



Exclusive Invitation to University Presidents

5th October 2026

President of University

งานสารบรรณ สำนักงานอธิการบดี	
หนังสือภายนอก	
เลขรับ	08117
วันที่	7 ต.ค. 2569
เวลา	17:07 น.

Subject: AAKN Founding Forum, Gala Dinner and AAKN–JIRSEA Special Issue

Dear President,

On behalf of Siam University, I am pleased to invite you and a delegation of your academic and research colleagues to the Founding International Academic and Research Forum of the **ASEAN Asia Knowledge Nexus (AAKN)**, at Monthien Riverside, Bangkok, on 24–25 November 2026.

AAKN brings together Siam University, Ming Chuan University, Newcastle Australia Institute of Higher Education, Sungkyunkwan University and the South East Asian Association for Institutional Research (SEAIR). We invite your university to help shape a wider community of collaboration through joint teaching, comparative research, researcher development and projects with identifiable benefits for institutions and learners.

Day 1 on 24 November offers a substantive program of international engagement: the founding launch and MOU signing; two proposed keynotes on “*The Morphing Landscape of Higher Education Academic and Research Collaboration*” by MHESRI” and a BOT keynote on “*The Higher Education Industry Through Porter’s Diamond: A Critical Review and Research Foundation for Thailand in the 2030s*”; academic and research collaboration panels; and design studios to develop practical partnerships and 2027 project concepts. We would especially welcome your participation in the Founding Gala and Cultural Dinner from 18:00 to 20:00, followed by a Loy Krathong-inspired cultural ceremony.

We also invite your researchers to submit full papers for the AAKN–JIRSEA Special Issue, planned for the Journal of Institutional Research South East Asia (JIRSEA), a Scopus-indexed journal. Its central theme is “*Beyond Partnership Agreements: Evidence on the Successes and Failures of National, International and Inter-Regional Academic and Research Collaboration*”. The enclosed six sub-themes connect institutional strategy with international relations, teaching and learning, quality assurance, AI and geopolitical change, and research collaboration performance.

Approximately 20–30 papers passing preliminary review will be selected for parallel presentations on Day 2, 25 November. Presentation and scholarly feedback will precede manuscript revision and double-blind review. Final journal acceptance depends on satisfactory review and revision; acceptance to present does not guarantee publication.

May I invite you to attend Day 1 and the gala dinner, nominate an institutional contact for collaboration, and circulate the enclosed submission invitation to your academic and research community, for Day 2 Papers Presentation and AAKN–JIRSEA journal publication? Full papers are invited by 30 October 2026 (extensions requested are possible). Please send your expression of interest and delegation details to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teay Shawyun, teay@siam.edu.

We would be honored to welcome your university to Bangkok and to develop collaborations that continue well beyond the founding forum.

Yours sincerely,

P. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit

Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit,
President, Siam University
For the AAKN Founding Forum



เรียน อธิการบดี

ด้วย มหาวิทยาลัยสยาม ในนามผู้จัดงาน AAKN Founding Forum
ขอเชิญอธิการบดีและคณะผู้แทน เข้าร่วมงานประชุมวิชาการและการวิจัยนานาชาติ
ASEAN Asia Knowledge Nexus (AAKN) Founding International
Academic and Research Forum ระหว่างวันที่ ๒๔-๒๕ พฤศจิกายน ๒๕๖๙
ณ โรงแรมมณเฑียร ริเวอร์ไซด์ กรุงเทพฯ และขอความอนุเคราะห์ประชาสัมพันธ์
การเปิดรับบทความวิจัยเพื่อตีพิมพ์ในวารสาร JIRSEA (ฐานข้อมูล Scopus)
ฉบับพิเศษ

จึงเรียนมาเพื่อ

๑. เพื่อโปรดพิจารณาการขอเชิญเข้าร่วมงานประชุมวิชาการและการวิจัย
นานาชาติ ASEAN Asia Knowledge Nexus (AAKN) Founding
International Academic and Research Forum ระหว่างวันที่
๒๔-๒๕ พฤศจิกายน ๒๕๖๙ ณ โรงแรมมณเฑียร ริเวอร์ไซด์ กรุงเทพฯ
๒. เห็นควรให้ กองบริหารการวิจัยและนวัตกรรม ทราบ
๓. และเห็นควรเผยแพร่ให้ทราบทั่วกันและสามารถดาวน์โหลดหนังสือ
ได้ที่ <http://docshare.buu.ac.th>

ป.ทศ.
๐๗ ต.ค. ๒๕๖๙

Thom.
๐๗ ต.ค. ๒๕๖๙

สมิ ธีระพาณิชย์

ทราบ

ดำเนินการตาม ๒ และ ๓

Sh m

ตรวจสอบแล้ว

Thom.

