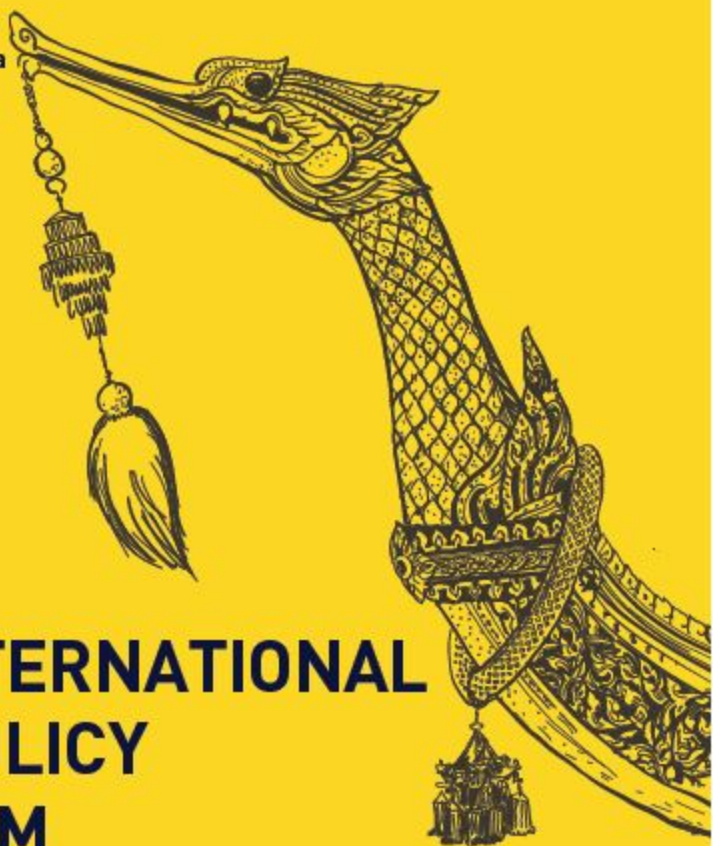


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2024 KACPE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY SYMPOSIUM

**Strengthening The Comprehensive
Strategic Partnership
Between Korea & ASEAN
For Shared Future Development**

August 29-30, 2024
Radisson Blu Plaza Bangkok
Bangkok • THAILAND

Office of the Public Sector Development Commission • Thailand
International Studies Center • Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Thailand
Humanities Research Institute • Chung-Ang University • Korea
Korea Research Initiatives • University of New South Wales • Australia

2024

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THAILAND

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KOREA

KF

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PROCEEDINGS

KACPE International Public Policy Symposium

**Strengthening the Comprehensive
Strategic Partnership between Korea
and ASEAN for Shared Future
Development**

29-30 August 2024

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□ PREAMBLE

Currently, the international landscape underwent significant political, economic, and socio-cultural shifts, prompting South Korea to unveil the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI) during the 2022 ASEAN-ROK Summit. This initiative aims to strengthen the strategic partnership by fostering collaborative efforts to address shared challenges. KASI focuses on eight key areas: regional and maritime security, defense industry, economic stability, future trade and industry, climate action, digital transformation, public health collaboration, and cultural exchange. By fostering collaboration across these diverse areas, ASEAN and Korea agreed to elevate the relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership by 2024.

The Post-Pandemic Landscape: Reimagining the Global Order

The COVID-19 pandemic acted as a catalyst for profound transformations in the global landscape, highlighting the need for a paradigm shift in both the economic and security realms. The pandemic's far-reaching impact spurred nations to reevaluate existing norms and systems, necessitating the building of a new, resilient, and inclusive economic order that prioritizes sustainable growth and adapts to future disruptions.

Furthermore, global shifts emphasize the importance of a strengthened security alliance built on shared ideologies and systems. Such an alliance would facilitate collective responses to emerging threats and foster a more stable and secure global environment. However, achieving this comprehensive reconfiguration necessitates not only a new economic paradigm and a strengthened security alliance but also cohesion within the liberal world order. In this context, South Korea's Korean Indo-Pacific Strategy, developed collaboratively with its allies, represents a crucial step towards counterbalancing regional hegemony and building a more robust and collaborative global community. The success of this strategy hinges largely on the strengthening of the Korea-ASEAN partnership, underscoring the growing importance of regional cooperation in navigating the post-pandemic world.

ASEAN and Korea for Shared Future Development

East Asia embodies a dynamic interplay of political, economic, and cultural

interaction. Despite ideological disparities, regional cooperation thrives alongside competition for economic advantage. While ASEAN fosters unity, remnants of Cold War divisions persist. Historically, the region oscillated between cooperation and conflict. Recently, a divide has emerged between open economies and transitioning ones.

Korea, China, and Japan compete for influence in East Asia by cultivating partnerships with ASEAN. Amidst China's rising dominance, ASEAN seeks balanced engagement with Korea as well. Recognizing ASEAN's strategic value as its second-largest trading partner and third-largest investment destination, Korea prioritizes future-oriented cooperation with the bloc, potentially leading to a diplomatic and security alliance.

The success of cooperation for shared future development between ASEAN and Korea depends on robust cooperation across various domains. This includes strengthened private and inter-ministerial collaboration, as well as a comprehensive policy dialogue network involving government officials, researchers, and stakeholders. This network will facilitate policy dialogue and foster collaboration opportunities across diverse tiers and areas of cooperation.

2024 KACPE International Public Policy Symposium

The Symposium will provide a timely and important forum for senior government officials, policy researchers and key academics from Korea and ASEAN to enhance the relationship of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and Korea through policy cooperation. Since 2012, Korea Research Initiatives (KRI) at the University of New South Wales, Australia, has organized symposiums and seminars in Southeast Asia for knowledge sharing, and policy development and implementation. In 2019, KRI established the Korea-ASEAN Community of Policy Exchange (KACPE) to advance cooperation in the area of public policy between Korea and ASEAN.

The primary objective of the Symposium is to significantly contribute to enhancing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Korea and ASEAN in 2024, marking a pivotal juncture in their collaborative efforts for mutual development. Discussions at the Symposium will revolve around the implications and importance of strengthening this partnership, providing a platform to delve into key policy issues within the eight cooperation areas outlined by the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI).

The 2024 KACPE International Public Policy Symposium, a significant event, is poised to host three keynote sessions and one discussion session, each tailored to address pivotal topics. With a diverse lineup of attendees expected, including senior policymakers, academics, and policy analysts from ASEAN countries, Korea, and Australia, the symposium will address key themes such as the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Korea and ASEAN, Collaboration of Educational Exchange in Higher Education between Korea and ASEAN, and Sharing Knowledge in the Area of Digital Transformation for National Development. Through these sessions, the symposium endeavors to strengthen the comprehensive strategic partnership between Korea and ASEAN countries, fostering mutual understanding, cooperation, and development in various spheres. (See the Appendix for the full program).

The Symposium Overview
Radisson Blu Plaza Bangkok

Thursday 29 August 2024 Strategic Cooperation for 2024 KACPE Public Policy Symposium	Friday 30 August 2024 Strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic partnership between Korea and ASEAN
	Registration / Opening Session / Special Session 1 - Keynote Key Issues for the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Korea and ASEAN 08:00 – 10:30
	Tea Break 10:30 – 10:50
	Session 2 - Keynote Collaboration of Educational Exchange in Higher Education between ASEAN and Korea 10:50 – 12:30
	Lunch 12:30 – 13:30
	Session 3 - Keynote Sharing Knowledge in the Area of Digital Transformation for National Development 13:30 – 14:50
	Afternoon Tea 14:50 – 15:10
Welcome Dinner Strategic Cooperation for 2024 KACPE International Public Policy Symposium 18:30 – 21:00	Session 4 - Plenary Session 15:10 – 16:20 Farewell Dinner New Friendship and Partnership for the Shared Future Development of ASEAN and Korea 18:30 – 21:00

2024 KACPE International Public Policy Symposium

PROGRAM

**Strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
between Korea and ASEAN
for Shared Future Development**

**August 29-30, 2024
Bangkok, THAILAND**

Thursday, 29 August 2024	
18:30-21:00	Welcome Dinner: Strategic Cooperation for 2024 KACPE Public Policy Symposium Chair: Dr. Chotima Sanguanphant Wechaporn Public Sector Development Officer, Expert Level, Division of Digital Government Transformation Office of the Public Sector Development Commission Thailand
	Registration
	Welcome Speeches Dr. Anuson Chinvanho Director, International Studies Center & Former Ambassador to Vietnam (2011-3) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand Mr. Hyun Soo Choi Director The Korea Foundation Jakarta Office, Indonesia H.E. Amb. Jang-keun Lee Ambassador Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN, Republic of Korea Dr. Piti Srisangnam Executive Director ASEAN Foundation, ASEAN Dr. Seung-Ho Kwon Executive Director Korea Research Initiatives, University of New South Wales, Australia

Friday, 30 August 2024	
SYMPOSIUM: Strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Korea and ASEAN	
08:00-8:30	Registration
08:30-10:30	OPENING SESSION Chair: Dr. Nicha Sathornkich Executive Director, Division of Digital Government Transformation Office of the Public Sector Development Commission Thailand Opening Addresses H.E. Mr. Jakkapong Sangmanee Minister Attached to The Prime Minister's Office Royal Thai Government, Thailand Welcome Addresses Ms. Onfa Vejajiva Secretary-General Office of the Public Sector Development Commission, Thailand Dr. Seung-Ho Kwon Executive Director Korea Research Initiatives, University of New South Wales, Australia Congratulatory Addresses H.E. Amb. Jang-keun Lee Ambassador The Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN, Republic of Korea Mr. Hyun Soo Choi Director The Korea Foundation Jakarta Office, Indonesia
	SPECIAL SESSION 1–Keynote: Key Issues for the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Korea and ASEAN Chair: Prof. Jae Hyeok Shin Director, ASEAN Center & Prof. Political Science and International Relations Korea University, Korea H.E. Amb. Sungnam Lim Global Advisor, Bae, Kim & Lee LLC & Former Ambassador, The Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN, Republic of Korea Dr. Suwit Mangkhala Deputy Director-General, Department of ASEAN Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand Dr. Piti Srisangnam Executive Director ASEAN Foundation, ASEAN
	Discussion
10:30-10:50	Tea Break

10:50-12:30	SESSION 2 – Keynote: Collaboration of Educational Exchange in Higher Education between ASEAN and Korea Chair: Prof. Michael O'Donnell Deputy Rector University of New South Wales Canberra, Australia Prof. Dato' Seri Ir. Dr. Noor Azuan Abu Osman Vice-Chancellor Universiti Malaya, Malaysia Prof. Hoang Anh Tuan Rector VNU University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi, Vietnam Prof. Chankyu Lee Executive Vice President for Administration & Director, Humanities Research Institute Chung-Ang University, Korea Dr. Leo DP Cubillan Vice President for Academic Affairs University of the Philippines, The Philippines Prof. Kyaing Kyaing Thet Pro-Rector Yangon University of Economics, Myanmar Mr. Jae Ho Choi Secretary-General Hyundai Motor Chung Mong-Koo Foundation, Korea
	Discussion
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:50	SESSION 3 – Keynote: Sharing Knowledge in the Area of Digital Transformation for National Development Chair: Dr. Chotima Sanguanphant Wechaporn Public Sector Development Officer, Expert Level, Division of Digital Government Transformation Office of the Public Sector Development Commission, Thailand Mr. Nisith Keopanya Vice Minister Ministry of Home Affairs, Laos Dr. Nicha Sathornkich Executive Director, Division of Digital Government Transformation Office of the Public Sector Development Commission, Thailand Prof. Eko Prasjo Faculty of Administrative Science, Universitas Indonesia & Executive Secretary, The Steering Committee of National Bureaucratic Reform, Indonesia Mr. Vannpok Soly Vice President, Royal School of Administration Ministry of Civil Service, Cambodia Dr. Jeonghyun Lee & Prof. Yumi Yi Professors Humanities Research Institute, Chung-Ang University, Korea
	Discussion
14:50-15:10	Tea Break

15:10-16:20	SESSION 4 – Plenary Session	
	Chair: Prof. Mark Turner Korea Research Initiatives University of New South Wales, Australia	
	Dr. Piti Srisangnam Executive Director ASEAN Foundation, ASEAN Prof. Michael O'Donnell Deputy Rector University of New South Wales, Canberra, Australia Dr. Imee Su Martinez Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs (Internationalization) & Director, Office of International Linkages, University of the Philippines, The Philippines Dr. Jeonghyun Lee Professor Humanities Research Institute, Chung-Ang University, Korea	
	Summary	Prof. Mark Turner Korea Research Initiatives University of New South Wales, Australia
Closing Remarks		
Dr. Anuson Chinvanho Director, International Studies Center & Former Ambassador to Vietnam (2011-2013) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand		

18:30-21:00	Farewell Dinner: New Friendship and Partnership for the Shared Future Development of ASEAN and Korea	
	Chair: Mr. Seksan Anantasirikiat International Studies Center Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand	
	Registration	
	Farewell Speeches	
	H.E. Amb. Sungnam Lim Global Advisor, Bae, Kim & Lee LLC & Former Ambassador, The Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN, Republic of Korea Dr. Leo DP Cubillan Vice President for Academic Affairs University of the Philippines, The Philippines Prof. Hoang Anh Tuan Rector VNU University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi, Vietnam Prof. Eko Prasajo Faculty of Administrative Science, Universitas Indonesia & Executive Secretary, The Steering Committee of National Bureaucratic Reform, Indonesia Ms. Onfa Vejajiva Secretary-General Office of the Public Sector Development Commission, Thailand	

OPENING SESSION

OPENING SESSION: Strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Korea and ASEAN

H.E. Mr. Jakkapong Sangmanee

Minister attached to The Prime Minister's Office
Royal Thai Government
THAILAND

Ms. Onfa Vejajiva

Secretary-General
Office of the Public Sector Development Commission
THAILAND

Dr. Seung-Ho Kwon

Executive Director, Korea Research Initiatives
University of New South Wales
AUSTRALIA

Mr. Hyun Soo Choi

Director
The Korea Foundation Jakarta Office
INDONESIA

OPENING ADDRESS

H.E. Mr. Jakkapong Sangmanee
Minister Attached to The Prime Minister's Office
Royal Thai Government
THAILAND

Good morning, distinguished guests from ASEAN member states, the Republic of Korea, the Commonwealth of Australia, and esteemed attendees.

It is a great honor for me to deliver the opening remarks at the “2024 KACPE International Public Policy Symposium” today. We are fortunate that Thailand has been given the privilege to host this event, marking our return to face-to-face meetings. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, this international symposium has been conducted online, which demonstrates that even in unexpected circumstances, our relationships remain strong and united. We are ready to move forward together, elevating our cooperation to drive development policies on various issues at the regional network level, aiming for sustainable development. I understand that this year's symposium focuses on three main topics: 1) International Relations and Regional Security, 2) Socio-Cultural and Educational Cooperation Exchange, and 3) Digital Transformation for National Development.

The current Thai government places great emphasis on these issues and has plans to drive progress in these areas as well.

Specifically: In terms of security, the government has prioritized a Carbon Neutrality policy by 2050 and aims to achieve Net Zero Emissions by 2065. Thailand and various countries have established policy plans and are developing innovations to reach these goals. This endeavor requires serious cooperation among government sectors, businesses, and civil society.

In the public sector, the Excise Department of the Ministry of Finance has been advancing measures to support the use of electric vehicles through the EV 3.5 policy from 2024 to 2027. The goal is to achieve at least 30% production of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) by 2030. Companies participating in the EV 3.5 measure will receive support from the Excise Department, including subsidies based on the type and size

of the vehicle's battery, reduced import duties for Completely Built-Up (CBU) electric vehicles during the first two years (2024-2025), and a reduction in excise tax from 8% to 2% for electric vehicles.

In the business sector, PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP) has initiated projects such as Arthit CCS, utilizing Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology. This project is expected to commence operations in 2026. After extracting natural gas from underground wells, unwanted residuals like CO₂ will be captured and compressed back into the empty wells for permanent storage in deep rock formations more than a thousand meters below the surface.

Regarding social, cultural, and educational aspects:

Thailand has entered an aging society since 2017. The government has placed importance on state welfare policies by allocating elderly living allowances to seniors aged 60 and above. This is to provide financial assistance and alleviate the burden of monthly living expenses, as the income from elderly occupations may not be sufficient for their expenses. Each year, there is an opportunity for those who qualify as new recipients of the elderly living allowance to register for benefits. Additionally, the elderly are entitled to other rights and welfare benefits such as half-price discounts on public transportation fares, tax deductions for children who care for their elderly parents (30,000 baht per elderly person per year), and housing modifications for poor elderly individuals with unstable and unsuitable living conditions. Furthermore, the government has facilitated the notification of citizens' welfare rights throughout their lifetime through the "Thang Rath" application.

The government has appointed the National Soft Power Strategy Committee, responsible for defining soft power strategies, formulating policies, plans, and implementing measures to promote soft power both domestically and internationally across 11 areas: 1) Film, 2) Art, 3) Literature, 4) Food, 5) Music and Festivals, 6) Tourism, 7) Sports, 8) Design, 9) Drama and Series, 10) Games, and 11) Fashion. The committee also aims to elevate and develop the knowledge, skills, and creativity of Thai people to create value and generate income. Additionally, it focuses on conserving, reviving, and developing arts and culture, as well as promoting local wisdom to add value, generate income, alleviate poverty, and foster sustainable economic growth.

Current initiatives underway include the development of soft power and enhancement of Thai people's potential through the "One Family One Soft Power" (OFOS) policy, aimed at promoting Thai soft power

globally. The government is focusing on developing soft power strategies in three main areas, covering upstream, midstream, and downstream aspects, as follows:

- Upstream: Developing creative skills of Thai people through various training courses under the One Family One Soft Power (OFOS) policy. This aims to upskill and reskill Thai people's creative abilities, enabling them to create jobs, generate income, and add value to the economy.
- Midstream: Industry Development focuses on developing target industries with competitive potential. Currently, there are 11 target industries.
- Downstream: Creating foreign markets involves developing markets and establishing network connections abroad. This enables Thailand to export its goods and services to international markets and play a significant role on the global stage.

In terms of education, focuses on supporting lifelong learning and providing opportunities for people of all genders and ages to learn and access learning resources in a comprehensive, equal, and fair manner without discrimination. This is to ensure that Thai people are equipped with learning skills, professional skills, and life skills that are consistent with and keep pace with global developments. They will have the opportunity to develop, enhance, or adapt their skills according to their aptitude and necessity. Learners will be able to easily access knowledge content of interest through multiple channels, making self-learning more effective.

And regarding the transition to digital government:

The government focuses on increasing the efficiency of public sector operations to become a digital government by driving state agencies to operate in accordance with the enactment of the Act on Management of State Affairs by Electronic Means (B.E. 2565), which promotes the transition to the digital era and facilitates citizens' electronic interactions with government agencies. This act covers the entire ecosystem, from submitting and receiving requests, conducting official business, sending and receiving documents, presenting evidence, to creating and verifying databases, licenses, and storing official documents. This aligns with current technological developments and will provide convenience and reduce costs for citizens, as well as decrease expenses and increase efficiency in government operations.

The government has prioritized modern digital innovation by collaborating with local administration to meet citizen' needs, ensuring they receive comprehensive and equal services from the public sector. This is

coupled with developing the potential of citizens and government personnel, creating knowledge, and promoting digital literacy among people in both central and regional areas. The aim is to enable them to apply digital technology safely in their daily lives, leading to career and income generation. Additionally, the government has driven and elevated Nakhon Ratchasima province, the second-largest province in the country and gateway to the Northeast region, which has potential and readiness in many areas, to be a model of a future digital metropolis. This project, named "Digital Korat: The Future Starts Now - Korat, Digital Metropolis of the Future," was launched on July 1st of this year, with plans to expand to other provinces across the country in the future.

The initiatives mentioned above serve as examples of work related to various issues that you will all discuss, share experiences on, and collectively determine policy directions to strengthen cooperation between Korea and ASEAN in this forum. The focus is on development across multiple dimensions, including economic, social, cultural, and security aspects, to create mutual benefits for all our citizens.

I sincerely hope that this conference will mark the beginning of even deeper cooperation, leading to sustainable development and shared prosperity in our region. With this hope and firm determination, I hereby officially declare the opening of the "2024 KACPE International Public Policy Symposium". May this conference be successful and yield the utmost benefits for all parties involved.

Thank you very much.

WELCOME SPEECH

Ms. Onfa Vejjajiva
Secretary-General
Office of the Public Sector Development Commission
THAILAND

Dear Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office, H.E. Mr. Jakkapong Sangmanee

Good morning, distinguished guests from ASEAN member states, the Republic of Korea, the Commonwealth of Australia, and esteemed attendees.

On behalf of the Office of the Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC), I am greatly honored to welcome you all to the "2024 KACPE International Public Policy Symposium" today. This event is a collaboration between the Office of the Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC) and Korea Research Initiatives at the University of New South Wales, Commonwealth of Australia (KRI@UNSW), with the Korea Foundation from the Republic of Korea and the International Studies Center (ISC) also co-hosting this event.

The OPDC and KRI@UNSW have been collaborating on academic matters related to public policy for national development in Southeast Asia and the Republic of Korea since 2014. In 2015, the OPDC co-hosted the first ASEAN-Korea International Symposium from May 21-22, 2015, in Bangkok, Thailand. The aim was to strengthen cooperation, exchange knowledge, and discuss best practices in promoting good governance among ASEAN member countries. We have participated in six International Symposium organized by KRI@UNSW as follows: 2017 KRI-OPDC Research Policy Symposium and Research Workshop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2018 KRI-OPDC Reform Policy Symposium & Regional Workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam, 2019 KRI-OPDC Reform Policy Symposium and Regional Workshop: State Capacity for Public Sector Reform and National Development in Southeast Asia and Korea in Bali, Indonesia, 2021 ASEAN Forum on State Capacity in Responding to a National Crisis (COVID-19): Ideas and Solutions for the Government, in Thailand, 2022 KRI-ISOS Special Workshop. "Disrupting Government and The New Covid-19 Reality: Thailand and ASEAN". (Key Challenges and Opportunities in the Current Reform of Public Administration in Thailand in the Post Covid-19 era) in Hanoi, Vietnam, 2023 KACPE International Public Policy Symposium (Office of the Public Sector Development Commission participated as an attendee in Jakarta, Indonesia).

This International symposium presents and discusses three issues as mentioned by the Minister. The OPDC is committed to promoting these issues through the mechanism of bureaucratic system development as follows:

Regarding international relations and regional security, the OPDC has been driving the integration of government agencies' work through Joint Key Performance Indicators (Joint KPIs) on the issue of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The goal is to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2065. This is to increase work efficiency and address future challenges. The role and structure of agencies dealing with climate change and the environment have been adjusted, establishing the Department of Climate Change and Environment. This department's main functions include formulating policies, plans, and measures for managing the country's climate change, implementing obligations, and coordinating cooperation with both domestic and international agencies. These efforts aim to support sustainable national growth and improve the quality of life for citizens.

Regarding social, cultural, and educational exchange, the OPDC is driving government agencies to be ready for the World Bank's Business Ready (B-READY) assessment in 2025. This focuses on key issues related to the role of women in business development, promoting the reduction of gender gaps, and protecting women and LGBTIQA+ from violence and sexual harassment in the workplace. It also addresses new issues concerning labor protection, such as reviewing labor regulations to meet international standards and best practices, reducing procedures, time, and costs in managing labor, social security, and labor dispute resolution.

Furthermore, it aims to open up opportunities for other sectors to participate in national development alongside the government through various channels, such as the "บอกเรา ถึงรัฐ" (e-Participation) platform for public opinion. This allows agencies and citizens to participate in expressing opinions on various issues. In education, there is a drive for integration among relevant agencies through Joint KPIs for the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), to prepare youth with the potential or basic skills necessary for living in a changing world.

On the issue of digital transition and national development, the focus is on enhancing government services through electronic systems. This involves driving e-Services for government departments, provinces, and public organizations to provide fully digital end-to-end services. It also includes implementing 12 key government e-Services (Agenda e-Service), such as the digital identity verification

system via the ThalD app, the land and building tax payment system through the LandsMaps app, and the One Identification: ID One SME system.

Additionally, central government service platforms are being developed for businesses and citizens. These include: (1) The Biz Portal, providing 134 types of certificates, licenses, or documents in Bangkok and 108 in other provinces, and (2) The Citizen Portal, linking services from various agencies throughout the life cycle in one place via the "Tang Rath" application, currently offering 141 services.

This is being done alongside the digitalization of government data, promoting the creation of data catalogs and open datasets in government agencies. There's also a drive to implement the Act on Carrying Out of Public Service via Electronic Means, B.E. 2565 (2022), allowing citizens to conveniently and quickly interact with the government online, reducing travel costs.

These efforts have received continuous policy support. In early July, the Cabinet approved the Public Administration Development Strategy (2024-2027), assigning government agencies to use it as a framework for their operations. The aim is to drive the bureaucratic system towards a modern, reliable, efficient government that meets citizens' needs, with the goal of becoming a Digital & Innovative Government and an Open Government.

The OPDC is ready to exchange knowledge on various implementation approaches, including the promotion of sustainable good governance, with agencies at both regional and international levels, both now and in the future.

I would like to thank the Minister to the Prime Minister's Office (H.E. Mr. Jakkapong Sangmanee) for honoring us by presiding over and opening this event. I also welcome and thank everyone for their support and participation in the International Symposium "2024 KACPE International Public Policy Symposium". We sincerely hope that everyone will have the opportunity to exchange knowledge and gain valuable experiences from this event.

Thank you very much.

WELCOME SPEECH

Dr. Seung-Ho Kwon
Executive Director
Korea Research Initiatives, University of New South Wales
AUSTRALIA

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my distinct pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all esteemed participants of the 2024 KACPE International Public Policy Symposium – Strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Korea and ASEAN for Shared Future Development.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our distinguished speakers and delegates from Southeast Asia, South Korea, and Australia, for joining us today. The significance of this year's Symposium, hosted by Thailand, cannot be overstated. Thailand stands as a crucial strategic partner for Korea, and this year, Thailand assumed the role of Country Coordinator for ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations, further highlighting the importance of our gathering.

I extend my sincere thanks to our distinguished guest, H.E. Mr. Jakkapong Sangmanee, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office, who officially opened the Symposium on behalf of the Royal Thai Government. I also extend my gratitude to the organizers: Ms. Onfa Vejjajiva, Secretary-General, Office of the Public Sector Development Commission; Dr. Anuson Chinvanho, Director, International Studies Center, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Prof. Chankyu Lee, Executive Vice President and Director, Humanities Research Institute, Chung-Ang University, Korea. Your pivotal roles in ensuring the success of today's event are greatly appreciated.

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of H.E. Mr. Jang-keun Lee, Ambassador of the Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN. Your dedication has been instrumental in making this Symposium a reality. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Hyun Soo Choi, Director of The Korea Foundation Jakarta Office, and the Korea Foundation for their generous financial support. Finally, we would be remiss not to express our gratitude to Dr. Piti Srisangnam, Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation, for his enduring friendship and support over the years.

Since its establishment in 2000, the Korea Research Initiatives at the University of New South Wales (KRI@UNSW) has been dedicated to fostering national development in the ASEAN region through public policy research. This commitment led to the creation of the Comparative Public Policy Research (CPPR) Forum in 2012, which evolved into the Korea-ASEAN Community of Policy Exchange (KACPE) in 2019. KACPE brings together prominent policymakers, researchers, and academics from Korea and ASEAN nations to engage in in-depth discussions on public policies that facilitate national development. This dynamic exchange strengthens the mutually beneficial partnership between Korea and ASEAN, offering a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences related to common interests.

The significance of KACPE lies in its engagement of influential opinion leaders who guide policy direction. This "track 1.5" dialogue provides a space for discussions and public discourse that involves high-ranking government officials, policy experts, and researchers, fostering impactful policy agendas and public opinion within their respective nations.

The global landscape has undergone significant shifts in recent years, prompting South Korea to unveil the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI) during the 2022 ASEAN-ROK Summit. This initiative aims to strengthen the strategic partnership between Korea and ASEAN by fostering collaborative efforts to address shared challenges across eight key areas: regional and maritime security, defense industry, economic stability, future trade and industry, climate action, digital transformation, public health collaboration, and cultural exchange. This collaborative approach led to the elevation of the relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership by 2024.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for a paradigm shift in both the economic and security realms, emphasizing the importance of a new, resilient, and inclusive economic order that prioritizes sustainable growth and adapts to future disruptions. A strengthened security alliance built on shared ideologies and systems is also crucial to facilitate collective responses to emerging threats and foster a more stable global environment.

South Korea's Korean Indo-Pacific Strategy, developed collaboratively with its allies, represents a key step towards counterbalancing regional hegemony and building a more robust and collaborative global community. The success of this strategy hinges on strengthening the Korea-ASEAN partnership, underscoring the growing importance of regional cooperation in navigating the post-pandemic world.

East Asia embodies a dynamic interplay of political, economic, and cultural interactions, marked by both cooperation and competition. While ASEAN fosters unity, historical divisions persist, leading to a recent

divide between open economies and transitioning ones. Amidst China's rising dominance, ASEAN seeks balanced engagement with Korea, recognizing its strategic value as its second-largest trading partner and third-largest investment destination. Korea prioritizes future-oriented cooperation with the bloc, potentially leading to a diplomatic and security alliance.

The success of shared future development between ASEAN and Korea depends on robust cooperation across various domains. This includes strengthening private and inter-ministerial collaboration, as well as establishing a comprehensive policy dialogue network involving government officials, researchers, and stakeholders. This network will foster collaboration opportunities and facilitate policy dialogue across diverse tiers and areas of cooperation.

The 2024 KACPE International Public Policy Symposium provides a timely forum for senior government officials, policy researchers, and key academics from Korea and ASEAN to strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through policy cooperation. This Symposium, marking a pivotal juncture in their collaborative efforts for mutual development, aims to significantly contribute to enhancing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Korea and ASEAN in 2024. Discussions will focus on strengthening this partnership by exploring key policy issues within the eight cooperation areas outlined by the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI).

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to our colleagues and friends who have sacrificed their valuable time to join us today. I encourage each of you to fully engage in the Symposium, actively participate in the discussions, and foster valuable friendships.

Thank you.

CONGRATULATORY ADDRESSES

Mr. Hyun Soo Choi
Director
The Korea Foundation Jakarta Office
INDONESIA

His Excellency Mr. Jakkapong Sangmanee, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office Royal Thai Government, Thailand;

Her Excellency Ms. Onfa Vejjajiva, Secretary General Office of the Public Sector Development Commission, Thailand;

His Excellency Jang-keun Lee, Ambassador of the Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN;

Dr. Seung-Ho Kwon, Executive Director of Korea Research Initiatives, University of New South Wales, Australia;

Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Speakers, and Honored Participants,
Good morning, and thank you for the warm welcome.

On behalf of the Korea Foundation, I am honored to offer my congratulatory remarks at the 2024 International Public Policy Symposium here in the vibrant city of Bangkok.

The theme of this year's symposium—"Strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Korea and ASEAN for Shared Future Development"—is both timely and crucial. It reflects our collective aspirations to enhance collaboration and build a future that is mutually beneficial for Korea and the ASEAN member states alike.

As we commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Korea-ASEAN Dialogue Partnership in 2024, it is remarkable to reflect on the journey that has brought us to this pivotal juncture. Over the decades, our collaboration has evolved and deepened, and the transition to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership marks a new chapter in our shared history. This development underscores our mutual commitment to advancing a future characterized by sustained growth, shared prosperity, and enhanced regional stability.

The Korea Foundation has long been dedicated to fostering cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and strategic cooperation between Korea and the global community. This mission aligns closely with the core objectives of our symposium today. Our commitment is not only to enhance cultural ties but also to

support the development of innovative public policies that measure up to common challenges and opportunities.

As we face new global challenges—economic uncertainties, environmental concerns, and evolving geopolitical dynamics—it is imperative that we strengthen our strategic partnership. I hope today's symposium provides a valuable platform for us to explore innovative solutions, share insights, and forge new pathways for collaboration. It is through such engagements that we can create actionable strategies that confront immediate concerns and pave the way for sustainable development.

Once again, congratulations to all who have contributed to making this symposium possible. I look forward to the fruitful discussions and impactful outcomes that will emerge from our time together here in Bangkok. May our deliberations today lead to concrete steps towards a stronger, more interconnected partnership between Korea and ASEAN.

Thank you.

KEYNOTE: Key Issues for the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Korea and ASEAN

Dr. Suwit Mangkhala

Deputy Director-General
Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
THAILAND

Dr. Piti Srisangnam

Executive Director
ASEAN Foundation
ASEAN

TOWARDS A MEANINGFUL, SUBSTANTIVE, AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OF ASEAN AND THE ROK

Dr. Suwit Mangkhala
Deputy Director-General
Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
THAILAND



"TOWARDS A MEANINGFUL, SUBSTANTIVE, AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OF ASEAN AND THE ROK"

DR. SUWIT MANGKHALA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF ASEAN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THAILAND





ASEAN through the Test of Time



The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

- After **57 years** have passed, ASEAN has matured into a regional grouping recognised as **a model of regionalism and multilateralism**. ASEAN has been **riding the waves of change** throughout of its existence.
- ASEAN has shown itself to be quite **adept at adapting to the ever evolving global security and strategic environment**.
- Today, ASEAN is operating in an increasingly multipolar, fragmented and complex world.



- **Engagement among ASEAN Member States are currently more expansive**

covering political, security, economic, social, cultural, educational, scientific and many more areas.

- And therein lies the **predicament in engaging with external partners** and **navigating the geopolitical challenges** as ASEAN seeks to direct its own destiny.



- ASEAN continues to uphold its unity and **ASEAN centrality** and **utilise existing ASEAN-led mechanisms** to **constructively promote external relations** and address emerging challenges.



ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations

- In the current regional and global landscape, it is therefore timely for ASEAN and the ROK to celebrate the **35th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations in 2024** and advance their strategic partnership to comprehensive strategic partnership, as proposed by the ROK.
- **Thailand, as the country coordinator for ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations during 2024-2027**, has been working closely with ASEAN Member States and the ROK on **the establishment of the ASEAN-ROK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** which is **meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial** at the upcoming **25th ASEAN-ROK Summit in October 2024 in Vientiane**.





- **ASEAN-ROK partnership has grown and developed in all dimensions** and contributed significantly to regional peace, stability and prosperity.
- In a new era of deeper partnership, ASEAN and the ROK, as **Global Pivotal State**, will further strengthen our partnership in line with the **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)** and the **ROK's Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS)**, as they share relevant fundamental principles in promoting peace and cooperation.
- ASEAN seeks to further collaborate with the ROK based on her strengths and capacities to expand **practical cooperation**.

STRATEGY
FOR A FREE, PEACEFUL,
AND PROSPEROUS
INDO-PACIFIC
REGION



ASEAN outlook
on the Indo-Pacific: AOIP

4 Areas of Cooperation



Maritime Cooperation

Connectivity



SDGs

Economic and Other
Possible Areas of Cooperation



- It is time for ASEAN and the ROK to take **a more proactive approach** to further promote **mutually beneficial cooperation**, including through the implementation of **ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action**, the **ROK's Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI)** and other cooperation with ASEAN sectoral bodies and ASEAN-related centres.



Korea-ASEAN

Solidarity Initiative



1 Upgrade ASEAN-ROK Partnership & Strengthen Bilateral Relations with ASEAN Member States (AMS)
establish Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2024
strengthen bilateral relations with AMS based on the varying priorities of each country
support capacity building of ASEAN countries for building a stronger ASEAN Community



2 Enhance ASEAN-ROK Cooperation within ASEAN-led Mechanisms
promote regional cooperation through active engagement in ASEAN-led mechanisms
strengthen cooperation on the ACP
support mainstreaming of four priority areas
launch flagship project on ACP cooperation



3 Expand ASEAN-ROK Comprehensive Security Cooperation
increase cooperation in maritime and cyber security areas
expand cooperation with individual AMS on defense industry and military logistics



4 Promote ASEAN-ROK Strategic Coordination
strengthen ASEAN-ROK defense cooperation
expand ASEAN-ROK defense consultations
implement ROK-ASEAN Defense Cooperation Plan
strengthen engagement in ASEAN activities
continue close cooperation on ROK's North Korea policy and North Korean nuclear issue



5 Expand Cooperation in Future & Emerging Areas for Shared Prosperity and Development
increase cooperation on future industries, including digitalization and e-mobility etc.
explore upgrade of ASEAN-ROK FTA to ensure relevance in the evolving economic landscape
foster a network of cooperation to strengthen economic security in the region



6 Jointly Address & Respond to Regional and Global Challenges
support ASEAN's efforts to tackle climate change and environmental issues
bolster ASEAN's preparedness and resilience in public health emergencies
strengthen sub-regional cooperation for sustainable development in the region



7 Promote Future Generation Exchanges as Drivers of Future Prosperity
strengthen cooperation on human resources development
expand scholarship and F2F exchanges
support women empowerment and T2T2
reinforce cooperation in culture, tourism and sports sectors



8 Increase ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Resources
increase ASEAN-related cooperation funds to 40 million USD per annum by 2027
- ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund (ARCF): 12 million USD
- Making ROK Cooperation Fund (MRCF): 10 million USD
- ROK-ASEAN Cooperation Fund (RACF): 18 million USD
- contribution of 200 million USD in 1 year (2023-25)
expand ODA in the ASEAN region



- Thailand's priority towards a meaningful, substantive, and mutually beneficial CSP of ASEAN and the ROK:

1. Economic partnership: Effective utilisation of the RCEP / Upgrade of the ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA)



2. Innovative partnership: Deepen cooperation to drive inclusive growth through digitalisation / digital transformation / smart & advanced technology / collaborative innovation



3. Soft power partnership: Reinvigorating cooperation in cultural exchange / educational programme / tourism / sports sectors to promote a resilient creative economy by leveraging comparative strengths



Towards a Shared Future Development

- Looking ahead, we will continue to face with strategic challenges both within and outside the region. Thailand reaffirms our commitment in promoting regional peace and stability. We welcome the ROK's efforts to engage with the DPRK through the Audacious Initiative and the August 15 Unification Doctrine.



- A peaceful and stable environment is essential for our region as we are building a more resilient and sustainable path to future growth. Through the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, together, ASEAN and the ROK can enhance cooperation to achieve our common goals.





Thank you!
Gam-Sa-Ham-Ni-Da!



Source: Courtesy to the Korea Foundation and Google

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN KOREA AND ASEAN COUNTRIES

Dr. Piti Srisangnam
Executive Director
ASEAN Foundation
ASEAN

Abstract

This paper addresses the strategies and actionable steps required to strengthen social, cultural, and educational exchanges between Korea and ASEAN countries. The ASEAN Foundation, since its inception in 1997, has been instrumental in fostering a strong ASEAN identity and building a sustainable and prosperous community. The Foundation's efforts align with the goal of enhancing cooperation and understanding between ASEAN member states and key partners such as Korea. This paper outlines strategic approaches in six thematic areas: Community Building and People-to-People Networking; Education, Re-skill, Up-skill, and Scholar Networks; Environment and Sustainable Development; Business Community Engagement, particularly MSMEs Development; Media and Media Engagement; and Art and Culture.

Introduction

The ASEAN Foundation has been dedicated to fostering a strong ASEAN identity, raising ASEAN awareness, and building a sustainable and prosperous community since its inception in 1997¹. As we strive towards a people-centered ASEAN Community, the Foundation's efforts focus on equipping ASEAN citizens, especially the youth, with the essential skills needed to thrive in the 21st century. Over the years, our various programs, projects, and activities have imparted valuable lessons that underline the critical skill sets necessary for ASEAN citizens. Through training sessions, workshops, scholarships, regional forums, youth exchanges, seminars, and conferences, the foundation has significantly impacted

¹ ASEAN Secretariate (2008) "Article 15: ASEAN Foundation". ASEAN Charter. <https://asean.org/book/the-asean-charter/> accessed 1 July 2024.

over 400,000 beneficiaries². These skills form the cornerstone of our strategic approaches in enhancing socio-cultural and educational exchanges with key partners, such as Korea.

