Annual Report
on the strategic goals of SEA ASEAN

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Update on the strategic goals of SEA ASEAN, recent successes, and timeline of highlights 2014-2018

Purpose of this report and introduction

This report is designed as an annual report and hopes to give an overview of the strategic goals of the professorship (the Chair) and the establishment of the new SEA ASEAN Research Centre in the Netherlands and Indonesia.

The purpose of this Chair is to deepen the relationship of the University of Groningen with the nations, universities and people of Southeast Asia. It is a region of great political, economic and cultural diversity, undergoing rapid and sustained changes. The Chair’s main responsibility is to conduct and supervise research and to serve as the founding director of the SEA ASEAN Centre.

1. Strategic goals of the Professorship and Directorship of SEA ASEAN
   a) Research Networking. Deepen research cooperation with universities in Indonesia, and expand cooperation with leading universities in other Southeast Asian countries. The focus is especially on middle income countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines) and countries in political and economic transition (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar) across the region, with outreach to Brunei and Singapore. This research networking includes delivering lectures in the region, recruitment of masters and PhD candidates to the University of Groningen, organizing conferences in Groningen, Brussels, and SE Asia, and engagement with stakeholders in the region (international and regional organizations, governments, universities, civil society organizations, businesses, embassies).

   b) Teaching and Advanced Scientific Training in Research. Lecturing at universities in Southeast Asia, recruitment of PhD candidates to the University of Groningen (with scholarships) among existing lecturers at leading universities, members of the civil service, or civil society organizations in Southeast Asia to join our high quality research team within the University of Groningen.

   c) Dissemination and Societal Impact, in both Europe and the Netherlands, and within Southeast Asia, through the organization of academic conferences, publication in books and journal articles, and outreach to stakeholders.
2. Key Successes:

**World Bank.** Book launch of the edited volume featuring research from our PhD candidates *Decentralization and Governance in Indonesia* (New York: Springer 2016) at a conference at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and the Rijksmuseum (October 2015), followed by a presentation of the main findings of the book by Ronald Holzhacker and two Indonesian PhD candidates, Mr. Kuswanto and Ms. Pande Nyoman Laksmi Kusumawati, at the World Bank with about 25 staff and consultants, Jakarta (April 2016). Continued support and outreach to Mr. Rudolf Treffers, (former) Executive Director of the World Bank through to the present.

**Launch of the Groningen Research Centre for Southeast Asia and ASEAN (SEA ASEAN)** by the President of the University of Groningen, Professor Sibrandes Poppema and the Rector of Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (November 1, 2016). Currently preparation is underway for a major conference for October 2017 organized by UoG-UGM with scholars, predominately professors who serve as directors of Southeast Asia or ASEAN centres at leading universities in the region, including Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and the Philippines, titled ‘National and Regional Approaches to the Sustainable Development Goals in Southeast Asia and ASEAN.’ Mr. Subandi Sardjoko, Deputy Minister for Human, Society, and Cultural Development, Ministry of National Development Planning, has agreed to speak at this event about the role of his ministry in coordinating the implementation of the SDGs in Indonesia, and outreach to partners in the region.

In addition a major conference at the University of Groningen is planned for September 2017 ‘Challenges of Governance in Southeast Asia’ with RUG PhD candidates from Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand. The chairs and discussants at this conference include professors from the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, Faculty of Economics, and the Faculty of Law. The key-note address will be held by the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr. I. Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja.

**Launch of SEA ASEAN Dialogue** to enhance dialogue with policy makers, opinion leaders and civil society organizations. Two events were held so far in the Netherlands with PhD and Master students from across the Netherlands attending, focused on Human Rights and Regional Perspectives on Progress in ASEAN. One in March 2017 in Groningen with a (former ) ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) representative from Indonesia, Mr. Rafendi Djamin, and one in May in Amsterdam with a current AICHR representative from Malaysia, Edmund Bon Tai Soon, and the Chairman of the Philippines Human Rights
Commission, Jose Luis Martin Gasc\nThe Groningen Research Centre for Southeast Asia and ASEAN (SEA ASEAN) has been awarded an Erasmus+ grant as part of the BRECIL consortium. BRECIL aims to develop human capital and facilitate individual learning and institutional mechanisms in Social Science research in higher education institutions in Malaysia and Lao PDR. The grant will allow SEA ASEAN to play a key role in facilitating capacity building and research governance in the region.

