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## EURAXESS ASEAN

**Dear Colleagues,**

Welcome to the third edition of the EURAXESS ASEAN quarterly newsletter 2018.

Scientific cooperation with South-East Asia has long been a high priority on the political agenda of the European Union and its Member States. Earlier this month, Southeast Asia hosted two high profile visitors from Europe; European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas delivered a keynote speech at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University on the timely topic of Artificial Intelligence while Prof Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President of the European Research Council, engaged in a dialogue with a group of researchers on the opportunities to conduct frontier science in Europe.

EURAXESS ASEAN is at hand to provide researchers in ASEAN with information and advice on the many research mobility and collaboration opportunities that are available in Europe. Simply drop us an email at [asean@euraxess.net](mailto:asean@euraxess.net).

Please do also take note of two upcoming H2020 Information events taking place in Bangkok and in Manila respectively this October. You will find the details on the events section of our [website](#).

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and welcome your feedback.

Your EURAXESS ASEAN team

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EURAXESS ASEAN Newsletter is a quarterly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS ASEAN, which provides information of specific interest to European researchers in ASEAN and international researchers who are interested in the European research landscape and conducting research in Europe or with European partners.

The information contained in this publication is intended for personal use only. It should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission nor of the Delegations of the European Union.

Please email to [asean@euraxess.net](mailto:asean@euraxess.net) for any comments on this newsletter, contributions you would like to make, if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe.

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# 1 Five Falling Walls Lab finalists win EURAXESS Prize



The EURAXESS Prize Winners 2018 have been selected! The five researchers are the winners of this year's Falling Walls Lab competitions in their respective countries and institutions.

The EURAXESS Prize is part of EURAXESS ASEAN's support of the Falling Walls Lab competitions in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The aim of the Falling Walls Lab is to promote scientific and entrepreneurial vision and to initiate and promote exchanges between young scientists and young professionals across disciplines.



The EURAXESS Prize has a value of 600 Euros and offers the unique opportunity for the awardee to visit a research lab or university in any of the 28 Member States of the European Union. The Prize serve as a career-advancement bursary enabling the winners to expand their professional network through linkages and future collaboration with their research peers in the European Union. EURAXESS ASEAN will be documenting the Europe trips of our winners on our [Facebook Page](#)!

Each of the five winners competed against other high-calibre participants who each had only three minutes to present their research projects, ideas and initiatives to a multidisciplinary jury.



The five awardees represent the whole spectrum of scientific disciplines and are clearly making their mark in their respective fields. The innovative ideas they are developing are truly impressive. Mr Pawin Taechoyotin from Thailand's Ministry of Digital Economy and Society is developing a substance detection system that will be able to make invisible substances, such as gas, appear on a computer screen while his Malaysian peer Dr Prabhakaran is developing an affordable cholera vaccine. Singaporean biomedical engineer Dr Yin Chin is working on a new-generation of implantable medical devices that are entirely biocompatible. Vietnam's EURAXESS Prize winner 2018 Ms Vo Quoc Thao Nguyen from Saigon proposes replacing plastic straws with environmentally friendly natural straws made of a grass that is abundant in the Mekong Delta. And Indonesian researcher Dr I Made Andi Arsana from the Universitas Gadjah Mada is dedicated to improving the livelihoods of fishermen by building a device that allows access to online maps that show the location of fish in the ocean.

Read on to find out about the innovative ideas of our awardees!



### Winner of Falling Walls Lab Vietnam – Ms Vo Quoc Thao Nguyen

Vietnam is among the top five producers of plastic waste globally, and it is estimated that the country dumps about 1.8 million tons of plastic waste annually into the sea. But solutions are being developed, and this year's winner of the Falling Walls Lab in Vietnam may have part of the answer. **Ms Vo Quoc Thao Nguyen** from Saigon proposes replacing plastic straws with environmentally friendly natural straws made of a grass that is abundant in the Mekong Delta. Making this shift would not only reduce the amount of plastic choking Vietnam's coastline and waterways but would help create jobs in the Mekong Delta

#### My Innovative Idea

My innovative idea is "Breaking the Wall of Plastic Straw". Instead of plastic straws, it is better to use friendly environmental straws from a particular grass called "Lepironia" which grows naturally in the Mekong Delta area.

#### Where do you see yourself in 10 years in terms of your research idea and your career?

I will continue to grow my grass straw start up company, and in 10 years I hope to be exporting grass straw products to all corners of the world, and thereby eliminate the demand for plastic straws.



