

ASEAN Science Leadership Program (ASEAN SLP)

Call for applicants 2016

Background

The speed and quality of the development of science capacity in ASEAN and the rest of the developing world depends not only on infrastructure and the technical training of people, but is intimately linked to the quality of leadership to lead change. It is widely accepted that the future of scientific development lies in enabling interdisciplinary, interconnected and often large, international teams. Training structures are, however, often not set up to prepare a next generation of scientists for the complexities that an interconnected, interdisciplinary approach to science entails. There is an internationally emerging paradigm that recognizes that the focus on individual leadership is often inadequate to address complex challenges, which require skills across many sectors and collaborative processes. The ASEAN SLP will therefore focus on developing collective leadership skills.

Overview of the Program

The ASEAN SLP is a new initiative of the National Science and Technology Development Agency in partnership with the Global Young Academy, inspired by the successful Africa Science Leadership Program (ASLP). The ASEAN SLP is co-funded by the National Science, Technology, Innovation, and Policy Office (STI), National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and PTT Public Company Limited. It serves early- to mid-career researchers in basic and applied science, engineering, social sciences, arts and the humanities.

The program aims to grow mid-career ASEAN academics in the areas of thought leadership, team development, engagement and collaboration, with the intention of enabling them to solve the complex issues that face both ASEAN and the global community.

The leadership program:

- Identifies early- to mid-career academics who have demonstrated leadership potential and an interest in developing key leadership skills
- Supports them to apply the acquired skills to projects that are relevant to the academic development on the continent and its impact on society
- Creates a network of academic leaders, and experts on the continent, spanning not only across countries, but also across disciplinary boundaries
- Advances a curriculum for academic leadership development which can be utilised in institutions in ASEAN and beyond.

Program Structure

The program will use a highly interactive approach to training, application of skills to a leadership project, peer support, and mentorship. Fellows will attend an initial 3 day, intensive on-site program in Bangkok, Thailand. The process will involve an approach that cycles between theory, application and reflection. Participants will be challenged to work collaboratively to design initiatives that advance a new paradigm for ASEAN science.

The training will cover:

- Core elements of collective leadership
- Creative and systems thinking
- Development of effective networks
- Stakeholder engagement for change

- Maximising the efficiency and impact of collaborative efforts
- Advanced dialogue and communication skills
- Effective problem solving and decision making

Following the first training week, fellows will apply their skills to a focus area or project relevant to their context. As described above, projects will aim to contribute to a new paradigm for ASEAN science. During the year, participants will continue to engage with the group and have access to professional support. Most training, travel, meal and accommodation costs will be covered. In March or April 2017 (subject to the next host country), fellows will complete their projects and present them at the second in-person training, which will consist of 3 days.

Expected commitment

The ASEAN SLP is seeking candidates who are committed to developing leadership in ASEAN. The training itself requires the time commitment of the two multi-day training sessions. Furthermore, fellows will be expected to develop their leadership project and engage with other fellows for peer support.

There will be some costs which are not covered by the program, such as visas, vaccinations or local transport expenses, for which you may need to seek support from your local institution or fund personally. You will also be required to provide us with your personal travel insurance details as a condition of participation.

Selection criteria and application process

To be selected, applicants need to display a compelling vision of their future involvement in the development of research projects, programs, human capacity, specific policies or societal structures. The selection process will consider individual qualities but also focus on ensuring a diversity of culture, subject background (Natural and Social Sciences, Humanities) and gender among the fellows. Where possible the program will also attempt to create small 'cores' of leadership; multiple strong applicants from the same centre or country will thus be considered.

The following criteria are used as a guide for the nomination and selection of fellows:

- A faculty or a continuing research position at a research institution;
- Active in research at an ASEAN institution of higher education or research;
- A sustained record of outstanding scientific outputs;
- Interest in translating and communicating the results of their work for impact in society;
- Demonstrated leadership ability in research and beyond;
- Interest in the role of research in addressing complex issues affecting society;
- Interest in collaborations across disciplines and sectors (e.g. industry, government, etc.);
- Commitment to participate in all the activities of the fellowship; and
- Intent to share what is learned in the program with their broader networks.

All applicants have to provide two support letters by academic referees (details are provided in the application form). Please ensure that the support letters are sent from an accredited institutional email address. One of the two referees has to commit to be involved in future communications and mentorship in case of selection of the applicant into the program. This referee will be informed about the progress of the fellow and should be willing to support the fellow if he or she requires it.

All applications will be reviewed and shortlisted by representatives of the Global Young Academy, national young academies, Thai Academy of Science and Technology (TAST) and ASEAN SLP Management. The final selection of candidates will be made by the ASEAN SLP Management team.

Key dates:

11 April	Applications close
25- 29April	Outcome letters sent to applicants
9 June	Arrival of fellows in Bang Sean, for training to begin on the 10th