The foundation's efforts highlight five critical skill sets necessary for ASEAN citizens:

1. Soft Skills

Soft skills are indispensable in the modern world. These include empathy, teamwork spirit, leadership, critical problem-solving, strategic communication, and creativity. Unlike hard skills, these are not typically taught in traditional school curriculums but are often acquired through extra-curricular activities. Participating in group projects, sports, and community service helps in developing these vital skills. They are crucial for personal and professional success, enabling individuals to navigate complex social landscapes and work effectively in diverse teams.

2. Entrepreneurial Skills

In the dynamic economic environment of ASEAN, entrepreneurial skills are essential. These can be categorized into four main areas:

- **Internationalization:** As part of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), understanding and utilizing the benefits of regional trade agreements is vital. This skill allows citizens to maximize opportunities within the integrated ASEAN market.
- **Digitalization:** Proficiency in digital tools and technologies is a must in the 21st century. Digital literacy enables individuals to leverage technology for innovation and efficiency in various sectors.
- **Financial Literacy:** Understanding financial principles is crucial for personal and business success. This includes budgeting, investing, and managing finances, skills often not covered in formal education.
- **Green Mindset:** With climate change posing significant challenges, a green mindset is essential. This involves adopting sustainable practices and promoting environmental conservation in daily life and business operations.

3. Language Proficiency

² ASEAN Foundation (2024) "Update on the ASEAN Foundation's Activities from 01 October 2023 – 31 January 2024". Internal documents presented to the 52nd Meeting of the Board of Trustees of ASEAN Foundation. 18 March 2024. ASEAN Hall, ASEAN Heritage Building

In an increasingly interconnected world, language proficiency is a key asset. There are three levels of language skills that ASEAN citizens should master: 1) Mother Tongue: Proficiency in one's native language forms the foundation of effective communication and cultural identity. 2) International Languages: English, Chinese, and Hindi are particularly important. Mastery of these languages opens up opportunities for international communication and collaboration. 3) Local Language: Understanding the local language of one's workplace is crucial for effective integration and communication within the community.

4. Industry-Specific Skills

Industry-specific skills are those learned through formal education and on-the-job training. These skills vary depending on the industry and are essential for professional competence. Continuous practice and staying updated with industry developments are key to maintaining expertise in one's field.

5. Life-Long Learning

The most critical skill in the 21st century is life-long learning. In an era of rapid technological advancement and information overload, the ability to continuously seek out and assimilate new knowledge is invaluable. Knowing how to learn, where to find reliable information, and staying curious are essential for adapting to the ever-changing global landscape.

Therefore, the ASEAN Foundation's programs have emphasized the importance of these skill sets. By fostering soft skills, entrepreneurial abilities, language proficiency, industry-specific knowledge, and a commitment to life-long learning, we can ensure that ASEAN citizens are well-prepared to navigate and succeed in the complexities of the 21st century. To further strengthen socio-cultural and educational exchanges between ASEAN and Korea, the ASEAN Foundation proposes the following strategic approaches, seeking Korea's support in six key areas:

Strategic Approaches

1. Community Building and People-to-People Networking

People-to-people connectivity forms the bedrock of any robust relationship. By fostering community building and networking opportunities, a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures and traditions can be cultivated.

Actionable Steps:

- Exchange Programs: Expansion of exchange programs allowing students, professionals, and community leaders from Korea and ASEAN countries to live, study, and work in each other's countries. These experiences foster lifelong bonds and mutual respect.
- Cultural Festivals: Hosting joint cultural festivals in both Korea and ASEAN countries to showcase the rich diversity and heritage of the regions. Events can include traditional music, dance, cuisine, and crafts, promoting cultural exchange and tourism.

2. Education, Re-skill, Up-skill, and Scholar Networks

Education serves as a powerful tool for bridging gaps and building lasting connections. Enhancing educational exchanges equips youth with the knowledge and skills required to thrive in a globalized world.

Actionable Steps:

- Scholarship Programs: Increasing scholarships for students from ASEAN countries to study in Korea and vice versa to foster academic collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Joint Research Initiatives: Encouraging universities and research institutions in Korea and ASEAN countries to collaborate on research projects addressing common challenges and driving innovation.

3. Environment and Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a shared responsibility. Collaborative environmental initiatives protect natural resources and ensure a better future for upcoming generations.

Actionable Steps:

- Environmental Workshops: Organizing workshops and training sessions on climate change, renewable energy, and biodiversity conservation to enhance collective expertise and commitment to sustainability.

- Green Technology Exchange:** Facilitating the exchange of green technologies and best practices between Korea and ASEAN countries to promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

4. Business Community Engagement, Especially MSMEs Development

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of the economies in both regions³. Supporting MSMEs drives economic growth and creates job opportunities.

Actionable Steps:

- Business Forums: Hosting business forums to bring together entrepreneurs and business leaders from Korea and ASEAN countries, facilitating trade, investment, and collaboration.
- Capacity Building Programs: Offering training and mentorship programs for MSMEs to enhance their competitiveness and ability to navigate international markets.

5. Media and Media Engagement

Media plays a crucial role in shaping perceptions and fostering understanding. Engaging with media outlets amplifies messages and reaches a wider audience.

Actionable Steps:

- Media Exchanges: Facilitating exchanges between journalists and media professionals from Korea and ASEAN countries to promote accurate and balanced reporting on each other's countries.
- Collaborative Media Projects: Supporting joint media projects, such as documentaries and news features, to highlight the stories and achievements of the people and communities.

6. Art and Culture

Art and culture are powerful mediums for expressing identities and connecting with others. Promoting cultural exchanges celebrates shared heritage and diversity.

³ Enterprise and Stakeholders Engagement Division (2024) "Development of MSMEs in ASEAN". ASEAN Secretariate. <https://asean.org/our-communities/economic-community/resilient-and-inclusive-asean/development-of-micro-small-and-medium-enterprises-in-asean-msme/>

Actionable Steps:

- Art Exhibitions: Organizing art exhibitions featuring works from Korean and ASEAN artists to foster mutual appreciation and collaboration in the arts.
- Cultural Workshops: Conducting workshops on traditional crafts, music, and dance to preserve cultural heritage and pass it on to future generations.

Conclusion

Strengthening social, cultural, and educational exchanges between Korea and ASEAN countries requires a multi-faceted approach that leverages mutual strengths and addresses common challenges. By leveraging our mutual strengths and addressing common challenges, we can build a more connected, resilient, and prosperous region. By working together, a more connected, resilient, and prosperous region can be built. The ASEAN Foundation is committed to this mission and looks forward to continuing its collaboration with Korea to achieve shared goals. Together, we can enhance socio-cultural and educational exchanges, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of our diverse cultures and traditions.

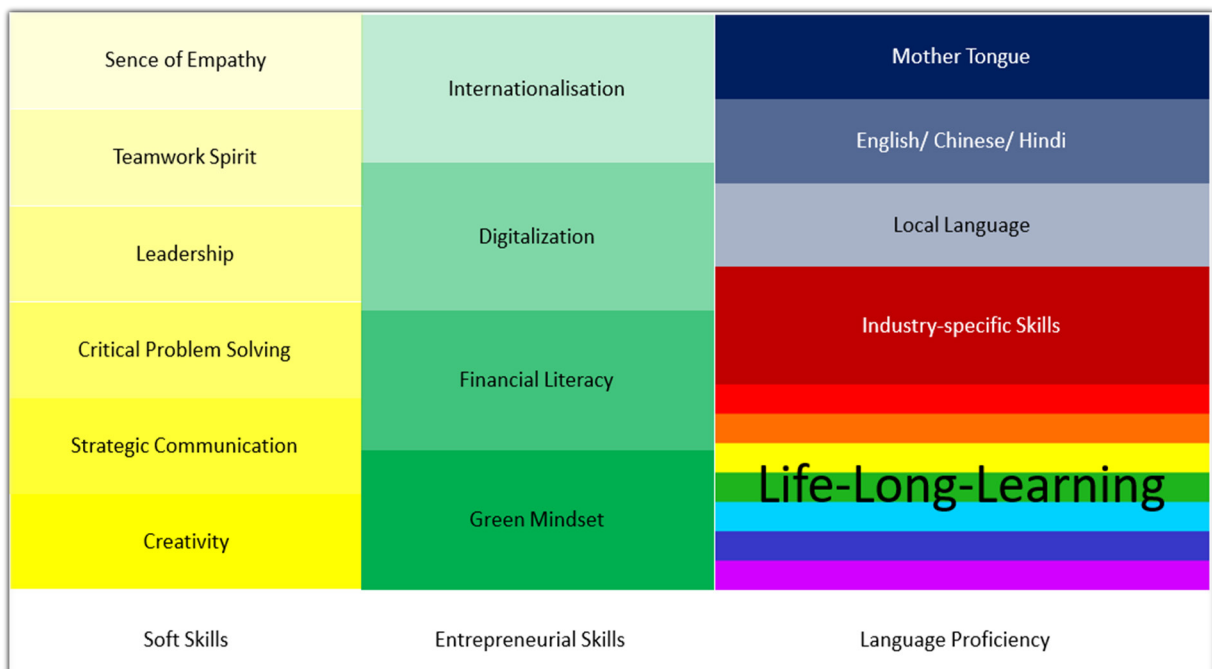
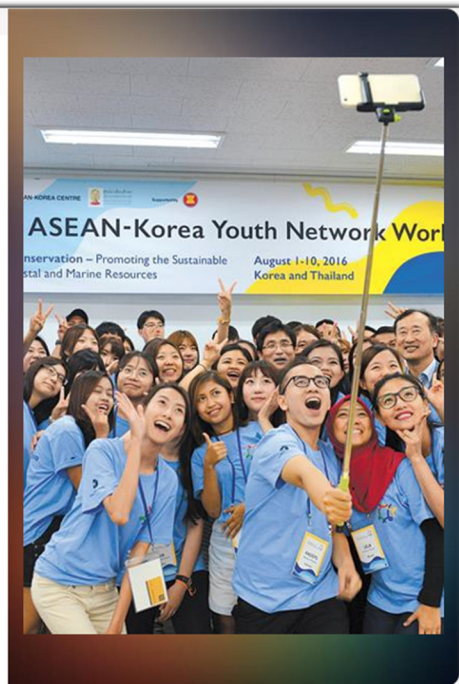
Strengthening Korea-ASEAN Exchanges: A Path Towards Sustainable Partnership

Piti Srisangnam, PhD

Executive Director, ASEAN Foundation
Associate Professor of Economics, Chulalongkorn University



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Community Building and People-to-People Networking

1 Exchange Programs

We can create comprehensive exchange programs for students, professionals, and community leaders to experience each other's cultures firsthand. These programs will foster cross-cultural understanding, build networks, and create lifelong bonds.

2 Cultural Festivals

Hosting joint cultural festivals showcasing traditional music, dance, cuisine, and crafts will promote cultural exchange, tourism, and appreciation of diverse traditions.

3 Community Initiatives

Encouraging collaborative community projects between Korean and ASEAN communities will promote cultural exchange, develop shared solutions to local issues, and build lasting bonds.


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Education, Re-skill, Up-skill, and Scholar Networks

Scholarship Programs

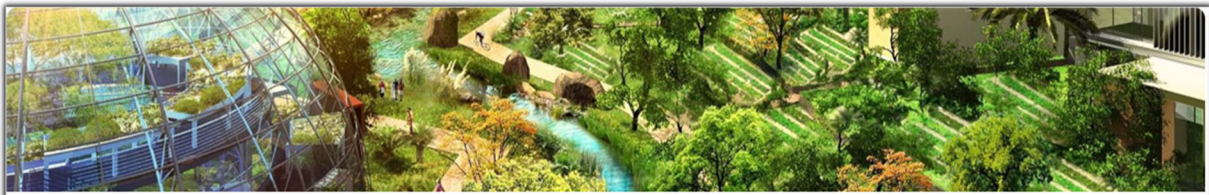
Expanding scholarships for ASEAN students to study in Korea and vice versa will foster academic collaboration, knowledge sharing, and create a global pool of talent.

Joint Research Initiatives

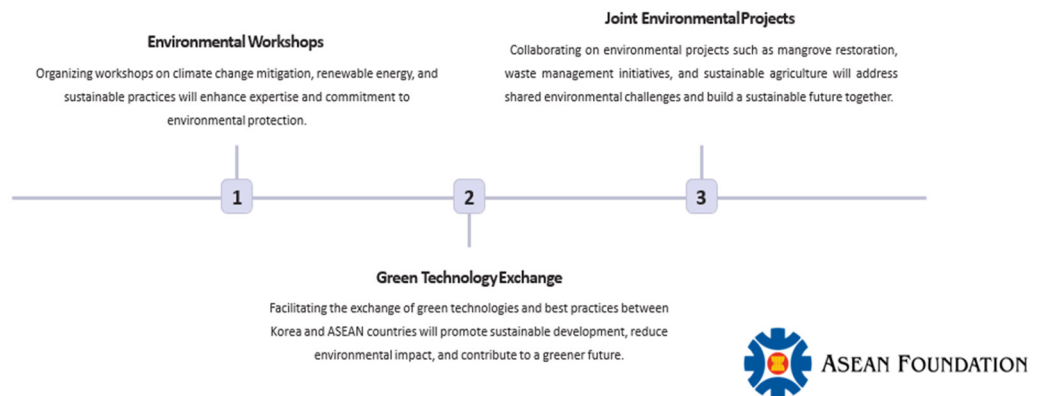
Encouraging universities and research institutions to collaborate on research projects that address common challenges, such as climate change, sustainable development, and technological advancements, will drive innovation and knowledge advancement.

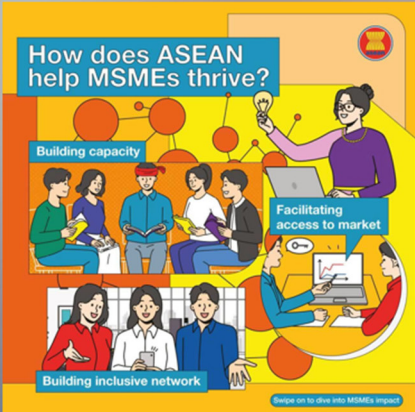
Professional Development

Providing opportunities for professionals from Korea and ASEAN to participate in joint training programs, workshops, and conferences will enhance their skills, broaden their perspectives, and facilitate cross-border collaboration.



Environment and Sustainable Development






ASEAN FOUNDATION

Business Community Engagement, Particularly MSMEs Development

Business Forums

Hosting business forums that bring together entrepreneurs and business leaders from Korea and ASEAN countries will facilitate trade, investment, and knowledge sharing, leading to economic growth and collaboration.

Capacity Building Programs

Providing training and mentorship programs for MSMEs will enhance their competitiveness, improve access to markets, and promote sustainable business practices.

Investment Opportunities

Facilitating investment opportunities for Korean and ASEAN MSMEs will foster economic growth, create jobs, and contribute to regional development.



The poster for the 3rd ASEAN Youth Social Journalism Contest 2023 features the USAID and ASEAN Foundation logos at the top. It includes the contest title, 'Applications Open!', a QR code, and a deadline of 3 March 2023. At the bottom, there is a group photo of participants and organizers.



Media and Media Engagement

- 1

Media Exchanges
Facilitating exchanges between journalists and media professionals from Korea and ASEAN countries will promote accurate and balanced reporting, enhance understanding of each other's cultures and perspectives, and foster greater collaboration in the media industry.
- 2

Collaborative Media Projects
Supporting joint media projects, such as documentaries, news features, and cultural programs, will highlight the stories and achievements of people and communities in both regions, fostering a greater sense of interconnectedness and shared understanding.
- 3

Promoting Responsible Media
Encouraging responsible media practices, promoting ethical journalism, and combating misinformation will contribute to a more informed and engaged public, fostering trust and understanding between Korea and ASEAN countries.

Art and Culture





Cultural Performances

Organizing cultural performances featuring traditional music, dance, and theatre from both Korea and ASEAN countries will foster cultural exchange, promote artistic expression, and deepen appreciation for diverse traditions.



Art Exhibitions

Holding art exhibitions showcasing works from Korean and ASEAN artists will promote cultural exchange, celebrate artistic diversity, and foster collaboration in the arts.



Tourism and Cultural Heritage

Enhance Tourism

Promote cultural exchange, boost tourism revenue, and create job opportunities by facilitating travel and cultural exchanges between Korea and ASEAN countries.

Preserve Heritage

Collaborate on projects to preserve and promote cultural heritage sites and historical landmarks in both regions, ensuring their preservation for future generations.

Develop Tourism Infrastructure

Collaborate on developing sustainable tourism infrastructure, promoting responsible tourism practices, and fostering cultural understanding through tourism initiatives.



Strengthening Partnerships



Government Cooperation

Strengthening partnerships between Korean and ASEAN governments through dialogue, policy coordination, and joint initiatives will create a conducive environment for collaboration and progress.



Civil Society Engagement

Encouraging partnerships between civil society organizations, NGOs, and academic institutions in Korea and ASEAN countries will promote people-to-people exchange, build bridges between communities, and foster shared solutions to common challenges.



International Collaboration

Seeking opportunities for collaboration with international organizations and institutions will leverage global expertise, resources, and networks to advance shared goals and build a more interconnected and sustainable world.



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A Shared Vision for the Future

Through strong collaboration, Korea and ASEAN countries can build a future that is prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive. By fostering people-to-people connections, promoting education and research, advancing sustainable development, and engaging in economic and cultural exchange, we can create a brighter future for generations to come. This shared vision calls for continued dedication and commitment to strengthening our partnerships.

YOUNG
PERSPECTIVES

The Future of ASEAN-Korea Partnership Vol.3

ASEAN's Contribution for Peace
on the Korean Peninsula
Fighting Towards a Prosperous
ASEAN Economic Community
Unity in Diversity: Building
an ASEAN Identity
A Cooperation Model for ROK's
New Southern Policy

ASEAN-KOREA CENTER
ASEAN
Korea
Network
The Korea House

Community Building, P2P, Networking | **Education**, Re-skill and Up-skill, Scholar Networks | **Media** and Media Engagement
| **Environment** and Sustainable Development | **Art and Culture** | **Business** Community Engagement (MSMEs Development)



ASEAN FOUNDATION

To Raise **ASEAN Awareness**, Strengthen **ASEAN Identity**, and Build a Sustain and Prosperous **ASEAN Community** for **All ASEAN citizens** in Collaboration with **ASEAN Secretariat** and **All Partners**.

Piti Srisangnam, PhD

Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation

Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University

- Dr. Piti Srisangnam holds a Ph.D. degree in Economics from the University of Melbourne (Australia), and an M.A. degree in International Economics and Finance from Chulalongkorn University (Thailand). He has been teaching International Economics and Microeconomics for bachelor and master degree students at Chulalongkorn University since 2002.
- 2019 Royal Thai Government Scholarships Award: Rising Star
- 2021 Peking University Dongfang Scholarships
- He has been Deputy Director for Academic Affairs of the Centre for European Studies from 2010 to 2012 and Deputy Director for Academic Affairs on the ASEAN Studies Center in 2012, both at Chulalongkorn University, before he became Director of the Center in 2013.
- He has published several papers in journals, e.g. on the economic development in Southeast Asia, on trade in services among ASEAN member states, on regional economic integration of ASEAN and of the European Union, and on the economic reform and SME development in Thailand.
- Apart from academic works, he also hosts 3 radio programs related to current issues in ASEAN.



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Podcast:

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Hy3yCk2H2na0v0rGTob8w>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Hy3yCk2H2na0v0rGTob8w>

SESSION 2

KEYNOTE: Collaboration of Educational Exchange in Higher Education between ASEAN and Korea

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Prof. Kyaing Kyaing Thet

Pro-Rector
Yangon University of Economics
MYANMAR

Mr. Jae Ho Choi

Secretary-General
Hyundai Motor Chung Mong-Koo Foundation
KOREA

PROMOTING COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION BETWEEN ASEAN AND SOUTH KOREA

Dr. Le Thi Thu Giang and Prof. Hoang Anh Tuan
Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Studies & Rector
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Abstract

This paper examines the current state of higher education cooperation between ASEAN and South Korea, highlighting both achievements and challenges. It discusses the significant milestones in ASEAN (Vietnam) - South Korea relations and the role of higher education in fostering deeper cooperation. The paper underscores the importance of harmonization, complementarity, and mutual development in promoting higher education collaboration between the two regions. Through an analysis of existing frameworks, policies, and programs, the paper identifies key areas for further development to achieve more comprehensive cooperation in higher education. The conclusion emphasizes the need for ASEAN and South Korea to reassess their strategic partnership in the context of global and regional changes driven by the knowledge economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Keywords: ASEAN-South Korea cooperation, Vietnam- South Korea cooperation, higher education, knowledge economy.

Prologue

The year 2024 marks a significant milestone in ASEAN-South Korea relations. It commemorates the 35th anniversary of establishing dialogue relations (1989) and the 15th anniversary of the completion of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two parties (2009). The year 2024 is considered a time for ASEAN and South Korea to review the developments in this relationship and jointly work towards elevating cooperation to a higher level since the strategic partnership was established in 2010.

Over the past 35 years, ASEAN and South Korea have built a close and comprehensive relationship across various fields. Notably, in recent years, this relationship has seen positive and substantial changes. It can be said that ASEAN has, for the first time, received unprecedented diplomatic priority in terms of policy in relations with South Korea when former President Moon Jae-in's administration announced the New Southern Policy along with the "ASEAN-Korea Future Community Vision" in 2017. This was also the year South Korea inaugurated the ASEAN Center to promote the culture and arts of ASEAN countries to the Korean people. In 2022, at the ASEAN-South Korea Summit, the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI) proposed by President Yoon Suk-yeol once again demonstrated South Korea's efforts to strengthen relations and closer cooperation with ASEAN. I consider these favorable foundations for cooperation in higher education between ASEAN and South Korea.

Regional Cooperation in Higher Education

In recent years, we often mention a concept that reflects the clearly emerging trend in higher education. This is the trend of regional cooperation in higher education, including intra-regional cooperation (such as the ASEAN Ministers of Education Organization, CAMPUS Asia Program, or the European Bologna Process), inter-regional cooperation (such as the European Union's Horizon 2020 Program, the Southeast Asia-Europe Joint Funding Scheme for Research and Innovation (SEA-Europe JFS)), and trans-regional cooperation (China's university alliances with countries under the Belt and Road Initiative, University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific UMAP). In fact, regarding the trend of regional cooperation in higher education in Europe with the Bologna Process, many researchers even call this phenomenon "higher education regionalism" with the participation of government agencies or international organizations and consider it a "political project to create a region" (Chou & Ravinet, 2015, 2016).

So, why do we need to cooperate/regionally cooperate in higher education? I agree with the multi-dimensional approach of Meng-Hsuan Chou et al. when looking at the reasons for higher education cooperation across multiple levels (from nation-building efforts, regionalization, internationalization, and globalization) and multiple aspects of needs (human resource development; political development; socio-cultural development; economic and trade; and academic development). For a country, higher education provides the high-quality human resources necessary for policy planning, governance, management, and

national development. Cooperation in higher education, at the national level, helps to seek the best opportunities for students to improve the quality of human resources, attract high-quality labor, and increase the competitiveness and integration of that country's higher education system. In the context of globalization with the emergence of organizations requiring regional levels of governance and especially the development of the knowledge economy and the scientific and technological revolution, regional cooperation in higher education is an accepted and expanding trend. In this cooperation trend, higher education is not only seen as an effective and open diplomatic tool in strengthening existing relationships and establishing new ones but is also considered a tool for receiving and sharing knowledge to nurture global citizens and seek cooperation in "knowledge processing" at regional and global levels (Meng-Hsuan Chou et al., 2024).

Southeast Asia is the region where regional cooperation in higher education took place earliest in Asia with the establishment of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) in 1965. The purpose of this organization is to facilitate regional cooperation in the fields of education, science, and culture. However, higher education only really became a priority when Asian economies developed successfully in the 1990s and the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) was established. Evidence of this is the establishment of the Regional Institute of Higher Education and Development (RIHED) in 1994 and the ASEAN University Network (AUN) in 1995. The establishment of these organizations aims to promote equitable human development through enhancing the quality of higher education training towards ensuring harmony, compatibility, comparability, and cohesion of the education systems of countries in the region (Bilal Khalid & Joanna Kurowska-Pysz, 2024). In this context, the term "harmonization" has surpassed the idea of promoting dialogue between countries in the region and has become a "powerful discourse" (Que Anh Dang, 2017) bearing the ASEAN identity.

Currently, ASEAN cooperation in higher education is recognized as playing an important role in enhancing university research and improving the global competitiveness of higher education in this region. In the past decade, especially after the Covid-19 period, new learning methods applied in the face of challenges of global disruption have also opened up new approaches to higher education. Higher education has become a driving force for the global economy. Strengthening higher education is even seen as supporting national and international economic growth (Kuroda et al., 2014). With this approach, higher education has become a field prioritized by many countries in terms of policy, especially for enhancing cross-border higher education.

Regional cooperation in higher education is receiving increasing attention from stakeholders and policymakers. This is reflected in the increase in cooperation programs and participating members. In the East Asia and Asia-Pacific regions, both ASEAN and South Korea are currently participating in several inter/trans-regional higher education cooperation programs such as the "ASEAN Millennium Leaders College Student Exchange Program" within the framework of AUN + 3, University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP), Collective Action for Mobility Program of University Students in Asia (CAMPUS Asia), ERASMUS and ERASMUS+ programs, Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)... In this process, the movement of ASEAN students is showing an increasingly strong trend. Research by Bilal Khalid et al. shows that among ASEAN countries, Vietnam currently has the highest number of students studying abroad with 137,022 people, accounting for 2.1% of the total number of domestic students. This is followed by Indonesia (59,224 students, 0.9% of total domestic students), Malaysia (48,810 students, 0.8% of total domestic students). The main destinations for ASEAN students are identified as the United States (49,382 students), Japan (47,789 students), Australia (46,400 students), and South Korea (24,928 students). For Vietnam, this order is currently Japan, South Korea, and the United States (Bilal Khalid & Joanna Kurowska-Pysz, 2024).

3. ASEAN-South Korea Higher Education Cooperation

To discuss promoting ASEAN-South Korea higher education cooperation, it is first necessary to examine the achievements and shortcomings in higher education cooperation between ASEAN and South Korea.

ASEAN has developed qualification frameworks and quality assurance standards to increase compatibility and cohesion between the higher education systems of member countries. Additionally, credit transfer between universities without modifying existing national credit systems is ASEAN's approach to harmonizing the region's education system to create a common space that can promote program exchange and improve student mobility within the region. This improves the cross-border labor mobility of member countries, creating an open labor market. ASEAN countries are also said to be making efforts to narrow the gap between member states, with Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia having the highest

budget allocation for education, at approximately 20% compared to the overall average of about 14.9% (Bilal Khalid & Joanna Kurowska-Pysz, 2024).

Although ASEAN has many advantages in terms of demographic structure and the number of students enrolling in higher education institutions, with various cooperation achievements including faculty and student exchanges, dual degree or joint programs, and the development of cooperation networks between universities, higher education cooperation in the ASEAN region is still considered to face many challenges. These include accessibility and equity in educational opportunities; significant disparities in the number of higher education institutions among member countries; differences in culture and curricula primarily based on national citizenship foundations, not yet geared towards global citizenship education; and the unpredictability of harmonization as this process is not following a unified procedure but focusing more on each member's adaptability in seeking connection points with the system (Yavaprabhas, 2014). Specifically, the lack of consensus has led to ASEAN currently having three different credit transfer systems. This leads Hou et al. (2017) to conclude that "the diversity in national regulations, academic calendars, and grading policies in Asian higher education will continue to challenge the implementation" of adopted measures.

Meanwhile, South Korea is one of the leading countries in the Asian region that has implemented measures to improve education quality, promote information and communication technology in education, and has many policies to promote international cooperation in education, encouraging universities to integrate internationally by building global universities, attracting international students, and participating in international education networks. South Korea is currently a suitable choice for studying abroad for many ASEAN students, including Vietnamese students. Notably, the South Korean government is operating quite a few projects supporting curricula related to various fields such as unified education programs, public diplomacy, and international development cooperation.

According to statistics from the ASEAN-Korea Centre, in 2023, there were 99,584 ASEAN students studying in South Korea, with Vietnamese students numbering 70,212, continuing to lead in the number of international students in South Korea since 2021. Conversely, in recent years, along with the South Korean government's New Southern Policy, interest in education and research about Southeast Asia at South Korean universities has increased significantly. Like Japan, South Korea is increasingly interested in exchanges with ASEAN not only because these countries hold many market opportunities and natural

resources, but also as a source of students and young skilled workforce that can supplement their aging demographic structure. Additionally, not limited to economic cooperation, Southeast Asia is becoming increasingly important as South Korea enters a multicultural era. However, until now, study programs related to Southeast Asia in South Korea are still very rare in terms of both the number of courses and educational institutions operating such programs. The number of teachers is also very limited. To date, higher education cooperation between ASEAN and South Korea has mainly been carried out in the form of scholarship support programs, research capacity enhancement projects, support for teaching content related to South Korea, and so on.

Vietnam-South Korea relations were established in 1992, three years earlier than when Vietnam became an ASEAN member (1995). Additionally, Vietnam is also a Southeast Asian country with many similarities to South Korea due to being in the same region and uses Chinese characters. Perhaps for this reason, the relationship between Vietnam and South Korea is also one of the fastest-developing relationship among Vietnam's partners. After more than 30 years of establishing cooperative relations, South Korea has now become one of Vietnam's seven comprehensive strategic partners. Vietnam is also one of the countries with the fastest-developing Korean Studies programs among Southeast Asian countries. According to statistics from the South Korean Embassy in Vietnam up to 2023, Vietnam currently has 63 higher education institutions offering Korean language and Korean Studies programs with an estimated number of learners exceeding 50,000. This number is expected to be higher when Korean is recognized as one of Vietnam's seven first foreign languages in 2021. In terms of research, Vietnam has established the Korean Studies Association of Vietnam (KRAV) and the Korean Journal - Vietnam's scientific journal on Korean Studies.

The University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi (VNU-USSH) is one of Vietnam's first institutions to offer Korean Studies (pilot training in 1993, officially established in 1995) and is also a unit participating in many regional cooperation programs of ASEAN and South Korea in higher education. The Faculty of Oriental Studies of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities has been participating in the quality assurance assessment system of the ASEAN University Network (AUN) since 2016. Since its establishment, the Faculty of Oriental Studies has received support from Korean agencies and organizations such as the Korea Foundation (KF), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), National Institute for International Education (NIIED), Academy of Korean Studies (AKS), King Sejong Institute Foundation (KSIF), and Korean enterprises operating in Vietnam (Samsung,

LG, Lotte, etc.). Cooperation activities are carried out in various forms such as scholarship programs, student exchanges, teacher dispatches (1-2 teachers/year), support for building learning materials (comprehensive Korean language textbooks for Vietnamese, Korean History, Korean Society, etc.), training facility systems (multi-purpose classrooms, smart classrooms), organizing seminars and discussions to enhance research and training capacities in Korean Studies, online lectures with Seoul National University, and so on. These activities have supported the Korean Studies program and the Faculty of Oriental Studies to develop steadily in both quality and quantity.

After 30 years of development, the Korean Studies program at the VNU-USSH's Faculty of Oriental Studies has now become Vietnam's leading training center for Korean researchers. Currently, the VNU University of Social Sciences and Humanities is operating the Seed Program for Korean Studies project of AKS to enhance Korean Studies training and research capabilities, the Sejong Korean Language Center of the Sejong Foundation, the KF Global E-school online teaching project, and more. In the coming time, absorbing the general development orientation of Vietnam National University, Hanoi on the roadmap to develop into a research university, the Korean Studies program at the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Social Sciences and Humanities is building a roadmap to develop a high-quality faculty team, establish joint training programs with South Korea and ASEAN member countries in Korean research, seek joint research projects with South Korea and Korean Studies programs in Southeast Asia, striving to become an important link connecting the Korean Studies research network in Southeast Asia.

Looking at the cooperation situation between Vietnam and South Korea in particular and ASEAN and South Korea in general, it can be seen that the relationship between ASEAN and South Korea in higher education currently has more of a "supportive nature" than a "cooperative nature". Therefore, it is also more unilateral than bilateral. Considering the two partners, ASEAN has the advantage of a large higher education market and human resources market, but the economic and social foundations of its members are uneven, leading to difficulties in defining common standards for cooperation. Meanwhile, South Korea has the advantage of development and advancement, but its level of competitiveness is not yet high when compared to Japan and China, which are other ASEAN partners in regional cooperation. Based on these assessments, I want to emphasize solutions that are sharing, complementary, and mutually supportive in ASEAN-South Korea higher education cooperation.

For educational institutions, this complementarity can be achieved through cooperation in teaching and content provision. This cooperation can be implemented through student and faculty exchange programs, forming team-teaching groups, developing course content, or higher-level establishment of joint training programs, joint degree programs, especially for training fields and content that the parties still lack or are weak in. For instance, ASEAN universities can support South Korea in courses related to languages or other fields of Southeast Asian countries, and conversely, South Korea can support Southeast Asian universities in training programs related to Korea.

Cooperation in promoting the development of soft skills and professional skills training programs that students need in the global labor market. These programs can be designed to meet the needs of both the ASEAN region and South Korea. This will help ASEAN universities move beyond the national citizenship orientation to approach global citizenship education orientation.

Additionally, it is necessary to enhance cooperation between universities and businesses, research organizations from both regions. Public-private partnership programs can help create internship and employment opportunities for students while enhancing applied research projects.

Building networks and academic communities between universities in the ASEAN region and South Korea. These networks can facilitate easier sharing of resources, information, and cooperation opportunities, organize professional development programs for faculty, develop joint research programs on regional issues, or collaborative research projects, innovative and creative learning environments; Organize international conferences, symposiums, and academic events with the participation of universities from both ASEAN and South Korea, facilitating the sharing of knowledge, experiences, and latest research, especially joint academic and research programs that help create new solutions for regional and global challenges.

From the perspective of policy development and construction, there needs to be policy alignment between educational institutions and member countries to create necessary conditions for joint training, joint degree granting, mutual credit transfer and recognition. Additionally, there needs to be cooperation in developing training support activities such as research collaboration, program development; building

program frameworks, assessment frameworks to enhance the compatibility of training programs as well as regular evaluation and improvement.

For organizations and operational programs, there needs to be cooperation, coordination, or clear division of operational scope, target audience, and key areas to avoid duplication or overlap in implementation. For member countries, it is necessary to simplify the registration process for studies and visa issuance for students and faculty, making it easier for them to participate in study and research programs. This should be seen as a gateway to attract international human resources and increase national competitiveness in higher education.

4 Epilogue

In the context of rapid regional and global changes under the impact of the knowledge economy and the 4.0 revolution, ASEAN and South Korean higher education itself is facing significant demands for change. Among these, higher education cooperation is an increasingly common and rapidly developing trend. ASEAN-South Korea higher education cooperation is no exception to this trend. Although certain achievements have been made, there are still many issues to be addressed and requirements to be set for ASEAN-South Korea higher education to achieve more comprehensive cooperation. Promoting ASEAN-South Korea cooperation in higher education means promoting harmonization, complementarity, and mutual development. After 35 years of construction and development, this is the time for ASEAN and South Korea to review and reassess to orient and reposition themselves in cooperative relationships with partners in the region and the world in general, and higher education relations in particular.

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Promoting ASEAN-South Korea Higher Education Cooperation

Prof. Hoàng Anh Tuấn
University of Social Sciences and Humanities,
Vietnam National University-Hanoi

This presentation examines the current state of higher education cooperation between ASEAN and South Korea, highlighting achievements, challenges, and opportunities for future collaboration. As we commemorate 35 years of dialogue relations and 15 years since the Free Trade Agreement, 2024 marks a significant milestone for reassessing and elevating this strategic partnership in the context of global changes driven by the knowledge economy and Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Milestones in ASEAN-South Korea Relations

- 1** **1989**
Establishment of dialogue relations between ASEAN and South Korea
- 2** **2009**
Completion of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between ASEAN and South Korea
- 3** **2010**
Establishment of strategic partnership between ASEAN and South Korea
- 4** **2017**
Announcement of New Southern Policy and "ASEAN-Korea Future Community Vision" by South Korea
- 5** **2022**
Proposal of Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI) by President Yoon Suk-yeol

Regional Cooperation in Higher Education

Intra-regional Cooperation Cooperation

ASEAN Ministers of Education Organization, CAMPUS Asia Program, Program, European Bologna Process

Inter-regional Cooperation

European Union's Horizon 2020 Program, Southeast Asia-Europe Joint Funding Scheme for Research and Innovation (SEA-Europe JFS)

Trans-regional Cooperation

China's university alliances with Belt and Road Initiative countries, University Mobility in Asia Asia and the Pacific (UMAP)

Importance of Higher Education Cooperation Cooperation

1

National Development

Provides high-quality human resources for policy planning, governance, and management

2

Economic Competitiveness

Improves quality of human resources and attracts high-quality labor

3

Global Integration

Serves as an effective diplomatic tool and facilitates facilitates knowledge sharing sharing

4

Regional Governance

Addresses challenges of globalization and the knowledge economy

ASEAN Higher Education Initiatives

- 1** **1965**
Establishment of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO)
- 2** **1994**
Establishment of Regional Institute of Higher Education and Development (RIHED)
- 3** **1995**
Establishment of ASEAN University Network (AUN)

These organizations aim to promote equitable human development and enhance the quality of higher education training in education training in the region, ensuring harmony, compatibility, and cohesion among ASEAN education systems.

ASEAN-South Korea Student Mobility

Country	Students Studying Abroad	% of Domestic Students
Vietnam	137,022	2.1%
Indonesia	59,224	0.9%
Malaysia	48,810	0.8%

Main destinations for ASEAN students: United States (49,382), Japan (47,789), Australia (46,400), and South Korea (24,928). For Vietnamese students: Japan, South Korea, and the United States.