Prof. dr. Ron Holzhacker and the SEA ASEAN team will lead Work Package 3 focusing on developing and enhancing research governance, mechanisms and institutions in our partner countries. Our partners reflect a mix of European and Asian institutions as represented by Gothenburg University, University of Applied Languages SDI Munich, University of Malaya, University Utara Malaysia, National University of Laos, and Souphanouvong University. BRECIL has been granted EUR 681,035 as one of the selected 149 applications out of the 756 submitted.
3. Overview of SEA ASEAN from the executive summary of the Strategic Plan and Budget as approved by the CvB of the University

The aim of SEA ASEAN is to further interdisciplinary research on contemporary Southeast Asia and ASEAN. We build on the successful framework of interfaculty cooperation at the University of Groningen within Globalization Studies Groningen (GSG) and serve side by side with our sister organization the Centre for East Asian Studies Groningen (CEASG) in the broad study of Asia. Our plans will also contribute to the realization of the university’s Internationalization Intentions plan, and have been developed in coordination with the central department of International Strategy and Relations.

SEA ASEAN focuses its ambitions and activities around its three key strategic goals of Research, Recruitment and Societal Impact.

Research

We aim to bridge high quality scholarly research, with policy relevance and a concern for societal outcomes, in the study of the nations and societies of Southeast Asia and ASEAN as a regional actor. SEA ASEAN also encourages comparative research within the region and research on regional cooperation within ASEAN. The Centre also encourages comparative research on Southeast Asia and Europe, and on EU-ASEAN and ASEAN +3 relations. This will be realized through a series of annual programs, such as the Integrated Conference and Graduate Schools and the DIALOGUE and MASTERCLASS held three times per year.

Recruitment

Our focus is on middle-income countries and those in transition in the region. The middle-income developing countries in the region that are part of the founding countries of ASEAN, with certain participatory and democratic traditions, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand have our primary focus. Countries
In economic and political transition, including Vietnam and Myanmar, as well as Cambodia and Laos are of interest as well. SEA ASEAN together with the UG International Marketing Department will actively reach out to partner universities in the region to attract PhD candidates and Master students to the University of Groningen. Our current group of PhDs are a good representation of our target region and our plans in the coming years will reach out to the rest of Southeast Asia and ASEAN.

**Societal impact**

The activities within Research and Recruitment are part of our production for societal impact. These efforts will be crystallized in the form of an edited book and special issues for academic journals. In addition, there will be resources set aside for dissemination and social media communication.

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**4. Next Steps, UGM Conference and Book Project, Book Launch Brussels**

SEA ASEAN is currently engaged in planning for a major conference organized with our partners at Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia titled *Regional and National Approaches to the Sustainable Development Goals in Southeast Asia and ASEAN* to take place October 3-5, 2017 in Yogyakarta. This is part of a book project with our regional partners, and the book launch will occur at a conference to take place the following November 2018 at Holland House in Brussels, with a broad audience invited from the EU and ASEAN representatives and other stakeholders.
Participants of the book project include professors, who also often serve as directors of their university's Southeast Asia or ASEAN centres. These professors are from the leading universities in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines, with invitations also extended to Singapore, Brunei, Laos, and Myanmar. Key-note speaker at the UGM event is Deputy Minister for Development of Human Resources, Societal and Cultural Affairs, Dr. Ir. Subandi Sardjoko, M.Sc, introduced by the Rector of UGM.

