



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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List of funded projects 2024 in Southeast Asia

Project number	Coordinating institution	Name of the project	Partner countries	Total score (max. 36p)	Granted sum
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 €

SE-Asia Projects funded in 2025



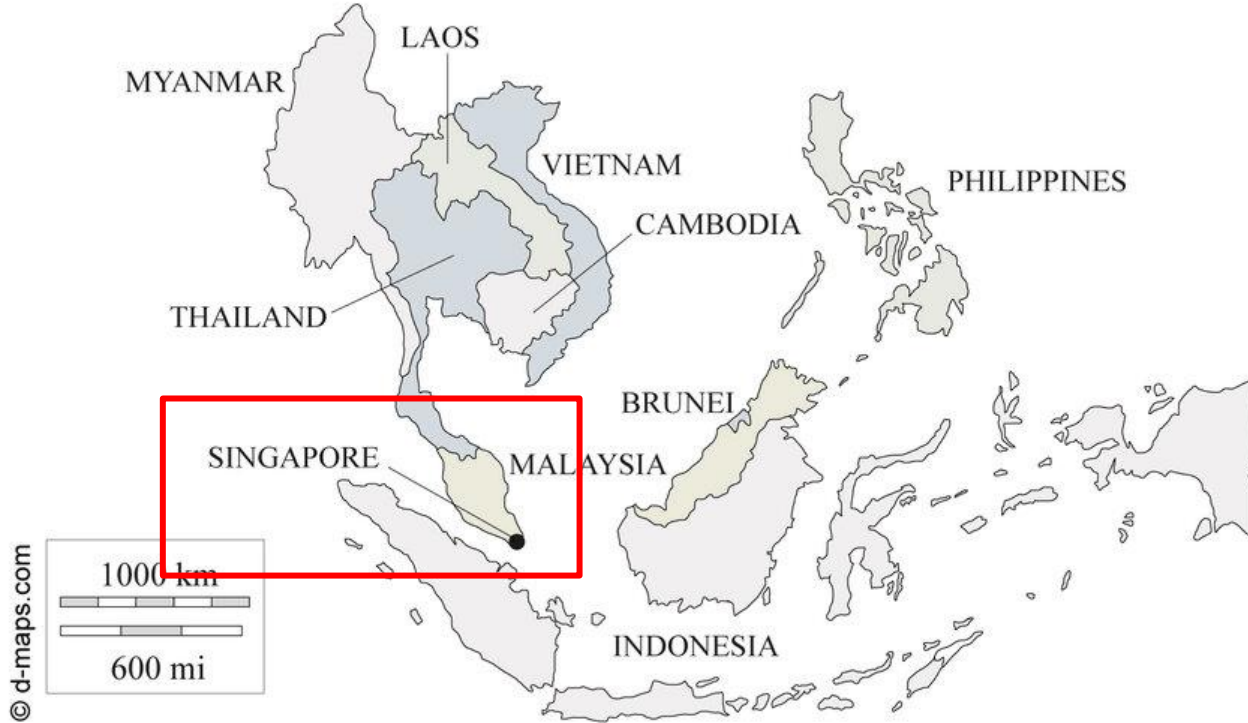
FINNISH NATIONAL
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Team Finland Knowledge (TFK) programme

List of funded projects 2025 in Southeast Asia

Project number	Coordinating institution	Name of the project	Partner countries	Total score (max. 36p)	Granted sum
365/460/2025	Aalto-korkeakoulusäätiö sr	MFSEE: Mobility for Sustainable Entrepreneurship Education	Vietnam	32	64 532 €
292/460/2025	Turun yliopisto	Higher Education Development and Co-creation for Sustainable Futures in Vietnam	Vietnam	31,5	63 956 €
329/460/2025	Seinäjoen ammattikorkeakoulu Oy	Equality in Diabetes Care	Thailand	31	62 590 €
418/460/2025	Turun yliopisto	Bridging the Cyber Skills Gap: A Hackathon-Based Approach for Designing Cybersecurity Education	Malaysia	31	51 200 €
18/460/2025	Helsingin Yliopisto	Finland-Vietnam Higher Education Collaboration on Circular Economy for Sustainability	49094,4	30	49 094 €
Total					291 372 €

