



Higher Education and Research Opportunities with South-East Asia

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SE-Asia Projects funded in 2023



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

Team Finland Knowledge (TFK) programme
List of funded projects 2023 in Southeast Asia

Project number	Coordinating institution	Name of the project	Partner countries	Total score (max. 36p)	Granted sum
73/220/2023	Turun ammattikorkeakoulu Oy	Transformative education for advancing competencies in planetary health	Indonesia	31	71 910 €
10/220/2023	Helsingin Yliopisto	Inclusive education in co-teaching teams: collaborative teaching practicum by Finnish and Southeast Asian teacher education students	Indonesia; Malaysia	31	72 000 €
218/220/2023	Metropolia Ammattikorkeakoulu Oy	Design Thinking and Co-creative Learning through Transdisciplinary Education for Better Aging	Singapore	30	63 200 €
132/220/2023	Savonia-ammattikorkeakoulu oy	Global and Sustainable Health	Singapore	28,5	64 000 €
162/220/2023	Lappeenrannan-Lahden teknillinen yliopisto LUT	Impact eXchange through International Hackathon for Sustainable Solutions	Malaysia	28	64 000 €
Total					335 110 €

SE-Asia Projects funded in 2024

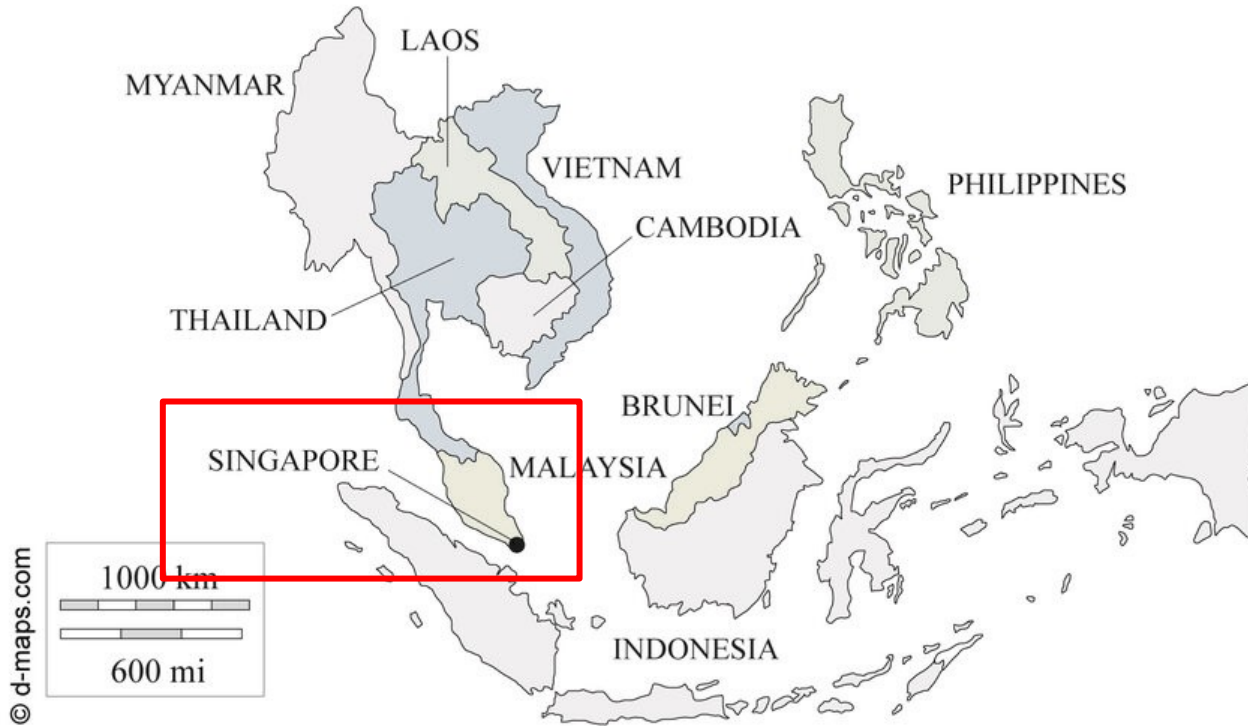


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195/342/2024	Helsingin Yliopisto	Developing the Artificial Intelligence of Things	Singapore; Thailand	31,5	72 000 €
84/342/2024	Åbo Akademi	Nordic-ASEAN Music Collaboration and Cultural Exchange Program	Singapore	30,5	62 910 €
65/342/2024	Helsingin Yliopisto	Co-creation and implementation on curriculum development for promotion of nature-based solutions in Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) higher education	Thailand	27,5	64 000 €
154/342/2024	Itä-Suomen yliopisto	Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution course series and online teaching platform	Indonesia; Tanzania	27	64 000 €
				Total	262 910 €

