

SEACOOP Partners

SEACOOP is coordinated by Sigma Orionis, an organisation based in France and devoted to supporting collaborative research in ICT and global ICT developments, and includes, on the Southeast Asian side, the organisations playing a key role in ICT policy and research in each of the ten ASEAN countries.

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SEACOOP

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STRENGTHENING COOPERATION ON ICT RESEARCH BETWEEN EUROPE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA



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Europe and Southeast Asia are two key players in today's global economy who have much in common. Their populations are nearly identical in terms of size, they have both moved towards regional economic integration, and they share many of the same values. It is therefore quite logical that, for over 30 years, the European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have enjoyed an increasingly positive and fruitful dialogue.

The signing in 1980 of a Cooperation Agreement laid the foundation for cooperation between the two regions to promote trade, investment and business. In recent years, efforts have been made by both sides to further strengthen the relationship. In July 2003 the European Commission adopted a Communication on a «New Partnership with Southeast Asia», setting out a comprehensive strategy for future EU relations, both regional and bilateral, a strategy that was later endorsed by the European Council in 2004. The Nuremberg Declaration on an EU-ASEAN Partnership of 15 March 2007 (released with a joint Plan of Action) recognises the importance of Southeast Asia as a region, and calls for the deepening of the level of cooperation, including science and technology, between the EU and ASEAN. On November 22, 2007, in Singapore, on the occasion of the first-ever EU-ASEAN Summit, a Joint Declaration was signed, endorsing in particular the Plan of Action.

The EU is, for ASEAN, the first export region (113 billion USD in 2008) and the third import region after China and Japan (89 billion USD in 2008). The EU is also the first source of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow to ASEAN (13 billion USD in 2008). End of 2009, the launch of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations between the EU and individual ASEAN countries, starting with Singapore, was announced, while EU-ASEAN FTA negotiations faced a pause in their process.

At a time when science and technology (S&T), information and communication technologies (ICT), and international cooperation are considered by all modern economies to be key drivers in achieving sustainable development, prosperity, and economic growth, cooperation on ICT research between Europe and Southeast Asia can only support the strengthening of relations between the two regions. In this context, «EU-ASEAN Information Society dialogues» are being held since 2006.

Cooperation on ICT research has been evolving well over the years, and this is reflected in the fact that many European and Southeast Asian companies and research centres have strengthened and reinforced their R&D links, in particular through joint projects funded by the European Commission in the framework of the FP6 IST programme which operated between 2002 and 2007, and of the FP7 ICT programme covering the period 2007-2013. The TEIN initiative (now in its third phase, TEIN3) launched in 2000 to connect European and Asian research, networks and education (including Southeast Asian ones) to the European GEANT2 network, has also to be underlined here.



The EU and Southeast Asia have indeed entered into a new phase of S&T cooperation in ICT, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels. This new phase will build upon what has been achieved so far, should be more balanced and of mutual benefit, and should focus on a set of well defined strategic cooperation priorities.

The SEACOOP initiative has been developing from this rationale and aims at contributing to the development of S&T cooperation in ICT between Europe and Southeast Asia. It is expected that it will significantly increase the level of R&D cooperation between European and Southeast Asian companies and research organisations.

The SEACOOP project aims at supporting the development of Information Society policy dialogues and the strengthening of cooperation on ICT research with the ASEAN region in general and with Singapore in particular (since a MoU on ICT has been signed).

SEACOOP activities will develop over the period 2010-2011, and will build on the results obtained through previous EU-funded support actions.

Among planned activities:

- Organization of cooperation events in Europe and in Southeast Asia synchronised whenever possible with policy dialogue meetings
- Identification and analysis of ICT policy and research priorities, at bilateral and regional levels, and provision of recommendations for future cooperation initiatives
- Development of synergies with dialogues and activities launched under EU-funded programmes (EU-SEA-NET, TEIN3, Marie Curie, etc.), at the initiative of EU Member States and Associated States, and at the ASEAN level (SCMIT)
- Development of promotion, dissemination and awareness-raising activities

The project also targets the greatest impact on stakeholders outside the project partnership (in the European, Southeast Asian and global ICT research communities and eventually the public at large), in order that:

- Project outputs can be fully exploited and can be the most useful
- The knowledge gained through the project and more generally the information generated by the project can be made available to all interested organisations through a wide dissemination
- The project 'excellence' (particular aspects of project organisations and management, specific methodologies and tools project activities are based on, etc.) can be reused