### Winner of Falling Walls Lab AIMST (Malaysia) Dr Guruswamy Prabhakaran

**Dr Guruswamy Prabhakaran** is Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Applied Sciences at AIMST University in Malaysia. An Industrial Microbiologist and Research professional he has over 30 years of relevant experience as Chief Manager (R&D) and CTO. He holds a PhD from AIMST University.

#### My Innovative Idea

Cholera, the acute watery diarrheal disease caused by the infection of waterborne bacterium *Vibrio cholerae* serogroup O1 or O139 is endemic and caused epidemics in 69 countries. Large-scale cholera vaccine campaigns are organised worldwide for its prevention. However, all the existing WHO licensed killed oral cholera vaccines are heat sensitive, required in multiple doses and demand 'cold chain supply' at 2-8°C to retain its potency. These mandatory requirements resulted in a high cost of vaccination which poses a significant challenge. Therefore, it is inevitable to develop a single dose and cold chain-free live cholera vaccine which can be stored at room temperature. In this direction, a thermostable live oral cholera vaccine formulation was developed with the patented attenuated *V. cholerae* (VCUSM14P) strain protective against toxigenic O139 serogroup. The vaccine mimics natural infection, strongly immunogenic, eliminates the repetitive dosing and retains its potency at room temperature (25 ± 2 °C at 60% ± 5% humidity) for 140 days. Hence, this new Patent filed vaccine represents a better opportunity to increase its outreach for the global immunisation program in low and middle-income countries at a competitive cost.



#### How I am planning to use the EURAXESS Prize

I have developed a live attenuated cholera vaccine formulation with the recombinant vaccine strain (VCUSM14P) protective against toxigenic O139 serogroup with enhanced colonisation properties to stimulate mucosal and humoral immunity. Therefore, it might be an ideal vehicle to deliver recombinant antigens to the mucosal surface for vaccine development. In this regard, I would like to explore and identify a suitable research institute working on live-attenuated or killed vaccine development for a) Enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella enteric* serovar Typhi (*S. Typhi*) and b) on mucosal delivery of DNA vaccine for the viral infections.

**Winner of Falling Walls Lab Singapore – Dr Chin Sau Yin**

**Dr Chin Sau Yin** from the Molecular Engineering Laboratory (MEL), Biomedical Sciences Institutes, A\*STAR is a biomedical engineer with interests in real-world applications. She was trained in microfabrication and microfluidics and started off working on point-of-care diagnostics, specifically a CD4+ T-cell counter that was field-tested in Kigali, Rwanda. Her interests went on to include micropatterning of hydrogels and other soft materials. Her current work focuses on developing fabrication strategies for 3D printing micromachines that are entirely biocompatible and can be actively controlled using magnets.

**My Innovative Idea**

My idea is to introduce a new-generation of implantable medical devices. The fabrication strategy that we have developed enables the fabrication of medical devices that are entirely biocompatible, do not require an onboard battery or power source yet can be actively controlled after implantation. This results in devices with sophisticated functions and yet are entirely safe for the patient. Current implantable medical devices have resulted in great improvements in treatment outcomes, however they are more or less made using technology and materials that are no different from your regular electronic devices and have to be powered using batteries, which are also implanted into the patient. This can often cause adverse effects such as chronic inflammation, rejection of the devices and even additional surgical procedures to replace batteries that are running low. Often times, it is preferable to remove the device entirely after it has served its function. What we are proposing with this research will result in devices that are much safer for the patient and do away with additional surgical procedures to remove/replace batteries.



### Winner of Falling Walls Lab Thailand – Mr Pawin Taechoyotin



Mr Taechoyotin from Thailand's Ministry of Digital Economy and Society convinced the jury with his presentation on "Breaking the Wall of Safety and Security" – a gas detection system using a low-cost multi-spectral camera system.

#### My Innovative Idea

My innovation is a substance detection system using multispectral image fusion. The system works by taking a series of images in each color or spectral range and fuses the images together with an AI algorithm. With this process, the system is able to make invisible substances such as invisible gas appear on a computer screen. This system can also detect concealed metallic weapons such as guns and knives as well. When these unusual substances are detected, this system will alert the user through their mobile devices so action can be taken as soon as possible. This system is capable of making the invisible visible and the unknown known.