Singapore



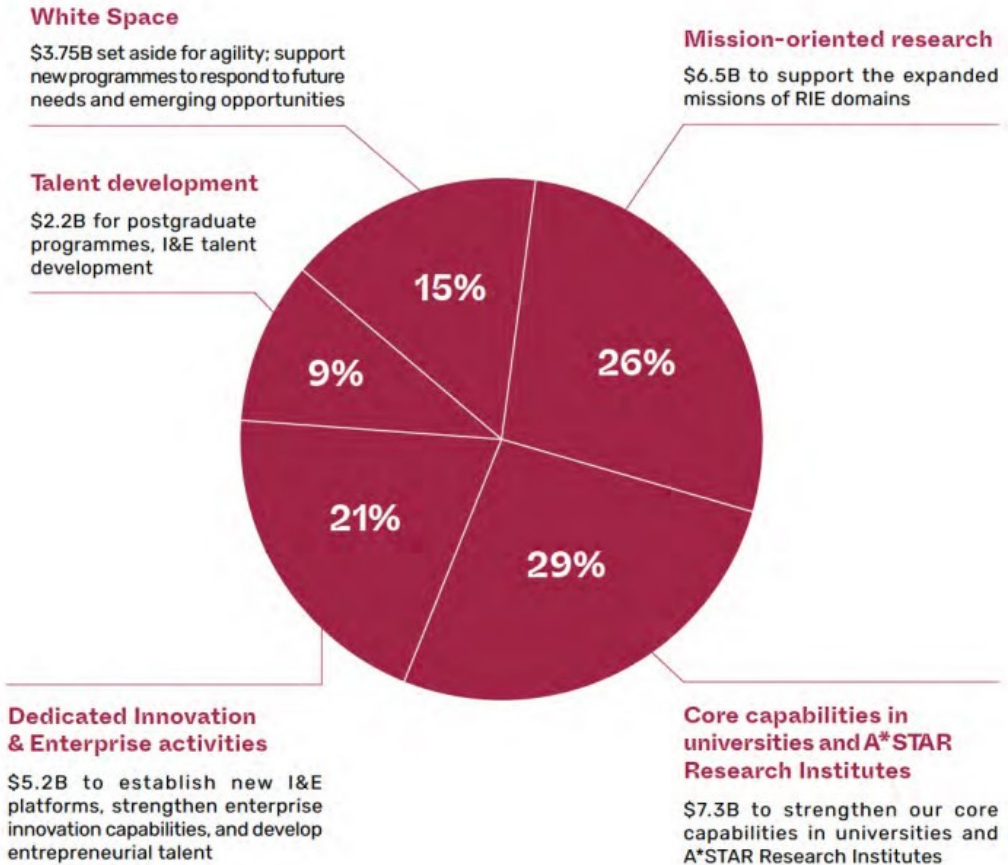
- Population 6 million
- Island country and city-state
- Parliamentary republic
- Economy hub, annual growth around 1%
- GDP (2024):
501,4 billion USD
84,734 USD per capital
- GII 2024: #4

Singapore – RIE2025 plan for R&D initiatives and budget



- Manufacturing, Trade and Connectivity
- Human Health and Potential
- Urban Solutions and Sustainability
- Smart Nation and Digital Economy

A diversified portfolio of foundational and applied research, talent development, and innovation and enterprise





- Life-long-learning
- AI in education / ethical application of AI
- Special needs education (incl. talents)
- Vocational education

Emphasis Areas in Education in Singapore



Singapore funders

- NRF (National Research Foundation Singapore)
 - Funding options:
 - NRF Fellowship
 - Competitive Research Programme (CRP)
 - Central Gap Fund
 - NRF Investigatorship
 - Returning Singaporean Scientists Scheme
 - Many bilateral funding calls with European countries
- A*STAR (The Agency for Science, Technology and Research)
 - public sector R&D agency
- ADB (Asian Development Bank)
 - In Singapore, a close collaborator with ITE (Institute of Technical Education)
 - Education projects funded only if related to sustainability



OPETUSHALLITUS
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Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE



