The world’s economic centre of gravity will soon be located in Southeast Asia. Our students from there know this. Policymakers guess this. The world’s political leadership and the world’s scholars need to understand better the implications and challenges of this imminent redrawing of the world’s economic landscape.

Professor Danny Quah
Inaugural Director, Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre, LSE
Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre

Core Mission:
To foster innovative and outstanding research and policy thinking on Southeast Asia and its global engagement, building on LSE’s deeply-embedded links with the region.

Why Southeast Asia?
Southeast Asia is home to over 620 million people, one of the fastest growing parts of the world economy and a key linchpin in the world’s trading infrastructure. The region is set to bring hundreds of millions into the global middle-income class, and, in doing so, to make a major contribution to driving forward global consumption and production.

Sitting geographically, economically and politically between east and west and between the world’s only billion-people economies, Southeast Asia faces an array of challenges. The policy and research issues presented by the region are pressing ones, and how they are addressed is bound to have a bearing on not only the well-being of Southeast Asia but also that of the entire world.

The region cannot be meaningfully studied in isolation, and its local developments jointly with its wider regional and global engagement are a defining feature of the Centre’s work.

Why LSE?
The Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre serves as a globally recognised hub for research, public debate and engagement on Southeast Asia in London. In doing so, it draws on a distinctive strength of the School.

Currently Southeast Asia sends LSE over one quarter of our overseas undergraduates, making us the academic home for more undergraduates from the region than for those from China, India and the US combined. We also welcome a significant number of Southeast Asian postgraduate students across the disciplines each year.

As a result, we are represented in Southeast Asia by a powerful, dynamic and growing alumni network whose members support the School in many ways. Of particular note is the philanthropic support received from alumnus Professor Saw Swee Hock (PhD Statistics 1963), most recently towards our new Student Centre and the Southeast Asia Centre itself. Both have been named in his honour as a mark of the School’s respect for his unfaltering generosity.

The Centre engages with this large, vibrant and committed group of students and alumni, presenting a collective gathering space and an opportunity to share knowledge and ideas on this increasingly significant region with the entire LSE community and beyond.
Key focuses for the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre

Pushing the boundaries of Southeast Asia research

The Centre promotes and draws from a rich pool of research undertaken by Southeast Asia experts at LSE who work alongside colleagues from across disciplines and from around the world on research relevant to the region. Our work brings together scholars from anthropology, international development, economics, geography, government, international history and international relations who also possess significant country expertise.

In addition, we host visiting appointments that foster further synergies with our Southeast Asia researchers. Our aim is for our research to inform officials and policy makers in government, and stakeholders in business and civil society.

Building a network of exceptional Southeast Asia scholars

The Centre nurtures new generations of Southeast Asia scholars. We run interdisciplinary postgraduate research workshops for students from LSE and beyond working on Southeast Asia, and host joint research workshops with academic partners at LSE and in the region. We are keen to offer opportunities to promising post-doctoral researchers interested in affiliation with the Centre.

Promoting dialogue and engagement

The Centre ensures that the reach of its work extends as widely as possible through public lectures, workshops and other organised events in the UK, Europe, North America and Southeast Asia.

Join us

Your visionary partnership with the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre will enable us to inform and engage a global audience of stakeholders on key issues and challenges in relation to Southeast Asia.

Funding priorities

Naming a post-doctoral fellowship
Your opportunity to give young outstanding scholars the chance to spend a year at the Centre engaging in path-breaking research on Southeast Asia.

Driving research innovation
Your opportunity to fund a substantial biennial programme of grants to pump-prime research on critical social science issues relevant to Southeast Asia.

Establishing scholarships
Your opportunity to invest in the next generation of Southeast Asia experts through the provision of named scholarships for those from the region and those with Southeast Asia research interests.

Fostering public understanding
Your opportunity to sponsor public lectures and research workshop series run by the Centre.

Securing the future of the Centre
Your opportunity to provide a transformative gift that will ensure the Centre’s future and enable LSE to maximise the full potential of its substantial work on Southeast Asia.

To bring together the research of my alma mater with the region I am from means a lot on a personal level. There are of course many questions and challenges to be addressed in Southeast Asia, and I cannot think of an institution better placed than LSE to tackle them.

Professor Saw Swee Hock (PhD Statistics 1963)
Founding donor of the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre
Research Innovation: your opportunity to invest in pioneering approaches to pressing global challenges

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LSE Institute of Global Affairs
The Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre is part of the Institute of Global Affairs.
The Institute of Global Affairs offers a space dedicated to cutting-edge research, policy engagement and teaching across multiple disciplines to pioneer inclusive and locally-rooted responses to global challenges.
lse.ac.uk/iga

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