Challenges in ASEAN-South Korea Higher Education Cooperation

Accessibility and Equity

Disparities in educational opportunities and number of institutions among ASEAN countries

Curriculum Differences

Focus on national citizenship rather than global citizenship education

Harmonization Issues

Lack of unified procedures for credit transfer and recognition

Limited Southeast Asian Studies

Scarcity of Southeast Asia-related programs and faculty in South Korean universities

Vietnam-South Korea Higher Education Cooperation



Korean Language Programs

63 Vietnamese institutions offering Korean language and Korean Studies programs



Student Numbers

Over 50,000 estimated learners of Korean language in Vietnam



Research Initiatives

Establishment of Korean Studies Association of Vietnam (KRAV) and Korean Journal



Institutional Support

Collaboration with Korean agencies like KF, KOICA, NIIED, AKS, NIIED, AKS, and KSIF



Promoting ASEAN-South Korea Higher Education Cooperation

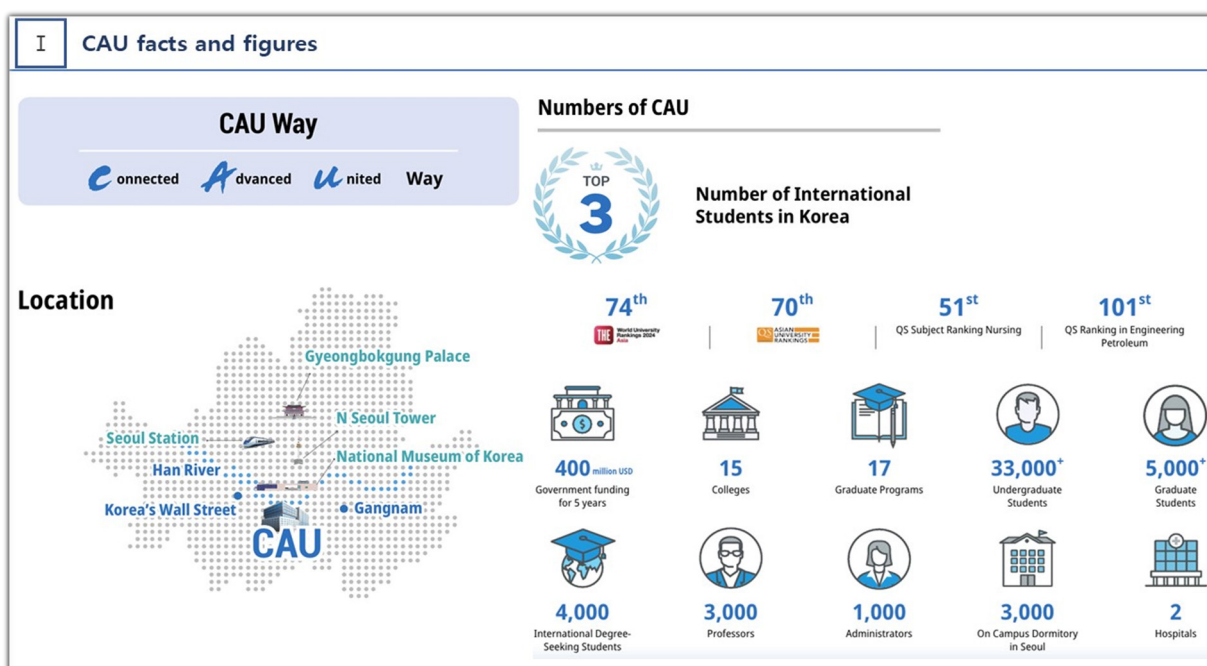
- 1 Content Sharing**
Develop joint training programs and exchange faculty for complementary subjects
- 2 Skill Development**
Cooperate on soft skills and professional training programs for global labor market
- 3 Industry Collaboration**
Enhance university-business partnerships for internships and applied research
- 4 Academic Networks**
Build networks for resource sharing, joint research, and professional development

Future Directions for ASEAN-South Korea Cooperation

- 1 Policy Alignment**
Develop compatible frameworks for joint degrees and credit transfer
- 2 Program Coordination**
Clearly define operational scopes and target audiences to avoid duplication
- 3 Mobility Enhancement**
Simplify visa processes for students and faculty to facilitate exchanges
- 4 Strategic Reassessment**
Review and reposition cooperative relationships in the context of global changes

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION OF CHUNG-ANG UNIVERSITY AND THE ASIAN NETWORK

Prof. Chankyu Lee
Executive Vice President for Administration & Director, Humanities Research Institute
Chung-Ang University
KOREA



I CAU facts and figures

CAU Honorary Doctorates Worldwide:
134 in total as of 2024

The Chairman of Korean Council for University Education



Dwight D. Eisenhower
34th President of USA



Richard M. Nixon
37th President of USA



Sirindhorn
Princess of Thailand



Efthymios Mitropoulos
7th Secretary-General of IMO
(International Maritime Organization)
in UN



Sang-Gue Park
CAU President

CAU Alumni Politicians

Total of 108 Ministers/Mayors/Governors/Congressman

- Including current Minister of the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism
- Including 13 current members of the Korean National Congress

CAU Alumni from the School of Arts



Son Hyun Joo (손현주)
2017 Moscow Film Festival
Best Actor



Yoo Min Young (유민영)
2011 Cannes Film Festival
Best Director



Jun Hyoin (전효인)
2010 Berlin International Dance Competition
Gold Medalist

DIOR

Jang Yoon kyung (장윤경)
2018 Dior Photography Award for
Young Talents / First Winner



Moon Byung Gon (문병곤)
2013 Cannes Film Festival
Palme d'Or Awardee



Choi Wooshik (최우식)
2019 Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or Awardee,
performed in the film "Parasite (2019)"



Kim Kyung Hun (김경훈)
2019 Pulitzer Prize Winner

II Location_Seoul Campus

Hot Location: Center of Seoul, 10 minutes from Han River, Gangnam, Korea's Wall Street, Many Heritage Sites



III Fields of Study

College of Humanities - Department of Korean Language and Literature - Department of English Language and Literature - School of European Languages and Cultures (German, French, Russian language and literature) - School of Asian Languages and Cultures (Japanese, Chinese language and literature, Comparative folk studies) - Department of Philosophy - Department of History	College of Natural Sciences - Department of Physics - Department of Chemistry - Department of Biological Sciences - Department of Mathematics	College of ICT Engineering - School of Electrical and Electronics Engineering - School of Computer Engineering - School of Integrative Engineering (Nano Materials Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Digital Imaging Engineering)	College of Arts - School of Performing Art and Media (Creative Writing, Theatre, Film Studies, Photography, Dance, T/Design) - No.1 School of Performing Art and Media in Korea - School of Fine Arts (Korean Painting, Western Painting, Sculpture) - School of Design (Visual Communication Design, Industrial Design, Fashion Design, Housing & Interior Design, Crafts) - School of Music (Orchestral Music, Voice Music, Composition, Piano) - School of Korean Music - School of Global Arts
College of Social Sciences - Department of Political Science and International Relations - Department of Public Science - Department of Psychology - Department of Library & Information Science - School of Social Welfare (Social Welfare, Child Welfare, Youth Studies, Family Welfare) - School of Media & Communication - Since 1958, 1st School of Media & Communication in Korea - Department of Urban Planning and Real Estate - Department of Sociology	College of Biotechnology & Natural Resource - School of Bioresource and Bioscience (Animal Science and Technology, Integrative Plant Science) - School of Food Science and Technology (Food and Nutrition, Food Science and Technology) - Department of Systems Biotechnology	College of Software - School of Software - School of AI	College of Sport Sciences School of Sport Sciences (Recreation & Leisure Sports, Sports Industry, Golf)
College of Education - Department of Education - Department of Early Childhood Education - Since 1922 - Department of English Education - Department of Physical Education	College of Engineering - School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Urban Design and Studies (Civil and Environmental Engineering, Urban Design and Studies) - School of Architecture and Building Science (Architecture, Architectural Engineering) - School of Chemical Engineering and Material Science - 101st QS Ranking by Subject - School of Mechanical Engineering - School of Energy System Engineering	College of Business and Economics - School of Business Administration - School of Economics - Department of Applied Statistics - Department of Advertising and Public Relations - Department of Industrial Security - Department of International Logistics - School of Global Knowledge-based Administration	College of Art & Technology School of Computer Art
		College of Pharmacy School of Pharmacy (not available for exchange)	Graduate School of Business Global MBA
		College of Medicine Department of Medicine (not available for exchange)	Graduate School of International Studies - Global Business and Finance - Global Affairs and Trade
		Red Cross College of Nursing - Department of Nursing (not available for exchange) 51st QS Ranking by Subject	

IV Study Abroad and Exchange Program

Experience a Unique Study Abroad and Exchange Program at CAU

- Sign up for over 1,000 courses offered in English in a variety of subject areas
- Take customized courses specifically for exchange students on Korean Studies
- Join in on numerous cultural excursions and field trips
- Apply for an on-campus internship
- Receive special scholarships as a student from our partner institutions

Academic Schedule

The CAU Academic Schedule consists of two semesters each for the duration of 16 weeks. Students can apply for one semester or one academic year, starting in either Spring or Fall.

Category	Spring Semester	Fall Semester
Application	Mid November	Mid May
Semester	March 2 nd - June 21 st	September 1 st - December 21 st



Scholarship and On-Campus Internship for International Students

Scholarship	Eligibility	Benefits
CAU Global Student Internship	- Native speakers of English, French and Chinese - Selection via interview	- Approximately \$1,000 per semester - Official certificate by OIA
CAU OIA Fellowship	- Fluency in English - Good computer skills - Selection via interview	- Approximately \$1,000 per month - Official certificate by OIA
CAU Global Opportunity Scholarship	According to student exchange agreement	On-campus accommodation expenses
Global Korea Scholarship	Exchange students deemed qualified by the NIIED(National Institute for International Education)	Airfare, Monthly stipend, Settlement Allowance, Insurance Fee
ASEM DUO Scholarship	Students from European partner universities	4,000 Euros (8,000 Euros for 1 pair)
Scholarship for Fee-paying students	According to student exchange agreement	For 40 students or above, 50% of tuition waived (differs according to number of students)

Supports for International Students

GLAM Global Ambassador	CALIS Leaders of International Students	GCC Global Community Center	GF Global Fairs
CAKE Korean Editing	Counseling Specialized Mental-Health Counseling for International Students	Hospital CAU Hospital International Healthcare Center	Dormitory 3000+ On-campus Dormitory

V International Summer & Winter Program



CAU CAT
Culture Art Technology of Korea



Features

- All Classes offered by Director of the fields.
- Affiliated with CJ E&M, JYP, and more!
- Customized Korean Language Classes in all levels
- On-Campus Dormitory 100% Guaranteed
- Cooperated by MOE, National Research Foundation of Korea

Special Lectures!

- Ideation: Idea + Action <Physical 100>, <I am God>
- Make Your Own K-Content Short Form Content Workshop
- Planning an Original Content <Survnam>, <Squad Game>
- Meet People in the Music Biz JYP, YG Entertainment
- Producing the OTT Contents <Your's Kitchen>, <Heart Signal>, <Hyori's Bed and Breakfast>
- Behind the Scene Drama <Egg is Coming>
- Apple, Amazon, Netflix... Why Everybody Gets into the Webtoon Market
- One Source Multi Use Animation <Shinbi Apartment>

Cultural Activities!

- Han River Water Sports
- Oyeongbokgung Hanbok Experience
- National Museum of Korea
- Yongin Folk Village
- Everland
- Making a Homemade Stamp
- Seoul N Tower
- Doosan Bears baseball
- Nanta Performance
- Lotte World
- Changgyeonggung Palace Hanbok Experience
- Ski one-day experience
- K-Pop dance lessons
- National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art
- The War Memorial
- Ice Skating

Curriculum

K-Culture (Special Lectures) + Cultural Experience

Mandatory A: 3Crd/45hrs, B: 2Crd/30hrs

- K-Culture Immersion Project
- K-Entertainment
- K-Nonscripted Content
- K-Pop
- K-Webtoon & Animation
- K-Drama & Movie

Practical Korean Language (Customized levels)

Optional 3Crd/45hrs Specialized

- Level 1 Alive Korean with K-Drama
- Level 2 Alive Korean with K-Drama
- Level 3 Alive Korean with K-Drama

K-Art + Technology

Optional 3Crd/45hrs

- Photography: Now : Seminar and Practice of Art Photography and K-Photography [Prof. Kyungwoo Chun]
- Creating "My Own" K-Contents : Seminar and Practice of K-Entertainment [Prof. Takhoon Kim]

Program Fees

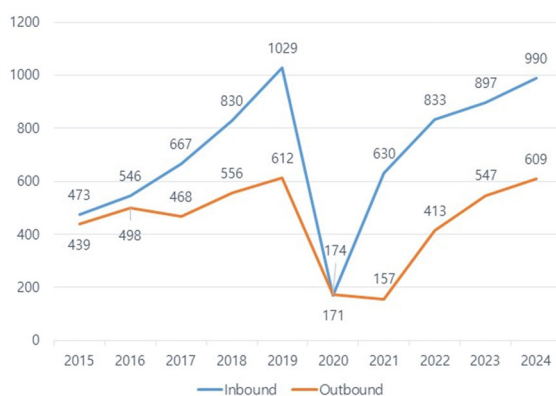
Fees	Session 1		Session 2	
	Non-partner University	Partner University	Non-partner University	Partner University
Application Fee	60 USD	-	60 USD	-
Tuition	3,400 USD	1,700 USD	3,000 USD	1,500 USD
Dormitory	350 USD	350 USD	250 USD	250 USD

Program Schedule

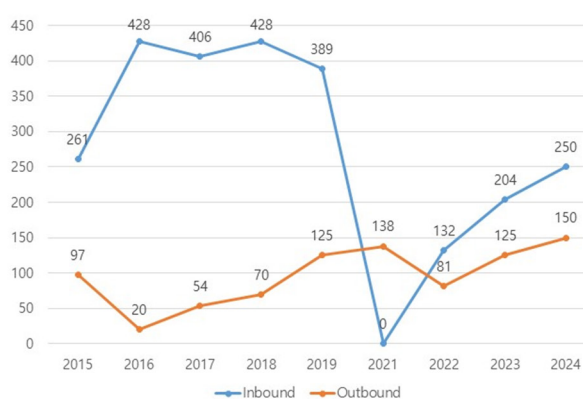
- Summer Session 1 [2024.6.25 ~ 7.22] 6 Credits
- Summer Session 2 [2024.8.6 ~ 8.23] 5 Credits
- Winter Session [2025.1.13 ~ 1.24] 5 Credits

VI Student Mobility

Regular Semester

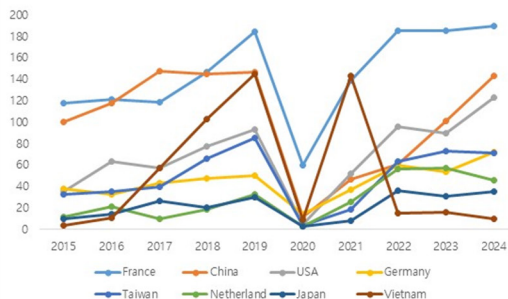


Short-term

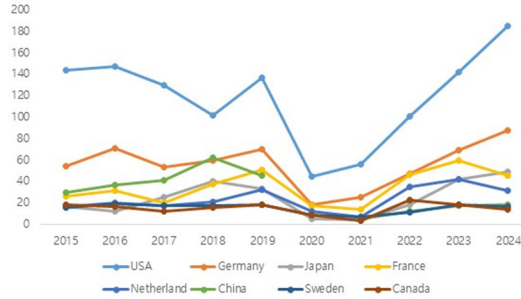


VI Student Mobility by Countries

Inbound



Outbound



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	합계		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	합계
France	118	121	119	147	184	60	139	185	185	190	1,448	USA	143	147	129	101	136	44	56	100	142	185	1,183
China	100	118	148	145	147	12	47	61	101	143	1,022	Germany	54	71	53	59	70	18	25	47	69	87	553
USA	35	63	57	77	93	5	52	96	90	123	691	Japan	16	12	25	40	33	5	4	18	42	49	244
Germany	38	33	43	48	50	14	37	60	54	72	449	France	26	31	20	37	50	17	14	46	59	45	345
Taiwan	33	35	40	66	85	4	19	63	73	71	489	Netherlands	16	20	17	21	32	12	7	35	42	31	233
Netherlands	12	21	10	19	33	3	26	56	57	46	283	China	29	36	41	62	45		5	12	17	18	265
Japan	10	14	27	20	30	3	8	36	31	35	214	Sweden	15	19	17	17	18	8	7	11	18	16	146
Vietnam	4	11	57	103	145	9	143	15	16	10	513	Canada	18	16	12	15	18	8	3	22	18	14	144
Sum	350	416	501	625	767	110	471	572	607	690	5,109	Sum	317	352	314	352	402	112	121	291	407	445	3,113
	(74%)	(76%)	(75%)	(75%)	(75%)	(64%)	(75%)	(69%)	(68%)	(70%)	(72%)		(72%)	(71%)	(67%)	(63%)	(66%)	(64%)	(77%)	(70%)	(74%)	(73%)	(70%)
Grand Sum	473	546	667	830	1029	171	630	833	897	990	7,066	Grand Sum	439	498	468	556	612	174	157	413	547	609	4,473

VI Partnerships and Student Mobility with Thailand

Partnerships

No.	University Name	Type	Year
1	Prince of Songkla University	Exchange Agreement	2004
2	Chiang Mai University	Exchange Agreement	2011
3	Kasetsart University	Exchange Agreement	2011
4	Silpakorn University	Exchange Agreement	2012
5	Khon Kaen University	Exchange Agreement	2014
6	Chulalongkorn University	Exchange Agreement	2014
7	Thammasat University	Exchange Agreement	2015
8	King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang	Exchange Agreement	2017
9	King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi	Exchange Agreement	2017
10	King Mongkut's Univ. of Technology North Bangkok	General MoU	2018

Student Mobility

University Name	2021				2022				2023				2024	Sum
	1	2S	W		1	2S	W		1	2S	W		1	
Thammasat University	1							7			2		1	11
Chulalongkorn University					3	1	2		4	1				11
Burapha University						2								2
Chiang Mai University										1				1
Sum	1				3	3	2	7	4	2	2		1	25
Others	292	494	88	50	531	709	90	114	669	769	206	121	691	4824
Grand Sum	293	494	88	50	534	712	92	121	673	771	208	121	692	4849

VI Partnerships with Southeast Asia(except Thailand)

No.	Country	University Name	No.	Country	University Name	No.	Country	University Name
1	Laos	National University of Laos	21	Vietnam	The University of Danang	41	Vietnam	HUTECH
2	Malaysia	Universiti Malaya (UM)	22	Vietnam	VNU Hanoi, University of Engineering & Tech.	42	Vietnam	Posts and Telecommunication s Institute of Technology
3	Malaysia	INTI International University	23	Vietnam	VNU Hanoi, Univ of Languages&Int'l Studies	43	Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City University of Foreign Languages
4	Malaysia	Limkokwing University of Creative Technology	24	Vietnam	Foreign Trade University	44	Vietnam	Duy Tan University
5	Malaysia	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)	25	Vietnam	Hanoi University of Pharmacy	45	Vietnam	Hai Phong University
6	Malaysia	HELP University	26	Vietnam	VNU-HCM, University of Science	46	Sri Lanka	University of Peradeniya
7	Malaysia	Malaysia University of Science and Technology	27	Vietnam	Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy HoChiMinh City	47	Singapore	Singapore Polytechnic
8	Malaysia	Universiti Putra Malaysia	28	Vietnam	VNU Hanoi, University of Science	48	Singapore	Nanyang Technological Unive rsity, Singapore (NTU)
9	Malaysia	Taylor's University	29	Vietnam	Vietnam International Education Development	49	Singapore	Singapore Institute of Manage ment
10	Malaysia	Universiti Malaysia Pahang	30	Vietnam	Hanoi University of Industry	50	Singapore	Singapore Management Unive rsity
11	Malaysia	Kolej Universiti Poly-Tech Mara	31	Vietnam	Hue University	51	Philippines	De La Salle University
12	Malaysia	UCSI University	32	Vietnam	Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy	52	Philippines	Ateneo de Manila University
13	Malaysia	University of Nottingham Malaysia	33	Vietnam	Ton Duc Thang University	53	Philippines	Mapua Institute of Tech.
14	Myanmar	University of Yangon	34	Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology	54	Philippines	Adamson University
15	Myanmar	University of Pharmacy, Yangon	35	Vietnam	Hoa Sen University	55	Philippines	University of San Carlos
16	Bangladesh	Daffodil International University	36	Vietnam	VNU Hanoi, University of Economics and Biz	56	Philippines	University of The Philippines D iliman
17	Vietnam	Dalat University	37	Vietnam	VNU-HCMC University of Economics and Law	57	Philippines	The Polytechnic University of t he Philippines
18	Vietnam	VNU-HCM, Univ. of Social Sciences & Humanities	38	Vietnam	University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City			
19	Vietnam	VNU Hanoi, College of Foreign Languages	39	Vietnam	VNU Ho Chi Minh City			
20	Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City University of Law	40	Vietnam	VNU-HCM, International University			

VII Best Global Universities among 662 Partners in total

New Partnerships(Totally 85 partners in top 200 universities)

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cardiff University(QS 122)	City University of Hong Kong(QS 55)	Hong Kong Baptist University(QS 299)	U.C. Berkeley (QS 27)	Univ. of Montreal(QS 137)	Free Univ. of Brussels(QS 200)	Boston Univ. (QS 112)	Duke Univ. (QS 50)	Univ. of Hong Kong(QS 26)
National Tsing Hua University(QS 155)	University of Twente(QS 177)	Universidad de los Andes(QS 256)	Copenhagen Business School(THE 201)		The Ohio State Univ. (QS 108)	Michigan State Univ. (QS 157)	Free Univ. of Berlin(QS 118)	Univ. of Birmingham(QS 84)
Beijing Normal University(QS 232)	National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University(QS 268)					Univ. of Canberra(THE 170)	Univ. of Cologne(THE 146)	Univ. of Waterloo(QS 112)
University of Porto(QS 293)	Universiti Brunei Darussalam(QS 298)					Semmelweis Univ. (THE 251)	Aalborg Univ. (THE 251)	Tilburg Univ. (THE 201)
Massey University(QS 287)						Univ. Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne(QS 290)	Tech. Univ. of Darmstadt(QS 275)	
							Univ. of Warsaw(QS 284)	

VIII Research grants at top 4-year comprehensive private universities

Research grant unit = million won

University Name	2022			2021			2020		
	Ranking	Research grants	Professors	Ranking	Research grants	Professors	Ranking	Research grants	Professors
Yonsei	1	558,084	2,142	1	531,265	2,131	1	451,712	2,140
Korea	2	498,438	1,749	2	470,183	1,731	2	418,848	1,727
SKKU	3	489,377	1,486	3	445,779	1,488	3	391,179	1,476
Hanyang	4	381,484	1,526	4	328,458	1,482	4	290,889	1,427
CAU	5	192,611	1,152	6	170,747	1,124	6	144,142	1,101

IX K-Culture CAU

College of Arts: 650+ students

College of Arts & Engineering: 130+ students

Media contents: 500+ students

Graduate students: 400+ students

**More than 50,000 experts:
Biggest Alumni group**

Foundation of K-Culture





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FORGING ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS: THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN STRENGTHENING PHILIPPINES-KOREA RELATIONS

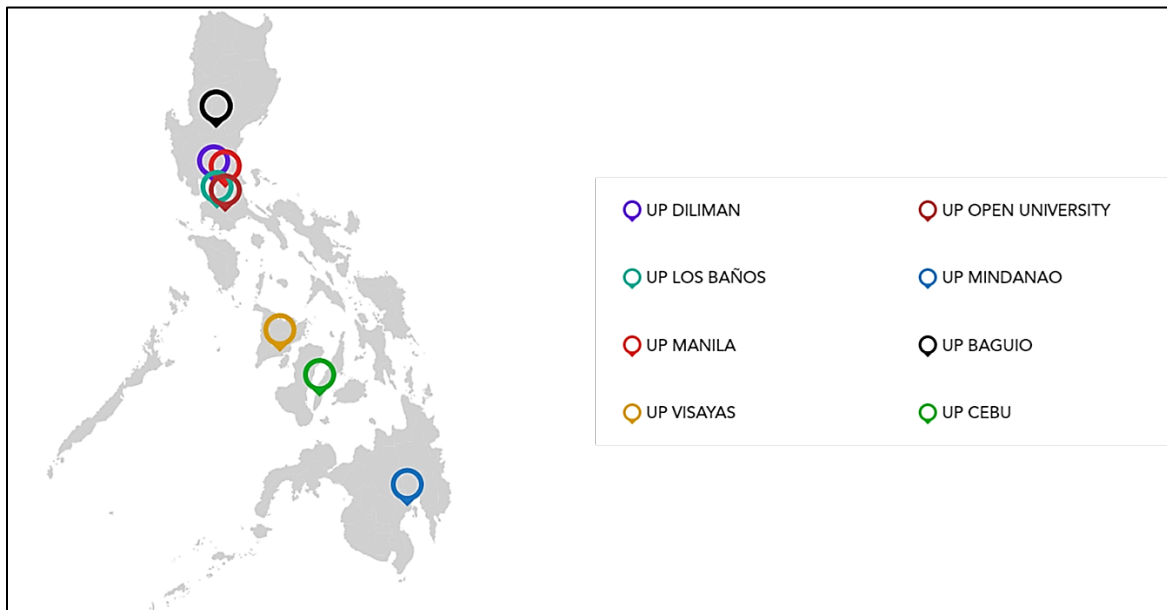
Leo DP Cubillan
Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of the Philippines
THE PHILIPPINES

Established in 1908, the University of the Philippines (UP) stands as the nation's foremost and sole national university. It is composed of nine constituent universities in 17 campuses across the country. Each constituent university is renowned for its specialized academic focus:

- UP Diliman serves as the flagship campus and offers a comprehensive range of disciplines.
- UP Manila is a premier institution in the health sciences.
- UP Los Baños excels in agriculture, animal science, forestry, and environmental science.
- UP Visayas is recognized for its expertise in fisheries and aquaculture.
- UP Open University leads in distance education and open learning.
- UP Mindanao specializes in Mindanao studies.
- UP Baguio is known for its scholarship in Northern Luzon indigenous studies.
- UP Cebu is a prominent center for information technology and business.
- UP Tacloban College's strength lies in environmental information systems.
- UP Archipelagic and Ocean Virtual University, hosted in UP Diliman, advances the fields of blue economy and technology.

With these diverse specializations, the UP System offers the most comprehensive academic and research programs in the Philippines.

Figure 1. Locations of UP constituent universities in the Philippine archipelago



UP's mandate and quality policy: A commitment to upholding honor, excellence and service

Under its Charter of 2008 (RA 9500), UP is mandated to perform its unique and distinctive leadership in higher education and development. In particular, it shall:

- Lead in setting academic standards and initiating innovations in teaching, research, and faculty development in philosophy, the arts and humanities, the social sciences, engineering, natural sciences, mathematics, and technology; and maintain centers of excellence in these disciplines and professions.
- Serve as a graduate university by providing advanced studies and specialization for scholars, scientists, writers, artists, and professionals especially those who serve on the faculty of state and private colleges and universities.
- Serve as a research university in various fields of expertise and specialization by conducting basic and applied research, promoting research and development, and contributing to the dissemination and application of knowledge.

- Lead as a public service university by providing various forms of community, public and volunteer service, as well as scholarly and technical assistance to the government, the private sector, and civil society while maintaining its standards of excellence.
- Protect and promote the professional and economic rights and welfare of its academic and non-academic personnel.
- Provide opportunities for training and learning in leadership, responsible citizenship, and the development of democratic values, institutions, and practice through academic and non-academic programs, including sports and enhancement of nationalism and national identity.
- Serve as a regional and global university in cooperation with international and scientific unions, networks of universities, and scholarly and professional associations in the Asia Pacific Region and around the world.
- Provide democratic governance based on collegiality, representation, accountability, transparency, and active participation of its constituents; and promote the holding of fora for students, faculty, research, extension and professional staff (REPS), administrative staff, and alumni to discuss non-academic issues affecting the University.

In addition, UP aims to uphold academic excellence based on its charter and adapt to national, regional and global changes affecting universities. UP is dedicated to maintaining high-quality standards across its programs and units, supported by a global quality management system to achieve its vision and mission.

With this system, UP shall:

- Produce graduates who will lead in the advancement of knowledge, contribute to national development, and thrive in a changing global landscape;
- Undertake research and creative work to contribute to the pursuit, creation, and translation of knowledge into innovative solutions to national and global problems and challenges;
- Spearhead public service work that brings about meaningful change in the community and the country;
- Create an environment that supports the holistic development of its students, faculty, research and extension personnel, professional staff, administrative staff, and other stakeholders;
- Deliver stakeholder-driven support services and adhere to the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements;

- Align our policies on research and innovation, activities in teaching and learning, and outreach engagements with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Through these commitments, UP will not only fulfill its mandate but also contribute to broader societal goals and make a meaningful difference at both national and global levels.

UP and Korea Research Institute, University of South Wales: An invaluable and longstanding partnership

To enhance our educational programs and research initiatives, UP partners with like-minded higher education institutions that enable us to stay current with emerging trends and advancements and allow us to deliver relevant and impactful education. The collaboration between UP and the Korea Research Institute (KRI), University of South Wales is one such collaboration. It is a testament to what we can achieve when institutions come together with a shared vision and commitment. It has opened doors to new opportunities for research, cultural exchange and academic development. KRI played an important role during the time of UP President Emerlinda Roman in the discussions and brainstorming sessions that led to the establishment of a Korea research center within the UP System. They helped UP prepare the proposals and other materials needed for putting up the center. Eventually, under the leadership of UP President Alfredo Pascual in 2011, we secured a three-year funding from the Academy of Korean Studies to establish the UP Korea Research Center or UP KRC in 2016 under the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. One notable initiative in this partnership was the hosting of UP of the 7th Korean Studies Association of Southeast Asia (KoSASA) biennial international conference in September 2016 in its Diliman campus. The academic conference was coordinated by then newly established UP KRC with the UP System Office of International Linkages. The KoSASA was founded in 2003 by KRI and five top national universities from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam. Later, it expanded to include leading universities from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and the Philippines, with UP as a proud member. This expansion only shows the growing importance of Korean studies in the Southeast Asian region and the recognition of UP as instrumental in promoting deeper knowledge of Korea's socio-economic and cultural dynamics in the Philippines. At present, the UP KRC is the only research center in the country focused on Korean studies and promotion.

UP Korea Research Center: At the forefront of Korean scholarship in the Philippines

Since its founding in 2011, UP KRC has significantly contributed to the academic and cultural landscape of UP and strengthened ties between Korea and the Philippines. This success is guided by three pillars: research, education and networking.

Research

UP KRC regularly conducts policy-oriented studies on Korean language and culture and Korea-Philippines relations. These studies are primarily focused on the social sciences and humanities with the end goal of producing interdisciplinary insights. It publishes the academic journal *Hanpil: Studies on Korea and the Philippines* and organizes The Philippine Koreanist Congress. To increase access to the resources and expertise of the center, UP KRC builds involvement from other constituent universities within the UP System. It aims to expand its reach by conducting more systemwide events and initiatives. This strategic move is designed to increase participation beyond UP's flagship campus in Diliman, Metropolitan Manila, with the goal of fostering a more inclusive and collaborative environment across the entire UP System. For example, last year, the UP KRC organized the Global Korean Studies Roundtable which was attended by representatives from UP campuses in Los Baños and Baguio to as far as Cebu in the central part of the Philippines and Mindanao in the southern Philippines. This ensures that the benefits of Korean studies reach UP students and faculty regardless of their geographical locations. This August, the UP KRC is hosting the 6th Philippine Koreanist Congress Korean Studies Special Roundtable which will bring together speakers from UP Diliman, Los Baños, Manila and Tacloban. Aside from the broad participation from various UP campuses, one key strength of the event is the diversity of fields represented. The invited speakers are not only experts in Asian and international studies but also in unexpected fields such as engineering, food science and health professions. This multi-, cross-disciplinary approach will enrich the discussions and illustrate how Korean studies impacts on various sectors. Today, many of the challenges we face are multifaceted which makes it imperative to approach issues with unique perspectives from different fields and disciplines.

Because of the important initiatives and accomplishments of the UP KRC, other constituent universities have shown great interest in integrating Korean components into their curricula and research agendas as a way of enriching their program offerings as well as enhancing the global perspectives of their

students and faculty. There have been initial efforts to develop Korean studies programs and Korean language classes in other constituent universities. The possibility of building Korean hubs in the constituent universities to encourage equal development and systemwide collaboration is also being explored. With this development, UP hopes to ensure that all campuses have the support and infrastructure needed to promote and sustain interest in Korean culture and scholarship.

Education

UP KRC maintains collaborative relations with academic units within the UP System that can confer course credits namely the UP Asian Center, UP Center for International Studies, and the Department of Linguistics at the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy. This is important as the UP KRC does not have the authority to directly give course credits to students. Through these collaborations, it ensures that students have access to more courses and programs that are academically and culturally enriching. With its partnership with the UP Asian Center, the center ensures an interdisciplinary approach to Korean studies particularly in situating Korea's socio-economic, political and cultural conditions with a broader Asian context. This is particularly important today when the world is ever-more interconnected. It highlights our shared history in the region and how our common heritage can further contribute to strengthening collaborative efforts and unifying goals among Asian nations. But at the same, it also brings out the uniqueness of Korea as a nation with distinct cultural traditions, social achievements and geopolitical significance. With this interdisciplinary framework, we can achieve greater appreciation for Korea's contributions to the region. The same is true for UP KRC's partnership with the UP Center for International Studies. It fosters interdisciplinary approaches that help learners see the intersections of Korea's cultural and socio-political dynamics with the rest of the world, resulting in a holistic understanding of Korea's role in global affairs. Similarly, UP KRC's partnership with the Department of Linguistics enables students to achieve proficiency in Korean, especially in preparing them for cross-cultural exchanges, and gain a better understanding of how language reflects cultural identity and social undercurrents in the Korean context. These initiatives of partnering with other UP centers open avenues for collaborative works and exchanges that enhance education and strengthen linkages between the Philippines and Korea. More importantly, they help foster critical thinking and cross-cultural understanding which are increasingly essential in today's interconnected world. It is crucial that individuals are not only knowledgeable of their own histories and cultures but are able to engage with the world as global citizens. With UP KRC's initiatives in education, we empower students and faculty to navigate our multicultural society with greater meaning and mutual respect, whether in Asia or elsewhere.

Networking

UP KRC maintains strong connections with institutions locally and internationally. Within the Philippines, it partners with student organizations such as the UP Arirang, the premier Filipino-Korean friendship organization of UP Diliman, for youth-focused initiatives. Korean culture and language are of great interest to the Filipino youth as seen in their enthusiastic support for Hallyu or the Korean Wave. In the early 2000s, people in Southeast Asia became very interested in Korean culture, and the Philippines' fascination has continued since then. A 2018 Korea Foundation survey found that the Philippines has the largest fan base for Korean culture in Southeast Asia, as shown by the creation of official fan clubs (Hicap 2019 in Concepcion, Laranjo and Bae 2022). Many of our young people can sing songs fluently in Korean and replicate the dance moves of their favorite K-pop idols with ease. Korean fashion trends also greatly influence their style choices and Korean food has become highly sought after. As such, they are always seeking ways to deepen their understanding of K-culture by studying the Korean language, participating in workshops and conferences and joining cultural exchange programs. UP KRC addresses these needs by organizing the NextGen Koreanist Workshop, Cultural Workshop and Seminar, and Korea Essay Contest. But these organizations do not simply cater to Filipino students who wish to gain a broader knowledge of Korean culture. UP Arirang, for example, was formed in 2006 to also help the growing number of Korean students at UP at that time adapt to the Philippine lifestyle and environment. In 2019, around 150,000 Koreans lived in the Philippines, many of them students who were possibly attracted by lower tuition fees and living costs (Concepcion, Laranjo and Bae 2022). This dual purpose of UP Arirang – and perhaps of other student organizations – highlights the reciprocal nature of cultural exchange. Locally, UP KRC has partnered with Philippine-based Korean associations such as the Korean Women's Association which helped establish a scholarship fund for Korean Studies and Korean major students in UP Diliman for the academic year 2023 to 2024. Other local partners include the Global Korea Scholarship Alumni Association Philippines, Korean Cultural Center Philippines and Philippines-Korea Society. Through the Global Korea Scholarship, Filipino students are able to receive global education in Korea with support from its government. As of 2023, there were about 8,700 alumni in 63 countries. According to 2022 data from Korea's National Institute for International Education (NIEED), as cited by Concepcion, Laranjo and Bae (2022), there were 145 Filipino graduates from the program. Among them, 100 completed master's degrees (69%), 25 finished undergraduate degrees (17%), 13 earned doctorate degrees (9%), 5 completed research (3%), and 2 finished language programs (1%). The top universities with Filipino alumni are Seoul National University (13%), Yonsei University (6%), Korea University (5%), and Sogang University (5%). As of 2022, Filipino students also attended 40 other Korean universities. The fields of study are: social sciences (31%), applied sciences (28%), management and economics

(15%), humanities and arts (14%), and natural sciences (10%). UP KRC also has partnerships with other universities and institutions developed through personal academic networks. Through these extensive academic networks, UP KRC is able to strengthen its educational and research initiatives and contribute to the global community of Korean studies scholars and practitioners.

According to Concepcion, Laranjo and Bae (2022), Korean studies in Philippine educational institutions are less developed compared to neighboring Southeast Asian countries like Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia. To address this, UP KRC is seeking collaborative and comparative research opportunities to attract more local Korean studies experts. In its efforts to enhance Korean studies teaching and learning within the university, UP has introduced three specialized Korean courses: the MA in Asian Studies with a specialization in Korea at the UP Asian Center, the minor in Korean language at the UP Department of Linguistics and the Korean studies elective course at the UP Center for International Studies. This makes UP one of only eight higher education institutions in the Philippines that offer formal training in Korean studies and the sole tertiary institution that has a graduate program in the field. In the MA program, students benefit from inter- and multidisciplinary approaches and from professors with expertise in relevant fields such as anthropology and literary criticism. This allows for a more critical and integrated understanding of Korean culture, history and society within the broader context of Asia. With this initiative, UP solidifies its commitment to academic excellence and, as the national university of the Philippines, fulfills its mandate to set academic standards in the country and pioneer innovations in teaching and research.

Table 1. Philippine higher education institutions offering Korean studies

Institution	Program/Course
University of the Philippines	MA in Asian Studies, Specialized in Korea (Asian Center) Minor in Korean Language (Department of Linguistics) Elective Korean studies course (Center for International Studies)
Ateneo de Manila University	Minor in Korean Studies (Korean Studies Program)
University of Santo Tomas - Angelicum College	Elective Korean language courses (King Sejong Institute)
Far Eastern University	Elective Korean studies course (International Studies Department)
Polytechnic University of the Philippines	Elective Korean language courses
Tarlac State University	Elective Korean language courses
West Visayas State University	Elective Korean language courses
Philippine International College	AB in Korean Studies

Source: Bae (2024)

Academic collaboration: A strategy to enhance growth and productivity

As mentioned, one of the missions of UP as the national university of the Philippines is to serve as a regional and global university. The University is an active member of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), ASEAN-European Academic University Network (ASEA-UNINET), ASEAN University Network (AUN) as one of its founding members and one of only three Philippine universities as members, Korean Studies Association of Southeast Asia (KoSASA), Southeast and South Asia and Taiwan Universities (SATU), and Erasmus Mundus Program Network. One of the main objectives of membership in these networks is to increase the research and creative productivity of UP students, research staff and faculty. For example, from 2015 to 2019 alone, our COOPERATE program has resulted in 164 academic visits leading to 58 international publications. COOPERATE promotes co-advisership with experts in international universities as well as active research cooperation. With our research output, we continue to be the top-performing university in the Philippines and among the best in Asia, 18th out of 148 universities in Southeast Asia. Another program that I would like to highlight is our MOVE-UP Program, which aims to provide financial support for undergraduate student mobility. By 2019, we have partnered with a total of 350 international universities and higher education institutions. In terms of partnership with Korea, as of July 2024, we have active exchange programs with 25 Korean higher education institutions including top-ranked universities such as Yonsei University (Table 2). These partnerships are in a diverse number of fields including language and culture, international business, economics and agriculture. For the academic year 2023-2024, we have sent a total of 127 UP students to Korea and some 323 UP students to the ASEAN and other countries for academic exchange (Table 3). In the same period, we have a total of 32 UP faculty members serving as faculty advisers in Korea and 489 in the ASEAN and other countries (Table 3). By extending its reach beyond national borders and fostering collaborations, UP enhances its visibility and impact in regional and global academic communities and elevates its own standards of excellence which we hope inspires other higher education institutions in the Philippines. Our ultimate aim in terms of shaping the future of Philippine higher education in the country is to set a benchmark for academic and research excellence and encourage other Philippine universities to follow similar paths in innovation, collaboration and social contribution.

