

## Objectives

The ASEAN-Canada research programme seeks to build stronger research capacity and partnership between and among Canada and ASEAN countries, institutions and individuals. Specifically, it seeks to:

1. Enhance understanding of Southeast Asia development dynamics and ASEAN's role in addressing such dynamics;
2. Facilitate knowledge, experience and skills exchange among Southeast Asian and Canadian scholars;
3. Strengthen ASEAN-Canada relations through the establishment of an informal research network among think tanks, academic institutions, government officials, multilateral agencies and other stakeholders; and
4. Contribute to the ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action by providing a shared evidence base for policies and interventions.



Programme coordinators:



*'ASEAN and Canada will work and consult closely in responding to regional and international challenges, and in building an ASEAN-centred regional architecture which is open and inclusive, promotes the development of enhanced ASEAN connectivity which will help foster the building of an ASEAN Community by 2015.'*

*- ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership Plan of Action*

With the support of:



## Background

*While Canada has been a dialogue partner to ASEAN since 1977, the deepening of ASEAN and Canada Track 1 relations in recent years has increased collaborative efforts in addressing pertinent regional issues of common interest. However, improved relations at the Track 1 level will require more groundwork at the Track 2 and 3 levels.*

*It is with this in mind that the ASEAN-Canada Research Programme was initiated by the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies and the Institute of Asian Research (IAR) in the University of British Columbia. Supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, this initiative is also a response to growing interest within the Canadian and Southeast Asian research communities to jointly examine ASEAN's role and impacts, and exchange experiences in order to explore development opportunities and address social, economic and environmental problems.*

*Planned activities in this three-year initiative will involve Southeast Asian and Canadian academic institutions, think tanks and NGOs, while establishing linkages with the ASEAN secretariat, government officials, civil society groups, multilateral agencies and other stakeholders.*

## Research Themes

### **Theme 1: Towards Balanced Growth – Alternative Development Models and Redistribution Mechanisms**

This theme seeks to address the challenge of finding development options or policy sets that achieve the ASEAN goals of greater regional integration and strong economic growth but without the increased inequality that has become pervasive in the last two decades.

### **Theme 2: Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Growth**

This theme seeks to find means of improving systems for managing natural resources to allow sustainable economic growth without degrading common resources as illustrated by increased atmospheric pollution and concentrations of greenhouse gases, overharvesting and degradation of forest resources, as well as overharvesting of oceans and depletion of fisheries.

### **Theme 3: Impact of Demographic and Epidemiological Trends**

This theme seeks to examine how countries should deal with aging populations, growing populations in others, increased intra-regional migratory movements and the impacts of these demographic trends on health and health care, other social services, and human rights policies.

## Activities

### **Junior Scholars Fellowship**

Research grants will be awarded to young scholars from Canada and Southeast Asia to study ASEAN regional development. The fellowship includes a 10-day research workshop to be hosted by the University of British Columbia.

### **Senior Scholars Fellowship**

Senior scholars and experts from Canada and Southeast Asia will be engaged to write parallel policy papers of strategic relevance to ASEAN-Canada ties.

### **ASEAN-Canada Forum**

Designed to inform and engage Track 1 officials, this forum to be held in Southeast Asia, will disseminate research findings and facilitate discussions on key regional and bilateral issues.

### **Publications and Dissemination**

Findings from the research programme will be disseminated through blogs/memos, videos, monographs, policy papers and books.

For more information, please visit  
[www.rsis.edu.sg/nts](http://www.rsis.edu.sg/nts) or [www.iar.ubc.ca](http://www.iar.ubc.ca)