Below is a more in-depth description of the centre’s engagement with the University of Groningen’s key research focal point on sustainable society and the Sustainable Society Institute, prepared as part of the bid for Groningen to host the Global Centre of Excellence on Climate Adaptation. Here we focus on SEA ASEAN's upcoming conference in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

SEA ASEAN research centre on governance and the sustainable development goals (social, economic, environmental and climate change)

The Groningen Research Centre for Southeast Asia and ASEAN (SEA ASEAN), part of Globalisation Studies Groningen (GSG), is located at the University of Groningen and Gadjah Mada University (UGM) in Indonesia. Whereas the initial focus of the Spirit Groningen Indonesia (SinGA) research program was on governance in a single country as part of a World Bank program to foster good governance, the new research Centre focuses broadly on national and regional governance among the 10 middle income and developing countries of Southeast Asia which are part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The research of the Centre, led by its director Prof. Ronald Holzheker, an American scholar, is inter-disciplinary and includes professors from international relations, spatial sciences, economics, law, medicine, and the natural sciences. The Centre currently is home to 18 PhD candidates from government, civil society, and leading universities in Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam, with recent recruiting in additional states. The Centre has produced numerous journal articles and books, including 'Decentralization and Governance in Indonesia' (New York: Springer 2016) and the upcoming ‘Challenges of Governance in Southeast Asia.’
The Centre is now organizing a book writing conference at UGM on ‘National and Regional Approaches Toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Southeast Asia and ASEAN.’ The conference will bring together 20 professors from various Southeast Asia or ASEAN centres established at the best universities across the region. The SDGs developed by the world community at the UN, involve social, economic, and environmental goals and national targets. As part of the transformation of the goals after the original Millennium Goals, these now incorporate attention to climate change. Thus for the first time the world community and states have pledged in the same document to make progress toward social goals, like ending poverty and moves to reduce inequality, with environmental goals and efforts towards confronting climate change. There are four dimensions of the global vision for sustainable development as part of the post-2015 Development Agenda of the UN: inclusive social development, environmental sustainability, inclusive economic development, and peace and security.

A considerable challenge in making progress toward the sustainable development goals is sound public administration, with evidence based decision making, in a process free of corruption which diverts resources and focus away from key societal goals. Our Centre aims to study these processes which involve governments and civil society, public and private stakeholders, in a multi-level process with international and regional actors such as ASEAN and national and local governments.
5. Timeline of Developments of the Groningen Research Centre for Southeast Asia and ASEAN (SEA ASEAN) 2014-2018

2014

April 2014

Groningen. **First conference ‘Good Governance and Sustainable Society’** featuring presentations by Indonesian PhD candidates, members of Spirit Indonesia Groningen (SlnGA) research program on governance, with World Bank scholarships to the University of Groningen. Key note presentations by Ms. Retno Marsudi (Indonesian Ambassador to the Netherlands, now Foreign Minister of Indonesia), Mr. Rudolf Treffers (Executive Director, World Bank), and Mr. Theo Thomas (World Bank, economist, Jakarta and Brussels).

November 2014

Jakarta. Executive visits (President Sibrandes Poppema, Ronald Holzacker, Tim Zwaagstra) to Ministry of Finance (LPDP Scholarship issuers), Ministry of Research & Higher Education (DIKTI Scholarship issuers), Ministry of Planning BAPPENAS (SPIRIT Scholarship issuers), and Dutch Ambassador Tjeerd de Zwaan for presentation on SlnGA.

2015

Laying the Foundations for expanding beyond Indonesia to include comparative and regional perspectives

October 2015

Amsterdam. **Second SlnGA conference** at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and the Rijksmuseum ‘**Governance and Sustainable Society in Southeast Asia**’. Inclusion of PhD scholars from Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, and Vietnam. Key note address by Rijksmuseum curator for the 20th Century.

2016

April 2016.

Groningen. Indonesian Day Dinner with 125 Indonesian students and the Indonesian Ambassador to the Netherlands.


Jakarta. Meeting with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to discuss economics and inclusive growth, as well as civil society organizing on LGBT human rights issues.
June 2016

Jakarta. Meetings with Netherlands corporations doing business in Indonesia, Shell and Unilever.

Hanoi, Vietnam. Meetings at Vietnam National University, University of Social Science and Humanities, and the University of Law. Lecture at the law school on human rights norm diffusion and ASEAN. Meeting with civil society organizations working on human rights issues in Vietnam. Meeting with US Embassy officials, including Deputy Head of Mission, on engagement with civil society in Vietnam. Meetings and lecture at Hue University, College of Law.