Singapore



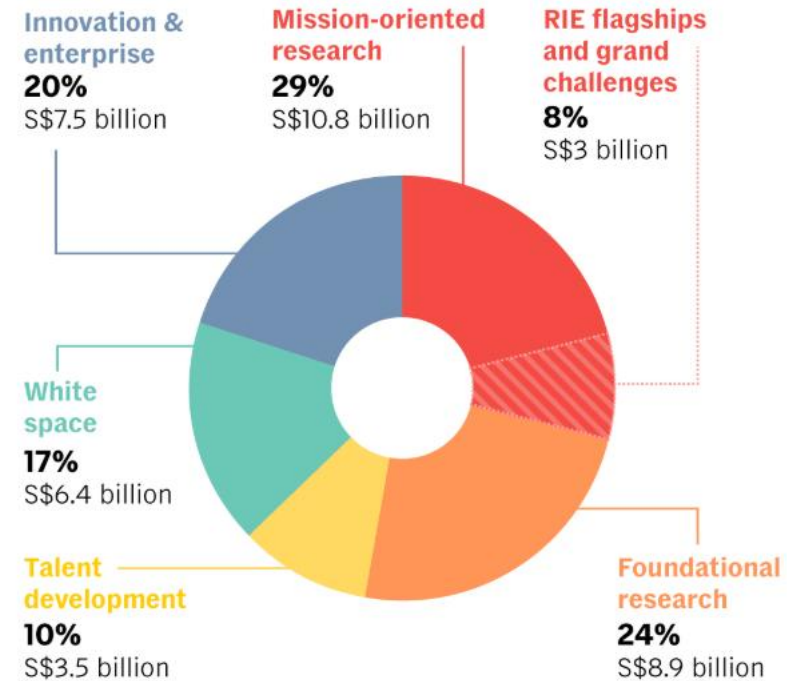
- Population 6 million
- Island country and city-state
- Parliamentary republic
- Economy hub, annual growth 2025 4,8%
- GDP (2025): 574 billion USD
99 000 USD per capita (IMF)
- GII 2025: #5 (WIPO)



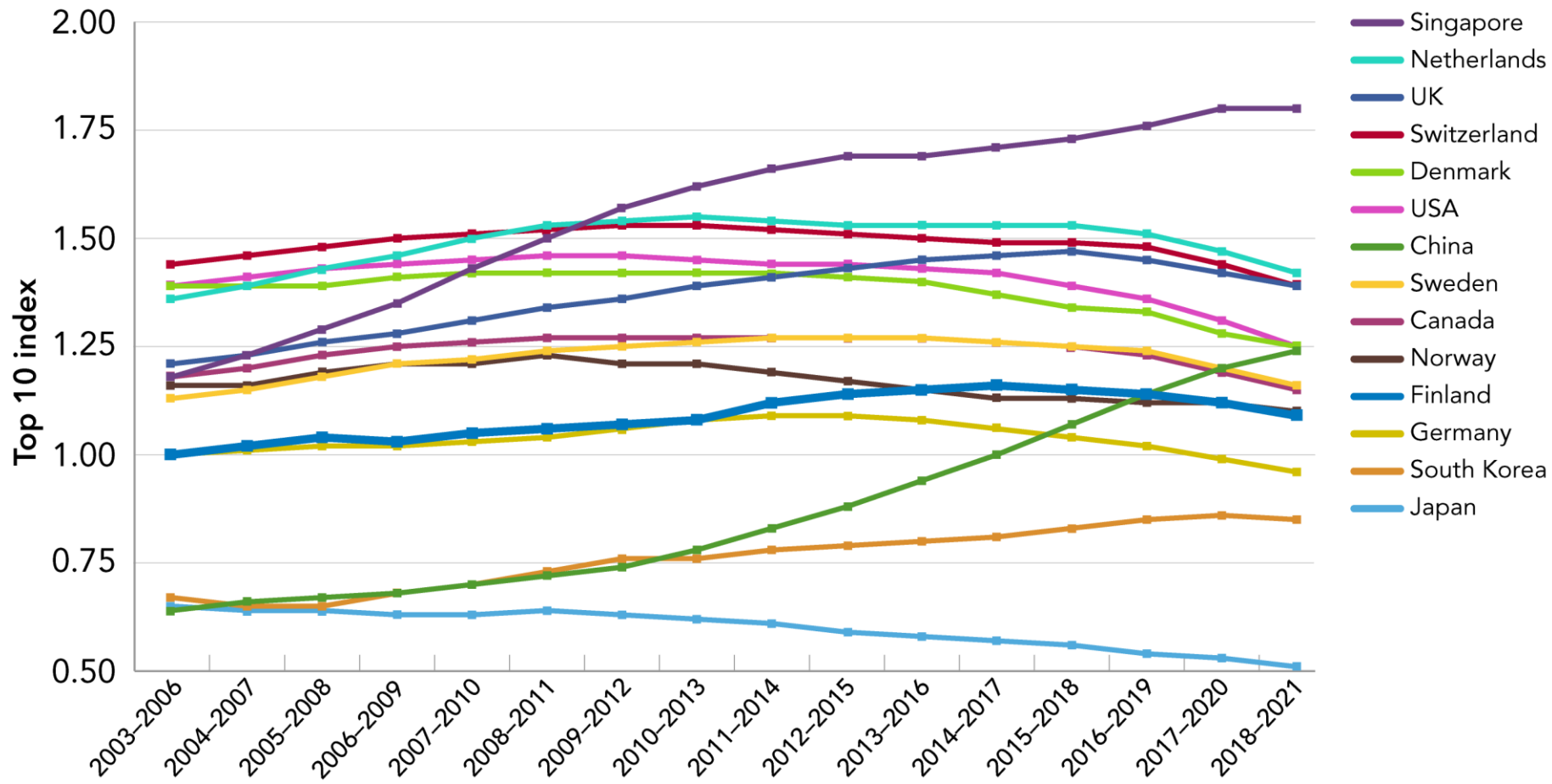
Singapore RIE2026-2030 plan for R&D - \$37B