#### People should pay attention to my research project because...

I believe it is an innovation that will improve safety in both industry and in communities. It comes at an affordable price making this technology accessible to almost everyone. Deploying this technology can prevent tragedies – it can be a life saver.

### Winner of Falling Walls Lab Jakarta – I Made Andi

I Made Andi from Universitas Gadjah Mada won over the jury of the Falling Walls Lab Jakarta with his presentation "Breaking the Wall of Technological Injustice".

#### My Innovative Idea

It is about helping traditional fishermen in Indonesia. The Indonesian Government has produced maps showing the potential location of fish in the ocean using remote sensing technology. The maps are available online and through mobile apps. Unfortunately, many traditional fishermen cannot access the maps because they do not have computers/smart phones/internet access. This is what I call the wall of technological injustice that we need to break. I propose to build a device that enables fishermen to access the maps. Its name is ARWANA (Alat Pencarian Iwak Andalan Nelayan or Fishing Assisting Tool), a GPS-based device. When on land and Internet is available, fishermen can download maps from the government website. And when they are at sea, the device relies on GPS satellites to define their location. Using this information, it can tell fishermen where to catch fish.





### About Falling Walls Lab

The Falling Walls Lab is a unique competition that provides young students, researchers and entrepreneurs a platform to present their innovative ideas, research projects and social initiatives. The challenge is to present this in just 3 minutes in English!

The Falling Walls Lab was initiated on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall. Inspired by this world-changing event on 9 November 1989, the question of every Falling Walls gathering is “*Which walls will fall next?*”

Falling Walls Labs are part of the annual, internationally-renowned conference for breakthroughs in science and society, the [Falling Walls Conference](#). It fosters discussion on research and innovation and promotes the latest scientific findings among a broad audience from all parts of society.

International Falling Walls Labs are organised by academic institutions throughout the world – many of those with the support of the EURAXESS Worldwide team. The winners of each international Lab travel to the Falling Walls Lab Finale in Berlin, which takes place every year on 8 November. At the Berlin Lab, 100 innovators receive the opportunity to present their work in front of a distinguished jury and attend the Falling Walls Conference on 9 November where they meet the world’s top scientists.

**Then full interviews with our 5 EURAXESS Prize Winners 2018 can be accessed at the EURAXESS ASEAN [website](#).**

#### Science Communication Resources:

Dr Sanna Fowler, Associate Director of Public Relations at Lonza in Switzerland has created a series of [Idea Books](#) on science communication. These are designed to be used as tools by researchers wishing to improve their science communication skills. Topics covered include how to explain your science to non-experts, how to be an effective presenter, and how to use infographics.



## 2 European Research Council – Over 2 billion Euros for Europe’s most daring research ideas earmarked for 2019



With more than 2 billion euro for grants in 2019, the European Research Council (ERC) is planning the EU’s biggest ever investment in excellent researchers. Most of the funding is earmarked for early- to mid-career scientists. The ERC’s work programme for the coming year was established by the Scientific Council as part of the EU’s Research and Innovation programme, Horizon 2020.

The President of the ERC, Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, commented: *"The Work Programme 2019 will allow more than 1,100 talented researchers, mostly at early stages of their careers, to pursue their ambitious research projects. Also, in 2019, the ERC becomes even more open to the world. Through Synergy Grants, grantee groups based in Europe will now have the option to partner with one researcher based anywhere in the world. This will help them achieve their far-reaching goals and also increase the ERC's global reach and the standing of the research conducted in Europe."*

Some new features of the 2019 ERC Work Programme:

- Synergy grants: €400 million will be made available, a 60% increase on last year's budget, when Synergy Grants were reintroduced following the outcome of the evaluation of a two-year pilot in 2012 and 2013. For the first time this year, one Principal Investigator per Synergy Grant group at any one time can be hosted or engaged by an institution outside of the EU or Associated Countries.
- ERC Proof-of-Concept grants (PoC): €25 million will be available to ERC grantees to explore the innovation potential of their ERC-funded discoveries. This is a €5 million increase compared to last year. In addition, the ERC is piloting the use of lump sums as a simplified funding mode for PoC. This will test efficiency and viability of such funding method compared to the current funding mode which is based on the declaration of actual costs.

Open Access: the Work Programme now clarifies that preprints can be listed as part of an applicant's track record - if they are properly referenced and either a link to the preprint or a DOI is provided. With this clarification

the Scientific Council intends to recognise the role that preprints play in frontier science, especially when time is of the essence.