๐๗ ต.ค. ๒๕๖๙

เอกสารนี้ลงนามด้วยลายเซ็นอิเล็กทรอนิกส์ ตรวจสอบได้ที่ (<https://e-sign.buu.ac.th/verify>)





AAKN (ASEAN ASIA KNOWLEDGE NEXUS)

Founding International Academic and Research Forum

Founding Launch • Collaboration Forum • MOU Signing • Invited JIRSEA Special Issue Paper Presentations

24–25 November 2026 | Monthien Riverside Hotel | Bangkok, Thailand

Two days of ideas, collaborators and publication pathways, not simply a signing ceremony.

(I) AAKN Program Purpose and Public Value

The AAKN is an open, high-value ASEAN–Asia Academic–Research Knowledge convening platform.

- ✓ Day 1 explains why the Nexus is needed now, gives participants access to senior international perspectives, and converts discussion into collaboration concepts.
- ✓ Day 2 presents approximately 20–30 papers that have passed preliminary review for presentation and possible progression to double-blind review for the AAKN Special Issue of JIRSEA.
- ✓ The MOU remains an important founding milestone, but it supports the academic program rather than dominating it.

Who Should Attend

- Academics, researchers, doctoral candidates and research leaders from Thailand, ASEAN, Asia and international partner institutions.
- Higher education leaders and professional staff working in international relations, teaching and learning, quality assurance, digital transformation and research management.
- Potential collaborators seeking comparative, national, international or inter-regional projects, co-authorship, institutional cases and policy-relevant research.

What Participants Gain

Participant Benefit	Practical Value
Strategic insight	Evidence-informed perspectives on AI disruption, geopolitical change and the future of cross-border higher education and research collaboration.
Matched connections	Structured networking around shared themes, methods, countries and institutional strengths, not only informal introductions.
Project formation	Opportunities to join or propose thematic research and academic collaboration clusters with named next steps.



Participant Benefit	Practical Value
Publication pathway	For invited presenters, Day 2 provides scholarly presentation, discussant feedback and a defined progression route to double-blind review. Preliminary acceptance for presentation is not final journal acceptance.
Visible outputs	A collaboration canvas, cluster register, Bangkok Declaration and 30/60/90-day follow-up commitments.

Five Founding Parties

Siam University Thailand; Ming Chuan University Taiwan; Sungkyunkwan University Korea; Newcastle Australia Institute of Higher Education NAIHE Singapore; and the South East Asian Association for Institutional Research SEAAIR.

(II) Day 1 International Launch and Collaboration Forum

24 November 2026 | Public and invited academic program | Monthien Riverside Hotel, Bangkok

Day 1 promise: Understand why AAKN matters, meet potential partners, and leave with a defined collaboration opportunity or next-step connection.

Time	Session	Participant Value and Intended Output
08:00–09:00	Registration	Delegate registration, program materials and seating. Registration closes at 09:00. No networking activity is scheduled in this period.
09:00–09:30	Welcome and Why AAKN	President of Siam University welcomes participants and establishes AAKN as an outward-facing platform. A concise launch explanation then presents the collaboration problem, borderless operating model, intended beneficiaries, governance and 2026–2028 ambition.
09:30–10:00	Five Founding Voices	Each founding member receives five minutes to state: why AAKN matters; the distinctive capability contributed; and one concrete opportunity offered to academics and researchers. The remaining five minutes support speaker transition.
10:00–10:15	Coffee Break	Short hosted refreshment break before the keynote.
10:15–11:00	MHESRI Keynote Address	One high-impact 45-minute keynote by a senior representative of Thailand’s Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation. Suggested title: The Morphing Landscape of Higher Education Academic and Research Collaboration . The address examines how AI, geopolitical realignment, national and regional policy, mobility, quality assurance, research ecosystems, funding and changing knowledge networks are transforming why, where and how institutions collaborate.
11:00–11:30	Five Party MOU Signing	Introduction of the five signatories, formal signing, recognition, group photograph and media statement. The ceremony confirms the platform enabling the wider academic and research program.
11:30–12:00	AAKN Public Launch and Participation Pathways	Present AAKN’s academic and research collaboration opportunities, participation routes, proposed 2027 activities and Day 2 paper-presentation program.
12:00–13:00	Lunch	Hosted lunch for registered participants and invited guests.
13:00–14:00	Impact Panel 1: Academic Collaboration	What succeeds, what fails and what can scale: joint and modular programs, micro-credentials, mobility, co-teaching, AI-enabled pedagogy and cross-border quality assurance. Output: shortlisted 2027 collaboration concepts.
OR	Keynote	BOT keynote on “The Higher Education Industry Through Porter’s Diamond: A Critical Review and Research Foundation for Thailand in the 2030s” An in-depth Industry Analysis between Bank Of Thailand and Siam University
14:00–15:00	Academic Collaboration Design Studios	Small groups develop a one-page concept: problem, partners, beneficiaries, contribution, first deliverable, lead and 90-day action. Participants may join a cluster rather than only observe.