Table 2. Number of Korean higher education institutions with active exchange programs with UP

No.	Name of Korean HEI	Courses/programs/fields of study often enrolled in
1	Asia Pacific Center for Theoretical Physics	Not provided
2	Busan University of Foreign Studies	Economics, International Business, Language & Culture
3	Chonnam National University	Agriculture, Engineering, International Business
4	Chung-Ang University	Medicine
5	Chungnam National University	Engineering
6	Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology	Not provided
7	Gyeongsang National University	Agriculture and Food Science/Forestry and Natural Resources
8	Hallym University	Media and Film
9	Handong Global University	Not provided
10	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies	Language and Culture
11	Hannam University	Language and Culture, International Business
12	Kangwon National University	Agriculture, Economics, International Business, and Language and Culture
13	Konkuk University	Not provided
14	Korea National University of Education	Not provided
15	Posco TJ Park Foundation	Not provided
16	Pukyong National University	Science
17	Seoul National University	Not provided
18	Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech)	Engineering
19	Seoul Women's University	Not provided
20	Sookmyung Women's University	Hospitality and Tourism, International Business
21	Sunchon National University	Not provided
22	Sungshin Women's University	Humanities
23	Sungshin Women's University	Not provided
24	University of Seoul	Engineering
25	Yonsei University	International Business, Language and Culture

Source: UP System Office of International Linkages

Table 3. Total number of UP students (undergraduate and faculty) in student exchange

System/Constituent University								
	OIL System*	Baguio	Diliman	Los Baños	Manila	Visayas	Tacloban	TOTAL
In Korea for 2023-2024								
Students	59	0	61	5	0	1	1	127
Faculty	0	0	12	20	0	0	0	32
In ASEAN and other countries for 2023-2024								
Students	264	1	5	32	21	0	0	323
Faculty	10	0	396	76	7	0	0	489
Historical data for previous academic years								
<i>Reckoning Period</i>	2004 - 2022	2008 - 2024	2018 - 2022	Not provided	2017 - 2023	Not provided	Not provided	
Students	405	8	130	Not provided	356	Not provided	Not provided	899
Faculty	69	Not provided	109	Not provided	49	Not provided	Not provided	227
*Note for OIL System Data								
Indicated numbers are MOVE-UP Grantees (students) and COOPERATE Grantees (faculty adviser)								

Source: UP System Office of International Linkages

Sustaining long-term partnerships and mutually beneficial engagements: Key to lasting impact

There are also short-term initiatives to encourage collaboration and exchange. For example, in 2024, a study abroad fair dubbed Layag: Humayo at Matuto sa Ibang Ibayo or Set Out and Learn Overseas was organized by the UP Office of International Linkages and featured various study opportunities to UP Diliman students, faculty and staff. Partner institutions come from Europe, the Americas, and Asia and Oceania including the Global Korea Scholarship Philippines Alumni Association. One key point that we learned is the sustainability of partnerships. It is important to seek, build and nurture more long-term partnerships with various institutions to achieve internationalization. Effective partnerships are grounded

on projects with tangible outcomes that mutually benefit all involved institutions. A more proactive approach should be taken to sustain existing partnerships and seek stronger strategic partnerships particularly between Korea and the ASEAN. As Rosland (2020) says, large events are good for introducing ASEAN-Korean culture, but their impact is limited if they are one-time or short-term events. Long-term projects are more effective. For example, establishing ASEAN and Korea modules in prestigious universities would help students on both sides understand each other better. Another way of making strategies more effective is by including them in regular events.

Moreover, partnerships should go both ways in terms of engagement to ensure more impactful collaborations. While UP has students engaged in exchanges abroad, UP is also a destination for foreign students. For 2023-2024, UP has hosted at least 10 students from Korea and at least 74 students from ASEAN and other countries. (Table 3). In recent years, there has been greater acknowledgment of the role of increased international research collaboration in fostering innovation and addressing global challenges. Even widely used university rankings have recognized the growing need for international collaboration. The Times Higher Education now uses international research as a measure of international outlook, accounting for 2.5% of a university's total score. Quacquarelli Symonds now includes a metric for international research networks to assess an institution's global research connections and acknowledge the significance of collaborative research. In the 2025 QS World University Rankings, UP obtained a high score of 68.4/100 in international research networks. One example is the collaboration between UP and the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST). UP, through the Marine Science Institute, and KIOST agreed on overarching themes such as research collaboration in oceanography, marine biodiversity and ecology, marine chemistry, biogeochemical cycle studies, natural products chemistry and paleoclimatology of coral reefs in the Western Pacific and its marginal seas; development of joint training and scientific projects; and facilitate exchange of marine scientific and academic information, knowledge and technology between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea. KIOST is a government-supported research and development institute tasked with discovering new scientific knowledge about the ocean for the benefit of the Korean people.

Table 4. Total number of international students hosted by UP in student exchange

System/Constituent University							
	OIL System	Baguio	Diliman	Los Baños	Manila	Visayas	TOTAL
From Korea for 2023-2024							
Students	1	0	<i>Not provided</i>	9	0	0	10
From ASEAN and other countries for 2023-2024							
Students	14	0	<i>Not provided</i>	20	40	0	74
Historical data for previous academic years							
<i>Reckoning Period</i>	<i>2003 - 2019</i>	<i>2008 - 2024</i>	<i>2018 - 2022</i>	<i>Not provided</i>	<i>2017 - 2023</i>	<i>Not provided</i>	
Students	356	7	<i>Not provided</i>	<i>Not provided</i>	559	0	922

Source: UP System Office of International Linkages

Increasing inbound mobility: A challenge to UP and the Philippines

Despite our extensive partnerships, it remains a challenge for UP to attract more foreign students and faculty to study and teach at the University. In the 2024 QS World University Rankings, our lowest scores were in the international faculty ratio at 1.6 and the international students ratio at 1.1. In the 2025 QS Asia University Rankings, UP scored its fourth lowest in inbound exchange at 1.4. This is the case for UP even though around 22,247 international students have chosen the Philippines as their study destination in 2022, a growth of 52.7% since 2021, with 74% studying STEM courses (Martin 2023). The Philippines lags behind its ASEAN neighbors, having the lowest number of international students in Southeast Asia even with its advantage of using English as the primary medium of instruction in universities. While the figures for UP may seem disappointing, this only challenges us to further enhance our presence internationally and make it more attractive for global talent.

The strategies adopted by Korea to attract international students could serve as a guide for the Philippine government, given that the UP figures reflect the state of internationalization of universities at the national level. In the early 2010s, UP students preferred to attend universities in Japan or Australia over Korea. Thus, the Korean government established more scholarships for international students from Southeast Asia, encouraging student exchange with the Philippines and other ASEAN countries. It comes as no

surprise then that in 2019, South Korea was the second top destination for student and faculty exchange for UP, consisting of 123 undergraduate students from 2017 to 2018 and 14 faculty members taking up graduate studies in 2019 in 36 Korean universities. As a result, student exchange between UP and Korean universities started as a balanced exchange at 1:1 ratio. In particular, the adoption of English as the official language of the ASEAN economic community helped position the Philippines and its higher education favorably in the region. However, in the post-pandemic years, the exchange became unequal, with fewer Korean students coming to the Philippines compared to the number of Filipino students going to Korea. This is consistent with the decreasing Korean population in the Philippines. In 2019, there were approximately 90,000 Korean residents in the Philippines. This dropped to around 34,000 after the COVID-19 pandemic (Bae 2024). As of 2023, most of the country's international students – approximately 16,013 – come from India while an additional 4,462 students are from China. Two factors may have contributed to this challenge: complex systems and limited visibility.

Difficult processes and procedures

One explanation for this could be the Philippines' laborious and demanding immigration policies for students and academics. Some international students at UP were issued tourist visas with special study permits instead of student visas. These permits require renewal every few months. Securing an international student visa for the Philippines entails lengthy bureaucratic processes and difficult document processing which makes it very challenging for visiting academics and researchers who wish to stay in the Philippines for permanent tenure. For instance, prospective international students must submit an extensive list of documents, including proof of financial capacity, academic records and proof of acceptance from the institution they wish to attend. While some of these may also be required in other countries, the Philippines still requires coordinating with multiple government agencies for approval before the visa can be issued. The prospective student must secure approval from the Philippine Commission on Higher Education before the application can be processed by the Bureau of Immigration. The application is then sent to the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs which in turn informs the Philippine Embassy in the country of origin to issue the visa. Because these government agencies have their own set of requirements and procedures, the process takes several months to complete. In countries like Australia, the entire process takes only about 1 to 4 months. In the Philippines, the process can take anywhere from 2 to 6 months. The official website is also lacking in terms of defining processes and conditions for study. Such a slow and confusing approval process can be discouraging for potential applicants. According to the ASEAN, member states with higher levels of inbound student mobility in the region have better developed systems of visa processing. To date, only Malaysia and Singapore have

specialist agencies to support visa applications. Foreign researchers and scholars who wish to work in the Philippines are not exempt from the long and complicated process. Their functions in academia are also limited by their foreign status. For example, in UP, foreign nationals can only hold non-regular staff positions such as lecturers, visiting professors and artists, or adjunct professors.

Low Filipino visibility in Korea

Another explanation could be the limited visibility of Filipinos in Korea. According to Bae (2024), the Philippines is less studied by Korean academics compared to other Asian countries. Filipino is not considered a critical foreign language by the Korean government and thus receives less attention. The lack of Filipino cultural and academic presence in Korea could have contributed to Korean students being less aware of the opportunities and advantages of studying in the Philippines and as a result choose other countries with more prominent promotional efforts. But this seems to be not unique to the Philippines. According to Aji and Anindhita (2022), while the ASEAN and Korea have developed close partnerships in many aspects, there remains what they call a perception gap. They observed that Korea is widely known by the ASEAN youth, particularly with the rise of Hallyu on the global stage, but not vice versa. Such perception gap is confirmed by various studies including that of Jin-pyo and Ji-hyeon. Rosland (2020) has earlier noted that while ASEAN countries admire Korean culture, Koreans know and pay less attention to ASEAN cultures. Rosland adds that many Koreans have little knowledge about ASEAN countries' cultural heritage, not because it is unattractive but because they have few opportunities to engage with it. Therefore, it is important to establish an institution that introduces and teaches ASEAN cultures, languages and the concept of ASEAN to Koreans. From UP's end, our Office of International Linkages may help facilitate the establishment of Filipino studies in Korean universities, as some universities in Japan, Europe and the United States have done. Harvard University, for example, is now offering elementary, intermediate and advanced language courses in Filipino (Tagalog) under the Department of South Asian Studies. The School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London also offers Filipino (Tagalog). With the rise of multicultural families, including Korean-Filipino families, and strong ties with the Philippines, Filipino was first taught at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) and Sogang University in 2010 (Concepcion, Laranjo and Bae 2022). Although these courses are mainly focused on the language, they open opportunities for learners to be acquainted with the Filipino culture as language and culture are deeply intertwined. One notable development was the establishment of Filipino as a full degree program (BA in Filipino) at Busan University of Foreign Studies (BUFS) in 2015, in response to Korea Republic Act No. 13944 which aims to promote critical language education (Concepcion, Laranjo and Bae 2022). Students in the program had the option of taking subjects

at BUFS for three years and a year at UP as exchange students. They could also take subjects for seven semesters at BUFS and a semester at UP. In 2020, the Korean government ceased to support the BA Filipino program. At present, BUFS has stopped offering any Philippine-related subjects due to lack of funds.

ASEAN-Korea relations: Growing regional cooperation and strengthened human connections

ASEAN and Korea have steadily strengthened their ties since 1989, with milestones such as the 2009 establishment of the ASEAN-Korea Centre, of which the Philippines is a member and which implements programs and activities to strengthen cooperation and deepen friendship among ASEAN and Korea, and the 2010 Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Republic of Korea Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. To further these efforts, Korea established a Permanent Mission to ASEAN in 2012 and inaugurated the Culture House in Busan in 2017. According to Concepcion, Laranjo and Bae (2022), Asian languages have long been taught in Korean universities such as Hufs which offers courses in Bahasa Malay, Bahasa Indonesia, Thai and Vietnamese. Other universities such as BUFS, Sogang University, Korea University and Yonsei University also offer Southeast Asian languages.

Today, ASEAN holds an important position in Korea's global engagements, ranking as its second-largest partner in trade, investment destination and overseas construction orders. This strong relationship is further underscored by ASEAN being the top travel destination for Koreans, with annual people-to-people exchanges reaching nearly nine million. In 2019, nearly 2.7 million tourists from ASEAN countries visited South Korea, and Southeast Asian countries, particularly Vietnam, were popular destinations for South Korean travelers (Botto 2021).

In terms of education, there are several noteworthy initiatives aimed at enhancing exchange and cooperation between the youth sectors of ASEAN and Korea. In 2020, the ASEAN Korea Youth Summit was held under the theme "Togetherness of ASEAN-Korean Youth for the Future of the ASEAN-Korean Community". The Korean government provided a subsidy for young people in certain ASEAN countries to attend the summit including those from the Philippines. The push to promote youth exchanges has been given more attention with improved cooperation between Korea and ASEAN, particularly following the implementation of the New Southern Policy in 2017, which aims to strengthen political and economic

ties with India and ASEAN. Article 26 of the Co-Chair's Statement at the 2019 ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Commemorative Summit likewise emphasized participation and cooperation in the youth sector. Article 23 acknowledges that ASEAN and Korea continue youth exchanges, strengthening youth cooperation. Article 26 of the Co-Chair's Statement from the 2019 ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit emphasized the importance of participation and cooperation in the youth sector. Furthermore, Korea has provided funding for the ASEAN-ROK Scholarship for Korean Studies Programme coordinated by the ASEAN University Network (AUN). The flagship project "Higher Education for ASEAN Talents: Scholarship Opportunity for ASEAN Faculty Members in the ROK" has been implemented since 2020. It aims to provide faculty members from ASEAN member states who hold a master's degree with the opportunity to obtain a PhD in Korea, thereby contributing toward improving the competitiveness of the ASEAN higher education sector and fostering closer ties between ASEAN and Korea. Human mobility and people-to-people exchange could contribute to strengthening relations between Korea and ASEAN countries including the Philippines. Also at the ASEAN-ROK Summit, Korea welcomed increased student and faculty exchanges and research collaborations through expanded ROK-ASEAN Scholarship programs and e-learning using ICT. It also aims to intensify efforts to promote Korean as a second language in ASEAN countries, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and paving the way for future cooperation.

Support from the national government: Promoting key initiatives

In the Philippines, current diplomatic efforts by the Philippine Embassy in Korea, led by Ambassador Maria Theresa De Vega, are strengthening international relations and increasing Filipino visibility by promoting Filipino culture to the Korean population. These efforts, in turn, heighten Korean interest in Filipino culture and academic opportunities. The embassy actively seeks out partnerships with different Korean government ministries and organizations, as well as opportunities for building and maintaining people-to-people relations between the two countries. One initiative supported by the Philippine Embassy in Korea was the participation of the Philippines in the 2023 Global Education and Innovation Summit held in Korea last September. With the theme "Innovation Ecosystem of Education in the Era of Digital Transformation", the high-level summit was attended by over 200 global education leaders and keynoted by Vice President and then-Department of Education Secretary Sara Duterte. A meeting with Vice President Duterte and Korea National Assembly Speaker Kim Jin-pyo was held to discuss key priorities

in Philippines-Korea relations, including those in education. Other initiatives include the participation of Filipino students in the International Mathematical Science Creativity Competition hosted by the Foundation for the Advancement of STEAM (FAS). Discussions with FAS focused on educational cooperation, particularly in assisting the Philippines with the design and construction of its national science museum and partnering with Philippine institutions that lead in STEAM education. To boost agricultural competitiveness in the Philippines through science and technology, an agriculture genomics research center was established at UP Los Baños. This initiative was the result of collaboration among UP, the International Rice Research Institute, and the Korean government, represented by the Korea International Cooperation Agency. Incidentally, 2024 marks the 75th year of Philippines-Korea relations and the embassy is commemorating the occasion with a number of activities such as cultural exchanges and official visits. The Philippines and Republic of Korea have been continuing their bilateral relations since 1949. These bilateral relations have resulted in geographical, economic and cultural benefits for the two nations (Concepcion, Laranjo and Bae 2022). By implementing comprehensive strategies that go beyond short-term events, we can build sustainable connections that enhance mutual understanding and benefits.

To make initiatives more effective, it is important to establish clear intentions and goals for internationalization. The Philippine Commission on Higher Education explicitly states that it is committed to prioritizing internationalization in higher education institutions not only to elevate the standings of Philippine universities in prestigious global university rankings but more importantly, to harness the transformative power of education as a driving force for national development and progress. This is because internationalization, particularly in the form of student exchanges and faculty collaborations, leads to a broader understanding of development issues by bringing cultural diversity on one hand and shared purpose in addressing transnational challenges on the other hand. But mobility offers not only social benefits; it also has significant economic advantages for the country. In the City of Baguio alone, located in the Cordillera region of the Philippines, international students contribute to the local economy. Based on an estimated population of 5,000 international students, it was projected that they could inject as much as 1.6 billion pesos (approximately 27 million dollars) into Baguio's economy annually (Esmail 2021). Although there are many nationalities in Baguio City, a study found that Korean students have an average contribution higher than that of other nationalities. Baguio is among the major urban areas with Korean enclaves along with Angeles City and Cebu City (Bae 2024). On a larger scale, the OECD, of which Korea is a member, reports that the direct export revenues from international students increased from over EUR 50 billion in 2010 to over EUR 115 billion in 2019. Education-related service exports

include the direct contributions of international students to the host country's economy, covering expenses for tuition, food, accommodation, local transport and other services.

Initiatives at the national level are essential for fostering deeper cultural and academic exchanges. One good example is the program of the Spanish Ministry of Education and Vocational Training for Filipino university students or graduates to go to Spain in 2023-2024 to help teach English in primary or secondary education or in language schools. English is one of the two official languages of the Philippines, widely used in various domains such as research, politics, and higher education, where it serves as the primary medium of instruction. This program gives Spanish students the opportunity to know the Filipino culture while interacting with Filipino English speakers. I believe that this kind of collaboration is a good way of fostering cross-cultural understanding while enhancing language skills. This enriches the education experience of students from Korea and the Philippines and promotes global citizenship.

Conclusions

As shown, enhancing collaboration in educational exchange particularly between ASEAN and Korea requires national and transnational policies and programs designed to facilitate and encourage such interactions. At the government-to-government level, increased international cooperation policies in education can also strengthen diplomatic and economic ties. Similarly, these programs and policies should aim to remove barriers and create opportunities for active exchanges between countries and educational institutions. As mentioned, one key problem in the case of the Philippines is the laborious and demanding immigration policies for students and academics which makes the country less attractive for student exchange and face-to-face research collaborations. Thus, it would help to simplify and streamline immigration policies to improve a country's attractiveness for international academic activities. This includes addressing internal systems and bureaucratic procedures while providing greater support for international students and faculty. In this regard, UP could play a key role in driving reforms in immigration policies for students and foreign higher education institutions. Philippine institutions could also benefit from benchmarking against successful Korean and ASEAN universities. For instance, Seoul National University's strategy of hiring foreign faculty has indirectly enhanced its global ranking. As also demonstrated, offering more scholarships similar to what Korea has done can open doors to greater opportunities for student exchange. Reviving English language programs for Koreans and international students could also be beneficial. These programs, once a major draw for international students, were

discontinued. As a result, more international students choose English studies in Malaysia and Australia instead.

It is important for an ASEAN country like the Philippines to welcome more changes especially in terms of policies as it strives to be globally competitive through stronger ties with other countries in the field of education and research. These changes also include government investments in infrastructure and support systems for international students and academics such as language support, access to basic services, and improved safety and security. Furthermore, as mentioned, the goal of collaboration is to establish long-term linkages over short-term engagements to make them more effective in developing deeper and more meaningful connections. One of the recommendations cited is integrating courses into the formal programs of universities, similar to what UP has done, that pave the way for cross-cultural understanding and enhancing global citizenship. Another area that can be explored is the development of joint programs between higher education institutions. Sustained collaborations are important as they lead to continuous knowledge exchange and research collaborations that can grow over time.

The Philippines, through the University of the Philippines, is committed to strengthening its academic partnerships with Korea toward greater mutual understanding and collaboration. We are bound by a shared purpose of strengthening academic excellence, cultural exchange and innovative research. I am confident that this partnership will continue to flourish and result in even greater success that can drive change in our countries and the world.

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Dr. Kyung Min Bae, director of the UP Korea Research Center, for her expert insights on the topic and the UP Office of International Linkages, headed by Dr. Imee Su Martinez, for providing relevant data.

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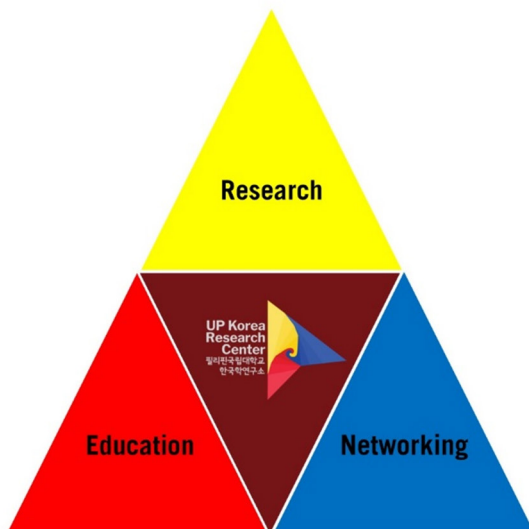
UP Korea Research Center

필리핀국립대학교 한국학연구소

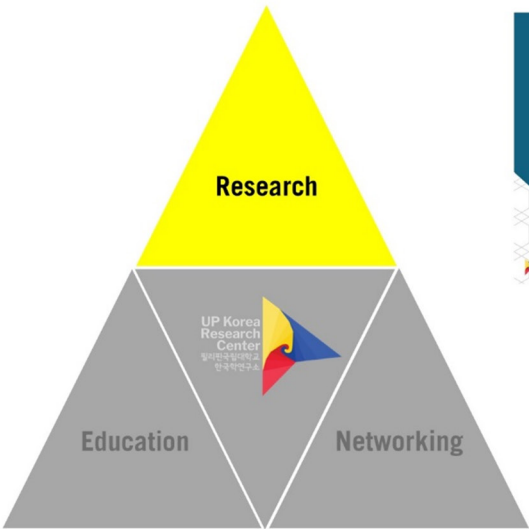
Established in 2016 with the assistance of
Korea Research Initiatives @ UNSW and
funding from the **Academy of Korean Studies**



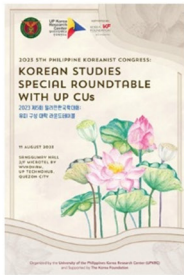
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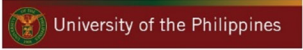
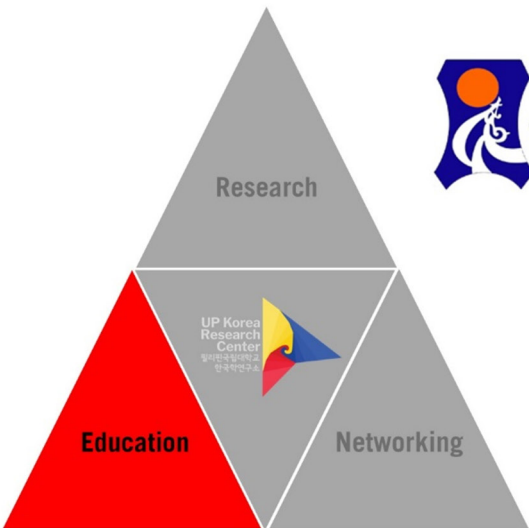
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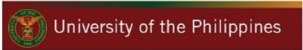

Asian Center
University of the Philippines

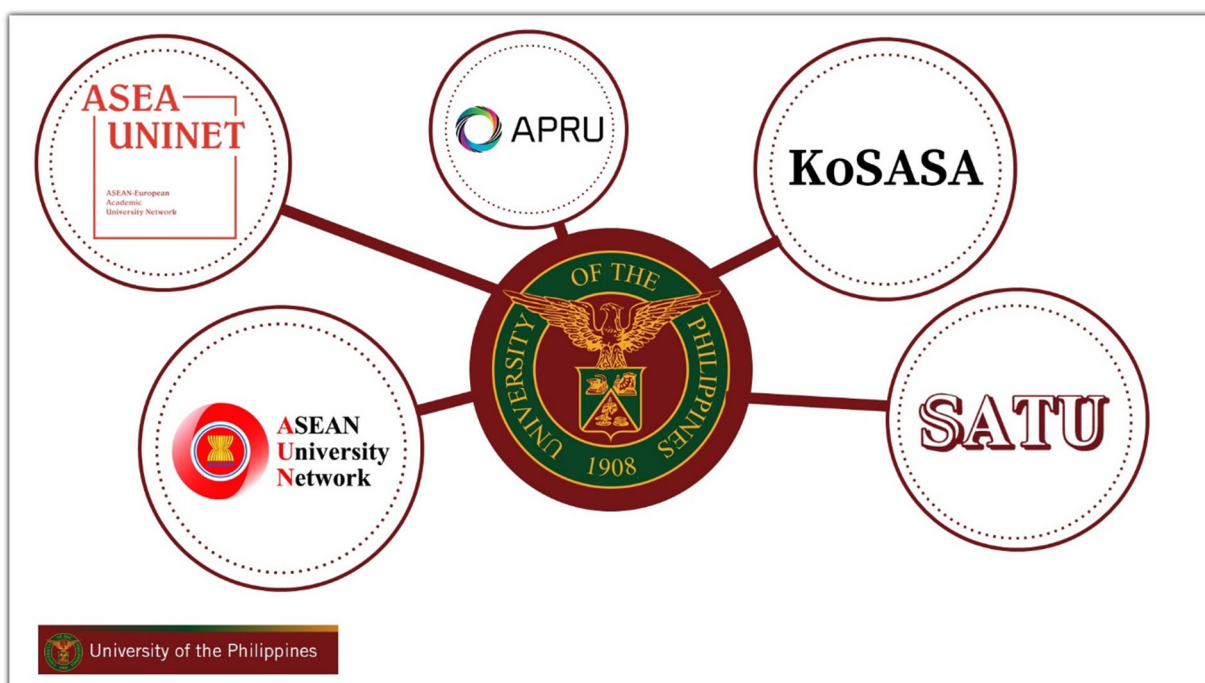


center for
international
studies
university of the philippines



UP DEPARTMENT OF
LINGUISTICS





COOPERATE PROGRAM

Awards grants for research
cooperation with international
partner universities

164

academic visits

58

international
publications

from 2015 to 2019



University of the Philippines

MOVE-UP PROGRAM

Provides financial support for
undergraduate student mobility

350

international
partners

by 2019

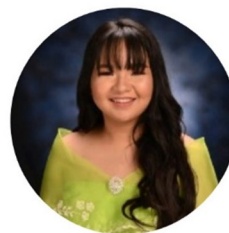


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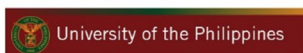
I was interested in experiencing Korea's education system [because they] have it as a high priority in their country.

— III B Elementary Education student,
studied at Busan University of Foreign Studies



It opened my eyes to a more modern way [of science.] It made me realize how much I like my degree program, and I now want to work on research.

— III BS Agribusiness Management student,
studied at Gyeongsang National University



25

Korean HEIs with
**active exchange
programs with UP**

127

UP **student exchanges** to
Korea for AY 2023-2024

32

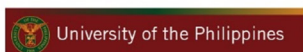
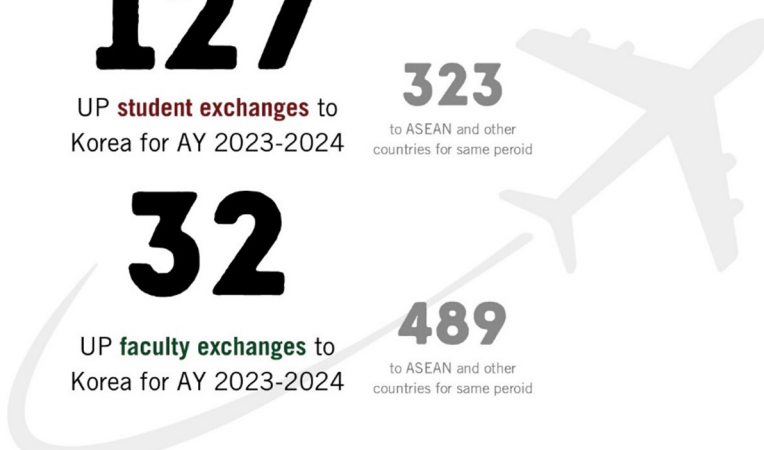
UP **faculty exchanges** to
Korea for AY 2023-2024

323

to ASEAN and other
countries for same period

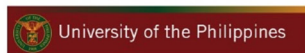
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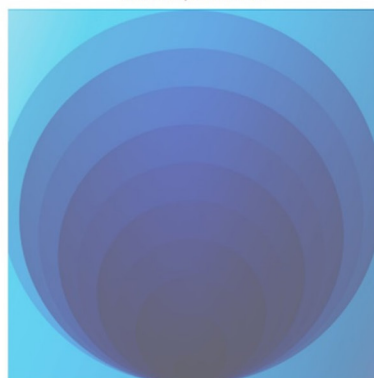




SUSTAINABILITY OF PARTNERSHIPS

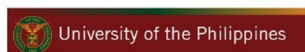


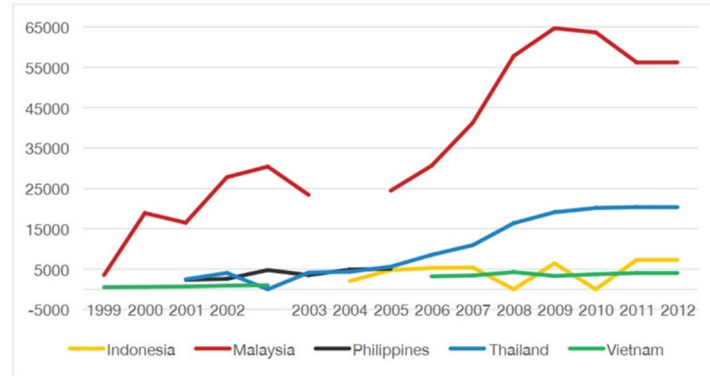
INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH
COLLABORATIONS:
MOTIVATORS, ENABLERS
AND BARRIERS



68.4 /100

International research networks
(QS World University Rankings 2025)



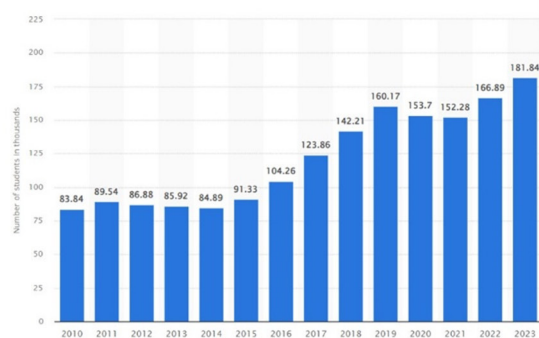


International students at tertiary level in selected ASEAN countries (British Council 2015).

Korea revamps plans to attract foreign students

July 20 2015 

International students in HEIs in South Korea from 2010 to 2023 (Statista).





PBBM backs streamlined visa application for tourists, students

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

August 25, 2023, 1:30 pm

Photo source
Coconuts Manila



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Pulse by Maeil Business News Korea

Cultural exchanges key to stronger Korea-Philippines ties

2024.02.06 14:22:56 | 2024.02.07 18:50:11



Mural at the Korean Cultural Center in the Philippines



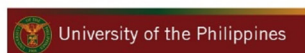
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Filipino (Tagalog) Beginners Course

School of Oriental and African Studies
University of London

Department of South Asian Studies
Harvard University



Language and Culture Assistants Program in Spain for Filipinos

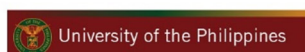




Photo sources:
Blue House (ROK)
UP Los Baños Information Office



REPUBLIC OF KOREA - PHILIPPINES
1949 - 2024



University of the Philippines

- 1** Strengthen **diplomatic** and **economic** ties.
- 2** Remove **barriers** and **create opportunities** for active exchange.
- 3** Pursue **global competitiveness**.
- 4** Establish **long-term linkages**.



University of the Philippines



ENHANCING COLLABORATION OF EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE IN HIGHER EDUCATION BETWEEN MYANMAR AND KOREA

Kyaing Kyaing Thet
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Yangon University of Economics
MYNAMAR

Abstract

This study highlights the collaboration of educational exchange in higher education between Myanmar and Korea based on the secondary data of Korea scholarship and research activities between Korea and Myanmar. Only descriptive analysis and exploratory analysis is utilized. According to the collected data, Republic of Korea has been supporting the human resource development of Myanmar by offering the different types of scholarship for various industries. It also finds out the research collaboration of Korea and Myanmar based on the collaboration of Korean Universities and Institutions with Yangon University of Economics. Therefore, it can be said that Korea and Myanmar actively collaborate in development of higher education.

Keywords: Educational exchange, research collaboration

Introduction

Republic of Korea and Myanmar have had long history of diplomatic relation since 1955. Korea and Myanmar have worked together closely on a range of issues, including economic development, security, and regional cooperation in human resource development. The economic relationship between South Korea and Myanmar is strong and growing. South Korean companies have invested heavily in Myanmar's energy and infrastructure sectors. In 2013, South Korea's exports to Myanmar totaled \$1.1 billion, making it one of Myanmar's largest trading partners. South Korean companies are also active in Myanmar's telecommunications, construction, and automotive sectors.

The cultural relationship between South Korea and Myanmar is also strong. In recent years, there has been a surge in the number of Myanmar citizens studying in South Korea. In 2013, more than 4,000 Myanmar students were enrolled in South Korean universities. South Korean pop culture, including K-pop and K-dramas, is also popular in Myanmar. The South Korean-Myanmar relationship is strong and growing. The two countries have a shared interest in promoting economic development, regional peace and stability, and cultural and educational exchange. (Insight Myanmar (September, 2022)). Because of the long history of closely cooperation between Korea and Myanmar, the study will highlight the collaboration of educational exchange between Korea and Myanmar focusing on higher Education.

Rationale of the Study

To attain the sustainable development of the world, nations need to collaborate by means of various ways. Every United Nation's sustainable development goals are important and all are related each other. To attain the SDG goal 4 of quality education, country cannot stand alone and must build the global partnership. Therefore, the goal 17, strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development becomes the actor of quality education to develop the qualified human resources.

The collaboration between universities and industry or external organizations is consistent with initiatives to equip institutions of higher learning to meet the challenges of Revolution 4.0 (Othman, Mokhtar and Esa, 2022a). The significance of educational cooperation in the field of industry and technology, which has a significant impact on the development of the country's human resources and the economic sector. The various types of collaboration can be seen in higher education. These types are universities and universities, university and industry, and university and institutions by means of student exchange, faculty exchange, and joint research work. Because of the long history of closely cooperation between Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Republic of Korea (ROK), the study will highlight the collaboration of educational exchange between Korea and Myanmar focusing in higher education.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are (i) to explore the collaboration of educational exchange between Korea and Myanmar focusing in higher education and (ii) to highly the collaboration of Korean Universities and Institutions with Yangon University of Economics.

Method of Study

Exploratory analysis and descriptive analysis are applied in this study. The secondary data are used to meet the research objectives.

ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation

ASEAN Plus Three (APT) consist of ten ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea(ROK). The APT Cooperation process began in December 1997 and since then has evolve as the main vehicle to promote East Asian Cooperation towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian Community, with ASEAN as the driving force. The APT has become one of the most comprehensive cooperation frameworks in the region, and APT cooperation continue to be broadened and deepened in a wide range of areas, including political-security, trade and investment, finance, energy, tourism, agriculture and forestry, environment, education, health, culture and arts, etc, among others. The APT also supports the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. According to ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN is making efforts to uplift the standards of living of their peoples by collaborating with People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. According to ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2023-27), ASEAN and the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea actively cooperate in political and security, economic and financial, social and cultural and connectivity. This work plan is a principal guide to enhance APT cooperation over the next five years to achieve the long-term goal of establishing an East Asia community with ASEAN as the driving force. Concerned with the social and cultural cooperation, ASEAN Plus Three will closely cooperate in the following activities.

- (1) protection of environment and promotion the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources
- (2) addressing the impact of climate change
- (3) promoting climate change resilient agricultural production
- (4) alleviating poverty for sustainable development
- (5) Strengthening social protection and development
- (6) Promoting active ageing
- (7) Promoting women empowerment and gender equality
- (8) Building capacity of civil service
- (9) Protection labour and migrant workers
- (10) Enhancing cultural exchange and cooperation
- (11) Enhancing cooperation in youth exchanges and sports
- (12) Enhancing capacity in information and media
- (13) Strengthening education systems and improving access to education
- (14) Strengthening cooperation in public health
- (15) Promoting cooperation in disaster management and emergency response

For these (15) activities, APT closely collaborate with each other for regional development. These facts show that Republic of Korea actively participates with ASEAN countries to strengthen education systems and improve access to education, not only for basic education but also for higher education.

South Korea utilized soft power diplomacy through people-to-people exchange which include technology transfers, academic exchanges and youth programmes. Because of Korean Wave, the real image of the South Korean society remains the heart of the citizens of ASEAN. Korean government has sponsored postgraduate students and undergraduate students since 1967 under the Korean Government Scholarship Programme (KGSP). It highlights that South Korean Government's friendly gratitude towards the ASEAN countries.

Republic of Korea and Myanmar Cooperation

Myanmar has become a member of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) since July, 1997. Since 1997, Myanmar actively participates in sustainable development programs conducted by ASEAN

plus three nations. (ASEAN Community Vision, 2025). Relationship of Korea and Myanmar has been long journey since 1955 because two countries have same interest in sustainable development of their lands.

1. Economic Cooperation

There has been 69 years closely relationship between Korea and Myanmar for sustainable development of two countries. Economic relation has increased since 1967 in which Korea and Myanmar signed a formal trade agreement. Korea exports industrial products to Myanmar and Myanmar exports natural resource based products to Korea. The various forms of economic cooperation between Myanmar and Korea can be seen as cooperation in Korean capital investment in Myanmar's natural resources and Myanmar's under-utilized facilities, cooperation in garment factories involving Korean capital and technology, cooperation for technology development, cooperation in international transportation and communications and cooperation in financial field. Economic cooperation of Korea and Myanmar causes the win-win situation for both nations and Myanmar looks upon Korean as a role model of development. (Nyun & Oo,1992)

2. Cooperation with Republic of Korea in Human Resource Development

To attain the human resource development, education sector stands a vital role. ASEAN Countries try to attain the quality education by collaboration with other countries through ASEAN University Network (AUN), and AUN Plus Three. Myanmar is one of ASEAN member countries and ASEAN and South Korea actively collaborate for mutual benefits in every angles.

(1) Current Education System in Myanmar

The Ministry of Education in Myanmar is responsible for development of nation through quality education not only for basic education but also for higher education with motto "to build a modern developed nation through education". Education is a major driver for sustainable development of nations and it is a source of human resource development of nations. According to the SDG goals, the goal 4; quality education is a key to attain other SDG goals. Quality education can help the eradication of poverty and it also helps to boost equalities and causes the gender equality. Quality education is also the root of technology development. By quality education, people can attain the sustainable development of their lives. Therefore, ministry of education in Myanmar has been implementing the 30 years long run national education strategic plan (NESP) to contribute to social and economic development of Myanmar since 2016.