It is expected that some 1,000 top researchers will be awarded ERC grants under four core schemes – Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy. The funding will support an estimated 7,000 postdocs, PhD students and other research staff employed in ERC-funded teams.

**Resources:**

[ERC Work Programme 2019](#)

[ERC Synergy Call \(Deadline: 8 November 2018\)](#)

[ERC Starting Grant \(Deadline: 17 October 2018\)](#)

[What it takes to win an ERC Grant](#)

On 21 September 2018, EURAXESS ASEAN hosted ERC President Prof Bourguignon for an informal exchange with current and future applicants to the ERC Grants. The event took place at Nanyang Technological University Singapore and was attended by over 30 researchers who used the unique opportunity to get insight information on the application procedure and selection process. In attendance were also two Singapore-based researchers who are members of ERC review panels, Prof Daniela Rhodes and Prof Subodh Mhaisalkar. The event slides are available on the EURAXESS ASEAN website.





### 3 Briefing: Artificial Intelligence

On 21 September, Carlos Moedas, EU Commissioner in charge of Research, Science and Innovation visited Singapore's Nanyang Technological University to deliver the NTU Institute of Science & Technology for Humanity (NISTH) Distinguished Public Lecture.

Titled *New Voices & Political Choices in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*, his speech focused on artificial intelligence, robotics and machine learning. Commissioner Moedas shared his perspective on the role of politics and political choices in the deployment and adoption of these and other emerging technologies. "New technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain and machine learning are beginning to get into our everyday lives. But the rise of Asia – and the rise of Europe – very much depend on the way society accepts these innovations.", said Commissioner Moedas. Rather than give in to pessimistic views of the negative implications of technological advances he appealed to the audience to fight the pessimism "[...] take part in the discussion. Take part in the choices we have to make for the future of tech. And be part of shaping that future."

[The full speech can be accessed here.](#)



Image: NTU



Image: NTU



## EU-funded Research Projects in AI

The European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme has awarded funding to several research projects in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Future calls for proposal will be published on the [Participant Portal](#).

### **MURAB: using Artificial Intelligence to detect cancer**

The MURAB (MRI and Ultrasound Robotic Assisted Biopsy) project is developing technology that will make it possible to take more precise and effective biopsies (tissue samples) and diagnose cancer and other illnesses faster. It is creating a robot that will scan a patient's body using a combination of MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) and ultrasound technology and select the right location for a biopsy.

[Project Website](#)

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to systems that show intelligent behaviour: by analysing their environment they can perform various tasks with some degree of autonomy to achieve specific goals.

Mobile phones, e-commerce tools, navigation systems and many other different sensors constantly gather data or images. AI, particularly machine-learning technologies, can learn from this torrent of data to make predictions and create useful insights.

Artificial intelligence can significantly improve people's lives and bring major benefits to our society and economy through better healthcare, more efficient public administration, safer transport, a more competitive industry and sustainable farming. AI can be used to make more accurate and faster medical diagnoses, carry out dangerous and repetitive tasks and free up valuable time. It can also help in the fight against cybercrime and minimise the use of electricity.

**Source:** [Factsheet Artificial Intelligence for Europe](#)

### **BRIDGET: The visual European search engine of the future**

Billions of images and videos are created every day, but people lack sophisticated recognition tools to quickly find the information they need. Having to find relevant content instantly from huge numbers of images or video frames is a daily struggle for

content creators and owners, as well as the police, security services and developers of asset management systems.

Visual artificial intelligence (AI) can change the way we interact with this treasure trove of visual big data. The BRIDGET ('BRIDging the Gap for Enhanced broadcast') project paved the way for the company Visual Atoms to develop ultra-fast visual search engines which can recognise and find monuments, locations, buildings, products, books, logos or objects.

[Project Website](#)



### **Aeroarms: safer industrial maintenance and inspection with robotic arms using Artificial Intelligence**

Checks on pipelines at industrial plants, especially oil and gas facilities, are currently done by humans: this takes time, is expensive, and can be dangerous. Moreover, today's drone technology tends to be limited to tasks that require drones to 'see' from the air, but what if they could also touch and feel? The Aeroarms (AERial Robotics System integrating multiple ARMS and advanced manipulation capabilities for inspection and maintenance) project is tackling these two issues. It is working to build advanced drones to transport instruments and use them to carry out checks on these pipelines. The drones will be able to use one arm to hold on to the object they are inspecting and another arm to inspect it with precision.