Manila, Philippines. Meetings at the University of Philippines, Dilliman campus, with the Chancellor, the Asian Center, and the Philippine Ministry of Education, and the Commission on Human Rights in the Philippines. Meetings with De La Salle University, Dean, Faculty of Arts,

The Hague. Meeting with the Deputy Director of NUFFIC to discuss educational opportunities in Southeast Asia.

September 2016

London. Conference at the University of London (SOAS), Association of Southeast Asian Studies, panel presentation by 5 SinGA PhD candidates.

October 2016

Bangkok. Conference presentation at the Southeast Asian Human Rights Network (SEAHRN), accompanied by SEA ASEAN Thai PhD candidate. Discussion with AICHR representative from Malaysia. Meetings at Siam University, Faculty of Law, and lecture on norm diffusion. Interview with Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Meetings at the University of Malaya, Asia-Europe Centre, also with Dr. Wendy Tan and PhD candidate Yoga Permana, presentations on sustainable mobility in metropolitan regions.

Singapore. Meetings at the National University of Singapore, Asia Centre and spatial planning institutes. Introduction of SEA ASEAN to alumni in Singapore, Ubbu Emmius.

Yogyakarta. Launch of the SEA ASEAN collaboration with Gadjah Mada University by the Rector of UGM and President of RUG.

Jakarta. Discussion with Netherlands businesses active in Indonesia, Unilever and Shell, also with RUG President Sibrand Poppema.

Jakarta. Meetings at the University of Indonesia with the Rector, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Dean of Engineering, also with RUG President Sibrand Poppema.
November 2016

Groningen. Dinner with Japanese Ambassador to discuss developments in East and Southeast Asia.

Groningen. Meeting with officials from the Groningen Mayor’s office to discuss needs and perspectives of international students in Groningen, including those from Indonesia and Southeast Asia.

Groningen. Groningen Friendship Games, sports activity and BBQ dinner organized by the Indonesian, Malaysian, Vietnam, Thai, and Chinese student associations under the auspices of SEA ASEAN.

Groningen. Conference 'Bridging East Asia & Southeast Asia' with scholars from the Netherlands, China, Indonesia, Thailand, and the inaugural lecture by Prof. Ronald Holzhacker

December 2016

Groningen. Visit by the Indonesian Planning Ministry (BAPPENAS) to review progress by PhD candidates from Indonesia with Spirit scholarships.

2017

January 2017

Groningen. Meeting launching the 'Intentions on Internationalisation '2017-2020 document by the International Strategy and Relations Office. Conversations with recruiters focused on Southeast Asia, and with Master coordinators, on procedures for acceptance of such master students.

The Hague. Meeting with Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Indonesia and Myanmar, also with 5 PhD candidates from SEA ASEAN.

February 2017.

Groningen. Filing of Erasmus+ application with the EU, with partner universities, University of Malaya, University Utara Malaysia, National University of Laos, Souphanouvong University, Lao PDR and Gothenburg University, Sweden and Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The overall objective of our cooperation is ‘Building Social Research Capacities in Higher Education Institutions in Lao PDR and Malaysia (BRECIL).

March 2017

Groningen. SEA ASEAN Dialogue bringing together scholars and academics with policy makers, opinion leaders, and civil society organizations engaged with Southeast Asia and ASEAN. First topic 'Human Rights and Regional Perspectives toward Progress: ASEAN and EU’ Rafendi Djamin (former) AICHR Representative Indonesia.
May 2017


Yogyakarta. Netherlands Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Indonesian Academy of Art and Sciences, Open Science Meeting 2017 at Gadjah Mada University. Focus on resilient society, governance, energy, organized with the KNAW and the NWO.

Manila. Asian Law Institute (14th ASLI Conference) with the University of the Philippines and National University, Singapore University, paper presentation by PhD candidate, Thailand.

Bangkok. Meeting with the Netherlands Embassy and Nuffic office in Bangkok, to discuss universities in Thailand and Cambodia, and scholarship opportunities.

Chaing Mai, Thailand. Meetings at Chiang Mai University, Thailand and the directors of the ASEAN Studies Center and The Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD).