Now, ministry of education is implementing a new NESP (2021-2030) with three goals: ① to produce many more intellectuals and intelligentsia; ② to improve the quality teaching and learning; ③ to encourage applied research and innovation. The NESP is a comprehensive roadmap for reforming entire education sector based on ten Transformational Shifts that defines the desired future state of the education system of Myanmar by 2030. The ten Transformational shifts are ① access and inclusions; ② blended learning; ③ lifelong learning; ④ research, innovation and entrepreneurship; ⑤ future technology and education 4.0; ⑥ school industry partnership in regions and states; ⑦ internationalization; ⑧ resilience and preparedness; ⑨ Ministry of Education systems and structures for the 21st century; and ⑩ strong and well-financed public sector education institutions. Among the ten shifts, the shift ① to ④ are mainly concerned with improvement of learning outcomes for entire educational sectors and the shift ⑤ to ⑩ are dedicated to strengthening the drivers of good performance of the education system. By the transformational shift of access and inclusions, all school-going-age children must complete quality education at least KG+9 in terms of the policies: no discrimination, no child left behind and no dropouts. According to transformation shifts of lifelong learning, workers and adults who completed KG +9 have chance to learn in formal TVET and higher education institutions through smooth pathway. Ministry of education also fosters research, innovation and entrepreneurship by means of modern curricula, laboratory equipment and research funds. For internationalization shift, all schools, TVET institutions and universities use the high-speed broadband network for blended learning locally, nationally and internationally and sharing information in collaborative projects. There are 169 universities and colleges in Myanmar. Among them, 75 universities and colleges are under the Ministry of Education, the other universities and colleges are under the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Culture etc. Under the Department of Higher Education (DHE), Ministry of Education in Myanmar, there are 47 universities and 2 degree colleges. The DHE is implementing the Thirty-Year Long-Term Education Development Plan (2001-2002 FY – 2030-2031 FY), in six phases of five-year duration, each is now in its 23rd year of implementation. It is the most ambitious of the plans launched by the Ministry of Education. The six core areas of focus are ① Human resource development, ② Utilization of technology, ③ Expansion of research, ④ Development of a lifelong learning society, ⑤ Promotion of the quality of education, ⑥ Preservation of national identity and national values. To attain

the quality education, universities of Myanmar collaborate international agencies and universities by means of student exchange, faculty exchange and conducting joint research.

(2) Cooperation with Republic of Korea in Higher Education

According to Aung (2021), three programmes for cooperation in education, have been implemented, namely the international college student exchange programmes between ASEAN and the ROK and the ASEAN-Korea Academic Exchange Programme which have been conducted annually since 2006, and the ASEAN Millennium Leaders College Student Exchange Programme which has also conducted since 2010. The ROK also provided funding for ASEAN-ROK Scholarship for Korean Studies Programme coordinated by the ASEAN University Network (AUN). These scholarship programmes have been on-going since 2010.

Republic of Korea also friendly assists in development of Education in Myanmar by exchange students program, scholarship program, joint research and providing grants for research project. The Korean Government has been sponsoring postgraduate students of Myanmar since 2002 and the number of recipients have been remarkably increasing since 2008 (Pei, 2011). The number of recipients and types of scholars are presented in the following Table (1).

Table (1) Korea Scholarship Recipients of Myanmar by Types (2018-2023)

Types	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Training /Seminar (less than one month)	78	171	7	0	13	78	347 (37.55%)
Training /Seminar (one month to three months)	26	66	12	1	9	26	140 (15.15%)
Training (more than 3 months)	4	34	5	3	1	4	51 (5.52%)
Diploma & Bachelor Degree	4	10	2	19	0	4	39 (4.22%)
Master Degree	16	98	54	99	12	16	295 (31.93%)
PhD Degree	7	8	10	10	10	7	52 (5.63%)
Total	135	387	90	132	45	135	924

Source: Scholarship Selection Approval Working Committee, Myanmar (2018-2023)

According to Table (1), most of the scholarship recipients went to Korea to attend short term training and

workshop and seminars. It accounts about 37.55%. About 32% of Myanmar scholarship recipients achieved Master Degree and it is the second largest figure and 5.63% attained PhD degree. By these figures, Republic of Korea has been supporting the development of Myanmar human resources. It is needed to highlight the institutions and association of Korea which mostly support the human resource of Myanmar. Table (2) shows the Korean associations and institutions which mostly offer the scholarship for Myanmar citizens.

Table (2) Korean Association and Institutions Mainly Supported to Human Resource Development of Myanmar (2018-2023)

Korean Sponsors	Training/Seminar	Bachelor/Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
Chonbuk National University	17	-	-	-	17
Korean Development Institute(KDI), Korean Government Program sponsored by National Institute for International Education(NIIED)	1	-	23	10	34
The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)	64	-	152	-	216
National Institute for International Education, Ministry of Education	-	-	10	13	23
Sejong City Office of Education	23	-	-	-	23
Seoul National University(SNU)	39	2	8	9	58
Soongsil University	-	-	11	-	11
Yeosu Academy	13	-	-	-	13
Yeungnam University	5	-	7	-	12
The Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)	10	-	-	-	10
DAWONSYS Co.Ltd	10	-	-	-	10
Embassy of the Republic of Korea	18	14	13	-	45
IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	19	-	-	-	19
Incheon Dental Association (IDA)	10	-	-	-	10
Industrial Bank of Korea	-	13	3	-	16
Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources(KIGAM)	12	-	-	-	12

Korea Foundation for International Healthcare(KOFIH)	7	-	6	-	13
Korea Land & Housing Corporation (Myanmar)	11	-	-	-	11
Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency(KOTRA)	60	-	-	-	60
Ministry of Health and Welfare, National Rehabilitation Center	16	-	-	-	16
Mitsubishi Corporation	10	-	-	-	10
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT)	11	-	-	-	11
Total	356	29	233	32	650

Source: Scholarship Selection Approval Working Committee, Myanmar (2018-2023)

According to Table (2), there are 24 Korean institutions which mainly offer 70.35% of scholarship to Myanmar. Most of the scholarship are awarded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the second largest number of scholarships are offered by the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and the third largest number of scholarship are offered by Seoul National University (SNU). Among these institutions, nine institutions are academic institutions as highlighting the collaboration of higher education of both sides by means of academic exchange, and student exchange programmes. Therefore, it reveals that Korean institutions play a vital role in internationalization of Myanmar universities in the global context.

Cooperation of Republic of Korea and Yangon University of Economics

The Yangon University of Economics is a public university which is under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education. The University was established as a professional institute to train economists, accountants, statisticians, and management personnel and to conduct research on economics, business and statistical issues concerning the Myanmar Economy.

The University now has six major teaching departments, namely, Economics, Applied Economics, Statistics, Applied Statistics, Commerce, and Management Studies. The other supporting Departments of the university are the Myanmar Language, English, Mathematics, and Geography Departments. The

University is organized with the Rector, Pro-Rectors and Heads of Departments forming the Administrative Board and the Academic Board. There are at present a total of 420 full-time staffs in the university, out of which 230 are engaged in teaching and research. The rest are administrative and support personnel. The total student enrolment each year is about 8579, of which 1200 are fresh admissions. Courses in Economics, Statistics, Commerce, and Management are offered at the Bachelor, Honours, Diploma and Master levels. At present, the University is offering the courses for 9 bachelor degrees, 9 master degrees, 4 post graduate diploma degrees, and 3 doctoral degrees. The University has nurtured more than 60,000 graduates who specialized in Economics, Statistics, Commerce and Business Studies. (YUE, 2020).

Under the Human Resource Development Programme, Yangon University of Economics is offering Master of Public Administration, Master of Development Studies, Master of Business Administration, Master of Banking and Finance, Master of Marketing Management, Master of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Master of Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Innovation, and Master of Applied Statistics Degrees. Concerning the post graduate diploma degree, Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing Management, Post Graduate Diploma in Management, Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management, and Post Graduate Diploma in Research Studies are also offered in order to meet the needs for continuing education and professional development of people in Myanmar by means of blended teaching and learning methods.

Educational Philosophy of Yangon University of Economics is "Creation for innovation". Its vision is "To be an internationally recognized and a locally leading university". To achieve this vision, six missions will be implemented. These missions are (1) to produce the highly qualified graduates in accordance with the requirements of the stakeholders, (2) to broaden the student's perspective to become continuous life-long learners contributing innovative solutions to the society, (3) to enhance the capability of faculty through mutual beneficial networking with international academic institutions, (4) to upgrade the research competencies and skills through university-industry collaboration and (5) to nurture the intellectually and morally developed professionals for the development of the economy of nation. To attain these objectives, international collaboration is carried out with various international universities and associations.

Table (3) Foreign University and Association Collaborating with YUE

Nation	University		Institute	
	Name	Activities	Name	Activities
China	Yunnan University of Finance & Economics (YUFE)	Student Exchange, Faculty Exchange	Taiwan Shin Kong Commercial Bank	Scholarships for Students
Japan	1. Teikyo University 2. KOBE University 3. Sitama University 4. Okayama University	Student Exchange Joint Research Student & Faculty Exchange Student Exchange	1. Sumitomo Corporation 2. Charitable Trust Mizuho Asian Fund 3. AEON 1% Club Foundation	Scholarships for Students
Korea	Kyung Hee University	Joint Research	1. Korea Myanmar Research Association 2. Korea Development Institute	1. Joint Research and Seminar 2. Joint Research
Singapore			East Asia Institute of Management PTE LTD, Republic of Singapore	Scholarships for Students
Germany	University for Sustainable Development, EBERSWALDE (HNE)	Support for Research Fund		

Source: Record of IRO, YUE

The universities and institutions which actively collaborate with Yangon University of Economics with respective activities are presented in Table (3). Yangon University of Economics has been jointly publishing the Myanmar Journal with Korea Myanmar Research Association (KOMYRA) since 2014. There are total of 9 volumes in the journal presenting 283 papers. Among them 62% of authors are from Myanmar side and 38% are from Korean side. These figures point out the collaboration of Myanmar and Korea in research and innovation of social science field.

Conclusion

Myanmar is now trying to attain the peace and stability for development of country. Our leaders are trying to attain the quality education because education is a key driver of sustainable development and human resource development that depends on high quality education. Because of this, the State Administration Council has prioritized to support learning and academic excellence among the Myanmar people. Currently, Myanmar is facing many crises and there are few opportunities for development today. There is a need for positive international humanitarian assistance to overcome these difficulties. Korea is one of countries who supports the development of Myanmar citizens and development of Myanmar not only

in education but also in job opportunities.

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ENHANCING COLLABORATION OF EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE IN HIGHER EDUCATION BETWEEN MYANMAR AND KOREA

By Kyaing Kyaing Thet,
Myanmar

REPUBLIC OF KOREA & MYANMAR

- ❖ long history of diplomatic relation since 1955
- ❖ Closely relationship in economic development, security, and regional cooperation in human resource development
- ❖ In recent years, there has been a surge in the number of Myanmar citizens studying in South Korea.
- ❖ In 2013, more than 4,000 Myanmar students were enrolled in South Korean universities.
- ❖ South Korean pop culture, including K-pop and K-dramas, is also popular in Myanmar.
- ❖ The two countries have a shared interest in promoting economic development, regional peace and stability, and cultural and educational exchange. (Insight Myanmar (September, 2022)).



WHY IS COLLABORATION IMPORTANT?

- To attain the sustainable development of the world, nations need to collaborate by means of various ways.
 - Every United Nation's sustainable development goals are important and all are related each other.
 - To attain the SDG goal 4 of quality education, country cannot stand alone and must build the global partnership.
 - Therefore, the goal 17, strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development becomes the actor of quality education to develop the qualified human resources.
 - The collaboration between universities and industry or external organizations is consistent with initiatives to equip institutions of higher learning to meet the challenges of Revolution 4.0 (Othman, Mokhtar and Esa, 2022)
- The various types of collaboration in higher education are
- ❑ universities and universities,
 - ❑ university and industry, and
 - ❑ university and institutions by means of student exchange, faculty exchange, and joint research work.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ❑ to explore the collaboration of educational exchange between Korea and Myanmar focusing in higher education
- ❑ to highly the collaboration of Korean Universities and Institutions with Yangon University of Economics.

METHOD OF STUDY AND DATA SOURCES

❖ Descriptive Analysis

- ❖ Secondary Data from **Scholarship Selection Approval Working Committee, Myanmar (2018-2023)**

ASEAN PLUS THREE COOPERATION

- ❖ Ten ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK)
- ❖ began in December 1997 to promote East Asian Cooperation towards the long-term goal of building an East Asian Community, with ASEAN as the driving force
- ❖ APT cooperation continue to be broadened and deepened in a wide range of areas, including political-security, trade and investment, finance, energy, tourism, agriculture and forestry, environment, education, health, culture and arts, etc, among others.
- ❖ APT cooperation continue to be broadened and deepened in a wide range of areas, including political-security, trade and investment, finance, energy, tourism, agriculture and forestry, environment, education, health, culture and arts, etc, among others.



Source: <https://www.shutterstock.com/search/asean-plus-three>

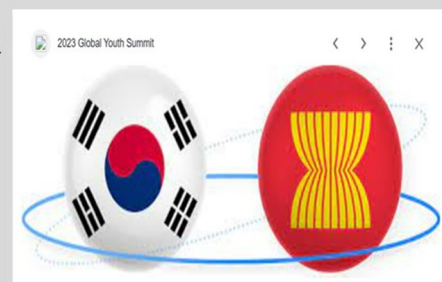
COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

According to ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2023-27)

- ❖ protection of environment and promotion the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources
- ❖ addressing the impact of climate change
- ❖ promoting climate change resilient agricultural production
- ❖ alleviating poverty for sustainable development
- ❖ Strengthening social protection and development
- ❖ Promoting active ageing
- ❖ Promoting women empowerment and gender equality
- ❖ Building capacity of civil service
- ❖ Protection labour and migrant workers
- ❖ Enhancing cultural exchange and cooperation
- ❖ Enhancing cooperation in youth exchanges and sports
- ❖ Enhancing capacity in information and media
- ❖ Strengthening education systems and improving access to education
- ❖ Strengthening cooperation in public health
- ❖ Promoting cooperation in disaster management and emergency response

ROLE OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN APT

- ❑ Republic of Korea actively participates with ASEAN countries to strengthen education systems and improve access to education, not only for basic education but also for higher education.
- ❑ South Korea utilized soft power diplomacy through people-to-people exchange which include technology transfers, academic exchanges and youth programmes.
- ❑ Because of Korean Wave, the real image of the South Korean society remains the heart of the citizens of ASEAN.
- ❑ Korean government has sponsored postgraduate students and undergraduate students since 1967 under the Korean Government Scholarship Programme (KGSP).
- ❑ It highlights that South Korean Government's friendly gratitude towards the ASEAN countries.



Source: 2023 Global Youth Summit

REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND MYANMAR COOPERATION

❖ Economic Cooperation

❖ Cooperation in Human Resource Development

a. Current Education System in Myanmar

b. Cooperation with Republic of Korea in Higher Education



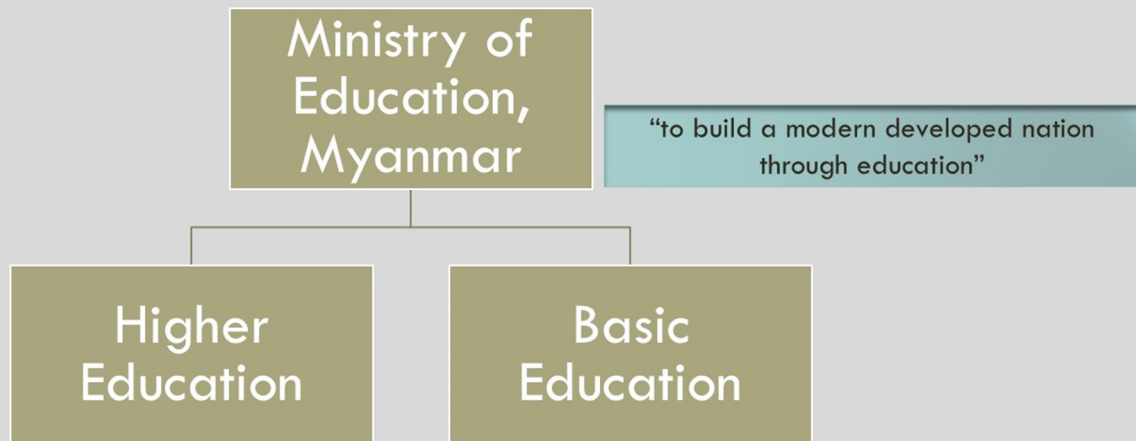
Source: Alamy ,2DK0603

COOPERATION IN ECONOMICS

- ❖ 69 years closely relationship
- ❖ According to (Nyun & Oo,1992), economic relation has increased since 1967 in which Korea and Myanmar signed a formal trade agreement.
- ❖ Korea exports - industrial products to Myanmar and
- ❖ Myanmar exports - natural resource based products to Korea.
- ❖ cooperation in Korean capital investment in Myanmar's natural resources and Myanmar's under-utilized facilities,
- ❖ cooperation in garment factories involving Korean capital and technology,
- ❖ cooperation for technology development,
- ❖ cooperation in international transportation and communications and
- ❖ cooperation in financial field.
- ❖ Economic cooperation of Korea and Myanmar causes the win-win situation for both nations and Myanmar looks upon Korean as a role model of development.

COOPERATION IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

the quality education by collaboration with other countries through ASEAN University Network (AUN), and AUN Plus Three.



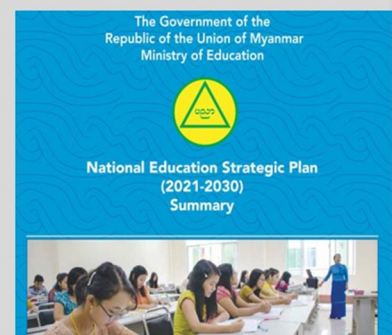
NATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (NESP)

Ministry of education in Myanmar has been implementing the 30 years long run national education strategic plan (NESP) to contribute to social and economic development of Myanmar since 2016.

Phase I - 2016-2021

Phase II- 2021-2030 (Currently implementing with 3 goals)

- (1) to produce many more intellectuals and intelligentsia;
- (2) to improve the quality teaching and learning;
- (3) to encourage applied research and innovation.



TEN TRANSFORMATIONAL SHIFTS

a comprehensive roadmap for reforming entire education sector based on ten Transformational Shifts

- (1) access and inclusions;
- (2) blended learning; (3) lifelong learning;
- (4) research, innovation and entrepreneurship;
- (5) future technology and education 4.0;
- (6) school industry partnership in regions and states;
- (7) internationalization;
- (8) resilience and preparedness;
- (9) Ministry of Education systems and structures for the 21st century; and
- (10) strong and well-financed public sector education

ACTIVITIES FOR THE TRANSFORMATION SHIFTS

For access & inclusion transformation shift, all school-going-age children must complete quality education at least KG+9 in terms of the policies: no discrimination, no child left behind and no dropouts.

For transformation shifts of lifelong learning, workers and adults who completed KG +9 have chance to learn in formal TVET and higher education institutions through smooth pathway.

Ministry of education also fosters research, innovation and entrepreneurship by means of modern curricula, laboratory equipment and research funds.

For internationalization shift, all schools, TVET institutions and universities use the high-speed broadband network for blended learning locally, nationally and internationally and sharing information in collaborative projects.

DHE'S SIX CORE AREAS OF FOCUS

- (1) Human resource development,
- (2) Utilization of technology,
- (3) Expansion of research,
- (4) Development of a lifelong learning society,
- (5) Promotion of the quality of education,
- (6) Preservation of national identity and national values.



COOPERATION WITH REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN HIGHER EDUCATION

According to Aung (2021), three programmes for cooperation in education, have been implemented,

- the international college student exchange programmes between ASEAN and the ROK
- the ASEAN-Korea Academic Exchange Programme which have been conducted annually since 2006,
- the ASEAN Millennium Leaders College Student Exchange Programme which has also conducted since 2010.

The ROK also provided funding for ASEAN-ROK Scholarship for Korean Studies Programme coordinated by the ASEAN University Network (AUN).

KOREA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS OF MYANMAR BY TYPES (2018-2023)

Types	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Training /Seminar (less than one month)	78	171	7	0	13	78	347 (37.55%)
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Total	135	387	90	132	45	135	924

Source: Scholarship Selection Approval Working Committee, Myanmar (2018-2023)

KOREAN ASSOCIATION AND INSTITUTIONS MAINLY SUPPORTED TO HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OF MYANMAR (2018-2023)

Korean Sponsors	Training/ Seminar	Bachelor/ Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
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The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)	64	-	152	-	216
National Institute for International Education, Ministry of Education	-	-	10	13	23
Sejong City Office of Education	23	-	-	-	23
Seoul National University(SNU)	39	2	8	9	58
Embassy of the Republic of Korea	18	14	13	-	45
IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	19	-	-	-	19
Industrial Bank of Korea	-	13	3	-	16
Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency(KOTRA)	60	-	-	-	60
Ministry of Health and Welfare, National Rehabilitation Center	16	-	-	-	16

COOPERATION OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND YANGON UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS

Established in 1964

MOTTO



CREATION FOR INNOVATION

VISION



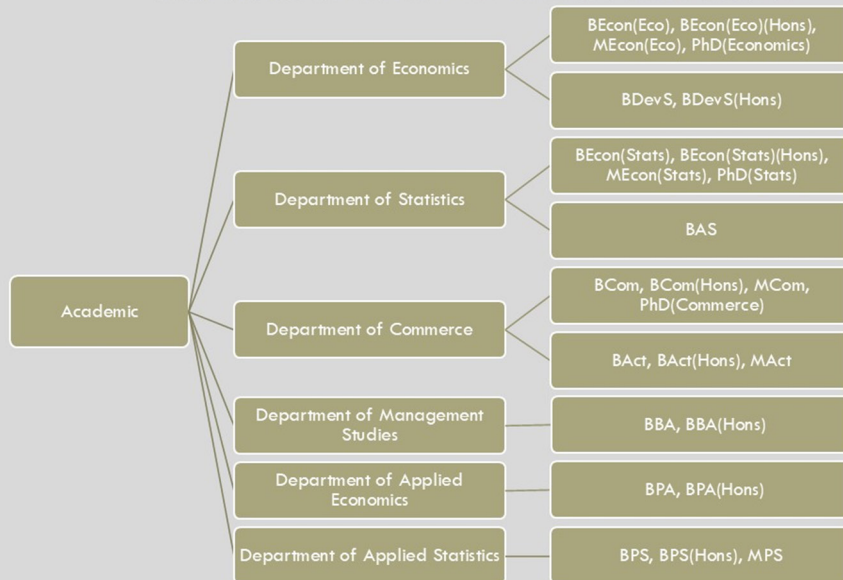
**To be an internationally recognized and
a locally leading university**



Camaryut Campus , Established in 1964

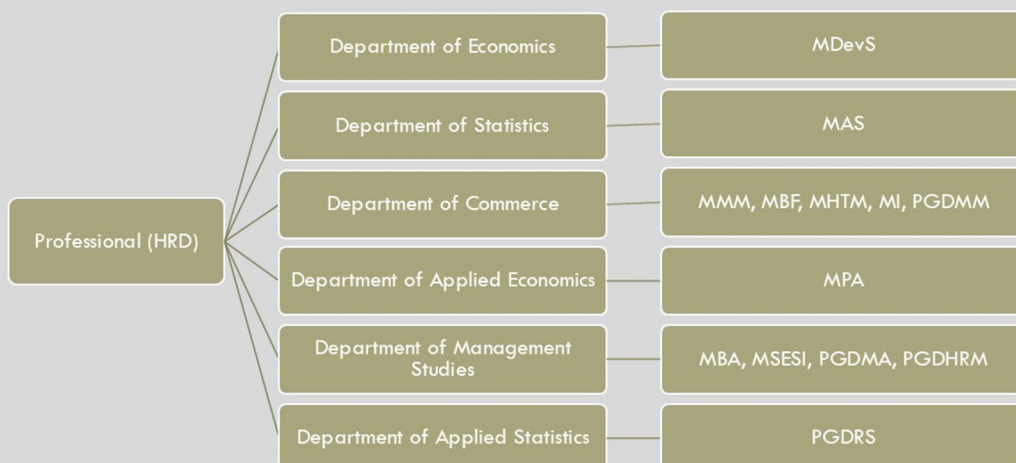


ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS AND OFFERING DEGREES



23

PROFESSIONAL MASTER & POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA DEGREES BY DEPARTMENTS



24

FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS COLLABORATING WITH YUE

Nation	University		Institute	
	Name	Activities	Name	Activities
China	Yunnan University of Finance & Economics (YUFE)	Student Exchange, Faculty Exchange	Taiwan Shin Kong Commercial Bank	Scholarships for Students
Japan	1. Teikyo University 2. KOBE University 3. Sitama University 4. Okayama University	Student Exchange Joint Research Student & Faculty Exchange Student Exchange	1. Sumitomo Corporation 2. Charitable Trust Mizuho Asian Fund 3. AEON 1% Club Foundation	Scholarships for Students
Korea	Kyung Hee University	Joint Research	1. Korea Myanmar Research Association 2. Korea Development Institute	1. Joint Research and Seminar 2. Joint Research
Singapore			East Asia Institute of Management PTE LTD, Republic of Singapore	Scholarships for Students
Germany	University for Sustainable Development, EBERSWALDE (HNE)	Support for Research Fund		

JOINTLY CONDUCTED ACTIVITIES WITH ROK

- jointly publishing the Myanmar Journal with Korea Myanmar Research Association (KOMYRA) since 2014.
- total of 9 volumes in the journal presenting 283 papers.
- 62% of authors are from Myanmar side and 38% are from Korean side.
- These figures point out the collaboration of Myanmar and Korea in research and innovation of social science field.

CONCLUSION

- trying to attain the peace and stability for development of our country.
 - trying to attain the quality education because education is a key driver of sustainable development and human resource development depends on high quality education.
 - prioritizing to support learning and academic excellence among the Myanmar people.
- Korea is one of countries who supports the development of Myanmar citizens and development of Myanmar not only in education but also in job opportunities.

Thank you for your attention.

HYUNDAI MOTOR CHUNG MONG-KOO FOUNDATION'S SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN KOREA-ASEAN COOPERATION

Mr. Jae Ho Choi
Secretary General
Hyundai Motor Chung Mong-Koo Foundation
KOREA

Background

1. Increasing Importance of ASEAN

- The 4 major ASEAN countries (Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand) have a combined population of 530 million.
- The 10 ASEAN countries collectively have a population of 680 million (as of 2023), making it the third-largest economic bloc in the world.
- The middle class in the four major ASEAN countries is expanding, projected to grow from 87 million in 2018 to 120 million by 2030.
- With a rising youth population, ASEAN expects simultaneous growth in its labor and consumer markets (average age: 29 years).
- Due to the US-China trade tensions and the resulting de-Chinaization of global supply chains, ASEAN is rapidly emerging as a global production hub.

2. Strengthened Korea-ASEAN Political, Economic, Social, and Cultural Cooperation

- The Korea-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement came into effect in 2007.
- In 2010, Korea and ASEAN established a strategic partnership.
- In 2017, the Korean government announced the New Southern Policy to expand economic, cultural, and human exchanges with ASEAN.
- The 2019 Korea-ASEAN Special Summit was held in Busan.
- Increased interest and preference for Korea in ASEAN due to the popularity of K-Pop and K-Drama.

3. Hyundai Motor Group's Entry into the ASEAN Market

- ASEAN is a blue ocean in the global automobile market with a population of 700 million and an annual sales market of approximately 3.5 million vehicles.
- In 2017, Hyundai Motor established HTMV, a production joint venture with Thanh Cong Group in Vietnam, currently leading in sales in Vietnam.
- In 2022, Hyundai Motor built a complete car manufacturing plant in Indonesia.
- By 2024, Hyundai Motor plans to complete the electric vehicle production value chain by building a battery factory in Indonesia.

Foundation's Asia CSR Strategy



- The Hyundai Motor Chung Mong-Koo Foundation is reviewing strategic social contribution projects to strengthen Korea-ASEAN cooperation, given the growing importance of political and economic relations between Korea and ASEAN.
- After analyzing the major social issues in the four key ASEAN countries, we identified five common challenges: 1) education inequality and future talent development, 2) youth and women's employment, 3) environment and climate change, 4) disaster and calamity, and 4) poverty and hygiene.
- Among these, the foundation focuses on nurturing future talent from the next generation, the driving force behind ASEAN's development, and establishing a research support platform to study and propose solutions to various social issues in each country, contributing to sustainable solutions for Asia's social problems.

1. Future Talent Development for Strengthening Korea-ASEAN Cooperation

1-1 Hyundai Motor Chung Mong-Koo Global Scholarship

- Purpose: To identify and support talented individuals from ASEAN countries, helping them grow into global future leaders.
 - Target: Graduate and undergraduate students from eight ASEAN countries wishing to study in Korea. (ASEAN 8 countries: Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines)
 - Details: Support for studying at Korean universities (graduate degree programs and undergraduate visiting programs) and offering the Chung Mong-Koo Fellowship for talent development and networking programs. (Partner universities: Seoul National University, Korea University, Yonsei University, Hanyang University, KAIST, KDI School of Public Policy and Management)
 - Graduate Student Support: Covers tuition fees, study support funds, global excellence scholarships, international conference scholarships, and networking programs from admission to graduation (approximately 50 million KRW per person; around 200 scholars selected since 2020).
 - Undergraduate Student Support: Covers tuition fees, study support funds, and networking programs for one-year visiting students (approximately 24 million KRW per person).
- (New operations in Indonesia in 2024, with plans to expand to Vietnam in 2025)

1-2. Hyundai Motor CMK School of ASEAN Studies (CSAS)

- Purpose: To identify and cultivate talents aspiring to become leaders in the ASEAN region.
- Target: Korean university students with plans to engage in the ASEAN region (20 students per year).
- Details: Offers lectures, field visits to ASEAN countries, team projects to solve ASEAN's problems, internships opportunities, and networking programs with fellow.
 - Lectures: Overview of ASEAN's history, politics, international relations, economy, and socio-cultural aspects; in-depth study of each ASEAN country.
 - Field Visits: Visits to ASEAN countries, including embassies, universities, international organizations, research institutes, and cultural heritage sites for learning.
 - Project Learning: Team formation based on interest areas to structure and analyze current issues facing ASEAN countries.
 - Internships: Opportunities for internships at international organizations in the ASEAN region to foster growth as next-generation leaders.
 - NESCAP (Bangkok, Thailand), ERIA, ASEAN Foundation (Jakarta, Indonesia)

2. Research on Asia's Social Issues to Strengthen Korea-ASEAN Cooperation

2-1. CMK Social Innovation Research Initiative (2025~)

- Purpose: To support creative and innovative research that contributes to solving Asia's social issues and positively impacts the quality of life of Asian citizens.
- Target: Researchers/teams from universities, think tanks, research institutes, non-profits, and social ventures in Asia (10 teams per year).
- Details: Procedure: The research support committee selects research topics (e.g., climate change response) – Calls for research proposals – Document review and interviews – Final selection of researchers/teams – Conducting research (6 months to 1 year) – Presentation of research outcomes (inviting researchers to Seoul) and related forums – Building researcher networks and community operations.

2-2. CMK ASEAN Forum (2024)

- Topic: Current Issues and Challenges of Sustainable Development in ASEAN

- Place: Seoul, South Korea

- Date: November 13, 2024

- Purpose: To build a network of ASEAN region experts and propose solutions for creating a sustainable Asia, reflecting the growing importance of Korea-ASEAN political, economic, social, and cultural cooperation.

SESSION 3

KEYNOTE: Sharing Knowledge in the Area of Digital Transformation for National Development

Mr. Nisith Keopanya

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LAOS

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Executive Director, Division of Digital Government Transformation
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THAILAND

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& Executive Secretary, The Steering Committee of National Bureaucratic Reform
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Vice President
Royal School of Administration, Ministry of Civil Service
CAMBODIA

Prof. Jeonghyun Lee & Prof. Yumi Yi

Humanities Research Institute
Chung-Ang University
KOREA

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Nisith Keopanya
Vice Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs
LAOS

2024 KRI International Public Policy Symposium Thu. 29 - Fri. 30 August 2024	Digital Transformation and National development
Nisith KEOPANYA Vice Minister	Ministry of Home Affairs LAO PDR nisithk@yahoo.com

Overview of MoHA

Ministry of Home Affairs is one of the ministries/organizations in the Lao government structure which has a role to assist government in improving and reforming in the governance area such as the government apparatus machinery structure, regulatory reform in public administration, civil registrations, ethnic and religion affairs, civil service, civil society matters, geography matters, national archives and award matters.

Contents

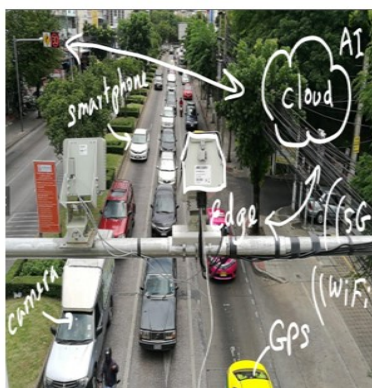
Overview of Digitalization

Digital Government Development in Lao PDR

Conclusion

Overview of Digitalization

Current situation of ICT utilities



Overview of e-Government in ASEAN 2020



Digital utilization in Laos



▪ Digital Government Development in Lao PDR



➤ Related laws-regulations

Regulations	No.	Dated
Law on Electronic Data Protection	25/NA	12.05.2017
law on Radio frequency	17/NA	05.05.2017
Law on ICT	02/NA	07.11.2016
Law on Cyber Crime	61/NA	15.07.2015
Law on telecommunication (amended)	09/NA	21.12.2011
Law on Electronic Signature	59/NA	12.12.2018
Law on post	45/NA	25.12.2013
Decree Internet Data Center	412/GoL	10.11.2016
Decree on online information management	327/GoL	16.09.2014
Decree on Digital Government and Services	290/GoL	17.08.2022

➤ Vision of digital government to 2030 and strategy 2025

- Strategy 1: Human resource development
- Strategy 2: Postal development
- Strategy 3: Telecommunication and ICT infrastructure Development
- Strategy 4: Telecommunication and information security
- Strategy 5: ICT Industry Development

Strategy 6: Development of the electronic government systems

Aim to all government administrative office, provincial and district offices shall be able to connect via computer network, to secure management and service delivery by each electronic government office. Build capacities and expertise in using the Information Communication Technology (ICT) for government officers.

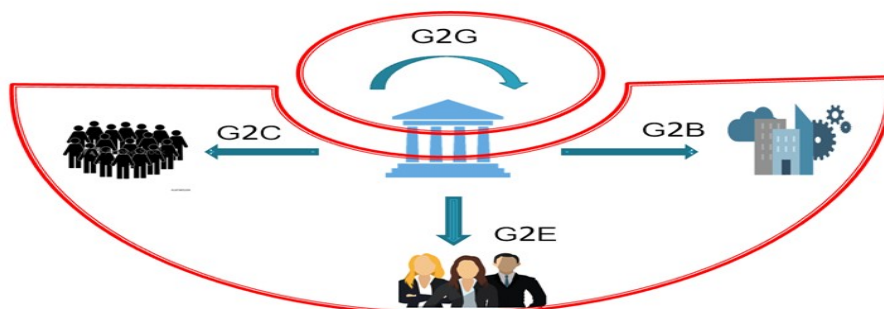
Strategy 7: Creation of ICT innovation

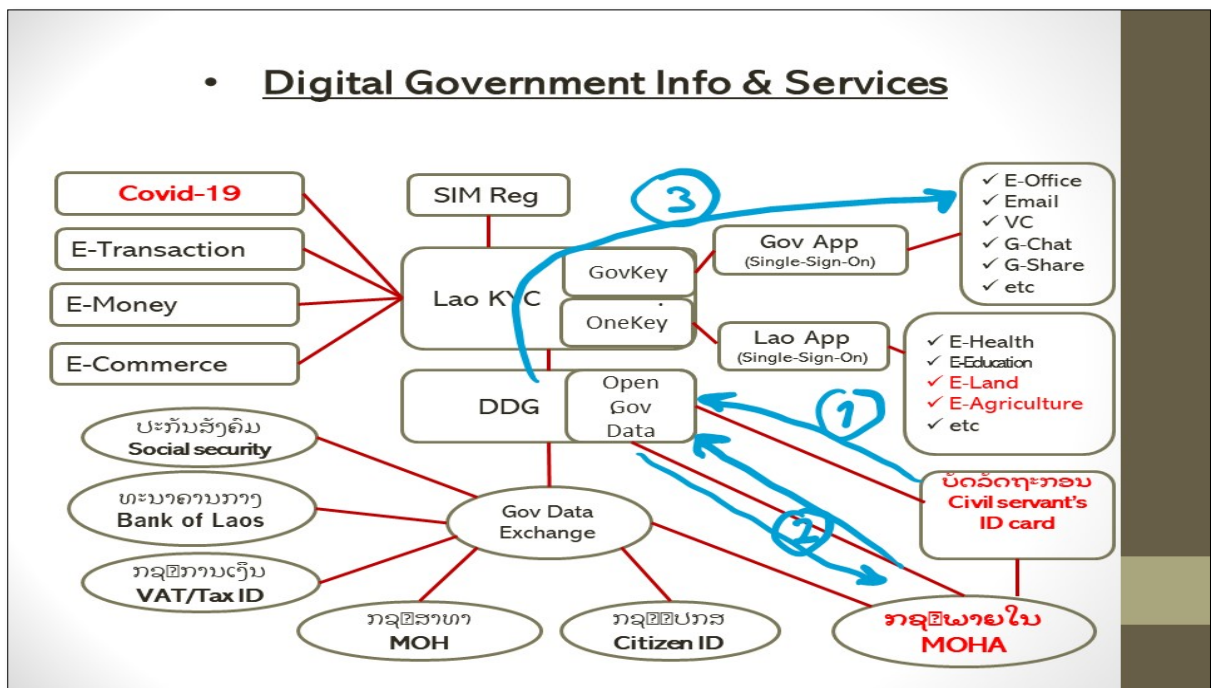
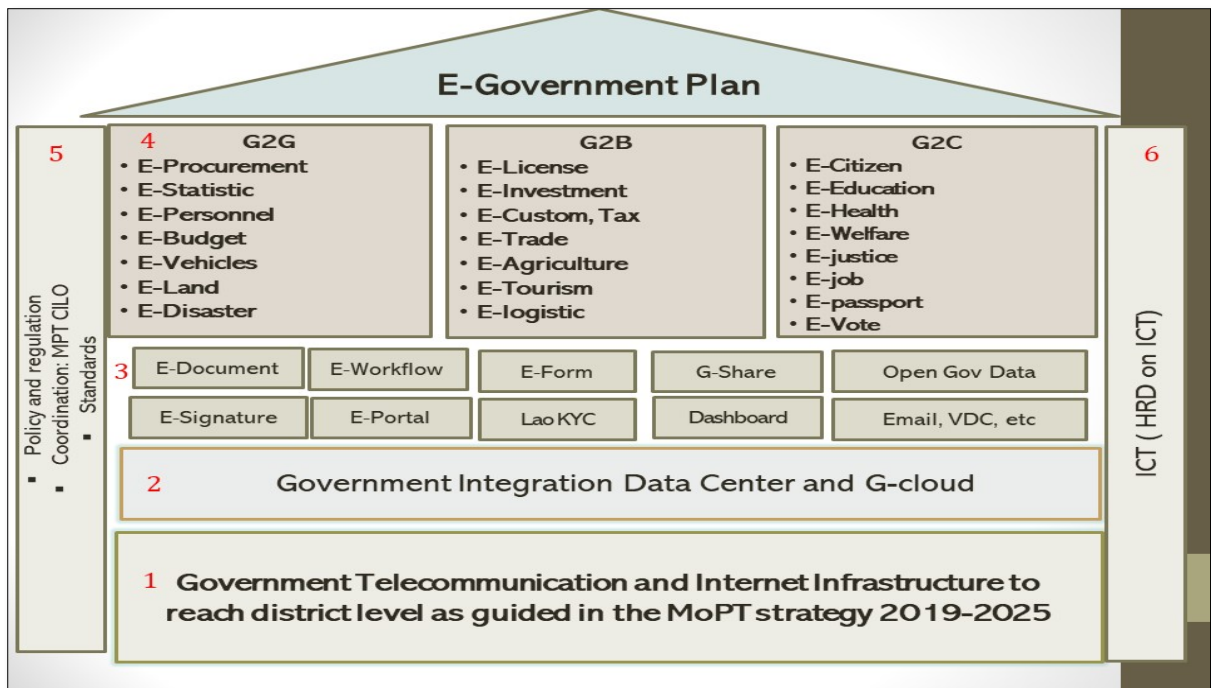
This strategy is about research and development of the invention of ICT products that are emerging and environment friendly.