Time	Session	Participant Value and Intended Output
15:00–15:30	Coffee Break and Project Gallery	Hosted refreshments while participants review collaboration concepts and register interest.
15:30–16:30	Impact Panel 2 Research Collaboration	Comparative and inter-regional research, shared data, mentorship, integrity, funding readiness and dissemination. Output: candidate research clusters beyond the founding institutions.
16:30–17:00	Bangkok Declaration and Collaboration Commitments	Adoption of the declaration, concise research-cluster commitments, registration of participant interest and invitation to the Day 2 paper presentations.
18:00–20:00	AAKN Founding Cultural Dinner	Relationship-building through an inclusive cultural program celebrating ASEAN–Asia friendship and the founding of AAKN.
20:00 onward	AAKN Loy Krathong Inspired Ceremony	Unity and Renewal cultural experience. External communication should describe it as Loy Krathong-inspired, not as the official festival date.

Day 1 Required Outputs

- Participants get to know the Academic-Research-Industry Collaborative efforts better (of its challenges)
- Participants get first-hand knowledge of the use of Porter’s Diamond for HEI-Industry analysis, Capacity, Capability and Positioning into the 2030s
- Participant collaboration-interest map and contact opt-in register developed during the afternoon studios.
- Three to six academic collaboration concepts with provisional leads and 90-day next steps.
- Candidate research clusters and questions for future AAKN work.
- Adopted Bangkok Declaration and public statement of AAKN’s wider academic value.

(III) Day 2 AAKN-JIRSEA Special Issue Paper Presentation Forum

25 November 2026 | Accepted paper presentations in parallel sessions | JIRSEA Scopus indexed

Day 2 purpose: Provide a rigorous conference presentation and scholarly feedback stage for approximately 20–30 papers that have already passed preliminary review. Presentation on Day 2 is required for progression to post-event double-blind review and possible final acceptance into the AAKN Special Issue of JIRSEA.

AAKN Special Issue Focus

Working title: Beyond Partnership Agreements: Evidence on the Successes and Failures of National, International and Inter-Regional Academic and Research Collaboration

Core question: Under what conditions do cross-border academic and research collaborations create sustained educational, scholarly, institutional or societal value, and why do others stall or fail?

Special Issue Theme	Illustrative Scope
Higher education strategy and governance	Institutional strategy, partnership portfolios, leadership, policy, resourcing, incentives, risk and sustainability.
International relations and mobility	Regional diplomacy, equitable partnerships, mobility, transnational education, inclusion and geopolitical constraints.
Teaching and learning	Joint curriculum, micro-credentials, co-teaching, learner experience, assessment, digital pedagogy and graduate outcomes.
Quality assurance	Cross-border standards, recognition, accreditation, data, learning-outcome assurance and quality cultures.



Special Issue Theme	Illustrative Scope
AI and geopolitical change	AI-enabled collaboration and research, integrity, digital divides, security, policy divergence and changing regional alignments.
Research collaboration performance	Trust, authorship, data governance, capability asymmetry, funding, network durability, impact and explanations of success or failure.

Time	Session	Participant Value and Intended Output
08:00–08:30	Presenter Registration	Registration of invited authors whose papers have passed preliminary review; session-room confirmation and technical preparation.
08:30–09:00	Opening and Review Pathway Briefing	Explain presentation requirements, discussant feedback, session assessment and progression from Day 2 presentation to post-event double-blind review.
09:00–10:30	Parallel Paper Sessions 1	Three parallel tracks with papers grouped by coherent special issue themes. Each paper receives a structured presentation-and-discussion block; session chairs record scholarly and editorial-development feedback.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	Hosted refreshment break.
11:00–12:30	Parallel Paper Sessions 2	Three parallel tracks continue the invited presentations and structured scholarly discussion.
12:30–13:30	Lunch	Hosted lunch for invited presenters, reviewers, chairs and registered participants.
13:30–15:00	Parallel Paper Sessions 3	Three parallel tracks accommodate the remaining papers within the target of approximately 20–30 accepted presentations.
15:00–15:30	Coffee Break	Hosted refreshment break.
15:30–16:30	Parallel Paper Sessions 4 or Thematic Synthesis	Use a fourth parallel block if required by the final paper count; otherwise convene cross-track synthesis on findings, contradictions and implications.
16:30–17:00	Editorial Synthesis and Post-Presentation Review Briefing	Session chairs identify cross-paper contributions and required improvements. Editors confirm revision requirements, submission deadline and double-blind review pathway. No final publication decision is announced at the event.