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

How the S\$37 billion budget for 2026 to 2030 will be allocated



Development of scientific impact of publications in Finland and reference countries



The index describes the proportion of the most cited publications; the global average in each discipline is 1.0. If the index is above 1, the publication is cited more than the global average.

Source: Web of Science based data from Clarivate Analytics, bibliometric calculations CSC – IT Center for Science Ltd, 2024.



Singapore – key institutes

- National University of Singapore (NUS) #8 (QS)
- Nanyang University of Technology (NTU) #12
- Singapore Management University (SMU) #511
- Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD) #519
- Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) #627
- National Institute of Education (NIE) #8 (education)
- Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)
- ITE – 3 colleges (post-secondary); Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP); Temasek

Minister Adlercreutz gave a lecture in NUS, November 2025





Emphasis Areas in Education in Singapore

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





OPETUSHALLITUS
UTBILDNINGSTYRELSEN



Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE



2025 dialogin aihealueet:

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





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Opportunities with Singapore 2025-2026

- Study in Europe Fall 2025
- (Higher) vocational education with R&D & industry aspects
- Joint courses & contents in HE
- Top research (health, AI, maritime, urban development, data, HPC, design, energy, materials science)
- RDI, innovation capacity building, entrepreneurship, internships
- Art & music

Malaysia



- Population 34 million
- Multicultural federation
- Parliamentary democracy, constitutional monarchy
- Dynamic economy, annual growth around 5 %
- GDP(2025): 412 billion USD
14 769 USD per capita
- GII 2025: #34

Malaysia – Topical Issues 1/3



- National Education Plan 2026-2035>
 - AI, digital literacy & competence, STEM, energy transition
 - Future-ready skills, TVET in school curriculum
 - Nurturing values, socio-emotional wellbeing, physical fitness
 - Entrepreneurial and industry-aligned





Malaysia – Topical Issues 2/3



Malesian mahdollisuudet koulutussektorilla

- TVET
 - Professional and soft skills, teacher education, industry engagement
- Digitalization, entrepreneurship & future skills
 - Virtual tools & digital literacy
 - Innovation and start up ecosystem development, innovation partnerships
- Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone
 - Campus / Program development
 - Connection to Ministries

