content of the book. The target audience includes researchers and those interested in Asia, with the aim of not only introducing

new books but also providing insights into the personalities of researchers, who are often perceived as serious and reserved. Currently, no new episodes are being released, but the 75 episodes produced are available for listening on YouTube as "Season 1."



Book Talk on Asia: Season 1

<https://kyoto.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/85a39092cf57c3eebd29d792e2fb80e7.pdf>

CSEAS Library Fund & Exhibition



The main building of the CSEAS Library is a converted red brick building that was originally part of the old Kyoto Textile Company in the 1880s. In August 2024, the building was registered as a tangible cultural property by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. In September 2023, we established the CSEAS Library Fund with the goal of preserving and publicly displaying the building and historical materials. Since then, CSEAS has participated in the Kyoto Modern Architecture Festival, hosting public tours of the main building.

In 2024, to mark the 10th anniversary of the interlibrary loan system, CSEAS collaborated with the Library of the Institute of Developing Economies to organize a joint exhibition and lecture on "Journals from the Turbulent Times of Southeast Asia," ex-

ploring various ways to promote the public access and use of the Library's collections.



A poster for an event commemorating the library's registration as a tangible cultural property (right) / A materials exhibition co-hosted with the Library of the Institute of Developing Economies (top)



News & Communications



CSEAS utilizes various media, including its website, newsletter, and digital news, to rapidly disseminate the latest information on the Center's educational and research activities, as well as those of its researchers. "Visitor's Voice," a series of interviews with visiting researchers, is a testament to CSEAS's rich network. The bilingual monthly newsletter, available in English and Japanese, features interviews with faculty and researchers, articles introducing their research, descriptions of library holdings, and illustrated book essays, making the Center's activities accessible and enjoyable to a broader audience.



"Visitor's Voice," an interview series, introduces CSEAS visiting researchers, their research activity, and the inspirations behind their work.



The newsletter uses visuals and narrative to communicate the Center's activities in a plain and accessible manner.

Faculty & Staff

Director	Fumiharu Mieno
Deputy Director	Masaaki Okamoto Satoru Kobayashi

Research Divisions

Cross-regional Studies	
Professor	R. Michael Feener Satoru Kobayashi
Associate Professor	Hirayuki Yamamoto Yoshimi Nishi
Program-specific Researcher	Maida Irawani Krisztina Anna Baranyai Sheak Mahfujur Rahman Paing Thet Phyo Hiroshi Ishii Fikri Abdul
Affiliated Professor	Mamoru Shibayama Yoko Hayami Jeifuu Chen Yuji Baba
Affiliated Associate Professor	Hideki Hiramatsu Kirdsiri Kreangkrai Matteo Miele Ayumi Mitsunari
Affiliated Asst Prof	Theara Thun
Affiliated Researcher	Fumi Saji Sofiani Sabarina Nursalmah Abhirada Komoot Asuna Yoshizawa Miharu Uchiyama Hiroshi Aihara Shaiha Ahmed Hoyeon Jo
Visiting Research Scholar	Al Makin Sandeep Ray
Guest Research Associate	Lukito Ratno
Political & Economic Coexistence Studies	
Professor	Masaaki Okamoto Pavin Chachavalpongpun Yoshihiro Nakanishi
Associate Professor	Yalei Zhai
Research Associate	Taihei Kikuchi
Affiliated Professor	Kosuke Mizuno Minako Yoshikawa Yasuko Kobayashi
Affiliated Associate Professor	Motoko Kawano Sachiko Imamura Wahyu Prasetyawan

Affiliated Lecturer	Irendra Radjawali
Affiliated Researcher	Naoya Sakagawa Mari Adachi Kentaro Kambara Genta Kuno Ben Fan
JSPS Research Fellow	Atsushi Yoshida
Research Student	Suphanut Aneknumwong
Visiting Research Scholar	Patricio Nunez Abinales
Guest Scholar	Dan Luo Fang Su

Social Coexistence Studies

Professor	Chika Obiya Decha Tangseefa Majid Daneshgar
Assistant Professor	Narumi Shitara Kisho Tsuchiya Minami Tosa
Program-specific Asst Prof	Mostafa Khalili
Affiliated Assoc Prof	Nathan Badenoch
Affiliated Lecturer	Riyo Naoi
Affiliated Researcher	Frey Urszula Anna Mizue Kumagai Patrick McCormick Tomomi Nakamura (Specialist Admin Staff) Azar Mirzaei Ayaka Watanabe
JSPS Research Fellow	Natsumi Shida
Visiting Research Scholar	Maria Victoria Ribargoso Raquiza
Guest Scholar	Antje Missbach
Guest Research Associate	Olga Valerevna Khan

