CRISEA AT A GLANCE

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Coordinator
Prof. Yves Goudineau, EFEO
yves.goudineau@efeo.net

Scientific Coordinator
Dr. Jacques Leider, EFEO
jacques.leider@efeo.net

Dissemination Coordinator
Dr. David Camroux, EFEO/Sciences Po
david.camroux@sciencespo.fr

Project Manager
Elisabeth Lacroix, EFEO
ideas.lacroix@gmail.com

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Contact details of CRISEA researchers as well as detailed information about the project’s research agenda and dissemination outputs are available on the project’s dedicated website at:

www.crisea.eu
WHAT IS CRISEA?

Competing Regional Integrations in Southeast Asia (CRISEA) is an interdisciplinary research project funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Framework Programme that studies multiple forces affecting regional integration in Southeast Asia and the challenges they present to the peoples of Southeast Asia and its regional institutional framework, ASEAN.

CRIGEIA innovates by encouraging ‘macro-micro’ dialogue between disciplines: global level analyses in international relations and political economy alongside socio-cultural insights from the grassroots methodologies of social sciences and the humanities.

Coordinated by the Ecole française d’Extrême-Orient (EFEO) with its unique network of ten field centres in Southeast Asia, the project brings together researchers from seven European and six Southeast Asian institutions, with three objectives:

RESEARCH ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Multiple internal and external forces drive regional integration in Southeast Asia and compete for resources and legitimacy. CRISEA has identified five ‘arenas of competition’ for the interplay of these forces, investigated in the project’s five research Work Packages. It further aims to assess the extent to which they call into question the centrality of ASEAN’s regional model.

POLICY RELEVANCE

CRIGEIA reaches beyond academia to engage in public debate and impact on practitioners in government and non-government spheres. By establishing mechanisms for dialogue with targeted audiences of policymakers, stakeholders and the public, the project furthers European science diplomacy in Southeast Asia and promotes evidence-based policymaking.

NETWORKING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

CRIGEIA reinforces the European Research Area (ERA) in the field of Asian Studies through coordinated EU-ASEAN academic exchange and network development. It connects major research hubs with emerging expertise across Europe and Southeast Asia. CRIGEIA also promotes participation of younger generation academics in all its activities, notably policy dialogues.

FIVE RESEARCH WORK PACKAGES

CRIGEIA conducts interdisciplinary research on five ‘arenas’ where regional forces compete:

1. THE ENVIRONMENT: SECURING THE COMMONS

The University of Chiang Mai, Thailand, and the University of Lodz, Poland, lead the team research on the extent to which competition over regional ‘commons’ – in the milieu of sea, river, land, forest and air – is reaching a tipping point, with potentially wide-ranging consequences for the region’s security. Failure to face transnational environmental challenges could undermine ASEAN’s legitimacy.

2. THE ECONOMY: COMPETING MODELS AND PRACTICES OF CAPITALISM

The University of Malaya, Malaysia, and the University of Naples L’Orientale, Italy, lead study on whether the ‘uneven development trap’, that ensnares labour in precarious circulatory migration and undermines social stability, will erode Southeast Asian models of developmental capitalism and regional integration.

3. THE STATE: CONTESTING THE LIBERAL STATE

The University of Cambridge, UK, and the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences head the team that analyses forces that contest the liberal State in the region, asking if they herald an era where governance is legitimized by group interests that challenge the liberal values central to ASEAN’s political model.

4. IDENTITY: FORGING REGIONAL BELONGING

The University of Hamburg, Germany, and Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, ask whether the celebration of difference – which is at the heart of regional integration – is undermined by today’s crisis of globalisation and risks being subsumed in nationally and culturally conferred legitimacy.

5. THE REGION: ASEAN’S CONTENTED CENTRALITY

The EFEO, France, and the University of Mandalay, Myanmar, assess ASEAN’s capacity to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving geopolitical environment and confront non-traditional security issues (environment, trafficking, migration). Can ASEAN maintain a central role in ensuring a peaceful regional order? The University of Lisbon’s Institute of Social and Political Sciences leads study of Timor Leste’s admission to ASEAN.

Three transversal themes – migration, gender and security – are examined within each Work Package.

DISSEMINATION OF CRISEA RESEARCH RESULTS

Central to CRIGEIA’s ambition is the effective delivery of its research beyond academia, in particular to policymakers. In line with the 2015 Joint Communication on EU-ASEAN relations, CRIGEIA seeks to deepen the EU’s engagement with ASEAN and help the EU and its Member States forge coherent, adapted and culturally relevant foreign policies with all countries in the region.

To reach out to the widest possible audience, CRIGEIA is implementing an ambitious plan to disseminate project results which is the task of a separate Work Package (WP6) led by the Jakarta-based think tank The Centre for Strategic and International Studies, in collaboration with the University of Oslo, Norway.

Designed to maximise impact by promoting public debate and encouraging people-to-people contact, CRIGEIA’s “dissemination through dialogue” strategy includes:

• the organization of events for targeted audiences to be held in both Europe and Southeast Asia (workshops, public lectures, briefing sessions, policy forums and conferences)

• scientific publications, press coverage, documentary films and policy briefs

CRIGEIA makes effective use of its Consortium’s diversity, which includes longstanding Asian Studies research hubs, policy institutes (think tanks) and emerging centres where Southeast Asian Studies are building capacity.

With its unique interdisciplinary approach, one that engages micro-studies specialists in dialogue with analysts of macro-phenomena and its innovative dissemination plan based on informed discussion between scholars and decision-makers, CRIGEIA will significantly contribute to furthering European science diplomacy by raising awareness of the value and importance of science and of the EU as a global actor in promoting research.