Malaysia



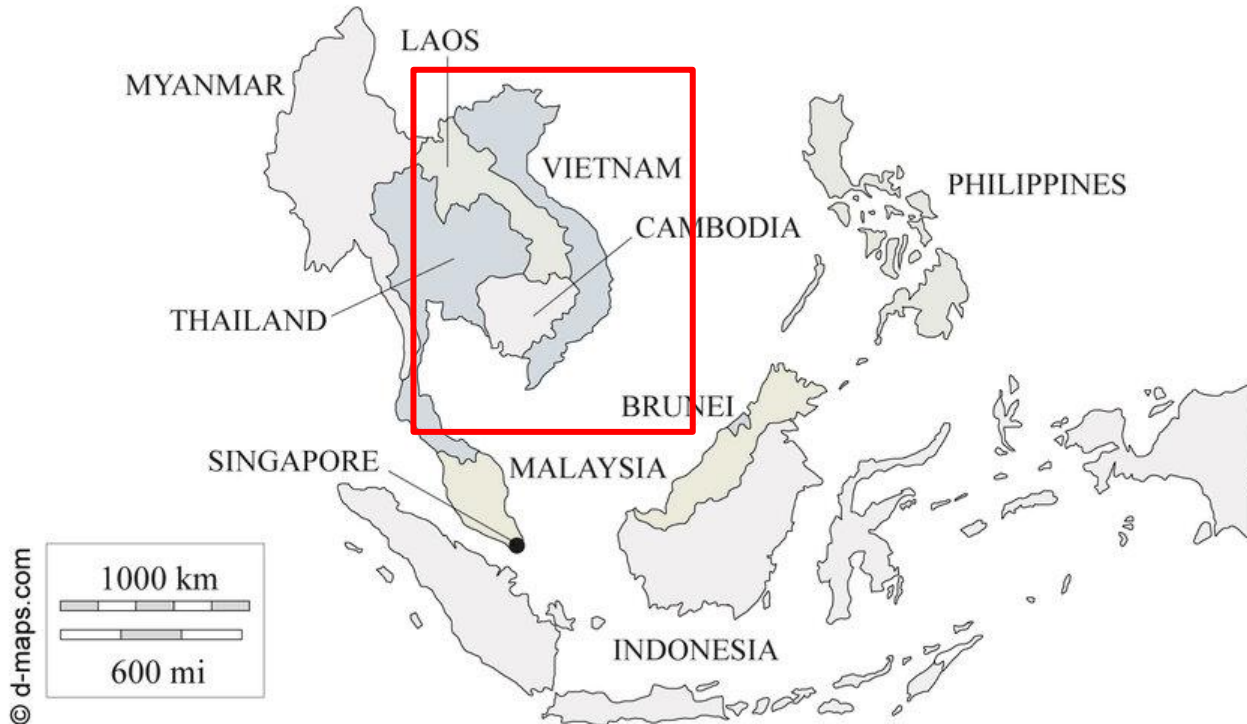
- University of Malaya (UM) #58 (QS 2026)
- Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) #126
- Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) #134
- Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) #134
- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) #153
- Taylor's University #253
- UCSI University #269
- Universiti Teknologi Petronas #251 (UTP), **Sunway University #410**



Opportunities with Malaysia 2025-2026

- Student recruitment (Master, PhD)
- Higher vocational education collaboration
- Joint courses & contents (AI, digital literacy, entrepreneurship, education)
- Industry and academia
- Johor – Singapore Special Economic Zone – campus building / leasing (Iskandar Investment Berhad)
- Finnpartnership funding

Vietnam



- Population 98 million
- Unitary one-party socialist republic
- Annual economy growth around 5 %
- GDP (2025): 514 billion USD
4,960 USD per capita
- GII 2025: #44



Vietnam – Topical issues

- Quickly evolving and internationalizing education system
- Towards practical skills, creativity and global readiness
- Up to 20% of national spending to education
- Modernization of HE system, more autonomy
- In HE: quality of faculty – PhD from 15% to 32% (10 years)
- Number and quality of publications raised
- Private sector as a driver of growth



Vietnam



- Duy Tan University #482
- Ton Duc Thang University #684
- Viet Nam National University, Hanoi #761-770
- Viet Nam National University, HCMC #801-850
- Hanoi Medical University #801-1000 (THE)
- HMC University of Medicine & Pharmacy
- Hoa Sen University
- Van Lang University
- National 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, **VinUniversity** (QS 5-star)