• e-Government

To Increase the government's effectiveness and service delivery to the people through ICT aim for better productivity, convenient, fast, secured, transparent and cost effective.





▪ Digital Government- Information System

Personal Information Management System (PIMS)- MoHA

Smart Card: Civil Servant ID Card-MoHA

Online System for Civil Servant Performance Appraisal- MEM

Citizen management: Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRIVS)-MoHA



• Development of E-Government Services

E-office, Email, Video Conference

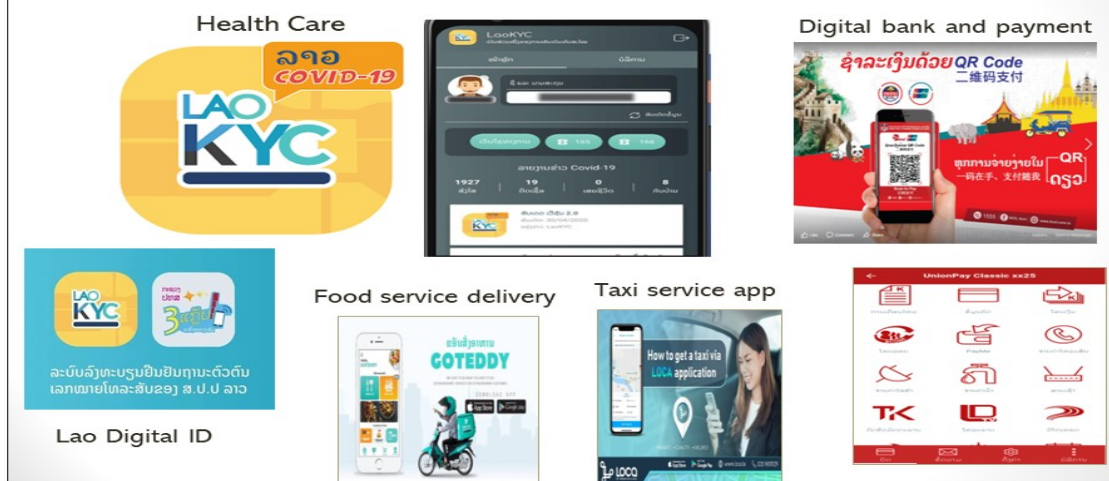
e-Portal, G-Web, Dashboard, e-Regis

G-Chat, G-Share, e-Disaster, etc

G-Net, Office Net, ສູນ IT

(Lao Font and Lao proramme)

• Digital utilization and Service in Laos



➤ Key Issues

Obstacles and Difficulties	Your Strategy
At national level - Digital Government Master Plan has just approved. - ICT Infrastructure - ICT HRD	- Digital Government Master Plan has just approved the early of 2023. - Government has to allocate the budget for ICT infrastructure. - Ministry of Technology and Communication has to provide the ICT training course for government officials immediately.

Conclusion

Digital technology have been developed dramatically and very crucial for all sectoral movement

All sectors need to be digitalized particularly public administration and human resource development

Use the system with e-Government standards and can be integrated to prevent duplication of investment

Encourage all segments of public administration apply digital innovation to their local service delivery

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES IN THAILAND: IN SEARCH OF BEST PRACTICES FOR INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE

Dr. Nicha Sathornkich
Executive Director, Division of Digital Government Transformation
Office of the Public Sector Development Commission
THAILAND

1. Evolution of Public Administration

In 2002, a major reform of the Thai public administration system was undertaken to align with economic and social changes. This reform included the enactment of the State Administration Act (No. 5) B.E. 2545 (2002) and the Royal Decree on Good Governance B.E. 2546 (2003). The objectives were to ensure public administration benefits the public, achieves governmental missions effectively and efficiently, eliminates unnecessary procedures, updates governmental functions to meet current situations, provides convenience to the public, and regularly evaluates administrative performance.

The aforementioned Act also established the Public Sector Development Commission (PDC) as a crucial mechanism for driving public administration development. The PDC is tasked with advising and consulting the Cabinet on public administration development for the public's benefit and in accordance with good governance principles. The Office of The Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC) is responsible for the administrative and academic work of the Commission.

The results of the public administration reform during 2003-2007 include:

- 1) Continuous improvement in public service efficiency, with a 50% reduction in procedures and processing times across all operations.
- 2) Development of new service formats, such as providing services through joint service centers located in shopping malls, and facilitating vehicle tax payments without leaving the car through the "Drive Thru for Tax" service. These initiatives achieved an average satisfaction rate of 83% among service recipients.
- 3) Reduction of non-core functions of central government agencies by 73% through the transfer of these functions to local administrative organizations and the establishment of other organizational forms such as public organizations.

The development towards a digital government aims to ensure efficient, reliable, and citizen-centric public administration and services, while also encouraging participation from various sectors in management and service delivery.

- 1) Development of government services in electronic form (e-Services) and creation of central digital platforms for government services catering to businesses and citizens. For example, the Biz Portal serves as a central digital platform for comprehensive electronic government services related to approvals and permits. It is reliable, secure, and integrates database systems and e-Services with government agencies, offering fully digital services. This platform provides convenience to users 24/7, anywhere and anytime. As of July 25, 2024, Biz Portal offers a total of 141 services, with 92 of them being fully digital.

2. Legislation

The Licensing Facilitation Act B.E. 2558 (2015) serves as the central law outlining the procedures and timelines for various licensing processes under different government agencies. Its purpose is to ensure

that interactions between the public and government agencies for licensing are based on three key principles: 1) Faster, 2) Cheaper, and 3) Easier.

The Digital Government Administration and Service Act B.E. 2562 (2019) is legislation aimed at driving and elevating public administration and services through the appropriate application of technology. It facilitates public services, and integrates databases from all government agencies into a unified system that is easily accessible, quick, and reliable for both government officials and citizens using public services. This act promotes convenience for citizens and enhances the efficiency of government operations and service delivery.

Act on Carrying Out of Public Service via Electronic Means B.E. 2565 (2022) is the central legislation governing electronic public administration. It promotes the use of electronic methods as the primary means for government operations and services. The Act mandates that government agencies must provide electronic channels for communication both among government agencies and between the public/businesses and government agencies. When any process required by law requires citizens or businesses to submit applications with supporting documents or copies, applicants can choose to submit these documents electronically. Such electronic submissions are considered valid, and government officials cannot refuse an application solely because it was submitted electronically.

3. Initiatives currently being driven by the OPDC to develop the public administration system

3.1. Driving Digital Government Administration and Services

In collaboration with relevant agencies, the Office of the Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC) is driving the implementation of digital government administration and services. This effort is divided into three main areas 1) the development of central platforms for government services (Biz Portal and Citizen

Portal) 2) the promotion of electronic service delivery (e-Service) for services that involve multiple agencies or require inter-agency coordination, namely agenda-based services, and 3) the promotion of data digitization and implementation of Act on Carrying Out of Public Service via Electronic Means B.E. 2565 (2022). The details of these initiatives are as follows:

3.1.1. Development of Central Platforms for Government Services: The OPDC, in collaboration with the Digital Government Development Agency (Public Organization) (DGA), the Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA), and other relevant agencies, has developed the following:

1) Biz Portal: A comprehensive electronic government service system. This central digital platform facilitates end-to-end electronic approval and licensing processes with reliability and security. It integrates database systems and e-Services from government agencies, offering fully digital services where users can search for information, submit applications and supportive documents, make payments, and receive licenses electronically through bizportal.go.th without visiting government offices. Biz Portal connects services and data from other government agencies to enhance service delivery, such as integration with the digital identity verification system via the ThaID application from the Department of Provincial Administration for user authentication, connection to the public licensing manual database from info.go.th for detailed approval and permission information, access to corporate data like company registration certificates, shareholder lists, and memoranda of association from the Department of Business Development, integration with the government's central e-Payment portal from the Comptroller General's Department, enabling bill payments, e-receipts, and various payment methods (ATM, bank counters, mobile/internet banking, bank account debits, credit/debit cards), with revenue transferred to the treasury via the GFMIS system, and electronic document issuance (e-Document) and e-Document signing systems developed by DGA in collaboration with ETDA.

Currently, Biz Portal offers 141 license services (91 fully digital) and 115 provincial services (55 fully digital), with a cumulative usage of 58,565 applications (data as of June 25, 2024).

2) Citizen Portal: This is a compilation of numerous government services to enable citizens to access services at a single point through a mobile application called "Thang Rath" (ทางรัฐ). It allows citizens to complete entire processes from start to finish, providing government services that are "easy, comprehensive, and completed in one place" throughout their lives, following the "know, submit, pay, receive" model. The Thaung Rath application currently offers 153 services, with a cumulative usage of 26,782,646 times (data as of June 25, 2024).

The promotion of electronic service delivery (e-Service) for services that involve multiple agencies or require inter-agency coordination, namely agenda-based services

3.1.2. Driving the provision of public services through electronic systems (e-Service) in services that involve multiple agencies or require inter-agency coordination (Agenda-based services), totaling 12 services, according to the Cabinet resolution on August 3, 2021, including: 1) Thai digital identity (ThaiID) application, 2) Land and building tax payment system, 3) Notification system for rights and assistance in receiving public welfare throughout life, 4) Public Service Center 1111, 5) Ease of travelling system, 6) Electronic health card issuance system, 7) System to assist unemployed individuals in returning to the labor market, 8) One ID One SME, 9) Comprehensive hazardous substance single submission system, 10) good agricultural product standard certification system (GAP) for crops, fisheries, and livestock, 11) Farmer registration system and agricultural assistance request system and 12) Cross-border goods connection system for ACMECS countries through the National Single Window (NSW) system. The OPDC, together with main agencies and related agencies, has been driving the service provision since 2022 until now. The results have been beneficial and facilitated service recipients, as well as increased

operational efficiency and integration between related agencies. The implementation results, along with examples of significant outcomes, include:

1) The development of the Thai Digital Identity (ThaID) application, by the Department of Provincial Administration, which is a digital identity verification system supporting nationwide use of digital IDs. Currently, the ThaID application has been downloaded 17,538,251 times, with 15,022,410 people registered (data as of June 12, 2024). There are 295 organizations (184 government agencies and 111 private sector organizations) requesting to use the identity verification system through the ThaID application (data as of May 2024).

2) The development of the land and building tax payment system, where the Department of Lands has piloted the system with local administrative organizations (LAOs). Currently, 3,476 out of 7,772 LAOs have consented to publish land and building tax assessment data, accounting for 44.72%. There are 6,274 LAOs accepting land and building tax payments through the integrated property registration project system, accounting for 80.73%. The number of land and building tax verifications through the LandsMaps application is 9,720 times (data as of March 12, 2024).

3) The notification system for rights and assistance in receiving public welfare throughout life, developed by the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, is currently creating a government data catalog for services. It has 98,928 users and 213,084 service usage (data from October 1, 2023 to May 15, 2024).

4) Public Service Center 1111, the central comprehensive complaint center, managed by the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office; the center has completed the data linkage with the Ministry of Transport and the Office of the National Land Policy Board. The center is now in the process of testing the system linkage with the Bank of Thailand.

5) The ease of traveling system, developed by the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, has expanded data linkages to four agencies: the Community Development Department, the Sports Authority of Thailand, the State Railway of Thailand, and the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation. It has also connected with travel service providers such as the SRT Electrified Train Company Limited and the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority. The system has 109,453 users (data from October 2023 to April 2024).

6) The electronic health card issuance system, developed by the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health, has 726 hospitals capable of providing medical certificates out of 903 hospitals under the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health, accounting for 80.4%.

7) The system to assist unemployed individuals in returning to the labor market, managed by the Department of Employment, has 26,492 service users (data from November 2023 to February 29, 2024). The department is currently developing a system to link employment and training course data with the Office of the National Digital Economy and Society Commission (ONDE) and Adecco Consulting Co., Ltd. It is also verifying data from the Thai Mee Ngan Tam system and the Digital Independent Job Service Platform (Freelance Platform) to develop data linkage using API.

8) One Identification: ID One SME, developed by the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion, has completed data linkage with one agency, the Thai Industrial Standards Institute, and will test system linkage with five more agencies: the Department of International Trade Promotion, the Thai Industrial Standards Institute, the Department of Agricultural Extension, the Department of Intellectual Property, and the Government Housing Bank. The system has been used 372 times (data from October 2023 to April 2024).

9) The comprehensive hazardous substance single submission system, developed by the Department of Industrial Works, is currently testing the permit system for chemical waste, used electrical appliances, and electronic equipment, along with a data search system.

10) The good agricultural product standard certification system (GAP) for crops, fisheries, and livestock, managed by the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS), is in the process of improving and developing systems for three government departments (Department of Fisheries, Department of Livestock Development, and Department of Agriculture) and is testing and linking systems for two government departments (Department of Agricultural Extension and The Queen Sirikit Department of Sericulture).

11) The farmer registration system and agricultural assistance request system, developed by the Office of Agricultural Economics, has completed the development of a prototype system for integrating farmer registration and a One Stop Service system for requesting agricultural assistance.

12) The cross-border goods connection system for ACMECS countries through the National Single Window (NSW) system, managed by the Customs Department, is currently being prepared by the Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC) for official launch in June. The Department of Medical Sciences officially launched the NSW system for requesting permits or notification certificates for import/export/transit of pathogens and animal toxins on May 3, 2024. There were 289,527 approval requests for customs clearance through the NSW system (data from October 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024).

3.1.3 Driving the digitization of data: The National Statistical Office, in collaboration with the Digital Government Development Agency (Public Organization), is leading this initiative through the mechanism of evaluating government agencies according to measures to improve efficiency in government

operations. This is part of the Potential Base assessment component for digital organization development, with the indicator "Development of Data Catalog System to Lead to Government Open Data."

The aim is to develop digital data systems (Digitize Data) for both internal use and external/public dissemination, leading to Government Open Data. Currently, the Government Data Catalog system (<https://gdcatalog.go.th>) of the National Statistical Office has collected 13,258 datasets from 291 agencies (as of July 22, 2024). The number of open data published on data.go.th by the Digital Government Development Agency (Public Organization) is 12,389 datasets, with 6,372,848 users and 25,110,187 usages (as of July 22, 2024).

Furthermore, in 2024, the OPDC, in collaboration with the National Statistical Office and the Digital Government Development Agency (Public Organization), is driving the indicator "Creation of Agency Master Data." This involves digitalizing 21 key datasets from 13 agencies, which are fundamental for operations, in a standardized digital format that can be linked and exchanged between agencies. This is in accordance with the announcement of the Digital Government Development Committee on the list of important agency datasets (Master Data) on July 24, 2023, which was published in the Royal Gazette on August 29, 2023.

3.2 Driving Open Government System

This initiative follows the concept of the Open Government and Meaningful Participation Ecosystem (OG & MP Model), which consists of 8 components, including government data disclosure, policies and laws conducive to open governance, incentive creation, and support for knowledge and resources. The OG & MP Model has been applied to drive important policies, such as addressing the PM2.5 air pollution problem in Lampang, Singburi, and Chiang Mai provinces, and developing the "Tell Us About the Government" platform (www.idea4gov.com) to promote the participation of citizens, youth, and the new generation in proposing ideas to solve important national issues and co-designing "Creative Projects" for

government agencies. Pilot projects have been implemented in three areas: Saensuk Municipality in Chonburi Province, Hua Wiang Subdistrict Municipality in Ayutthaya Province, and Ratchathewi District in Bangkok. Representatives from various sectors in these areas have participated in exchanging ideas and voting for beneficial concepts, leading to problem analysis and resolution.

4. Prospects and Recommendations

The Office of Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC) is currently drafting two important pieces of legislation:

(Draft) Act on Licensing Facilitation and Public Service Provision B.E. This act aims to be the primary law for improving the licensing and service systems, which will provide greater convenience to the public and businesses. Key features include:

- 1) Transitioning from licensing to notification or registration.
- 2) Eliminating committee-based approvals.
- 3) Extending the scope of all licenses to allow fee payment instead of license renewal.
- 4) Allowing temporary business operations pending license approval.
- 5) Centralizing the authority for licensing under multiple laws into a super license system.

(Draft) Public Administration Modernization Act B.E., which has four key principles:

- 1) Integrated management to drive the country's strategic agendas.
- 2) Special administrative forms for public administration or management.
- 3) Networked administration with private businesses or civil society organizations.
- 4) Crisis management.

5. Results from the Development of Biz Portal and Citizen Portal Platforms

Increased transparency, reduced discretion of officials, decreased face-to-face interactions between officials and citizens and enabled status checks and tracking through digital systems. For example, the traffic ticket payment service saw citizens checking their traffic fines through the "Thaung Rath" application over 835,892 times. In 2023, usage increased by 242.3% compared to 2022. Additionally, payments through the Comptroller General's Department's e-Payment system can issue electronic receipts, and the system directly transfers funds to the treasury through GFMS.

Improved efficiency in government operations, reduced workload for document verification by officials, and lowered overall service costs, allowing personnel more time to develop and enhance services. For instance, in 2024, the Biz Portal system linked corporate data from the DBD ID system for identity verification and corporate document linkage, eliminating the need for 8.8 million corporate document transactions, and saving approximately 6,965,000,000 baht in document costs. Furthermore, notifications through the Citizen Portal's "Thaung Rath" application reduced costs for result notifications/correction requests compared to postal mail or phone calls. In 2023, agencies saved approximately 24,774,495 baht.

Reduced costs for citizens, including savings on travel expenses, opportunity costs from taking time off work to interact with government offices, and expenses for document copying. For example, from January to June 2024, there were 32,822 service requests through Biz Portal, saving entrepreneurs and citizens an estimated 16,771,057.34 baht in hidden service costs. Additionally, citizens accessed government information on the Citizen Portal through the "Thaung Rath" application 18,207,568 times from January to June 2024, saving an estimated 54,622,704 baht in inquiry costs.

*Calculated based on a phone call cost of 3 baht per call.

**Based on estimated average travel costs of 41.19 baht/day and opportunity costs of 469.78 baht/day for visiting government offices, according to the National Statistical Office. The total hidden cost for citizens per government interaction averages 510.97 baht.

6. Problems, Obstacles, and Solutions

6.1 Problems and Obstacles

- 1) Limitations in redesigning processes (Reprocess) when developing agency services into e-Services. Agencies often prioritize e-service development without fundamentally changing existing procedures, resulting in less efficient service systems.
- 2) Varying technical readiness among agencies, preventing the development of end-to-end services on the Thaung Rath platform in a single implementation.
- 3) Connecting agency services to central digital platforms via API or Single Sign-On requires concurrent development readiness from both agencies and the central platform.
- 4) Agencies develop service systems using different technologies, necessitating modifications to existing systems for integration with the central digital platform, potentially requiring additional budget.
- 5) Government agencies' data collection and storage are not fully digitized or standardized according to Digital Government Development Agency (DGA) standards, limiting inter-agency data exchange.

- 6) Low adoption rates of central digital platform services due to a lack of user awareness and confidence in system security.
- 7) Expanding services to provincial areas involves numerous agencies and officials, high staff turnover, and varying jurisdictions, complicating service development and integration with the central digital platform.
- 8) Budget constraints for developing services and connecting to the central digital platform, requiring significant simultaneous investments to meet targets.
- 9) Readiness of infrastructure and capacity of the central digital platform to support connections with numerous services.
- 10) Small local administrative organizations may lack readiness for electronic government operations, such as not having electronic systems for work or service provision.

6.2 Solutions

- 1) Redesign processes (Reprocess) for e-Service development, adhering to Digital by Design and User Driven principles, reducing unnecessary steps, or transitioning from approval/permission to notification systems. (Lead agencies: OPDC with service-owning agencies)
- 2) Survey government agencies' readiness for service development and integration with the central digital platform, plan joint development and continuously monitor and evaluate progress. (Lead agencies: OPDC with DGA)

- 3) Develop digital datasets according to DGA standards. (Lead agencies: National Statistical Office with DGA)
- 4) Agencies developing and connecting services to Biz Portal or Citizen Portal should notify DGA as the lead agency for the Digital Government Integration Plan to request the overall budget. (Lead agency: DGA)
- 5) Upgrade the central digital platform to support multiple services and connections. (Lead agencies: DGA, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society)
- 6) Communicate to build understanding, awareness, and user confidence. (Lead agencies: DGA, OPDC, and all agencies providing services through the central digital platform)
- 7) Monitor and expedite government agencies' compliance with Section 20, paragraph 1, regarding electronic channels for public interaction and electronic systems for officials' duties. (Lead agency: OPDC)
- 8) Promote awareness for government agencies to report implementation results through the Government Information Center (www.info.go.th), providing public access to comprehensive government information and a channel for agencies to report to the Cabinet every 60 days. (Lead agencies: OPDC, Office of the Council of State, ETDA, and DGA)
- 9) Create cooperative networks with relevant organizations, such as the National Municipal League of Thailand, the Association of Provincial Administrative Organizations of Thailand, and the Subdistrict Administrative Organization Association of Thailand, to jointly drive the implementation of the Act. (Lead agencies: OPDC, DGA)

7. Key issues that should be urgently considered and studied to promote and support government actions in achieving digital government goals

- 1) Budgetary support for driving the development and integration of services on the central digital platform to achieve targets by 2027.
- 2) Study to upgrade the central digital platform services in the next phase.
- 3) Promotion of end-to-end digital service system development, including redesigning steps and processes before implementing technology for service development.
- 4) Support for creating participation from government, business, and public sectors in management and service provision.
- 5) Gathering feedback and opinions from service users and stakeholders to develop services that truly meet user needs.
- 6) Improvement of laws, rules, and regulations that hinder digital administration and service provision.
- 7) Creation of an ecosystem to enhance digital government, promoting use cases and utilization.



Digital Transformation of Public Services in Thailand : In Search of Best Practices for Inclusive and Efficient Governance

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Office of the Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC), Thailand
Keynote # 3 : Sharing Knowledge in the Area of Digital Transformation for National Development
30 August 2024

2024 KACPE International Public Policy Symposium
Strengthening the Korea-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Korea and ASEAN for Shared Future Development

1

Office of the Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC)



Vision : Moving the Thai public sector forward based upon the **principles of good governance** in order to become an effective mechanism for national development.

Mission :

- Acting as the secretariat of the PDC,
- Analyzing, researching and giving opinions
 - Conducting a research on policies as assigned
 - **Monitoring and evaluating the reform** within the ministries, bureaus and departments and preparing reports for submission to the Cabinet and the House of Parliament
 - Interpreting and analyzing the issues and reporting to the PDC/ Sub-commission of the PDC
- Giving advisories in **redesigning and restructuring the roles and responsibilities and work process of government agencies** in line with the guideline for the public sector development
- **Creating a common understanding** by disseminating information among the target groups
- Organizing trainings and seminars for the executives of the public sector and government agencies

to ensure good governance in the Public Sector

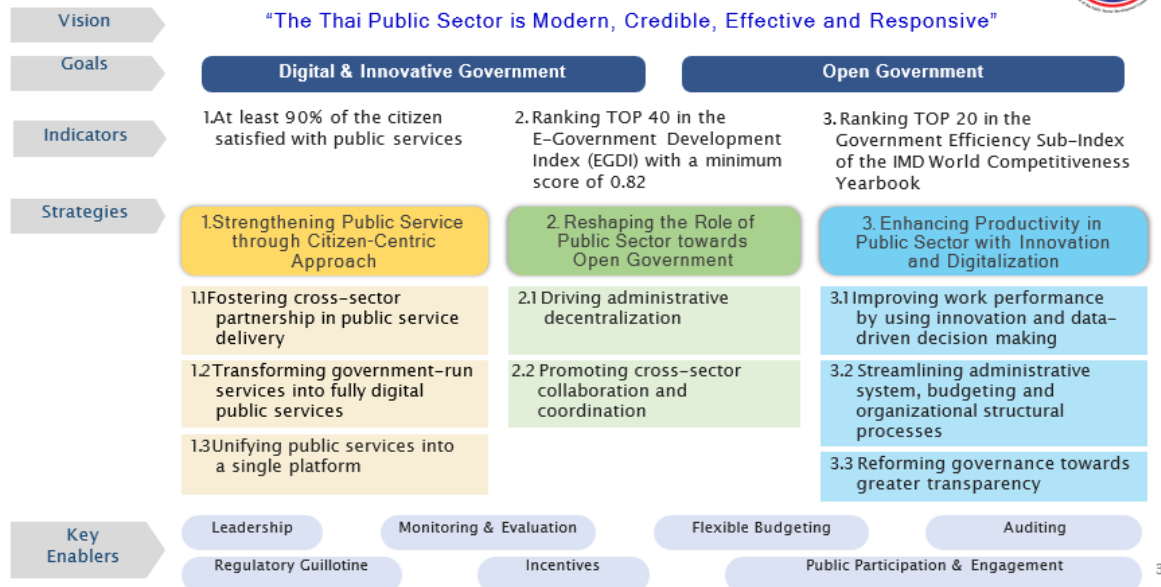
OPDC's Goals :

- Increase satisfaction of the people in public services
- Modernize public organizations' structure and administrative framework
- Improve public administration systems
- Promote people participation in public agencies
- Increase higher performance of public workforce and organizations



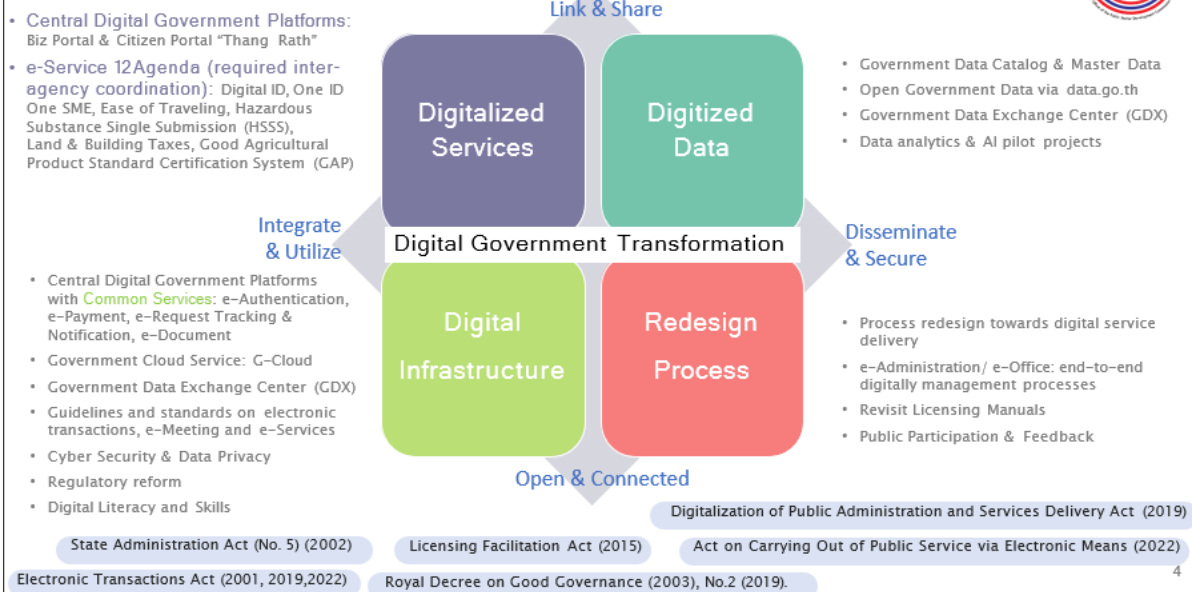
2

Strategic Plan of the Public Sector Development (2024 - 2027)



3

Digital Government Transformation in Thailand



4

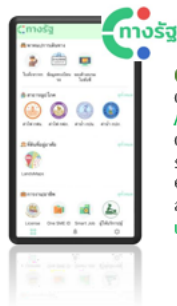
Digital Government Transformation: Central Digital Government Platforms



Biz Portal –Integrated Government Online Licensing Service Portal via bizportal.go.th. Biz Portal provides **end-to-end fully digital services, 24/7**, including information providing, making digital transactions for permission, e-payment, e-licensing and issuing of certification and other official documents.

Bangkok Metropolitan
142 Licenses in 25 types of business
(92 License in fully digital services)

Country-wide
115 Licenses in 10 types of business
(55 License in fully digital services)



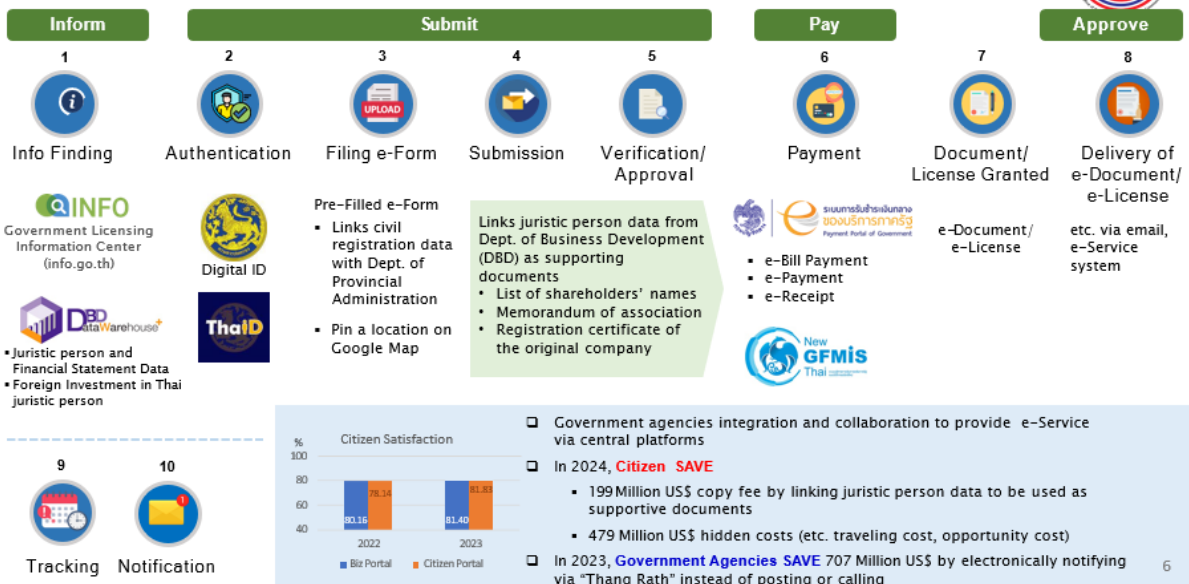
Citizen Portal – Integrated Digital Government Service Portal via **Mobile Application named "Thang Rath"**. Citizen Portal consolidates information and services from multiple government agencies to ensure convenient, comprehensive, intelligent, and secure **services for Thai citizen from birth until death**.

153 services available



5

Digital Government Transformation: Results



6

Digital Government Transformation: *Next Steps*



- 1** Accelerate the development of e-Service and link to central digital government platforms



- 2** Redesigning processes into end-to-end electronically processes or e-Service



- 3** Regulatory reform



- 4** Engage public/ stakeholder participation



- 5** Consult users and collect feedback



- 6** Encourage digital adoption

7

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8

THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN INDONESIA: CURRENT STATUS, CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The impact of digital technology on governance has been widely acknowledged. As the largest economy in Southeast Asia, Indonesia is dedicated to expediting development through digital transformation. Indonesia has been prioritizing digital transformation as a key initiative since 2003. However, the country has encountered various challenges over the past two decades while striving to advance digital transformation, including issues related to cybersecurity, digital literacy, and leadership and political commitment. The immense potential of Indonesia's digital economy and technological advancements should be accompanied by enhanced digital literacy, a secure digital environment, and bolstered by unified political commitment among high-level policymakers. Additionally, Indonesia is in the process of drafting a Digital Government Law to accelerate national development in the future.

Keywords: Digital transformation, governance, political commitment, digital literacy

Current Status of Digital Transformation

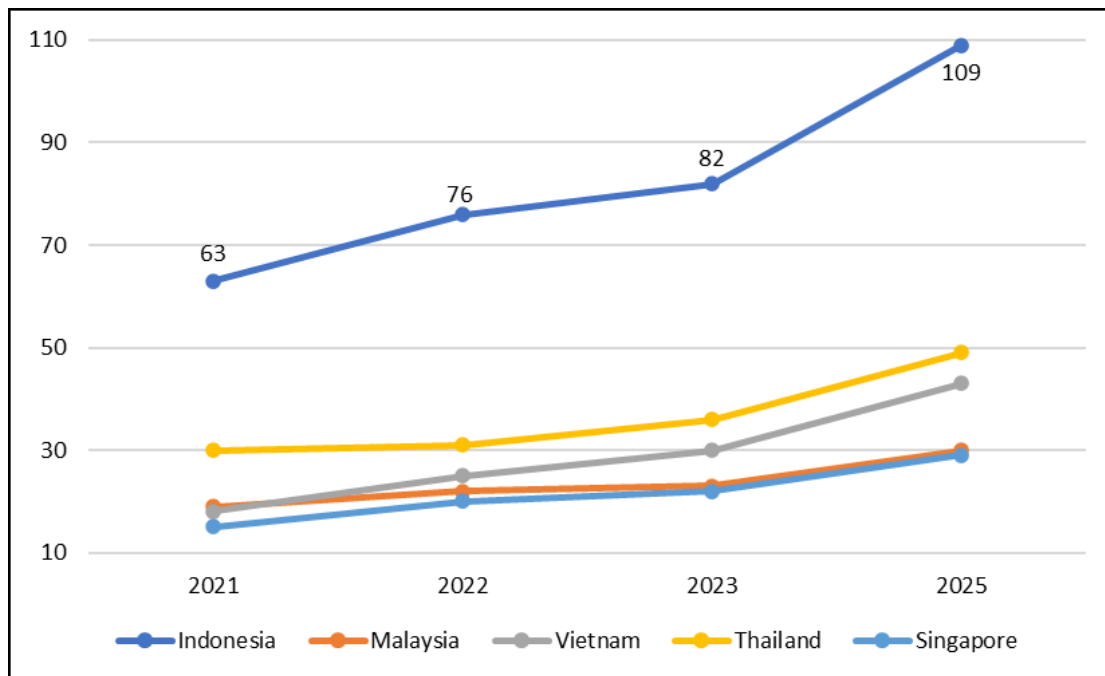
There is widespread acknowledgment that digital technology has successfully transformed governance (UNDP, 2024). Digital transformation opens opportunities for governments and organizations looking to improve public services, streamline business processes, update policy design, and force actors to collaborate in new ways, resulting in increased accountability, transparency, and satisfaction in the public (Rykkja et al, 2024; Merger et al, 2019; Curtis, 2019). The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 further emphasized the importance of digital transformation in supporting government activities and everyday life. It prompted governments, international organizations, and society to quickly adapt to the use of digital technology.

Several countries have successfully accelerated their development targets by utilizing advanced technology to transform governance. the Estonian government has stated that using digital technology through e-government infrastructure has annually generated savings of around 2% of GDP and more than 800 years of working time for the public and private sectors in a single calendar year (Kattel and Mergel, 2019). In Singapore, the digital economy contributes 17.3% of the total GDP, with an added economic value of S\$106 billion, outpacing the overall economy (IMDA Singapore 2024; LKYSPP, 2024). India has leapfrogged development from a target of 47 years to only seven years with the effective implementation of a digital approach through Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)—which is recommended and accepted by G20 member countries (The Carnegie Endowment, 2024; Outlook India, 2023). Similarly, China has made significant strides in poverty reduction from 2011 to 2020 through its digital inclusive finance, especially in eastern China and for those with low incomes (Lyu et al, 2023; Xie, 2023).

The following information highlights the rapid growth of digital transformation in Asia, particularly in ASEAN. It is projected that the value of ASEAN's digital economy will reach around US\$330 billion by 2025 and increase to US\$2 trillion by 2030 (ASEAN, 2023a; ASEAN, 2023b). As the country with the largest economy in Southeast Asia, Indonesia leads the GMV of the digital economy in the region with

\$82 billion achieved in 2023 (see Figure 1). This amount is predicted to further increase to \$210-360 billion by 2030.

Figure 1. Digital Economy GMV (\$B) – Southeast Asia



Source: Google, Temasek, Bain & Company (Bain Analysis)

Notes: GMV projections from 2021 to 2030 exclude digital financial services due to differences in GMV definition; 2030 projection includes ballpark estimates for nascent sectors such as health tech, ed-tech, AI, etc.

Since 2003, Indonesia has embraced digital transformation as a key initiative, starting with the implementation of Presidential Instruction Number 3 of 2003 concerning National Policy and Strategy for E-government Development. This instruction aims to leverage information technology to remove bureaucratic barriers and establish integrated management systems and processes, thereby facilitating easier access to government information and public services. The use of information technology involves two main activities: (1) electronic data processing, information management, and work processes, and (2) leveraging advancements in information technology to make public services more accessible and affordable for the entire community.

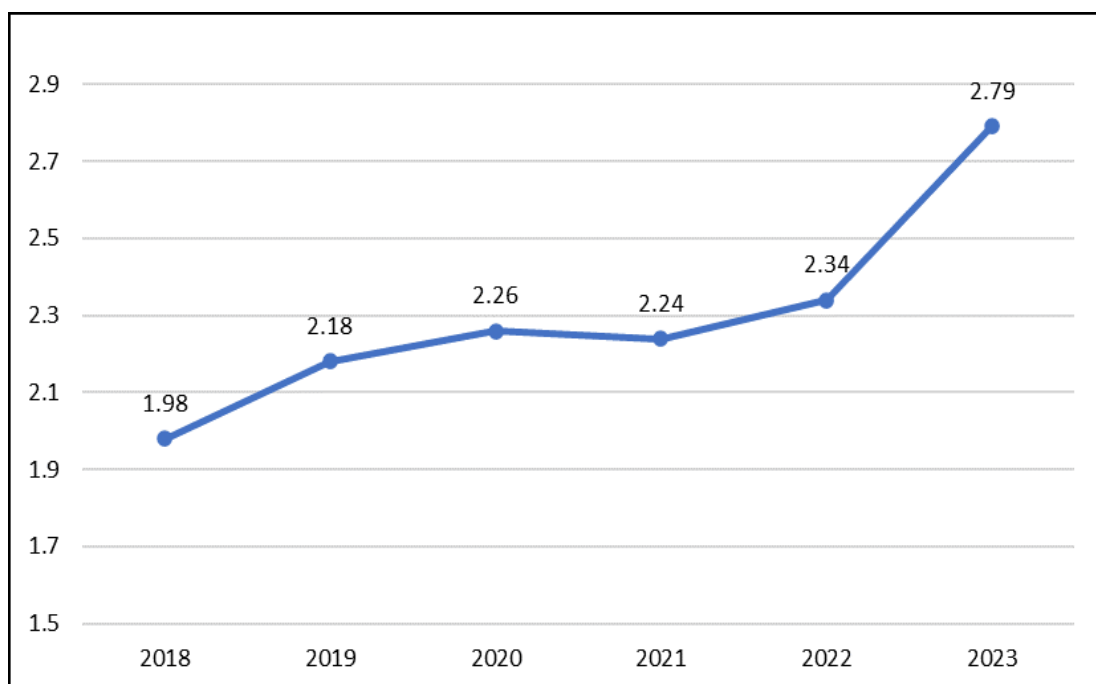
After receiving the Presidential Instruction, Indonesia has encountered numerous problems and challenges in implementing its digital transformation. Currently, there are 27,000 applications operating across the country at various levels of government, an increase from the previous 24,000 applications (Ministry of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform, 2023). The coordinating minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment has noted that the large number of applications is due to the involvement of numerous vendors. However, these applications lack multifunctionality, leading to inefficiency and wastage of the state budget. The Minister of Finance has also expressed concerns about the procurement process for these applications, whether through auctions or direct appointments (Kompas, 2023). The 27,000 applications are not interconnected, resulting in fragmented and siloed services. This makes it more challenging for people to access services, as it often requires repeated data input.