Environmental Coexistence Studies

Professor	Wataru Yamazaki Osamu Kozan
Associate Professor	Masayuki Yanagisawa Ryota Sakamoto Satoko S. Kimura Chika Yamada
Assistant Professor	Kimiya Kitani Mariko Ogawa

Program-specific Asst Prof	Yoshio Akamatsu Youdiil Ophinni
Research Associate	Ye Htet
Researcher	Yasuko Yamazaki Kazuo Ando (Affiliated Prof) Noriko Iizuka (Affiliated Researcher) Nobuaki Arai (Affiliated Prof)
Affiliated Professor	Kiyohito Okumiya Kozo Matsubayashi Haruo Uchida Taiichi Hayashi Takashi Kohyama Atsuko Ohashi Masaharu Fujita Yasuyuki Kono
Affiliated Associate Professor	Kazuo Watanabe Yasuko Ishimoto Michiko Fujisawa Taizo Wada Daisuke Koyabu Satomi Shiodera Chiho Kaneko Mikiko Ono Zuhud Rozaki
Affiliated Lecturer	Noa Nishimoto
Affiliated Asst Prof	Mayumi Hirosaki Kotaro Iizuka Cahyo Wisnu Rubiyanto Yusuke Fuke
Affiliated Researcher	Mitsuhiro Nose Kichiji Yajima Keiji Jindo Michiko Hosobuchi Daiki Tomojiri Hideki Sawada Akane Abe Naoko Kawasaki Yuki Shibuya Naoki Fukushima
JSPS Research Fellow	Kohei Morishita
Guest Scholar	Johanna Wilhelmina Rosalie Maria Schreurs

Global Humanosphere Studies	
Professor	Noboru Ishikawa Fumiharu Mieno Yusuke Murakami
Associate Professor	Mario Ivan Lopez Tomohiro Machikita
Assistant Professor	Tomoko Takahashi
Program-specific Asst Prof	Julie Ann de los Reyes
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Visiting Professor	Yoichi Nemoto Kenta Kishi Satoshi Serizawa Caroline Sy Hau Junko Koizumi (Affiliated Prof)
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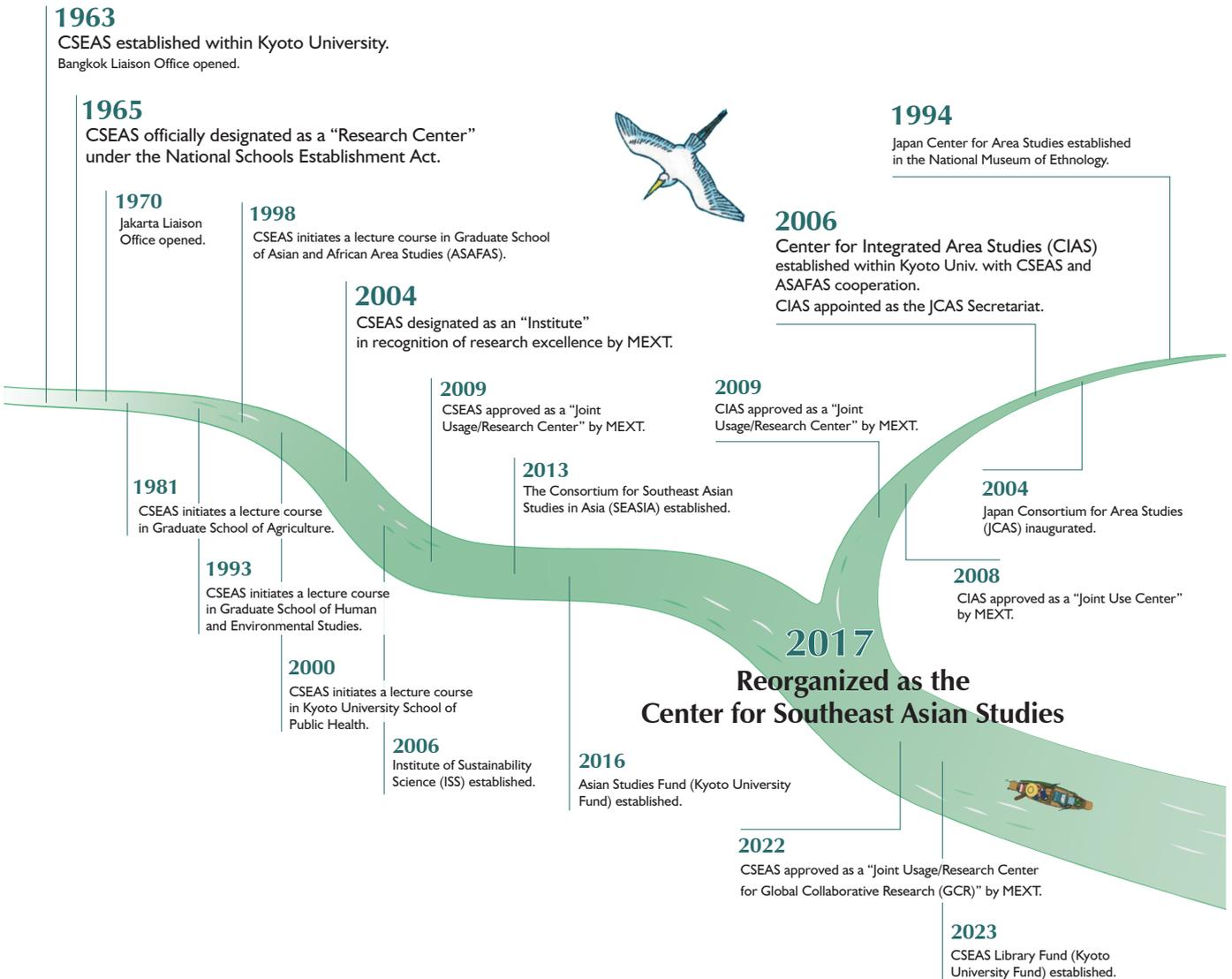
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(As of July 1, 2025)