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

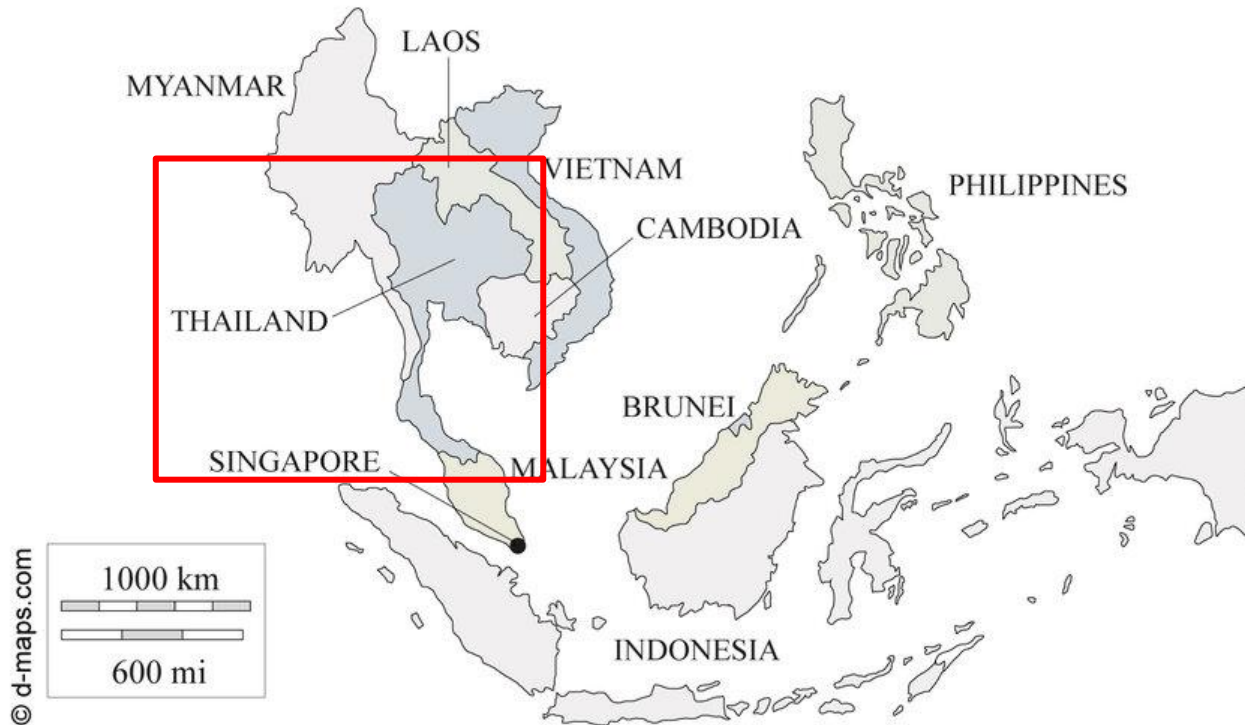
- MoU: TEM – MOLISA
 - Labor mobility, signed Jan 2025
 - Labor mobility and recruitment has educational elements, like
 - Upscaling the educational contents(also TNE schemes)
 - Upskilling of labour force
 - Language training
 - Recognition & acknowledgement of skills

Opportunities with Vietnam 2024-2025



- Student recruitment (EHEW, SiF Road to Finland, study counsellors)
- Labor Mobility – transnational education schemes & upskilling – e.g. health sector
- Economics and engineering, technology , business, entrepreneurship
- Vocational education (VAVET-SOW, under Vietnam’s Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, MoLISA).
- Finnpartnership funding

Thailand



- Population 72 million
- Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy
- Annual economy growth 2,4%
- GDP (2025): 545-558 billion USD
7,985 USD per capita
- GII 2025: #45



Thailand – challenges

- Aging society, decreasing student populations
- Education inequality between urban and rural schools & institutes
- Declining K12 student performance – PISA improvement
- National focus on:
 - AI, digital tech, creative industries
- HE system rapidly internationalizing
- PM Thailand 4.0 strategy (20 years)
 - promote innovation, reserach-oriented studies

Thailand



- Chulalongkorn University #221
- Mahidol University #358
- Chiang Mai University #526
- **Thammasat University** #551
- Kasetsart University #701-710
- Prince of Songkla University #851-900
- Khon Kaen University #901-950
- King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi #901-950
- **Asian Institute of Technology**