2025 dialogin aihealueet:

- Social Cohesion in Classrooms
- Professional Teacher Development
- EdTech
- Future of Learning
- Special Education Needs





Singapore – key institutes

- National University of Singapore (NUS) #8 (QS)
- Nanyang University of Technology (NTU) #15
- Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD) #451-500
- Singapore Management University (SMU) #561-570
- Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)
- National Institute of Education (NIE)
- Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)
- ITE – 3 colleges (post-secondary); Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP); Temasek

Key institutes' interest for collaboration



- National University of Singapore (NUS)
- Nanyang University of Technology (NTU), National Institute of Education (NIE)
- Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD)
- Singapore Management University (SMU)
- Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)
- Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)
- University of the Arts Singapore
- ITE – 3 colleges (post-secondary)
- Nanyang Polytechnics (NYP)
- **NTU**
Interest in multiple fields e.g. energy, materials, biomedicine
- **SMU**
Wish to have:
targeted/focused exchange programs;
internships & placement; joint start-up calls
Finnish+SMU students jointly led events
- **SIT**
Engineering ja maritime collaboration
- **NYP: service design.**
Wish to have camps together or build the following study model:
year 1 skills
year 2 competences
year 3 training, project, internship



**GYSS - Global Young
Scientists Summit.**

Yearly conference.

**Welcome to apply and
join us in 2026!**



**MILLENNIUM
TECHNOLOGY
PRIZE**



Opportunities with Singapore 2024-2025

- EHEF September 2025 (PhD)
- (Higher) vocational education with R&D aspects (ADB schemes, sustainability)
- Top research (health, climate, urban development, data, energy, materials science - HPC)
- RDI, innovation capacity building, innovation funding
- Art & music?

Malaysia



- Population 34 million
- Multicultural federation
- Democratic
- Dynamic economy, annual growth around 5 %
- GDP(2024):
399,6 billion USD
11,649 USD per capita
- GII 2023: #33

Malaysia – Topical Issues 1/3



- Education Blueprint 2025 ->
 - Malaysian MOE interested in policy dialogues
 - Equality, special needs education, ethnicity, rural areas, digitalisation
 - Well-being
 - Life-long-learning
 - Business opportunities in extra curriculum classes





Malaysia – Topical Issues 2/3



Malesian mahdollisuudet koulutussektorilla

- TVET
 - Lack of expertise, funding has increased significantly
 - Professional and soft skills, teacher education, industry engagement
- Digitalization, entrepreneurship & future skills
 - Virtual tools, MOOCs, programming, digital literacy
 - Innovation and start up ecosystem development, innovation partnerships

Malaysia – Topical Issues 3/3



- Higher education & research
 - Interest to study abroad, good English skills
 - Interesting domains: forestry, ICT, green technology, education, health
- High quality universities
 - HE & Research collaboration
 - Joint / double degree & other TNE schemes
 - Both public (20) and private (50) universities very potential partners



Malaysia



- University of Malaya (UM) #65 (QS 2024)
- Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) #137
- Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) #158
- Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) #159
- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) #188
- Taylor's University #284
- UCSI University #300
- Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) #307



Opportunities with Malaysia 2024-2025

- Student recruitment (Master, PhD)
- PhD level joint programs and exchange opportunities
- Higher vocational education collaboration
- Industry and academia

Vietnam



- Population 98 million
- Unitary one-party socialist republic
- Annual economy growth around 5 %
- GDP (2024):
476 billion USD
4,700 USD per capita
- GII 2024: #44



Vietnam – Topical issues

- Universalization of preschool for all 5-year-old children
- Universal lower secondary education (girls took over boys)
- Low enrollment at upper secondary level, PISA outcomes good
- Inadequate training to meet the labour market needs
- In HE: quality of faculty – PhD from 15% to 32% (10 years)
- Number and quality of publications raised
- HEI autonomy in student recruitment



Vietnam



- Duy Tan University #495
- Ton Duc Thang University #711-720
- Hanoi Medical University #851-900
- Viet Nam National University, Hanoi #851-900
- Viet Nam National University, HCMC #901-950
- HMC University of Medicine & Pharmacy
- Hoa Sen University
- Van Lang University
- Nation Economics University

- Hanoi National University of Education, Viet Nam National University of Agriculture, Nam Dinh university of Technology Education, Tra Vinh University, University of Danang