History



Access



From JR Kyoto Station

Take No. 4, No. 7, No. 17, or No. 205 Kyoto City Bus (municipal bus) and get off at "Kojinguchi." Walk for 5 minutes to the east. Approx. 30 minutes

Take No. 17 Kyoto Bus and get off at "Kojinbashi." Walk for 1 minute to the south. Approx. 30 minutes

Take a taxi and ask the driver to go to Inamori Foundation Memorial Building at Kojinbashi Higashizume. Approx. 30 minutes

From Keihan Jingu-Marutamachi Station

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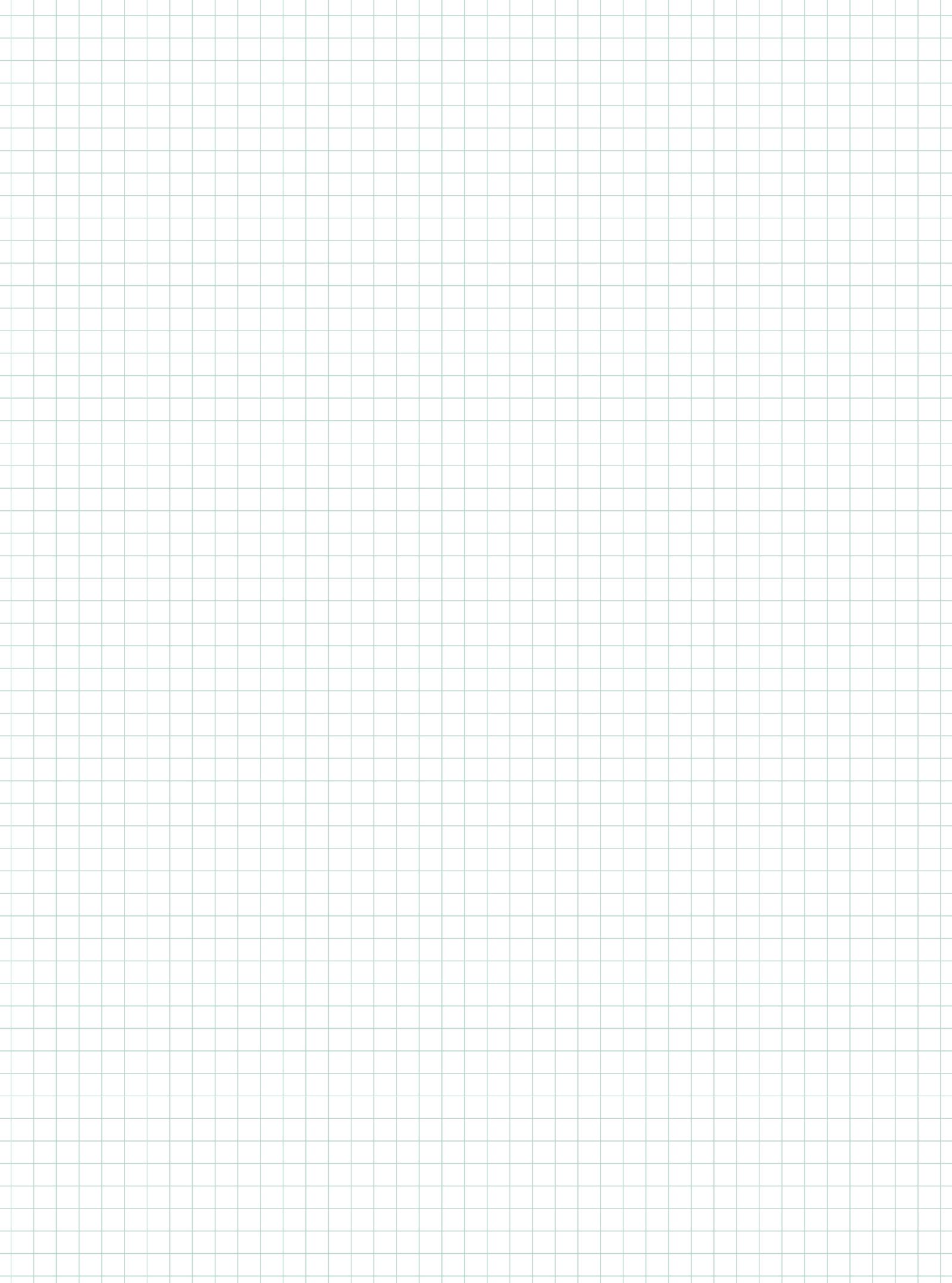
From Hankyu Shijo Kawaramachi Station