Paper Selection and Publication Pathway

Stage	Timeline	Decision and Requirement
1 Invitation to Submit	15 September – 25 October 2026	Researchers are invited to submit complete papers within the announced AAKN Special Issue themes and author requirements. ** Late submissions can be accepted, subject to SU's contact and agreement
2 Preliminary Review	1 – 25 October 2026 and latest by 10 November 2026	Editors or a designated preliminary review panel assess scope fit, completeness, originality, minimum scholarly rigor and presentation readiness.
3 Acceptance for Presentation	30 October – 10 November 2026	Approximately 20–30 papers passing preliminary review receive conditional acceptance to present in the Day 2 parallel sessions.



Stage	Timeline	Decision and Requirement
4. Registration and Payment	1 – 20 November 2026	Registration and Payment (a) 24 & 25 November (USD 450) (2-days event + Gala Dinner + JIRSEA APC) (b) 25 November only (USD 350) (One-day event + JIRSEA APC)
5 Day 2 Presentation	25 November 2026	Authors present and respond to scholarly questions. Session chairs and discussants provide structured feedback for manuscript strengthening.
6 Double Blind Review	30 November – 20 December 2026	Eligible revised manuscripts enter JIRSEA’s double-blind peer-review process. Reviewer and author identities are concealed in accordance with journal procedures.
7 Revision and Final Decision	31 January 2027	Authors address reviewer comments. Final acceptance into the AAKN-JIRSEA Special Issue is determined only after satisfactory Preliminary and Double-Blind peer review and revision; presentation alone does not guarantee publication.

Day 2 Required Outputs

- Approximately 20–30 preliminarily accepted papers presented through well-managed parallel sessions.
- Structured chair and discussant feedback for each presented paper.
- Clear identification of papers eligible to submit revised manuscripts for double-blind review.
- A transparent post-event review, revision and final-decision timetable.
- Cross-paper synthesis of evidence on the successes and failures of national, international and inter-regional academic and research collaboration.

(IV) Public Invitation Message

Join the founding AAKN International Academic and Research Forum in Bangkok to examine what makes cross-border collaboration succeed or fail, meet prospective partners across ASEAN and Asia, and shape actionable academic and research projects. Researchers are also invited to submit full papers for preliminary review. Approximately 20–30 qualifying papers will be invited for presentation in Day 2 parallel sessions. They may subsequently progress, after revision, to double-blind review for possible final acceptance into the AAKN Special Issue of JIRSEA. Presentation does not guarantee publication.





AAKN–JIRSEA Special Issue

INVITATION TO SUBMIT FULL PAPERS AND PRESENT RESEARCH

24–25 NOVEMBER 2026 | MONTIEN RIVERSIDE HOTEL, BANGKOK

Beyond Partnership Agreements | Scopus-indexed JIRSEA

Evidence on the Successes and Failures of National, International and Inter-Regional Academic and Research Collaboration

Share evidence on what makes collaboration succeed or fail, build research partnerships and strengthen your manuscript through scholarly feedback. Open to academics, researchers and doctoral candidates from all institutions.

Six research subthemes

- **Higher education strategy and governance** — Leadership, policy and sustainability.
- **International relations and mobility** — Equity, diplomacy and transnational education.
- **Teaching and learning** — Joint curricula, assessment and learner outcomes.
- **Quality assurance** — Standards, accreditation and recognition.
- **AI and geopolitical change** — Integrity, digital divides and realignment.
- **Research collaboration performance** — Trust, funding and impact.

24 NOVEMBER | FOUNDING FORUM AND GALA DINNER

Founding launch and MOU signing; proposed 45-minute MHESRI keynote; collaboration panels and project studios. Gala and Cultural Dinner: 18:00–20:00, followed by a Loy Krathong-inspired ceremony.

25 NOVEMBER | PARALLEL RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

20–30 preliminarily accepted papers in parallel sessions. Presentation and feedback → revision → double-blind review → final editorial decision. Acceptance to present does not guarantee publication.

Submission and review timeline

Milestone	Date
Full-paper submission	15 September–25 October 2026
Preliminary review and presentation decisions	Review: 1–25 October; decisions: 30 October 2026
Registration and payment	1–20 November 2026
Double-blind review after presentation	30 November–20 December 2026
Revision and final acceptance decision target	31 January 2027

Participation packages

USD 450: both days, gala dinner and JIRSEA APC. USD 350: Day 2 and JIRSEA APC.

APC means article processing charge. Package terms and APC treatment for unsuccessful papers require confirmation.

SUBMIT FULL PAPERS BY 25 OCTOBER 2026 (Late submissions, please get in touch with teay@siam.edu)

Contact Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teay Shawyun | teay@siam.edu

Participation inquiries, author guidelines and submission arrangements.

MHESRI speaker, Panelists. Program and special issue editorial arrangements remain subject to confirmation.