Existing agreements 1/2 – MoU on Education

- MoU: OKM – MOET
 - Curriculum design and implementation
 - Teacher education
 - Vocational Education and Training
 - Higher education
 - Educational system and management



Excisting agreements 2/2 – MoU

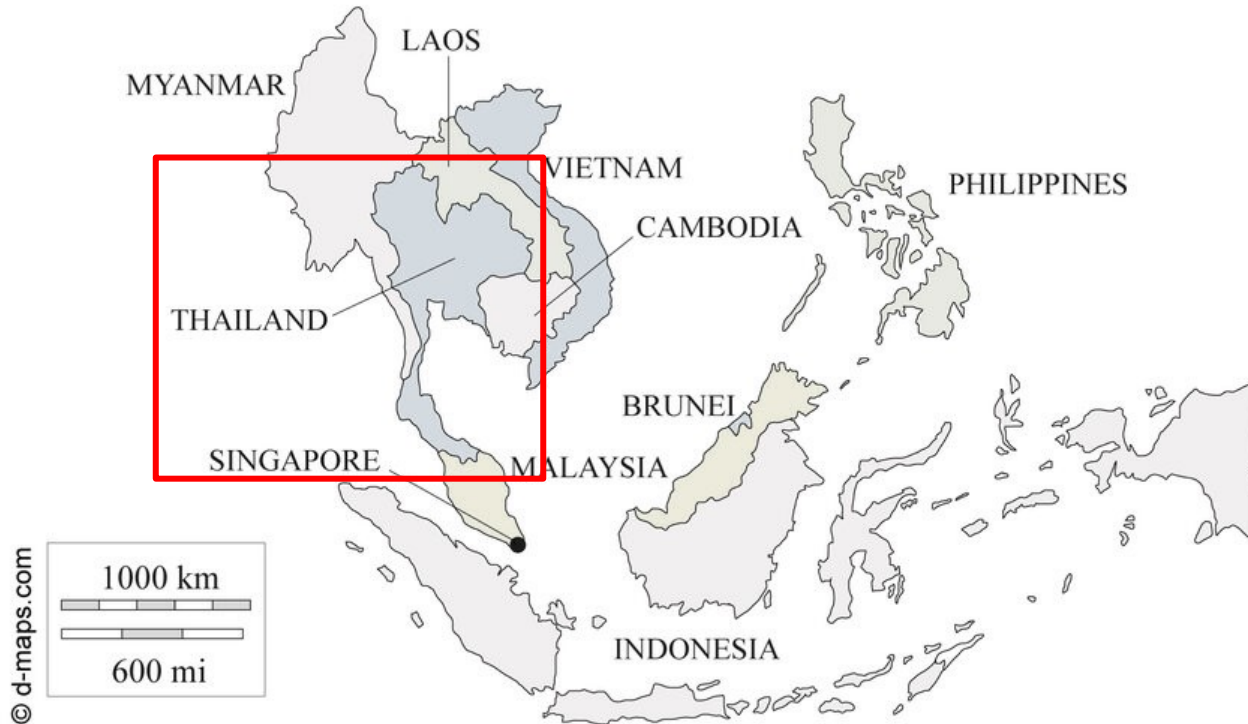
- MoU: TEM – MOLISA
 - Labor mobility, signed Jan 2025
 - Labor mobility and recruitment has educational elements, like
 - Upscaling the educational contents(also TNE schemes)
 - Upskilling of labour force
 - Language training
 - Recognition & acknowledgement of skills

Opportunities with Vietnam 2024-2025



- Student recruitment (study counsellors, fairs, SiF)
- Labor Mobility – transnational education schemes & upskilling – especially health sector, need areas
- Economics and engineering, technology
- Vocational education (VAVET-SOW, under Vietnam’s Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, MoLISA).

Thailand



- Population 72 million
- Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy
- Annual economy growth around 2%
- GDP (2024):
526 billion USD
7,985 USD per capita
- GII 2024: #41



Thailand – challenges

- Aging society, decreasing student populations
- Education inequality between urban and rural schools & institutes
- Declining K12 student performance
- Dependence on foreign HE students (fees)

- PM Thailand 4.0 strategy (20 years)
 - promote innovation, research-oriented studies

Thailand



- Chulalongkorn University #229
- Mahidol University #368
- Chiang Mai University #567
- Thammasat University #596
- Kasetsart University #781-790
- Prince of Songkla University #951-1000
- Khon Kaen University #951-1000
- King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi #951-1000



MoU dialogin aihealueet:

- Early Childhood Education
- Phenomenon-based Education
- Comprehensive Teacher Development
- Teacher Training in Robotics, Coding, AI
- TVET Skill Development
- Adult Education and Lifelong Learning
- Strategic Education Exchange

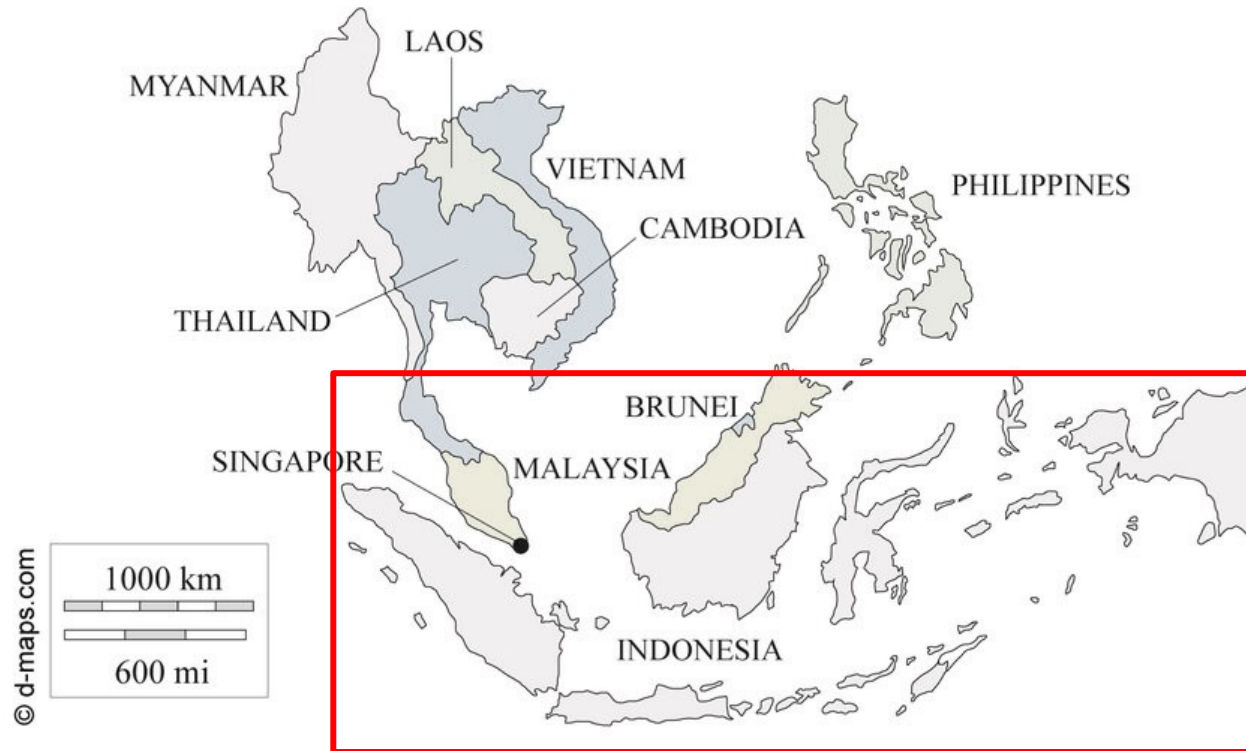




Opportunities with Thailand 2024-2025

- Student recruitment
- (Higher) vocational education development
- K-12 solutions (ECE, PhBL, Teacher education & training, Coding-robotics-AI, TVET)
- R&D and innovation collaboration

Indonesia



- Population 280 million
- Unitary presidential republic
- Annual economy growth around 5 %
- GDP (2024):
1,371 billion USD
4,940 USD per capita
- GII 2024: #54



Existing agreements 1/2 – MoU on Education

- OKM – MoEC Indonesia MoU: on pre-primary, primary, secondary, vocational and technical education
 - Development of curriculum and qualifications;
 - Assessment;
 - Learning and teaching; including teachers' education and professional development;
 - School management and leadership and enhanced mobility including teachers, and administrative staff and students.