June 2017

Visiting Professor at the Royal University of Law and Economics, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, meeting with the Rector, and delivery of public lecture at the Centre for the Study of Humanitarian Law, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights, ‘Human Rights, International and Regional Norm Diffusion,’ and invitation to Swedish government event with civil society organizations and stakeholders in Cambodia. Also meeting at the Cambodia Development Research Institute (CDRI).

Visiting Professor at the Dutch Studies Centre, Fudan University, and Prof. Ding Chun, Faculty of Economics, Centre for European Studies.

Hong Kong. Presentation at the International Studies Association (ISA) conference on the strategic use of the Universal Periodic Review process of the UN by civil society organizations in Southeast Asia.

6. Upcoming Plans 2017

12-13th September

Groningen. SEA ASEAN Conference in Groningen on the ‘Challenges of Governance in Southeast Asia’ with PhD candidates from Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam. Key note speaker: Indonesian Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Gusi Agung Wesak Puja, ‘Indonesia and ASEAN: The Future of Southeast Asia from a Regional and International Perspective.’ Introduction of the Ambassador by President Sibbrands Poppema.

3rd-5th October 2017

Yogyakarta. SEA ASEAN conference with Gadjah Mada University, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, ASEAN Centre, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Conference with partners at UGM, and professors from leading universities in the region (Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia) on ‘Regional and National Approaches to the Sustainable Development Goals in Southeast Asia and ASEAN’ to result in an edited book. Delegation from Groningen to include Dean Oscar Coughenbarg, Faculty of Spatial Sciences. Key-note speaker. Deputy Minister for Development of Human Resources, Societal and Cultural Affair, Dr. Ir. Subandi Sardjoko, M.Sc, introduction by the Rector of UGM.
April 2018 Invitation by the Dutch NWO for Ronald Holzhacker to serve on the evaluation committee of the NWO Research Talent Commission for ‘Recht and Bestuur’ (Law and Public Administration).

November 2018

Brussels. Conference and book launch, Holland House, Brussels. ‘Regional and National Approaches to the Sustainable Development Goals in Southeast Asia and ASEAN’ with professors from the region, and invited guests from EU and ASEAN.
Fall Conference 2017
Challenges of Governance in Southeast Asia and ASEAN
12th - 13th September, 2017
Groningen, the Netherlands

Keynote address by:
The Honorable I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja
Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Introduction by:
President Prof. Sibrand Poppema

http://www.rug.nl/research/ursi/sea-asean/
Regional and National Approaches toward the Sustainable Development Goals in Southeast Asia and ASEAN

October 3 - 5, 2017 Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Organized by UGM, ASEAN Centre, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences and the Groningen Research Centre for Southeast Asia and ASEAN (SEA ASEAN)

List of invited participants:

Dr. Dafri Agus Salim, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, ASEAN Centre, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Dr. Muhadi Sugiono, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Department of International Relations, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Dr. Bakti Setiawan, Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Dr. Arie Afriansyah, University of Indonesia, Faculty of Law (Djokosutono Research Center).

Dr. Ronald Holzhacker, University of Groningen, Groningen Research Centre for Southeast Asia and ASEAN, the Netherlands.

Dr. Julio Teehankee, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines.

Dr. Ulrich Karl Rotthoff, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Asian Cultural Center, Philippines.

Dr. Sai Kaew Thipakorn, Chulalongkorn University, Institute of Asian Studies, Bangkok, Thailand.

Dr. Nisit Panthamit, Chiang Mai University, Center for ASEAN studies, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Dr. Chayan Vaddhanaphuti, Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD), Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Kimsan Soy, Royal University of Law and Economics, Humanitarian Law Center, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Dr. Azirah Binti Hashim, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Dr. Helena Varkkey, Department of International and Strategic Studies, University of Malaya.

Dr. Le Thi Nguyet Chau, Faculty of Law, Can Tho University, Can Tho, Vietnam.

Dr. Trần Đình Lắm, Center for Vietnamese and Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Vietnam, HCHC.

Dr. Titus C. Chen, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Dr. Dk Noor Hasharina Binti Pg Hj Hassan, Invited, University of Brunei