In 2018, the government took steps to address various issues by directly improving information and communication technology (ICT) governance through Presidential Regulation Number 95/2018, which concerns the Integrated Electronic-Based Government System (SPBE). The SPBE Architecture serves as the fundamental framework that integrates business processes, data and information, SPBE infrastructure, SPBE applications, and SPBE security to generate integrated SPBE services. This regulation specifies that the preparation of the National SPBE Architecture for the 2020-2024 period must be completed no later than 6 months after the National Medium-Term Development Plan for the same period. Furthermore, this will be followed up through Presidential Regulation Number 132 of 2022, focusing on the National SPBE Architecture. Apart from these two regulations, digital transformation in Indonesia is supported by other policy foundations, including Presidential Regulation Number 39 of 2019, which pertains to One Data Indonesia, Law Number 27 of 2022, addressing Personal Data Protection, and Law Number 1 of 2024, which centres on Electronic Information and Transactions.

The Indonesian government has identified nine priority services, including health, education, and social assistance, as key areas for digital transformation. These services will be made interoperable through

the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). On the other hand, from an institutional perspective, the coordinating ministry plays a crucial role in overseeing this transformation by monitoring and evaluating the progress of service interoperability across different ministries. Additionally, the coordinating ministry addresses various institutional issues, such as sectoral conflicts, organizational capabilities, and the allocation of infrastructure and budgets.

Figure 2. National SPBE Index 2018-2023

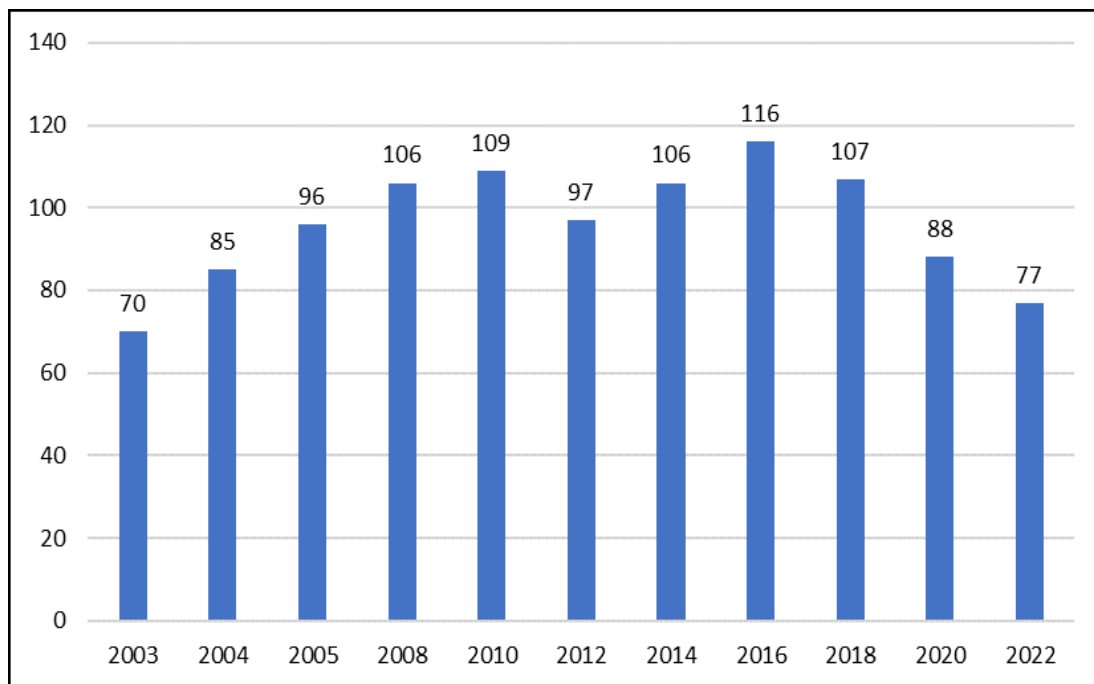


Source: Ministry of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform, 2024

In the national context, the achievement of SPBE continues to increase. The National SPBE index value in 2023 reached 2.79, which is considered good and exceeded the target of the medium-term national development plan (2.6) (see Figure 2). The quality of digital transformation in Indonesia is also showing improvement on a global scale. Indonesia's E-Government Development Index (EGDI) ranking rose from 107th in 2018 to 77th in 2022 (see Figure 3). In 2022, Indonesia's EGDI exceeds the world average, indicating that government commitment, as stated in laws and regulations, has resulted in improvements in Indonesia's digital transformation on the global stage. However, Indonesia still lags countries like

Singapore, South Korea, and Denmark as the world's best practices in digital transformation (United Nations, 2024).

Figure 3. E-Government Development Index (Indonesia)



Source: United Nations, 2024

Indonesia has drawn lessons from various countries, recognizing that Gov-tech plays a pivotal role in the success of digital transformation. To this end, Indonesia has established INA Digital (Indonesia's Gov-tech) under Peruri, a state-owned enterprise. INA Digital serves as a coordinator for integrating the digital service ecosystem of the Indonesian government (Peruri, 2024). According to the World Bank (2024), Indonesia's Gov-Tech Maturity Index has improved from a "B" in 2020 to an "A" in 2022. Initially, INA Digital collaborated with nine ministries/institutions to facilitate the development, integration, and interoperability of the SPBE Priority application, which spans various sectors such as education, health, social services, and population administration. This integration encompasses Digital Identity, state

financial transactions, state apparatus, Public Service Portal, Satu Data Indonesia, and police services (Ministry of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform, 2024)

Indonesia's digital transformation challenges

Indonesia has faced a wide range of issues and challenges over the last twenty years while trying to speed up digital transformation. These include institutional, ecosystem and infrastructure, as well as technical obstacles that can impede the progress of digital transformation

Cyber Security

Data security plays a crucial role as the first line of defence in implementing digital transformation. The cybersecurity economy grew twice as fast as the world economy in 2022 and four times faster in 2023 (World Economic Forum, 2024). Based on The National Cyber Security Index 2023, Indonesia is ranked 49th with a score of 63.64 (NCSI, 2024). This position is far below Malaysia (22), Singapore (31), and Thailand (45). In 2023, Indonesia experienced the highest number of cyber-attack anomalies, totalling 78,463,385 incidents (State Intelligence Agency, 2024). These anomalies were primarily caused by Generic Trojan RATs, which pose a threat to communication and control systems. The country also suffered a cyber-attack on the National Data Centre (Pusat Data Nasional/PDN), resulting in inaccessible data from 239 government agencies and institutions (Tempo, 2024). The Centre of Economic and Law Studies (Celios) estimated the potential economic loss due to this hack to be up to IDR 6.3 trillion (MetroTV News, 2024). Additionally, the cyber-attack caused several public services to become unavailable.

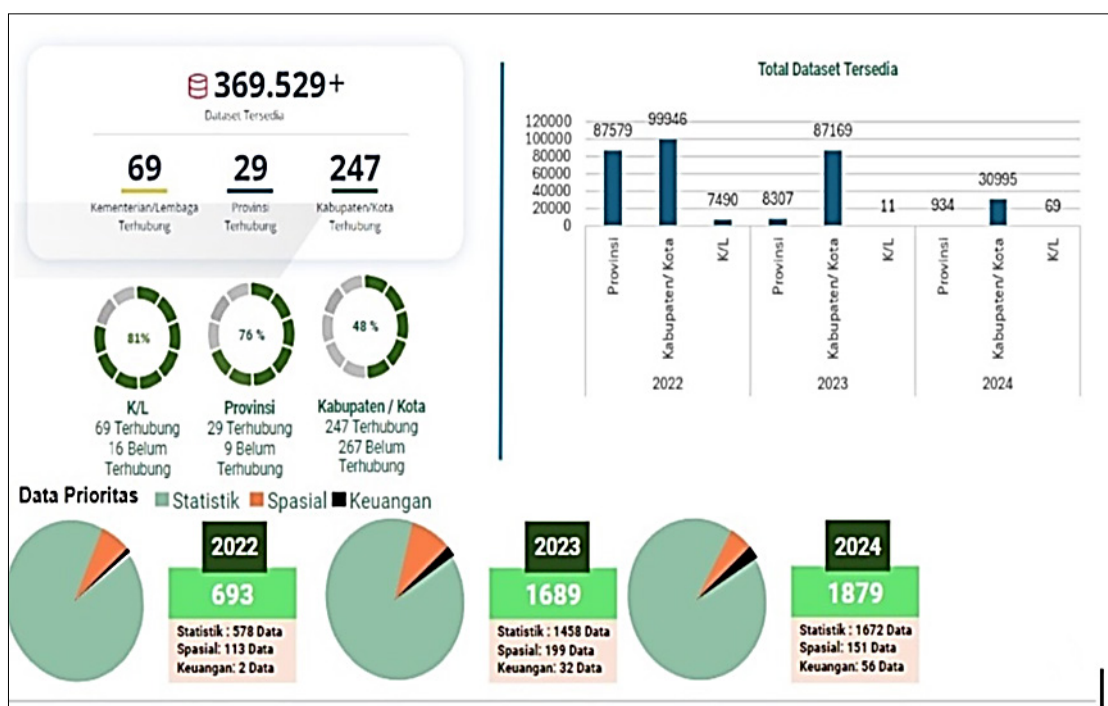
The various issues stem from regulations that have not adequately addressed the handling of wiretapping practices (interception) in cyber governance and have failed to cover all aspects of cybersecurity, which are extensive. Additionally, there is a lack of specific regulation governing coordination between agencies, leading to ineffective operations that are driven by the demands of individual institutions. For instance, coordination between the National Cyber and Crypto Agency, the Ministry of Defence, the Indonesian National Armed Forces, the Police department, and the State Intelligence Agency is not effectively regulated. Cybersecurity issues continue to pose a significant challenge for Indonesia today.

Fragmented Data

The problem currently faced in carrying out digital transformation is that data is still fragmented between ministries and institutions as well as local/regional governments. Since 2018, government has established the One Data Indonesia (Satu Data Indonesia/SDI) policy as an effort to integrate various data. However, until 2024, there will still be many government agencies that have not submitted data to SDI. There is resistance to integrating data due to concerns about the loss of authority from government agencies. One Indonesian Data is currently used as a basis for development planning and budgeting as well as various government and public service needs.

It can be explained (see Figure 4) that for central government agencies, 81 per cent of ministries and institutions are integrated into one Indonesian data. Meanwhile, the provincial government level is only 76 per cent, while the district and city governments have only reached 48 per cent. More substantial efforts are still needed to integrate Indonesian data as a basis for digital transformation in Indonesia.

Figure 4. Achievement of Integrated One Data Indonesia



Uneven Internet Network

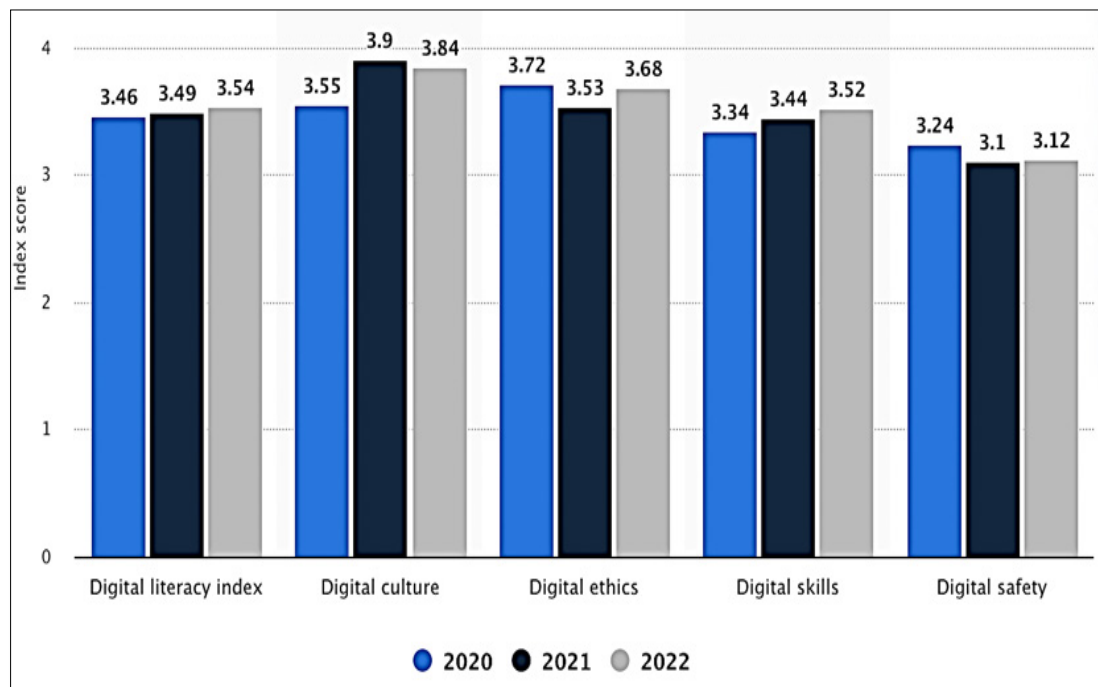
One of the main problems in accelerating digital transformation in Indonesia is the uneven distribution of internet networks between regions in Indonesia. Many remote areas in Indonesia, especially in eastern Indonesia, still do not have an internet network to interact digitally. Since 2020, the Indonesian government has established a policy to build more than 8,000 BTS (Base Transceiver Stations) throughout Indonesia. However, currently, only 4200 BTS have been constructed. Many areas in Indonesia are still blank spot areas, making it impossible to expand digitalization in remote areas.

Digital Literacy

The rapid development of technology and digital services poses challenges for both operators and users to keep up with ongoing advancements. Digital literacy has become crucial for everyone worldwide,

enabling people to communicate, find employment, access comprehensive education, and critically engage with the digital world (CSIS, 2022). In Indonesia, the significance of digital literacy for civil servants and the public has been recognized.

Figure 5. Digital Literacy Index in Indonesia 2020-2022



Source: Ministry of Communications and Informatics (2024); Katadata Insight Center (2024); Statista (2024)

The Ministry of Communication and Informatics uses the digital literacy index to assess digital literacy skills in Indonesia from various perspectives. This assessment helps in developing evidence-based policies and appropriate programs to enhance the digital literacy of the Indonesian population. The measurement of the Indonesian Digital Literacy Index in 2022 is based on the 2020-2024 Digital Literacy Road Map, which includes four pillars of digital literacy measurement: Digital Skill, Digital Ethics, Digital Safety, and Digital Culture. Although the Digital Literacy Index has shown slight increases annually,

Indonesia's digital literacy rate (62%) is the lowest among ASEAN countries, with an average of 70% (CNBC, 2023).

Based on the practices, digital literacy in Indonesia has not become a strategic issue in the government. On the other hand, in many other countries, digital literacy is given priority. In the past, many advanced applications and systems could not be used by government employees and the public. As a result, people were unable to experience the benefits of these applications directly. To address this issue, several countries began to focus on digital literacy, emphasizing the importance of keeping up with technological developments. After all, sophisticated technology is of no use if it cannot be properly operated.

The high potential of the digital economy and technological developments in Indonesia should be followed by quality digital literacy. This condition illustrates that the government has not properly prepared digital literacy to utilise various future digital economic potentials. It appears that the government is struggling to fully integrate digital literacy into its institutions. The responsibilities for overseeing digital literacy within the civil service and the community are currently shared between the Ministry of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform and the Ministry of Communications and Informatics, leading to confusion in addressing this issue.

Leadership and Political Commitment

It is indisputable that political officials play a crucial role in driving digital transformation progress, particularly in Indonesia. In Indonesia, the primary challenges to digital transformation are leadership and political commitment (Nurdin and Purna, 2023). Given the hierarchical decision-making structure in Indonesia, leaders at the highest levels significantly influence the formulation of digital transformation policies. Strong and decisive leadership is essential to drive the swift implementation of digital transformation across all government levels - national, provincial, and local.

The central government sets strategic policies that serve as the foundation for implementing agencies. At the central government level, the commitment of leaders (in this case, ministers) is crucial for determining strategic steps for future digital transformation. However, decision-making between central government agencies faces obstacles. Aside from being constrained by a narrow perspective based on primary tasks and functions, there are also sectoral ego issues between ministries and institutions. For instance, it took a long time (hundreds of meetings) to decide on the Single Identity Number that would form the basis for Single Sign-On. The conflicting interests and authority struggle significantly influenced the entire process of coordination and consolidation between Ministries and Institutions. Thus, not only is the commitment of leaders or political commitment important, but also a joint political commitment among strategic-level policymakers is crucial.

Digital technology is not neutral, then digital transformation efforts carried out by development actors must be politically informed (UNDP, 2024). The process of digital transformation is driven by politics and interests, not just technology. Therefore, support for digital transformation must be politically informed to ensure that development goals are achieved. Without sufficient political support, the implementation of digital governance may face obstacles in strategic decision-making, resource allocation, and inter-agency coordination (Nurdin and Purna, 2023).

Looking Forward Digital Transformation Indonesia

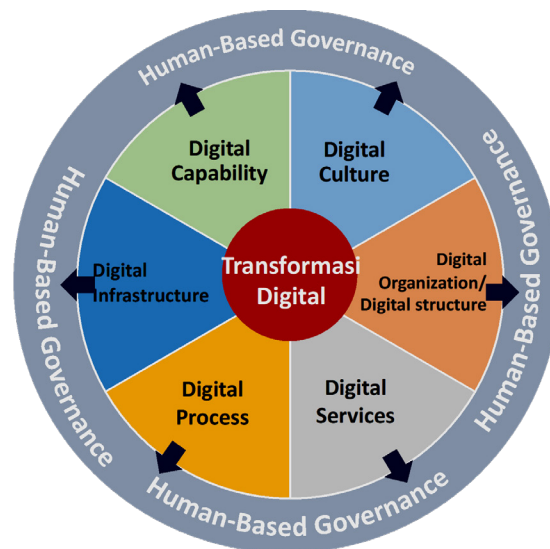
The Indonesian government has been making efforts to oversee digital transformation. However, there is still a lot of groundwork that needs to be done to produce meaningful impacts on society. Currently, Indonesia is in the process of drafting the Digital Government Law, which will serve as a comprehensive framework for implementing digital transformation in the country. it will address various strategic issues

that will be the focus of the government's efforts in the future. First, the bill ensures community involvement, including the fulfilment of community rights and obligations. In this scenario, technology will be focused on a citizen-centric approach to public service based on public value, considering the needs and expectations of the community.

Second, this bill will focus on developing the digital economy. This includes protecting businesses and consumers, promoting domestic products, and leveraging digital technologies for economic growth while also considering the impact on affected sectors. Third, the government guarantees digital literacy as a right for both civil servants and the wider community. The term digital literacy encompasses (1) literacy in information and media, (2) understanding of digital systems and technology, (3) communication, collaboration, and digital participation skills, and (4) the ability to create and utilize digital technology. Ensuring that civil servants and the community have access to digital literacy indicates that the government recognizes the importance of pairing technological advancement with a solid foundation in digital literacy to prevent the misuse of technological advancements.

Aside from the Digital Government Bill, the government's condition plays a crucial role in implementing digital transformation. The successful implementation of digital transformation requires sufficient government capacity, not only in terms of digital expertise and the number of digital professionals, but also in terms of institutional support. A hierarchical, inflexible, and bloated bureaucracy can impede the implementation of digital transformation. Hence, an agile, flat, network-based bureaucracy is required, promoting collaboration between units and organizations, and being adaptable to various developments and changes that may arise at any time.

Figure 6. The next 20 Years Plan (2025-2045) Digital Transformation in Indonesia



Source: Ministry of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform, 2024

In the framework of Indonesia's 20-year development towards a Golden Indonesia in 2045, the Indonesian government has also designated digital transformation as one of the priority programs in development. Currently, the digital transformation of the bureaucracy is being designed to adapt to a development orientation based on Human Centered. In the draft of Grand Design for Bureaucratic Reform for 2025-2045, it is stipulated that bureaucratic changes are placed on integrated digital transformation including digital culture, digital structure, digital capability, digital processes and digital infrastructure. The 20-year trajectory of change is placed in the first period to achieve digital government until 2030.

In the second period until 2035, digital transformation is aimed at achieving the whole government based on the latest technological developments, while in the third period until 2040, the direction of transformation is aimed at building a governance platform where all bureaucratic processes and structures share resources and performance. In its final goal, digital bureaucratic transformation seeks to make the Indonesian bureaucracy a bureaucracy based on human development (human-centred development).

Concluding Remarks

The development of Digital Transformation has gone through various stages since 2003 until now. Developmental progress can be seen in Indonesia's increasingly better electronic government index and the increasing use of advanced technology in public services. On the other hand, Indonesia faces many fundamental challenges and problems in digital transformation, including cyber security, data integration, internet networks that are not evenly distributed throughout the region, and digital literacy. The Indonesian government has established a Gov-tech (Ina Digital) policy in various public services to accelerate digital transformation. An Indonesian digital transformation agency has been established to accelerate the development of shared applications and data integration and strengthen interoperability between government agencies. The critical factor is, of course, the issue of political commitment and the sustainability of transformation, which is often experienced by many countries, and Indonesia is no exception.

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Regulation

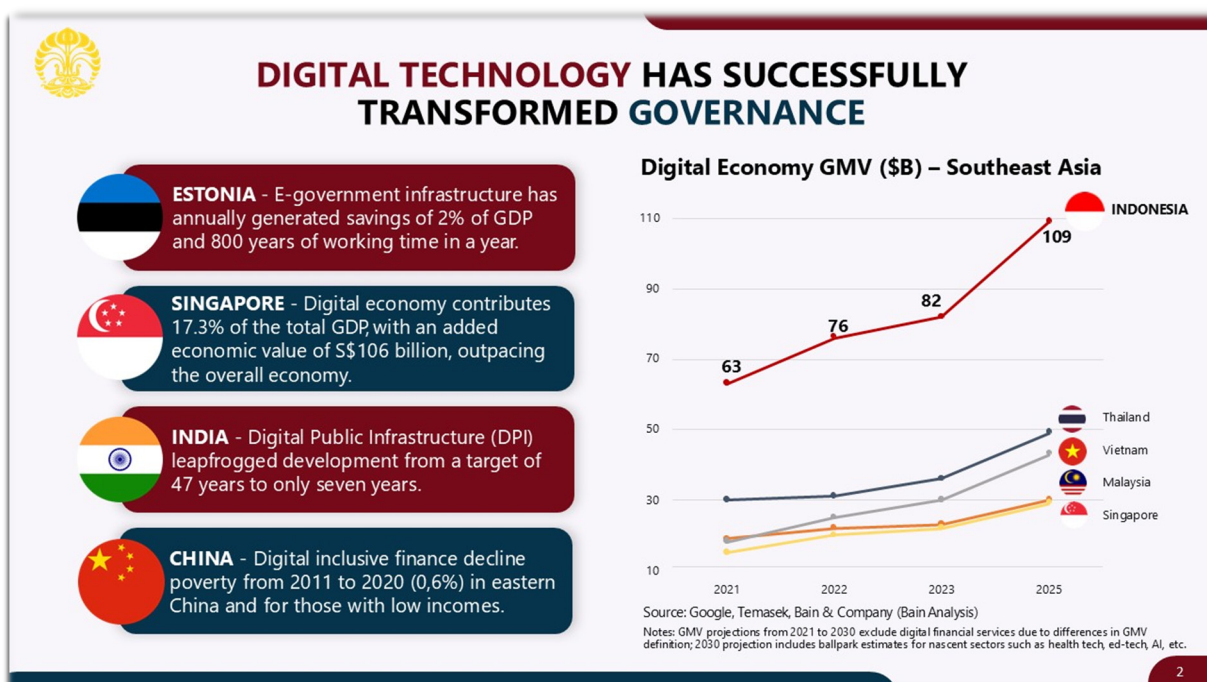
Presidential Instruction Number 3 of 2003 concerning National Policy and Strategy for E-government Development

Presidential Regulation Number 132 of 2022 concerning the National SPBE Architecture.

Presidential Regulation Number 39 of 2019 concerning One Data Indonesia

Law Number 27 of 2022 concerning Personal Data Protection

Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions





DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN INDONESIA

1

Presidential Instruction 3/2003 National Policy & Strategy for E-government Development

Leverage information technology to remove bureaucratic barriers and establish integrated management systems and processes, thereby facilitating easier access to government information and public services

2

27,000
Applications

at various levels of government

These applications are

- **Not interconnected**
- **Lack multifunctionality**

Leading to

- **Fragmented & siloed** services
- **Inefficiency**
- **Wastage** of the state budget

3

Presidential Regulation 95/2018 Integrated Electronic-Based Government System (SPBE) & Presidential Regulation 132/2022 National SPBE Architecture

The SPBE Architecture serves as the fundamental framework that integrates business processes, data and information, SPBE infrastructure, SPBE applications, and SPBE security to generate integrated SPBE services.

Digital transformation in Indonesia also supported by Presidential Regulation 39/2019 One Data Indonesia; Law 27/2022 Personal Data Protection; and Law 1/2024 Electronic Information and Transactions

3



PRIORITY SERVICES IN INDONESIA

DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE (DPI)



Digital ID



Digital Payment



Data Exchange

1

Population & Civil Registration Services

2

Education Services

3

Health Services

4

Police Services

5

Social Services

6

Civil Servant Services

7

Beneficiary Information

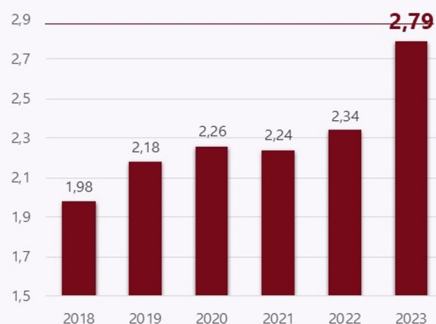
Citizen-Centric
Services

4



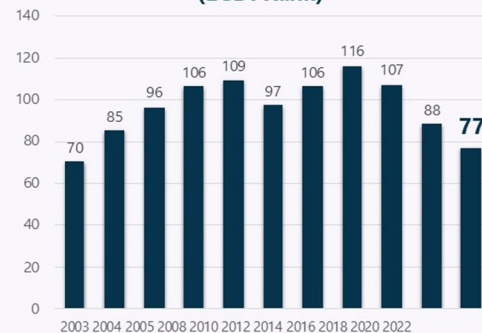
CURRENT STATUS DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN INDONESIA

National SPBE Index 2018-2023



Source: Ministry of Administrative Reform, 2024

E-Government Development Index (EGDI Rank)



Source: United Nations, 2024

5



INDONESIA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGES: CYBER SECURITY, FRAGMENTED DATA & UNEVEN INTERNET NETWORK

1

- Indonesia is ranked **49th** on The National Cyber Security Index 2023
- In 2023, Indonesia experienced the highest number of cyber-attack anomalies, totalling **78,463,385 incidents** (State Intelligence Agency, 2024)
- Cyber-attack on the National Data Centre (Pusat Data Nasional) resulting in inaccessible data from 239 institutions and estimated the potential **economic loss up to IDR 6.3 trillion** (Tempo, 2024; MetroTV News, 2024).

Cyber Security



2

- Since 2018, government has established the One Data Indonesia (Satu Data Indonesia/SDI) to integrate data
- Until 2024, many agencies have not submitted data to SDI (resistance) due to concerns about **losing authority**.
- Current status of data integration:
 - Central Agencies: 81%
 - Provincial Level: 76%
 - Cities/Regencies Level: 48%

Fragmented Data



3

- Many remote areas in Indonesia, especially in eastern Indonesia, still do not have an internet network to interact digitally.
- Since 2020, government has established a policy to build more than 8,000 Base Transceiver Stations (BTS).
- Currently, only 4200 BTS have been constructed.
- Many areas in Indonesia are still blank spot areas, making it impossible to expand digitalization in remote areas.

Uneven Internet

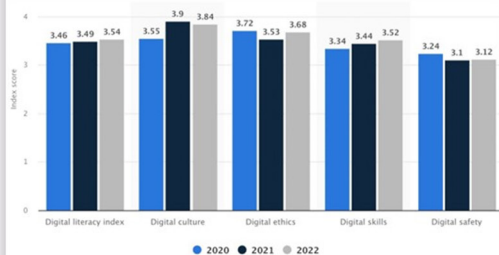


6



INDONESIA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGES: DIGITAL LITERACY

Digital Literacy Index in Indonesia
2020-2022



Source: Ministry of Communications and Informatics (2024); Katadata
Insight Center (2024); Statista (2024)

Digital literacy in Indonesia has **not become a strategic issue** in the government

The government has **not properly prepared** digital literacy to utilize various future digital economic potentials

The government is **struggling to fully integrate** digital literacy into its institutions

7



INDONESIA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGES: LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT

Given the hierarchical decision-making structure in Indonesia, **leaders at the highest levels** significantly influence the formulation of digital transformation policies.

Aside from being constrained by a **narrow perspective based on primary tasks and functions**, there are also **sectoral ego** issues between ministries and institutions. The conflicting interests and authority struggle significantly influenced the entire process of coordination and consolidation between Ministries and Institutions.

Without sufficient **political support**, the implementation of digital governance may face obstacles in **strategic decision-making, resource allocation, and inter-agency coordination**.

8



LOOKING FORWARD DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN INDONESIA

DRAFT OF DIGITAL GOVERNMENT LAW

Will address strategic issues

- Community Involvement
- Digital economy
- Digital literacy

Government Capacity

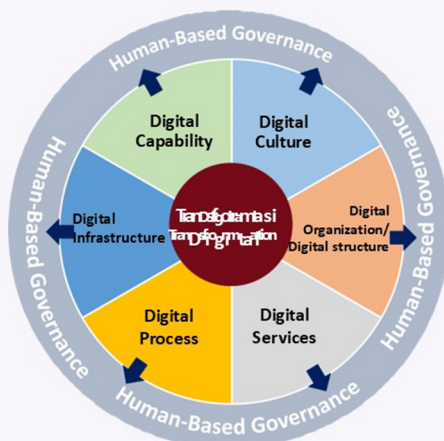
- Institutional support, as an agile, flat, network-based bureaucracy
- Digital expertise
- Digital professionals
- Collaboration between units and organizations
- Being adaptable to various developments and changes that may arise at any time

GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENT

9



INDONESIA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PLAN (2025-2045)



In the framework of Golden Indonesia in 2045, digital transformation become one of the **priority programs** in development

The digital transformation of the bureaucracy is being designed to adapt to a development orientation based on **human-centred**



Government structure, capability, culture, process, services, and infrastructure **should be relevant in digital era**

10



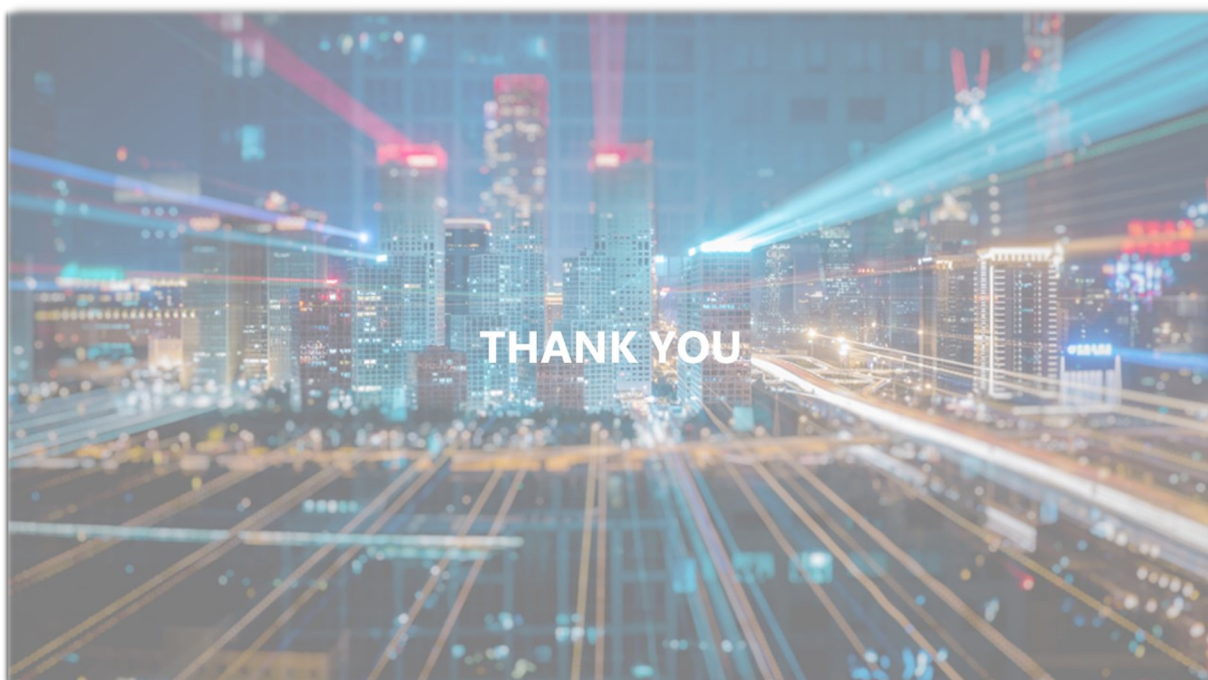
CONCLUDING REMARKS



1. The development of Digital Transformation has gone through various stages since 2003 until now, with national & global index, use of advanced technology in public services, but also faces many fundamental challenges and problems.
2. The Indonesian government has established a **Gov-tech (INA Digital)** policy in various public services to accelerate digital transformation.
3. An Indonesian digital transformation agency has been established to accelerate the development of shared applications and data integration and strengthen **interoperability** between government agencies.
4. **The critical factor:** the issue of **political commitment** and the **sustainability of transformation**, which is often experienced by many countries, and Indonesia is no exception.



11



CAMBODIA'S GOVERNMENT DIGITAL POLICY FOR 2022-2035: ITS IMPACTS AND CHALLENGES ON PUBLIC SERVICES

Mr. Vannpok Soly
Vice President
Royal School of Administration
KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Introduction

In recent years, digital technology has changed and contributed to the interaction of people, digital service delivery in private businesses and public sectors, and many aspects of society easier. Digital technology development can be observed in educational institutions, schools, businesses, and government agencies. By using mobile and technological devices people can learn, teach, communicate, buy products, and make payments to service providers via websites and platforms. This technology operation is time-efficient, transparent, and cost-saving.

Though the understanding of digital technology among Cambodian people is limited and the benefits and risks associated with it are unknown, most people without hesitation happily accept and enjoy the benefits of the technology. According to the report of the Telecommunication Regulator of Cambodia in 2022, Cambodia had 20.3 million internet users (increased from 8.1 million in 2016) and about 20 million mobile phone subscribers from 2016 to 2022 (CADT, 2022). With the growing use of digital technology among people, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) realized the importance of digital solutions for generating the country's socio-economic development.

The move toward development shows that, as a member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the RGC committed itself to responding to its internal socio-economic growth and the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework. This framework intends to enable ASEAN member states to compete effectively in the global economy, bridge the digital divide, and create a more inclusive ASEAN region with deliberate and coordinated actions (ASEAN, 2021).

Like governments of other countries, the Cambodian government of the 7th mandate of the legislature (2023-2028) has committed to achieving its Cambodia Vision 2030 and Cambodia Vision 2050, to become a high-middle income and high-income country. Moreover, the Cambodian government's pentagonal strategy emphasizes governance and institutional modernization of state institutions making them more modern, competent, strong, smart, and clean public administration for people-centric interest (Government of Cambodia, 2022).

To commit to the national development agenda and ASEAN's digital integration, the Cambodian government has adopted policies, strategies, and other priority digital projects to address the governance reform and modernization of state institutions. In digital sector development, key government policies and strategies are the Digital Economy and Society Policy Framework 2021-2035, Financial Technology Development Policy (FinTech) 2023-2028, and especially the Government Digital Policy (GDP) 2022-2035. Among these ambitious policies, the government's digital policy is a core policy that could promote the reform and create a favorable climate for investment, and inclusive economic and social development. Moreover, as mentioned in the GDP 2022-2035, building a digital government is necessary and the first step in the development of a digital economy and society (Government of Cambodia, 2022).

This paper intends to present a general understanding of the digital government and levels of digital government development in Cambodia. It will look at the situation of telecommunication infrastructure, public services, and digital service delivery and analyze the situation of Cambodia's digital government.

It provides the importance and key elements of the Cambodian government's digital policy for 2022-2035, the priority actions and responsibilities. It will discuss the digital government policy's challenges and the current government's intervention.

Understanding Digital Government

In Cambodia, most people do not understand much about the term “Digital” or “Digital government”, but using technological tools such as computers, the internet, mobile phones, and other technological devices has many benefits for people, businesses and the government agencies to interact, deliver, and receive services. Digital technologies, as mentioned in the government's digital policy, have changed people's daily lifestyles and prompted governments to change the way they provide services and communicate with people and businesses from traditional to modern ones (Government of Cambodia, 2022).

The policy also mentioned that the process of digital government must be based on the whole-of-government approach and all government ministries and institutions interact with the system. Ministries and institutions can design and develop digital information systems for their internal administration and delivery of public services by interconnecting and sharing data, and functioning as a single digital government system (MPTC, 2022). Though the meaning of digital government is well understood in policies and strategies, in reality, government ministries and institutions have been working separately with limited resources, and a lack of coordination mechanisms and cooperation among government agencies.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, 2014) as cited in (Sar, 2023) outlined a shift towards digitizing the public sector, progressing from Analog government to E-government,

and ultimately, to Digital government. Based on a study report by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication in 2020 on the situation of digital government in Cambodia, the MPTC introduced Gartner's 5 levels of maturity for digital government (Figure 1). The first level is called E-government where the government develops and uses digital information systems to provide information and services online, but the systems, infrastructure, and data are separated and yet to be integrated.

The second level is Open Government. Digital information systems are created to receive feedback from citizens and interact with service recipients. The government's information is open to the public to ensure transparency and accountability. The third level is Data-centric government, which considers data an important and necessary asset. At this level, the Government's priority is no longer on application development but on data collection, use, and analysis. Digital information systems, infrastructure, and data of ministries and institutions at the national level and sub-national administrations are gradually being harmonized using the government's integrated digital platform "Government as a Platform" for work processes.

The fourth level is a Fully transformed government, in this level, all ministries and institutions are fully digitalized, with all digital information systems, infrastructure, and data integrated. The fifth level is a Smart government, the collection and analysis of data are automated as a basis for decision-making and responding to problems. Innovation of digital government services using new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, Big Data, blockchain, and cloud technology, can be fully realized at this stage (MPTC, 2022).

Figure 1: Levels of Digital Government Development of Gartner



Digital Government Development

As digital technology has started to grow rapidly in Cambodia during the COVID-19 pandemic, the government realized the importance of using digital technology for development. It immediately committed and adopted the ambitious Cambodia Government Digital Policy 2022-2035. Before the adoption of the policy, digital government started its development stages in the 1990s. The concept of digital government was introduced in the late 1990s after the electronic government was set in motion following the arrival of the internet in the early 1990s (Kong, 2019 as cited in Soeng and Kao, 2023). As the concept continues to evolve, the definition of digital government is “the introduction, application, and use of digital technologies and data in government and its external relationships, including citizens, businesses, civil society and other non-governmental organizations, and other international organizations” (Lips, 2020: 3 as cited in Soeng and Kao, 2023).

As mentioned in Curtis, 2019 as cited in Soeng and Kao, 2023, “digital transformation has exerted impacts on both the public and private sectors. It could significantly reduce bureaucracy, lengthy processes, and red tape, providing tremendous opportunities to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery, cost reduction, and the improvement of internal business processes. Further, digital transformation should empower services to be available online round the clock, allowing the public

to access them from anywhere; and enable employees to explore new and more efficient ways of working and provide them with necessary tools and support (Curtis, 2019 as cited in Soeng and Kao, 2023).