[Project Website](#)

### **Giantsteps: Artificial Intelligence for music**

The GiantSteps project has helped amateur and professional musicians to combine techniques and technologies in new ways when creating music. Its goal was to overcome the limitations of current digital music production tools and create more powerful, inspirational, collaborative, affordable, and user-friendly music creation systems.

[Project Website](#)

For further information please visit the official website of the [EC's Digital Market](#).



## 4 Meet the Researcher: Singaporean MSCA Fellow Dr Wing Wah Tham



In a world in which research is carried out on a truly global basis, international interaction is important to scientific success. Researchers move and collaborate to pursue scientific excellence. Mobility ensures a circulation of skills and ideas around the world, and ‘brain circulation’ in the global research system sees scientists follow the best science and the best resources.

The EU’s Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are dedicated to promoting researcher mobility and career development. Grants provided by MSCA are available for all stages of a researcher’s career. Fellows include PhD candidates and those carrying out more advanced research.

Because they encourage individuals to work in other countries, the MSCA make the whole world a learning environment. They encourage collaboration and sharing of ideas between different industrial sectors and research disciplines. MSCA also back initiatives that break down barriers between academia, industry and business. In addition, they reach out to the public with events that promote the value – and fun side – of science. These inter-related goals are reflected in the various types of MSCA actions. It all adds up to a huge investment. In fact, the EU has set aside EUR 6.16 billion to be spent by 2020 on researcher training and career development.

EURAXESS ASEAN regularly invites ASEAN researchers who are Marie Curie Fellows to share their experience with our readership. This month we caught up with Singaporean researcher Dr Wing Wah Tham who is an Associate Professor in Banking at the Business School of the University of New South Wales in Australia.

**Prof Tham, you are a Professor at the School of Banking and Finance at the University of New South Wales. How would you describe your research to a total layman?**

*My current research agenda focuses on the most important capital of any organisation – its human capital. In particular, I’m interested in factors that might affect the failures and the successes of innovators, and how to measure those effects using tools like economic models, big data analytics, econometrics and machine learning. My research has the*



[Wing Wah Tham](#) is an Associate Professor of Finance in the School of Banking and Finance of University of New South Wales. Previously, he was an Associate Professor of Financial Econometrics at Econometric Institute, Erasmus School of Economics. Professor Tham's research focuses on econometrics, market microstructure, asset pricing and innovation. Professor Tham's research has been published in top tier journals, including Review of Financial Studies, Management Science, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of International Business Studies, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis. His works are also presented at various prestigious finance and economic conferences such as American Finance Association Meeting, European Finance Association Meeting, Econometric Society World Congress. He has won the PanAngora Crowell second prize, Midwest Finance Association best paper award and the Literati Network Awards for Excellence for his work. He is currently a Marie Curie and Tinbergen Institute Fellow. He was a visiting scholar to at the Haas Business

*potential to shape the innovation ecosystem by demonstrating how we can nurture and develop innovators through more effective public and economic policies, and by overcoming barriers to innovation, knowledge diffusion and creation.*

### **What motivates you as a researcher? How can society benefit from your work?**

*Being an academic is the best job in life is no cliché to me and I will highly encourage anyone to pursue an academic career where one can work on whatever (s)he wants and with whoever (s)he likes on subjects that can potentially change lives of many people in our society.*

*When we talk about innovation, we often think of places like Silicon Valley, but in fact, my research has the potential to impact all kinds of people and all kinds of communities. I'm currently collaborating with the Cambodian Government on improving the digital and financial inclusion of Cambodians below the poverty line. The ability to engage with policy makers in designing policies that will potentially empower and lift opportunity-deprived children and people out of poverty brightens up my days.*

### **EURAXESS is an EU-funded initiative that supports mobile researchers. Can you share with us the different stops of your research career so far?**

*My academic career began in 2001 when I took my first step into the grey but beautiful London to pursue my master's degree at the Imperial College London. That was the formation year of my academic life, when I spent majority of my time, often until early hours in the morning, discussing about research across various fields and what we want to do for the society with geeky flatmates. I briefly work for Reuters before pursuing my PhD in Finance at Imperial College in 2004. I transferred to University of Warwick one year later to pursue my research in high-frequency econometrics and work as a research fellow for ERC funded European New and Emerging Science and Technology Project: Complex Markets. I graduated in 2009 and joined the Econometric Institute in Erasmus University of Rotterdam as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. I became a Marie Curie Fellow in 2010 and a Tinbergen Research Fellow in 2011. In 2014, I was promoted to Associated Professor of Econometrics with tenure. I joined University of New South Wales to be closer to my home in Singapore and am currently an Associate Professor of Finance and an UNSW Scientia Fellow.*