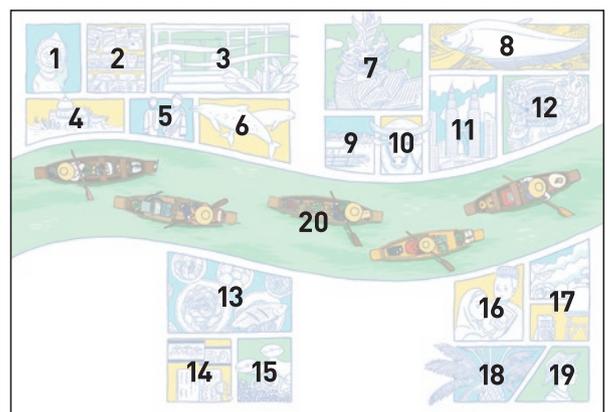
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CSEAS is about 1 km from the main gate of Kyoto University.

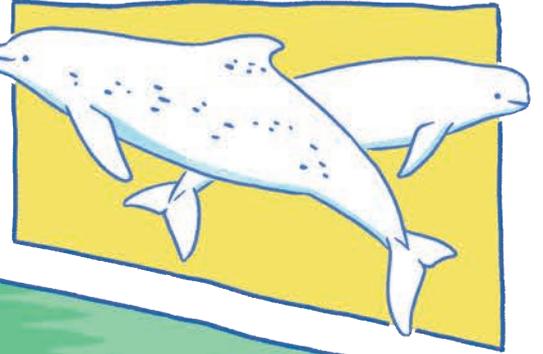






About cover illustrations:

(1) Statue discovered in the Maldives (2) Sari-sari store in the Philippines (3) Open-plan housing in Southeast Asia (4) Mosque in Sumatra struck by tsunami (5) Traditional dress in Bhutan (6) Black finless porpoise and Indo-pacific bottlenose dolphin (7) Thai temple and Naga (8) Catches from a fishing village in Indonesia (9) Outrigger boat (10) Water buffalo (11) Streets of Malaysia (12) Barong (13) Thai food (14) CSEAS Library resources and visual studies (15) Drone survey (16) Children in the Thai-Myanmar border region (17) A hydrometeorological information sharing app and radar for tropical peatlands (18) Oil palm (19) Yoshikazu Takaya (20) A wooden boat representing the five divisions of CSEAS



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2025/2026

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Kyoto University
ISBN: 978-4-906332-70-0
Illustration: Chihiro Kinoshita