In Cambodia, the National Authority for Information and Communication Technology Department (NiDA) launched digital public service in the year 2000. The NiDA was under the Office of the Council of Ministers. It established a national information infrastructure network with three data centers and three digital information systems that connected ministries and institutions and expanded its coverage to nine priority provinces. This work showed government's efforts to make its public sector more accessible and easier for government-to-government agencies connection, government-to-people, and government-to-business communities (Government of Cambodia, 2022).

Further efforts were made by the Royal Government of Cambodia in 2013 including the development of telecommunications and information and communication technology sectors and the adoption of policies, laws, and regulations; and highlighted partnerships between public and private sectors (Government of Cambodia, 2022). Moreover, in 2014, the government adopted the Communication Technology Master Plan of Cambodia 2020 or "ICTopia Cambodia".

The Master Plan aimed at building Cambodia as an intelligent and comfortable nation with intelligent people, an intelligent society, and an intelligent government by information and communication technology (ICT). Four strategies were introduced to achieve the Master Plan: empowering people, ensuring connectivity, enhancing capabilities, and enriching e-services (TRC, 2020). This Master Plan showed a clear roadmap and mechanism for the successful development of the ICT sector in Cambodia.

In 2014, The National Institute of Posts and Telecommunication, Information and Communication Technology (NIPTICT) was established to train civil servants in skills and digital literacy and promote digital research and innovation (Government of Cambodia, 2022). In 2021, the NIPTICT has turned to

the Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT). Now, CADT has played important roles in digital capacity development supporting the implementation of government digital policy and digital research and innovation. According to CADT, more than 12,000 civil servants, both at the national and sub-national levels, have received digital skills training (CADT, 2024).

Figure 2: Digital Technology Revolution in all Aspects of the Economy and Society.



Source: Working Group of the Supreme National Economic Council

Telecommunication infrastructure

The building of telecommunication infrastructure is still lacking and it has not yet been covered country-wide. The MPTC claimed in its policy paper that two submarine fiber-optic cable networks with 46,000 km were built connecting Cambodia to Thailand and Malaysia (Malaysia Cambodia Thailand MCT) and Cambodia to 18 countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe (Asia Africa Europe 1 AAE-1). The 4th generation mobile network (4G) is providing services to approximately 80% of the population (Government of Cambodia, 2022).

As of March 2021, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication showed that broadband service coverage in urban and rural areas was 92.20%, while the mobile penetration, internet penetration, and broadband internet penetration rates were 125.51%, 106.23%, and 87.76%, respectively (Government of Cambodia, n.d. in Soeng and Kao 2024). As mentioned above, the telecommunication infrastructure development with strong partnerships between the government, private sectors, and other stakeholders will bring more opportunities for digital government development.

Public Service and Digital Service Delivery

According to the MPTC's study report, about 77% of 3,508 public services launched people applied directly from One Window Service Office (OWSO), 11% applied directly but downloaded online applications, and 12% applied through online application services. Among 28 ministries and institutions, 182 information systems were developed and served in the administrative works and service delivery (as shown in Table 1). Among the systems developed about 31% are public services from Government-for-Citizens (G4C), 9% from Government-to-Business (G2B), and 60% from Government-to-Government (G2G) (Government of Cambodia, 2022).

Table 1: Status of Systems in Ministries and Institutions

Status	No. of system	Percentage
Currently in use	167	91.75
Ceased using	2	1.09
Currently developing	7	3.84
Currently testing	6	3.29
Total	182	100

The situation of Cambodia's public service delivery varies according to the abilities and readiness of government ministries and institutions. According to the MPTC, among all ministries and institutions, only 18 provide more than 20 public services while others have only one or two services. In total, there are 3,196 public services. As the government commits to digitalizing ministries and institutions to provide public services in line with its administrative reform program for 2004-2008 and 2015-2018 (swift and effective public services to people), some ministries and institutions moved separately their public services online such as the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Economy and Finance (General Department of Taxation), and the Council for the Development of Cambodia, etc. (Government of Cambodia, 2022). However, the majority of services given by ministries and institutions to service recipients still require physical presence, paper-based, and document processing follows pre-existing procedures. The One Window Service Office (OWSO) at subnational administration (in cities, districts, and Khans) provides administrative and authentication services. The OWSO gathers administrative services in commerce, culture, tourism, land management, industry, mines and energy, public work, education, and health. The service users receive forms, and information and pay service fees for having final services (Government of Cambodia, 2022).

Analysis of Cambodian Digital Government

Based on a study report on the situation of digital government in Cambodia, the MPTC analyzed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) to show the realities of digital government. The analysis highlighted some strengths of the digital government in Cambodia. The conclusion of the analysis showed that the situation of Cambodia's digital government is still at the first level (E-government)

as the digitalization by ministries and institutions has not been integrated and many challenges remain that need to be addressed.

There are many different meanings of E-government. The United Nations defines e-government as the use of Information and communications Technologies (ICTs) to improve government services and citizens' access to these. The World Bank also defines E-government as “the use of ICTs by the government to enhance the range and quality of government information and services provided to clients in an efficient, cost-effective, and convenient manner, while making government processes more accountable, responsive, and transparent” (Klößner and Hör, 2019). The ICTs are digital tools to empower citizens and improve productivity and the skills of a population, digital tools include data analysis, communication, and collaboration as well as transaction systems.

Client-government relations are a process which can be represented in a simplified manner.



Source:Heeks 2008

In his presentation on “Digital Connectivity in Cambodia” in 2019, Vutha Im, a member of the Telecommunication Regulator of Cambodia provided his presentation on barriers to digital development in Cambodia. He mentioned that Cambodia's digital government remains fragmented as the current state of government digital is largely siloed and fragmented, the MPTC has established a National Data Center but it is unclear how to reduce fragmentation among government agencies, some online services are available to citizens and businesses, though tax registration and payment can be performed online to some degree, taxes cannot be filed electronically, the absence of the centralized multilateral payments platform linking all banks and billers is a key constraint to more versatile online services delivery by

government and private companies. He also added that several institutions are involved in digital government development, and overall planning and budgeting for digital government are not systematic (Im, 2019).

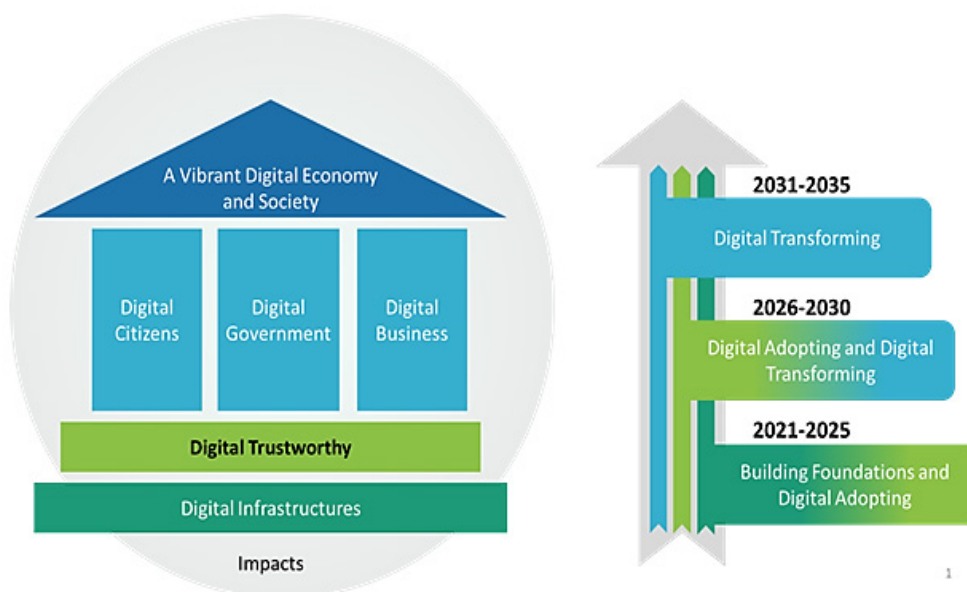
Although the government's digital development needs time and combined efforts from all involved parties, the presentation suggested four important policy areas as the following: 1. New investments are needed in Digital infrastructure that serves as the foundation for digital connectivity, 2. Focuses on developing the digital skills necessary for benefits of the digital connectivity to be shared widely, 3. Adopt a legal and regulatory framework for privacy, data protection, e-commerce (Including e-transactions), Cybercrime, and a wider e-enabling environment, and 4. Build institutions and leadership, as well as universal standards for e-government platforms and applications (Im, 2019).

However, as the government commits to digital transformation, the potential risks can be reduced and a strong digital government can be built contributing to economic and societal development. In January 2022, the Cambodian Government Digital Policy 2022-2035 was launched.

Cambodia Government Digital Policy 2022-2035

One year after the adoption of the Cambodia Digital Economy and Society Policy Framework 2021-2035, the government adopted the Government Digital Policy for 2022-2025. In the 15-year policy framework, the government identified three main principles: Building a digital foundation (2021-2025), digital adoption (2026-2030), and digital transformation (2031-2035) (Government of Cambodia, 2021). With the principles, the government also sets five goals to be achieved: 1- Development of infrastructure, 2- Building trust and confidence in the digital system, 3- Building digital citizens, 4- Building digital government, and 5- Promoting digital businesses (as shown in Figure 3).

Figure 3: Principles and Framework for Building Cambodia's Digital economy and society



The Government Digital Policy for 2022-2035 aims to transform the country into a digital economy and society, with better governance and service delivery to people through using digital strategy. The key components of the policy are:

Vision and Goals of Digital Policy

Vision: To establish a digital government to improve the citizens' quality of life and build their trust through better public service provision. **Goals:** To build a smart government based on the use of digital infrastructure and technology as an ecosystem for governance system modernization and reform in a transparent and credible manner to develop an inclusive digital economy and society.

Strategic Goals and Strategies

To achieve the vision and goals of the policy, the government sets four strategic goals and ten strategies as the following: Strategic Goal 1: to promote the development of digital government infrastructure with the following four strategies: Strategy 1: Building and improving digital connectivity infrastructure, Strategy 2: Building and improving infrastructure for digital payment systems for public services, Strategy 3: Building and strengthening digital security infrastructure, and Strategy 4: Developing postal service infrastructure.

Strategic Goal 2: to build digital governance and create digital public services with the following two strategies: Strategy 5: Organizing digital government governance, such as through the formulation and improvement of policies, the creation and improvement of the legislative frameworks and relevant regulations, and the preparation of digital government standards and architecture, and Strategy 6: Digitally transforming the government and public services, such as through the improvement of Government-to-Government (G2G), Government-for Citizens (G4C), and Government-to-Business (G2B) public services.

Strategic Goal 3: To build digital capacity and innovation, with the following two strategies: Strategy 7: Building digital human capital, and Strategy 8: Promoting digital research and innovation. Strategic Goal 4: To promote cooperation and partnerships between public and private sectors with the following two strategies: Strategy 9: Organizing collaborations with digital technology companies, and Strategy 10: Promoting digital startups.

Priority Actions and Responsibilities

The policy paper mentioned clearly that the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication is under the National Digital Economy and Society Council and is in charge of accelerating digital government transformation, focusing on technical and policy areas. To achieve the outcomes of building an effective digital government, the RGC identifies the necessity of three institutions to work complementary and interdependent to foster digital government policy implementation efficiently and effectively. The three institutions are: 1. Digital Government Committee (leading, facilitation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation), 2. Roles of technical ministry (in charge of managing the centralized digital infrastructure of the whole government), and 3. Establish digital transformation units under ministries and institutions at national and subnational levels (for accelerating digital transformation).

The Digital Government Committee

The Digital Government Committee¹ is chaired by the MPTC and includes representatives of relevant ministries and institutions as members. It is to lead, facilitate, foster, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of the policy, strategies, measures, technical standards, and other relevant plans relating to the development of the digital government. Its main roles are facilitating and ensuring the connection of infrastructure and digital systems and encouraging the use of the government's shared systems (Government of Cambodia, 2022). Also, the Digital Government Committee and National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (N.C.D.D) work collaboratively to harmonize the digital transformation both at national and sub-national levels, enhancing and expanding digital service provision in a coherent, seamless, and effective manner (Government of Cambodia, 2022).

¹ The Digital Government Committee consists of the Minister of Post and Telecommunication as a Chair and representatives of relevant ministries and institutions as members.

Roles of technical ministry

The policy paper points out that the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications is the technical ministry responsible for the development and management of telecommunication and ICT infrastructure such as mobile and fixed phones, internet, digital government networks, data centers, and cloud systems. Other responsibilities of the MPTC include the adoption of digital norms, protocols, standards, and the operational management of digital identity infrastructure and government digital security center. It will provide a common email system, web portal, collaboration platform, messaging system, and electronic document and approval system. Moreover, the MPTC is responsible for setting standards, ensuring sustainability, advising and supporting ministries and institutions, and providing digital skill training for senior and focal technical officials.

Digital transformation units

The policy requires each government ministry and institution to set up a unit in charge of digital transformation with a role and structure to promote digital transformation. At sub-national administration, the unit must be at the municipality and provinces and the provincial department of Post and Telecommunication serves as the secretariat for municipal and provincial governors in the implementation of digital government policy.

Policy's Implementation Challenges

Based on an analysis of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Cambodia's digital government development is still at level one or E-government. Government, people, and business communities are well aware of the importance of E-government as it offers numerous advantages for people such as reducing time and money for receiving public services from the government and promoting accountability and transparency.

However, as mentioned in Alsufayri, 2014 cited in Sar, 2023, E-government also encounters several challenges such as 1. Poor Management can hinder the effectiveness of E-government initiatives if not implemented and managed efficiently, 2. Legal Barriers, including regulatory constraints, may pose obstacles to its adoption and expansion, and the lack of awareness among citizens about available E-government services and how to use them effectively is a challenge. Moreover, Alsufayri, 2014 mentioned challenges of the demand side of public services such as senior citizens, individuals with limited education, ethnic minorities, low-income individuals, and disabled citizens, may face demographic barriers. Moreover, insufficient digital Skills among citizens can impede their ability to effectively navigate and utilize E-government services (Sar, 2023). In the case of Cambodia's supply side, according to Oum, 2021 cited in Sar, 2023 defined four challenges: "lack of ICT infrastructure and policy; lack of digital literacy; shortage of financial support; and willingness" (Sar, 2023).

The Royal Government of Cambodia has tried to address all the challenges related to the implementation of the digital government policy 2022-2035. Every ministry and institution at the national and sub-national levels tries to develop and use digital tools to support their administrative works, communicate with stakeholders, and provide digital public services. The Ministry of Civil Service, for example, developed its human resource management information system (HRMIS) database for the management of all civil

servants in the countries (total civil servants: 218,000; about 42,000 at national administration and 176,000 at sub-national administration). This database is used for the management of information on civil servants and contracting staff including their ranks, salaries, and retirement (MCS, 2024). The Ministry of Civil Service also developed its electronic gateway for information on public services in Cambodia. People can download to their mobile devices and search for public services of different sectors. Available public services are from 13 government institutions including One Window Service Office (OWSO) for subnational administration, labor, and vocational training, public works and transports, education, water supply, and electricity (MCS, 2024).

Another important digital service in the government is the Public Financial Management (PFMIS). The main goals are: Increasing Budget Credibility and improving financial accountability for all government ministries and institutions by strengthening the collection and management of revenues, strengthening financial management, and improving the implementation of the budget through the use of digital tools (PFM, 2024).

Other ministries and institutions have a similar case such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation developed their database for the management of retiree's funds for civil servants and people with disability fund (PWD fund). Generally, digital development in government ministries and institutions is still fragmented and has no standards of hardware, software, and operation processes. The way toward digital transformation is facing challenges in system integration, capacity of service providers and recipients, financial support, and active participation from all stakeholders.

Current Government's intervention

The Royal Government of Cambodia realizes the challenges and commits to implementing its digital government policy for 2022-2030 by strengthening its leading, coordinating, and operating mechanism. On October 3, 2023, the Office of the Council of Ministers issued guidelines in which the Royal Government of Cambodia agreed for the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication to sign an MoU on cooperation for launching document verification (verify.gov.kh) and internet connection infrastructure with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, and another MoU with the Ministry of Information on digital skills training for civil servants of the Ministry of Information. Moreover, the government allowed the MPTC to continue to sign MoUs with other ministries and institutions related to digital government transformation for implementing two phases of digital transformation.

Based on the guidelines the Office of the Council of Ministers sets priority works in two phases. Phase One: Develop a high-speed internet connection, which is a common government infrastructure for the daily performance of ministries and institutions, Establish a “Digital transformation Unit - DTU” at ministries and institutions (Directorate General or Department level based on workload and specific needs), provide training for officials implement works at the DTU and leaders and civil servants on digital knowledge, using computers and digital devices for daily works, Use government's licensed computers, digital devices, and software for ensuring data safety and work effectiveness, Participate in using document verification application (verify.go.kh) for the correctness of documents, gaining confidence, saving time and cost, eliminating document's fraud and improvement of public service's digital transformation.

Phase Two: Ministries and Institutions need to develop digital technology systems for daily internal use like document flow management systems, meeting management systems, digital libraries, and digital

technology systems for delivery of public services to people (G2C). The ministries and institutions can either develop systems, seek technical support from the MPTC, or use a common system developed by the MPTC to save the national budget (CoM, 2023).

Conclusion

The strategic goals, strategies, and priority actions as set in the policy agenda are well understood by all government ministries and institutions. However, the decision-makers, coordinators, and implementors of the policy also have impediments and challenges in capacity, finance, and support.

The commitment of the government with strong political will and the strong leadership of the National Digital Economy and Society Council with the three committees of Digital Government, Digital Economy and Society, and Digital Security will be excellent catalysts to fix the gaps in technology, skills, and capacity of government institutions and improve the confidence among people to use digital public services.

The adoption of digital government policy for 2022-2035 is a good move to bring about internal country socio-economic development and a smooth transition for Cambodia's integration into ASEAN's regional community. The long-term impacts of the Digital Government Policy will uplift the government's performance in service delivery and bring prosperity to the Cambodian people.

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Cambodia's Government Digital Policy for 2022-2035: Its Impacts and Challenges on Public Services

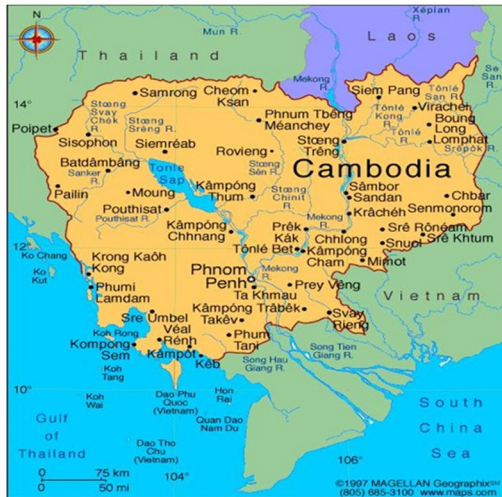


Mr. Soly Vannpok
Vice President
Royal School of Administration
Kingdom of Cambodia

Outline:

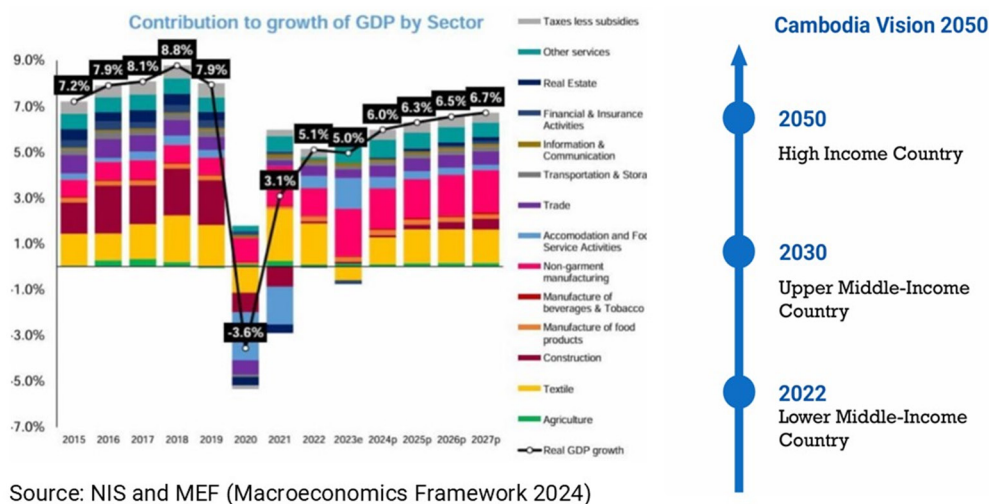
1. Cambodia's Macroeconomics, ASEAN & Cambodia, and Government's Vision 2050
2. Government's policies and strategies
3. Digital Economy and Society Policy Framework 2021-2030
4. Digital Government Policy 2022-2035 and Strategies
5. Priority Actions and Responsibilities
6. Impacts and challenges
7. Government's intervention
8. Conclusion

Kingdom of Cambodia



- Land area: 181,035 Km²
- Capital: Phnom Penh
- Official language: Khmer
- Population: 17.6 Million
- Internet users: 20.3 Million (2022)
- Mobile phone subscribers: 20 Million (2022)
- Popular social media use: telegram, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Zoom, Microsoft Team...

1. Status of Cambodia's Macroeconomics

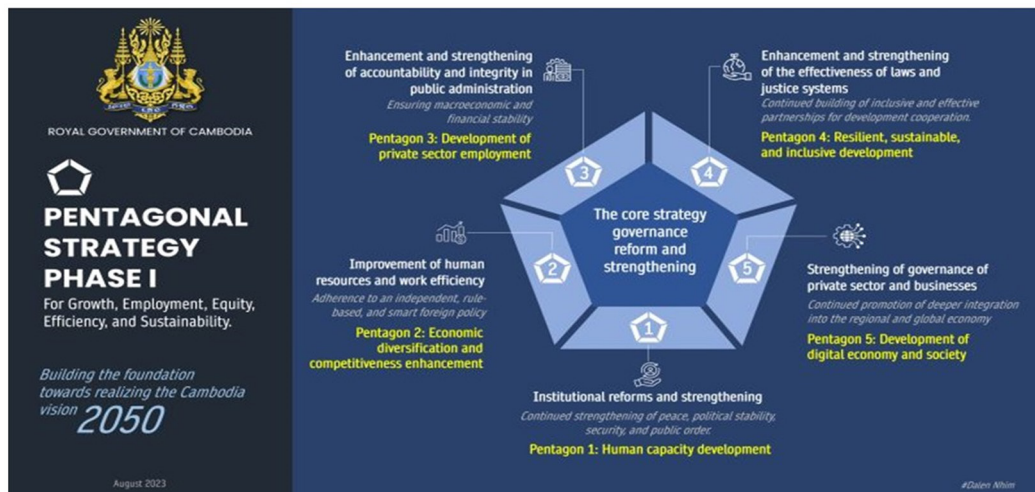


ASEAN and CAMBODIA

AEAN's Digital Integration Framework: Enables ASEAN member states to compete effectively in the global economy, bridge the digital divide, and create a more inclusive ASEAN region with deliberate and coordinated actions (ASEAN, 2021).

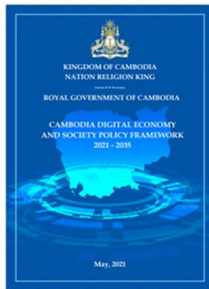
The 1st phase of the Cambodian government's Pentagon strategy (2023-2028): Emphasizes governance and institutional modernization of state institutions making them more modern, competent, strong, smart, and clean public administration for people-centric interest (Government of Cambodia, 2022)

Strategy for realizing Cambodia's vision 2050



2. Government policies and strategies in the digital sector

- Digital Economy and Society Policy Framework 2021-2035
- Digital Government Policy 2022-2035
- Technology (FinTech) Development Policy 2023-2028

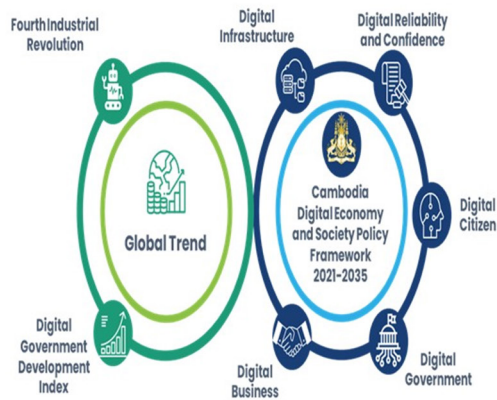


Digital Technology Revolution in Economy and Society



Source: Working Group of the Supreme National Economic Council

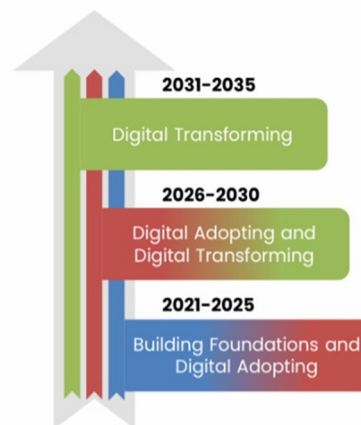
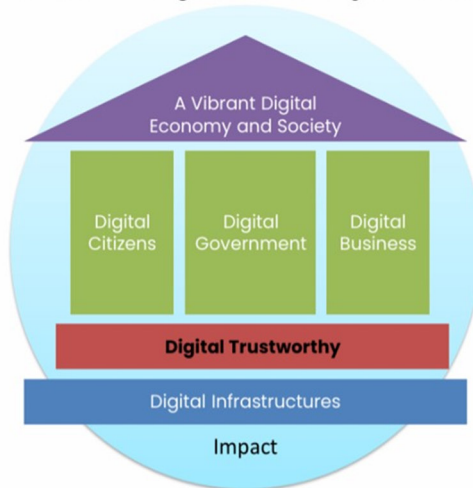
3. Development of Digital Economy and Society Policy Framework 2021-2035



VISION

Build a vibrant digital economy and society to accelerate new economic growth and promote social welfare in the new normal.

Cambodia Digital Economy and Social Policy Framework 2021-2035



4. Cambodia Digital Government Policy 2022-2035



VISION

Establish a digital government to improve the *citizens' quality of life* and build their *trust* through *better public service provision*.

GOALS

Build a **smart government** based on the use of **digital infrastructure** and **technology** as an ecosystem for **governance system modernization and reform** in a **transparent and credible manner** to develop an inclusive digital economy and society.

Strategic Goals

SG1: Digital government infrastructure development (4 strategies)

- S1:** Building and improving digital connectivity infrastructure,
- S2:** Building and improving infrastructure for digital payment systems for public services,
- S3:** Building and strengthening digital security infrastructure, and
- S4:** Developing postal service infrastructure.

SG2: Digital Governance and Digital Public Services

- S5:** Organizing digital governance - formulation and improvement of policies, legislative frameworks, regulations, digital government standards, and architecture,
- S6:** Transforming the government and public services (improvement of Government-to-Government (G2G), Government-for Citizens (G4C), and Government-to-Business (G2B) public services.

□ **SG3: Digital Capacity Building and Innovation**

S7: Building digital human capital, and

S8: Promoting digital research and innovation.

□ **SG4: Digital Capacity Building and Innovation**

S9: Organizing collaborations with digital technology companies, and

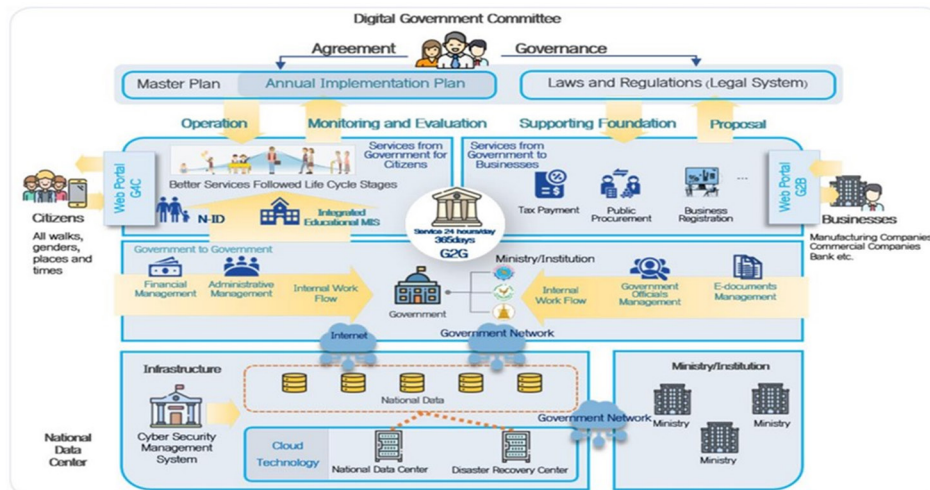
S10: Promoting digital startups.

Priority Actions and Responsibilities

The Royal Government of Cambodia identifies 3 important institutions for implementing Digital Government Policy:

- 1. Digital Government Committee** (Chaired by MPTC and relevant Ministries and institutions)
- 2. Technical Ministry** (MPTC)
- 3. Digital Transformation Units** (based at ministries and institutions with the rank of Department General or Department)

Digital Government of Cambodia



Impacts of the Policy on Public Service

The impacts of the policy include reducing time and money, promoting accountability and transparency, and building confidence among people and other stakeholders such as the business community and government agencies.

The 28 government ministries and institutions with 182 information systems provide more services to other government agencies than to citizens and businesses (60%, 31%, and 9%) (Government of Cambodia, 2022).

Examples of Effective Digital Public Service delivery

1. MCS: HRMIS database for managing civil servants. This database is used for the management of information on civil servants and contracting staff including their ranks, salaries, and retirement. It also develops an electronic gateway for information on public services in Cambodia (MCS: <https://www.mcs.gov.kh/>)
2. MoEF: Develops Public Financial Management (PFMIS). The main goals are: Increasing Budget Credibility and improving financial accountability for all government ministries and institutions by strengthening the collection and management of revenues, strengthening financial management, and improving the implementation of the budget through the use of digital tools (PFM, 2024).
3. MoSAVY: Database for managing retirees' funds for civil servants, veteran, and PWD.

Challenges of the Policy Implementation

1. The current state of government digital is largely fragmented (government agencies purchased and developed their databases with no standard of hardware and software)
2. The National Data Center established by the MPTC is not yet integrated by government ministries and institutions (other issues include security of the system, different technologies and tools, and lack of digital skills and knowledge)
3. Capacity development of digital skills among stakeholders is limited (within the government, private sector, and citizens, especially for minority groups, limited education people, low-income individuals, and PWD).

Government's intervention

The RGC allows the MPTC to sign MoU with government ministries and institutions and sets two phases of priority actions for digital transformation:

Phase 1:

- Develop high-speed internet connection (common government digital infrastructure) for use in ministries and institutions.
- Establish a Digital Transformation Unit (DTU) at every government ministry and institution
- Provide training for DTU officials, leaders, and civil servants on digital knowledge, using computers and digital devices for works
- Use government's license computers, digital devices, and software for ensuring data safety, and work effectiveness.
- Using document verification app (verify.go.kh) for correctness of documents, gaining confidence, saving time and cost, eliminating fraud and improving public service.

Phase 2:

Ministries and Institutions need to develop digital technology systems for daily internal use like document flow management systems, meeting management systems, digital libraries, and digital technology systems for the delivery of public services to people (G2C).

The ministries and institutions can either develop systems, seek technical support from the MPTC, or use a common system developed by the MPTC to save the national budget (CoM, 2023).

Conclusion

The adoption of digital government policy for 2022-2035 is a good move to bring about long-term internal country socio-economic development and a smooth transition for Cambodia's integration into ASEAN's regional community.

The commitment of the government with strong political will and strong leadership will be excellent catalysts to fix the gaps in technology, skills, and capacity of government institutions and improve the confidence among people to use digital public services.

Thank you!



INCLUSIVE AI AND LITERACY

Dr. Jeonghyun Lee & Prof. Yumi Yi
Research Professor & Professor, Humanities Research Institute
Chung-Ang University
KOREA



KEY ISSUES IN AI DEVELOPMENT

2012

01

Image net challenge (Deep learning)

AlexNet, a deep learning model, achieved a groundbreaking performance in image recognition, surpassing previous methods by a significant margin.

2014

02

Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)

Introduced by Ian Goodfellow, GANs enabled the generation of highly realistic images, videos, and other data.

2017

03

Transformer Architecture

The transformer model, introduced in the paper "Attention Is All You Need," laid the foundation for large language models like GPT-3.

2022

04

Generative AI

Models like GPT-3, Jurassic-1 Jumbo, and LaMDA have showcased remarkable abilities in generating human-quality text, translating languages, writing different kinds of creative content, and answering your questions in an informative way.

AI GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW

AI Development

2010-

AI was primarily seen as an academic or research domain with minimal government intervention

National AI Policy

2015-

Countries like **China, the United States, and the United Kingdom** released comprehensive AI strategies outlining national goals and priorities.

AI Ethics

2018-

A growing emphasis on AI ethics, safety, and accountability. Countries explored **regulations**. Also, efforts to establish **global AI governance and standards**.

Ethical AI Assessment

2023-

To support **effective implementation**, global society, like the UN, developed instruments to assess AI's ethical impacts and the nation's readiness to AI.

ASIAN AI GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW

AI Development & Adoption

A few Asian countries, such as China, Korea, and Singapore, have developed AI technologies.

Mostly, Asian countries have experienced and adopted AI technologies through global tech companies, such as Google, Apple, and Open AI.

National AI Policy

2017-

China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore

2020-

Thailand, Philippine, Indonesia, Malaysia

AI Ethics

2019-

Singapore
China
South Korea
ASEAN
Indonesia
Malaysia

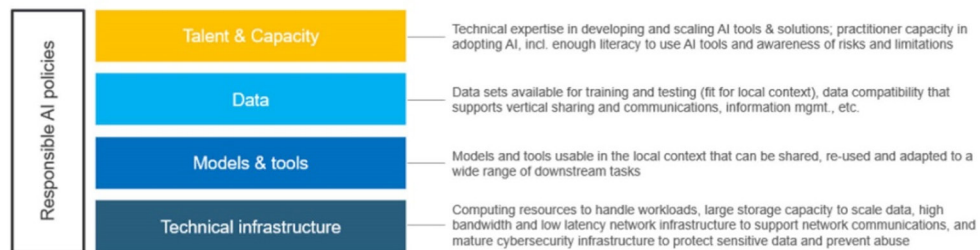
1. AI DIVIDE

The unequal distribution of access to and benefits from artificial intelligence (AI) across different regions, countries, and socioeconomic groups.

- AI's economic and social benefits remain geographically concentrated, primarily in the Global North.
- Without an enabling operating environment, disparities in AI readiness will feed into global inequality.

1. AI DIVIDE

Here are components for establishing responsible and ethical AI policies.
From technical infrastructure to human resources, there is inherent inequality between nations, which generates the (new) global order.



Source: [World Economic Forum \(2023\)](#)

AI DIVIDE

ChatGPT Is Cutting Non-English Languages Out of the AI Revolution

AI chatbots are less fluent in languages other than English, threatening to amplify existing bias in global commerce and innovation.

Lai, V. et al. (2023). *ChatGPT Beyond English: Towards a Comprehensive Evaluation of Large Language Models in Multilingual Learning*. arxiv.org/2304.05613v1.

- **Translation Bias:** LLMs excel at translating other languages into English but struggle with generating text in languages other than English, especially those with non-Latin scripts (e.g., Korean).
- **Mixing Languages:** LLMs have difficulty seamlessly combining multiple languages within a single sentence, a common practice for many people worldwide.
- **Non-English Performance:** LLMs perform significantly worse when answering questions or summarizing complex texts in languages other than English, often resorting to fabrication.

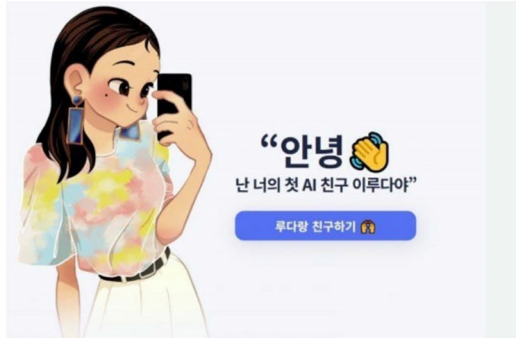
2. AI CHALLENGES

- Disinformation
- Safety and security
- The black box problem
- Ethical concerns
- Bias
- Instability
- Hallucinations in LLMs
- Unknown unknowns
- Job loss and social inequalities
- Environmental impact
- Industry concentration
- State overreach

Source: Harvard Business Review (2024)



2. AI CHALLENGES



- Chatbot companies faced a significant challenge, which produced harmful content due to the biased data on which they were trained.
- Cleaning up this massive dataset manually was impractical but necessary to develop an AI-based safety system and make it suitable for public use.



2. AI CHALLENGES

- OpenAI outsourced the creation of a safety filter for ChatGPT to Sama, a data labeling company based in Kenya.
- Sama, a San Francisco-based firm that employs workers in Kenya, Uganda and India to label data for Silicon Valley clients like Google, Meta and Microsoft. Sama markets itself as an “ethical AI” company and claims to have helped lift more than 50,000 people out of poverty.
- Sama workers were tasked with labeling massive amounts of extremely disturbing content, including child sexual abuse, violence, and hate speech.
- The workers who labeled the data to create ChatGPT’s safety filter were paid extremely low wages, ranging from \$1.32 to \$2 per hour.

AI LITERACY

The Elements of AI, a series of free online courses, created by the University of Helsinki.

This program encourages as broad a group of people as possible to learn what AI is, what can (and can’t) be done with AI, and how to start creating AI methods. The courses combine theory with practical exercises and can be completed at your own pace.

Elements of AI Updated for 2024

Introduction to AI Building AI Online Community FAQ

Part 1
Introduction to AI

An Introduction to AI is a free online course for everyone interested in learning what AI is, what is possible (and not possible) with AI, and how it affects our lives – with no complicated math or programming required.

Start the course →

Part 2
Building AI

Building AI is a free online course where you’ll learn about the actual algorithms that make creating AI methods possible. Some basic Python programming skills are recommended to get the most out of the course.

Start the course →

Source: Elements of AI (2024)



INCLUSIVENESS

+

AI LITERACY

INCLUSIVENESS IN LITERACY

Leave no one behind



Diversity



AI LITERACY +

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

A core principle in the development and deployment of AI. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the benefits of AI are accessible to everyone, regardless of their socioeconomic status, geographic location, or other factors.

- **Equitable access:** Ensuring that everyone can benefit from AI-powered services and applications.
- **Addressing digital divide:** Bridging the gap between those with access to technology and those without.
- **Inclusive development:** Involving diverse perspectives in the development of AI to ensure it meets the needs of all.

AI LITERACY +

DIVERSITY

The understanding and knowledge of artificial intelligence across a wide range of individuals, regardless of their background, age, gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or geographic location.

- **Accessible resources:** Ensuring AI education and resources are available to everyone.
- **Inclusivity:** Creating AI learning environments that welcome people from diverse backgrounds.
- **Cultural sensitivity:** Developing AI literacy programs that respect different cultural perspectives and values.
- **Equity:** Providing equal opportunities for everyone to learn about and benefit from AI.



INCLUSIVE **AI** + LITERACY

Building Asian partnership to understand and share what's at stake on:

- **AI Awareness:** social impact; individual impact
- **AI Competence:** 3Rs; Using-creating-evaluating AI; critical thinking; AI ethics
- **AI Action:** Perspective on AI; Design the future of one's life

AND ASIAN PARTNERSHIP



THANK YOU

2024

KACPE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY SYMPOSIUM

Office of the Public Sector Development Commission · Thailand
International Studies Center · Ministry of Foreign Affairs · Thailand
Humanities Research Institute · Chung-Ang University · Korea
Korea Research Initiatives · University of New South Wales · Australia

Korea Foundation · Korea
ASEAN Foundation · Indonesia