### **You were awarded an MSCA research grant in 2010. What encouraged you to apply for this specific grant?**



*It is of paramount importance that an early career scholar is clear with his/her strategic priorities and goals as an academic. In 2009, I identified my development needs and activities that will help me to achieve a set of key performance targets that I set. MSCA research grant provided me the opportunity to have the financial and organization resources to achieve these targets. I did not need much encouragement to seize this opportunity to interact with other world class scholars and to be affiliated with such a prestigious fellowship.*

**Can you tell us a little about the research you conducted as a MSCA Fellow? How has this mobility experience helped with your career development?**

*MSCA grant is one of the most prestigious grants in the world that will provide you with the research network and financial support to develop into a world-class scholar. **WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? Get up and join the MSCA family.***

Prof Wing Wah Tham

*I was investigating the role of sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) as an example of foreign and politically connected large shareholders, and their impact on firm value. Using a sample of SWF large U.S. investments where SWFs intend to actively engage with management, I analyze not only whether but also why SWF investments outperform the market in both the short- and long term from the perspective of internationalization, political connections, and corporate governance. The social implication is that SWF investment benefits appear to outweigh the costs for firm value and shareholders. This is the first work to provide evidence on how foreign government-related shareholders can affect firm value.*

*I won the Outstanding Author Contribution Award at the Literati Network Awards for Excellence – Emerald Group Publishing Limited for a book chapter on sovereign wealth funds. A related work is subsequently published in the premier international business journal, *Journal of International Business Studies*.*

*I'm grateful that the MSCA Fellowship has provided me with the resources and the opportunity to develop myself in research, leadership and social engagement beyond what a typical academic can do. I get to network and collaborate with the brightest scholars in other disciplines with the potential to develop new long-term friendships. I was also able to finance my other research activities beyond the initial proposed project, which resulted in top-tier publications in journals such as *Review of Financial Studies*, *Management Science*, *Journal of Econometrics* and *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*.*

**There are many highly talented researchers in Singapore, and in ASEAN at large, but only very few apply to the MSCA grants. What would be your message to those that are hesitant to use this opportunity?**



*MSCA grant is one of the most prestigious grants in the world that will provide you with the research network and financial support to develop into a world-class scholar. WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? Get up and join the MSCA family.*

### **Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

*I have never been good at predicting my future even though I have spent plenty of time with some of the best time series econometricians in the world. If you were to ask me this question when I was in junior college, I'd tell you I wanted to be a marine biologist. Then 10 year later, I was pursuing a finance degree in London, then wanting to be an investment banker...and now here I am a Professor of Finance thinking about how to get Cambodian kids out of the poverty trap. I am just too free spirited to stick to what I think I will be in 10 years' time. But I guarantee you this. I will definitely be involved in providing more opportunities for the less privileged to realise the full potential of what they can truly be.*

## **5 Upcoming Events**

### **Horizon 2020 Info Days – Bangkok 11-12 October**

The European Union (EU) invites you to attend a free seminar to learn more about Horizon 2020, the EU's largest research and innovation programme. Key topics include funding opportunities for researchers in Thailand, how to participate, as well as proposal preparation and submission. Participation is free of charge.

[View agenda and register](#)

### **Horizon 2020 Info Days – Manila 22-23 October**

The European Union (EU) invites you to attend a free seminar to learn more about Horizon 2020, the EU's largest research and innovation programme. Key topics include funding opportunities for researchers in the Philippines, how to participate, as well as proposal preparation and submission. Participation is free of charge.

[View agenda and register](#)





## 6 About us

EURAXESS ASEAN is a networking tool for European researchers active in Southeast Asia and for international researchers wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe. EURAXESS ASEAN provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for EU-ASEAN and international collaboration and for trans-national mobility. Membership is free.

Visit us at [asean.euraxess.org](http://asean.euraxess.org) and Join the EURAXESS ASEAN community.

EURAXESS Worldwide networks have thus far been launched in North America (USA & Canada) Japan, China, India, and in ASEAN (currently focusing on Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia). As of March 2017, the EURAXESS Brazil network has been expanded to cover Latin America and the Caribbean States as well.