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A Global Gateway for Higher Education and Research? Perspectives from Partner Countries and Regions

The EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package – Higher Education Programme (SCOPE-HE), 2024-2028

**Forum of the Cooperation for Sustainable
Development in Higher Education Group (S-DHG)
Brussels 12-13 November 2024**

Peter van Tuijl, Director Nuffic Southeast Asia



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Overview

Name of Action	EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package Higher Education Programme (SCOPE-HE)
Commissioned by	European Union
Partnering with	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
Implementer	Nuffic – The Dutch organisation for internationalisation in education
Implementing Partner	DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service
Programme Region	EU and ASEAN Member States
Duration	February 2024 – January 2028
Value	EUR 9.300.000

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



Objective



Young woman monitoring a plantation | Image by jcomp, www.freepic.com

- Aims to improve sustainable connectivity between the EU and ASEAN and within ASEAN in the education sector.
- The SCOPE-HE Programme is part of the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package (SCOPE).
- Aligned with the EU's Global Gateway strategy (2021 – 2027), Indo-Pacific strategy, and the EU-ASEAN Joint Ministerial Statement on Connectivity.
- The programme builds on the successes of the EU Support to Higher Education Programme in the ASEAN Region (SHARE) and ERASMUS+.
- The programme involves representatives from all ASEAN Member States.

Focus Area



- The EU and ASEAN have pledged to promote connectivity within and between their regions, with a particular emphasis on **sustainability, climate action, digital transformation, and gender equality**.
- Intra-regional mobility and people-to-people connectivity have been one of the avenues through which community building has been pursued in Southeast Asia, as stipulated in the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, and the ASEAN Socio-cultural Community Blueprint 2025.

Key Activities

Facilitating Dialogue and Collaboration

- Foster dialogue, consensus-building, and collaboration among ASEAN institutions and ASEAN-EU Connectivity stakeholders.
- Conduct policy dialogues focusing on specific themes in both ASEAN and EU regions.
- Develop frameworks and tools to strengthen ASEAN institutions.
- Promote best practices in educational services, qualifications, and digital transformation.



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Key Activities

Strengthening Mobility in Higher Education

- Work towards mutual recognition of qualifications and academic credits within ASEAN and between ASEAN and the EU.
- Complement the Erasmus+ programme and align with ASEAN's strategic plans.
- Promote international mobility and capacity-building to drive innovation.
- Enhance the quality and competitiveness of ASEAN's higher education and VET systems.



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German Academic Exchange Service

Key Activities

Building Stronger EU-ASEAN University Networks

- Promote research and technological collaboration
- Build on existing EU-ASEAN research projects and encourage new joint research initiatives.
- Support knowledge sharing and collaborative innovation across universities.
- Three focus areas: Green Transition, Blue Economy, and Digital Transformation



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Key Activities

Establishing a Robust ASEAN Network of Vocational Institutions and Businesses

- Collaborate closely with the VET sector, particularly in agriculture and the green transition.
- Support the development of Labour Market Information services and internship/mentoring programmes.
- Engage the private sector to develop VET and Higher Education focused on digital and environmental skills.
- Enhance digital learning ecosystems for inclusive and sustainable development.



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Expected Results

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Strengthened student and academic mobility in line with the relevant ASEAN strategy and action plan in this area

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Stronger EU-ASEAN cross-regional University Networks to jointly tackle global challenges by fostering research and technological connectivity

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Stronger ASEAN regional network of Vocational Education Institutions and businesses focusing on the “green transition”, “sustainability”, and “digitalisation”

Contributions to Global Gateway

- Comprehensive approach of Higher Education and TVET sector – also connected to labour market and employment
- Opportunity for University networks to relate to each other beyond research only – connectivity – policy output
- Greater collaboration between EU-programme trusted partners and EU-missions in the region – opportunities for programmatic integration



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**Thank
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