Minister Adlercreutz visited in Chulalongkorn University, November 2025





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

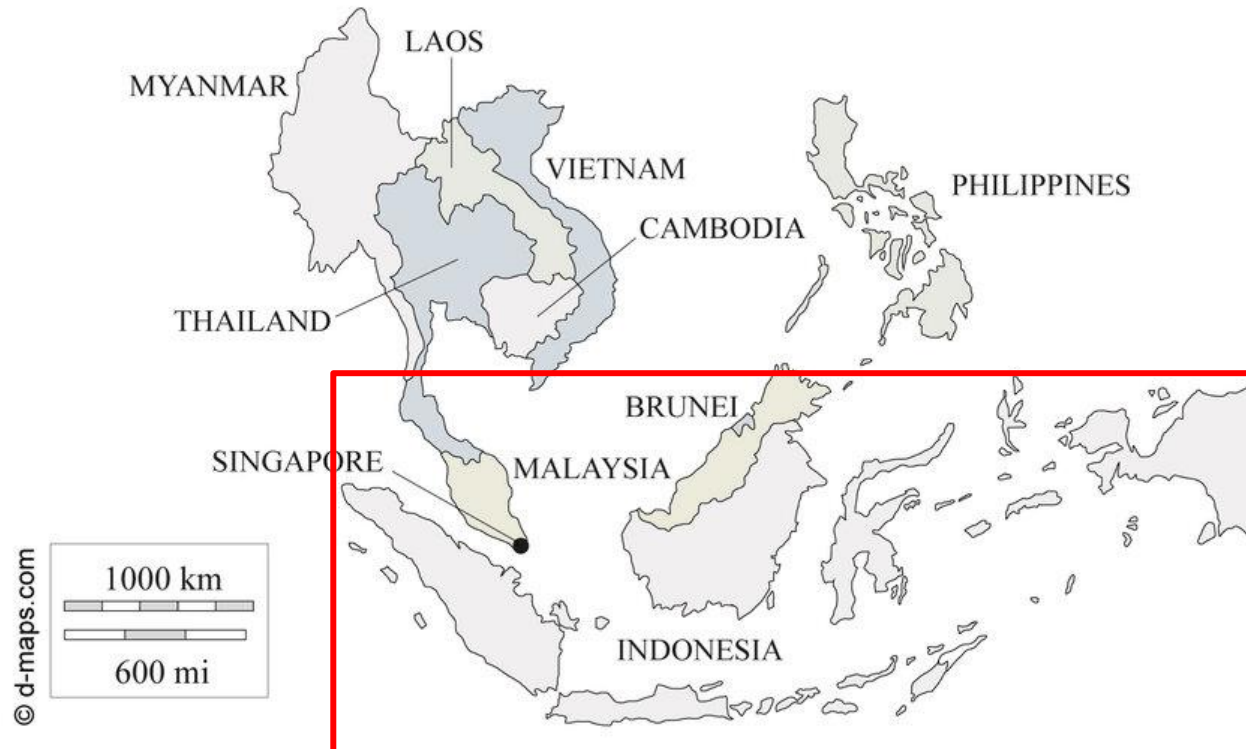




Opportunities with Thailand 2025-2026

- Student recruitment (OCSC International Education Expo Nov 14-15, 2026)
- (Higher) vocational education development, industry collaboration
- K-12 solutions (ECE, PBL, Teacher education & training, Robotics-AI)
- Demonstration School Development (under MHESI), sister schools (MoE-OBEC)
- Council of University Presidents CUPT – a list of universities seeking partners

Indonesia



- Population 280 million
- Unitary presidential republic
- Annual economy growth around 5 %
- GDP (2025): 1500 billion USD
5400 USD per capita
- GII 2025: #55



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.



Existing 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 #189
- **Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)** #224
- Institute of Technology Bandung #255
- Airlangga University in Indonesia (UNAIR) #287
- Bogor Agricultural University #399



Opportunities with Indonesia 2024-2025

- K-12 (curriculum development, assesment, teacher training, school management)
- Student recruitment, EHEF (Jakarta, Yogyakarta)
 - (Bacherlor, Master, PhD)
 - Agreements with local universities, scholarships 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
- University of San Carlos
- University of Perpetual Help
- University of Cebu



Existing 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).