Excisting agreements 2/2– MoU on S&T

- OKM – MoRTHE MoU: on science, technology, innovation and higher education co-operation
 - Capacity building through exchange of students, lecturers, scientists, specialists and experts;
 - Scientific conferences, seminars, symposia, science and technology exhibitions and other joint events;
 - Development and assessment of curriculum and qualifications;
 - Exchange of information on degree programs ... to assist ... academic recognition of degrees and certificates granted by their educational institutions

Indonesia



- Universitas Indonesia #237
- Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) #263
- Institute of Technology Bandung #281
- Airlangga University in Indonesia (UNAIR) #345
- Bogor Agricultural University #489



Opportunities with Indonesia 2024-2025

- K-12 (curriculum development, assesment, teacher training, school management)
- Student recruitment, EHEF
 - (Bacherlor, Master, PhD)
 - Agreements with local universities, funded by the Ministry of Finance
- Joint study schemes

Philippines

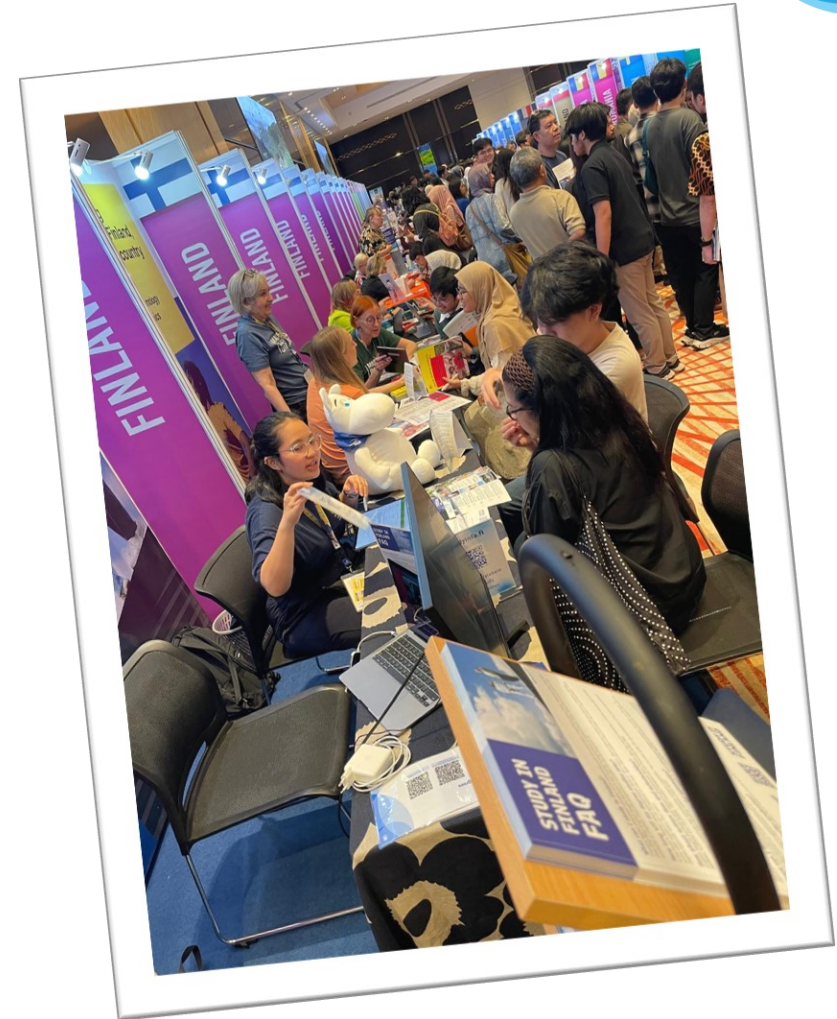


- Population 117 million
- Unitary presidential republic
- Annual economy growth around 5%
- GDP (2024):
437 billion USD
3,726 USD per capita
- GII 2024: #5

Philippines – Topical issues



- Poor performance of students in PISA (covid-19 effect)
- Access disparities
 - To teaching materials, digital technology, education programs, teacher education, internationalization
- Lack of labor-ready graduates



Philippines



- University of the Philippines Manila #404
- Ateneo Manila University #563
- De La Salle University #681-690
- University of Santo Tomas #801-850



Excisting agreements

- MoU: TEM – DMW
 - Labor mobility
 - related educational elements: assessment, recognition & acknowledgement of skills



Opportunities with Philippines 2024-2025

- Student recruitment (study counsellors, fairs, SiF) – HE (Bachelor, Master)
- Labor Mobility related TNE & Upskilling
- TESDA (responsible for Philippine's vocational education) seeks to sign education collaboration MoU with Finland
- University of Perpetual Help open for collaboration. The university is connected to hospital (practising).