



## 2024 ASEAN-Korea Academic Essay Contest

As of March 14, 2024

### I. BACKGROUND

ASEAN-Korea relations continue to center around their community of people in strengthening its partnership. The idea of further enhancing people-to-people cooperation between two regions was also addressed at the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ROK Summit last September<sup>1</sup>. The Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI) under the Republic of Korea's (ROK) Indo-Pacific Strategy was announced, highlighting the importance of the further promotion of youth's greater participation and engagement (#7 of Core Lines of Effort). The effort is also aligned with one of the core objectives, focusing on forging people-to-people exchanges, outlined in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). Based on the common vision built upon the KASI and AOIP, it could be reinforced for more effective outcomes. In this connection, efforts towards solidifying the partnership within the youth population will persist as the ASEAN-Korea Centre's (AKC) priority program activities, such as the 'ASEAN-Korea Academic Essay Contest'\* (Essay Contest hereafter). Students will be asked to elaborate their essays within the focus areas between ASEAN and Korea, such as maritime cooperation and sustainable development.

*\* Since 2016, the AKC has annually organized the 'ASEAN-Korea Academic Essay Contest' aimed at raising youth's voices on ASEAN-Korea relations related critical issues as well as enhancing youth's interest and engagement on issues that are important to the current and future partnership between ASEAN and Korea.*

In other words, as the future of ASEAN-Korea community and potential beneficiaries of a sustainable and healthy ASEAN-Korea partnership, it is important for youth to maintain interests in emerging and nascent topics for ASEAN-Korea relations. This as a whole can help youth to build their own perspectives on how to be a pathway forward to shape and navigate the future relationship between ASEAN and Korea.

Recognizing such significance, AKC is committed to ensure higher quality essays and keep the essay contest's format in a fair and coordinated framework. Specifically, it regularly conducts the evaluation process in the following stages: (1) the initial proposal evaluation stage by academic partners, and (2) evaluation of essays by AKC and academic partners.

This year, winners<sup>2</sup> of the Essay Contest will be awarded study visits to ROK and one ASEAN Member State (two grand prizes), four cash prizes and award certificates. Moreover, two grand prize winners will be invited to present their winning essays at the sideline of an academic conference in Korea. Through their participation in the conference, it is also an opportune time for the winners to present their essays, participate in discussions, and more importantly build academic networks with academia and fellow young scholar counterparts by sharing their essay ideas towards elevating the ASEAN and Korea partnership. Winning papers will also be promoted through AKC's media platforms including its website and e-newsletter.

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<sup>1</sup> "Chairman's Statement of the 24th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit Jakarta, Indonesia"

<https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/FINAL-Chairmans-Statement-of-the-24th-ASEAN-ROK-Summit.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> To date, over 900 essays have been received from both undergraduate and graduate students across ASEAN and Korea, 85 of whom have been awarded.



## II. OBJECTIVES

1. Raise awareness and promote interest on ASEAN-Korea relations among students and academic communities of ASEAN and Korea
2. Foster deeper understanding of ASEAN-Korea relations by encouraging students to undertake research and produce scholarly works on ASEAN-Korea partnership

## III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Gain insights on youth's perspectives for a sustainable and mutually beneficial ASEAN-Korea partnership
2. Enhance mutual understanding among the youth on ASEAN-Korea relations through research and knowledge exchange
3. Nurture next-generation scholars of ASEAN and Korea and increase engagement with academic network

## IV. PROJECT OUTLINE

### 1. DATE AND FORMAT

- Date: March to September 2024
- Format: Offline

### 2. PARTNERS & SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

- Academic Partners (TBC)
  - i. Pukyong National University (PKNU)
  - ii. University in Laos (NUOL;TBC)
- Supporting Organizations
  - i. ASEAN Secretariat
  - ii. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
  - iii. ASEAN University Network
  - iv. Korean Association of Southeast Asian Studies (KASEAS)

### 3. TARGET PARTICIPANTS

- University students (Undergraduate & Graduate (master's and PhD) of ASEAN and Korean nationalities (inclusive of those residing in Korea, ASEAN countries, and others)

### 4. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- **ASEAN-Korea Academic Essay Contest**
  - i. Eligibility: Individual enrolled undergraduate and graduate (including master's and PhD) students and 1 Academic advisor from respective university
  - ii. No. of winners: 6 winners (individuals)
  - iii. Evaluation Process:
    - ◆ Proposal Screening: by 3 evaluation committee members
    - ◆ Essay Evaluation: by AKC and 3 evaluation committee members
  - iv. 6 Prizes:



Prize	Winner	Award
Grand Prize	2	Study visits to ROK and 1 AMS*
Excellence Prize	2	KRW 1,000,000
Merit Prize	2	KRW 500,000

*\*[Tentative] Indonesia (ASEAN Secretariat, etc.).*

- v. Language: English
- vi. Essay Questions:  
Contest Theme: **Way Forward to enhance ASEAN-Korea relations in the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) era.**
- **2024 Academic Conference (Winners' Presentation)**
  - i. Two grand prize winners will present their winning essays at the academic conference\* in August, 2024  
*\*Possibly the annual KASEAS Conference at PKNU*
  - ii. Selected winners will have the opportunity to participate in discussions on ASEAN-Korea cooperation and build academic networks with academia and fellow young scholars
- **Essay Promotion**
  - i. Selected winning essays to be provided opportunities for sharing in AKC platforms and other stakeholder (where possible, requested such as KASEAS publication 'The Southeast Asian Review' etc.)

## V. IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

	ASEAN-Korea Centre	PKNU	NUOL (TBC)	Supporting Organizations
Planning & Preparation	v			
Promotion	v	v	v	v
Proposal Screening		v	v	
Essay Evaluation	v	v	v	

*\*Evaluation is for full essays.*

## VI. CONTACTS

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## ANNEXES

1. Program Implementation Plan
2. Evaluation Criteria



3. Budget (Internal)

**ANNEX 1. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Month	Implementation Plan
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm collaboration partners and initiate discussions</li> <li>Finalize contest details including theme, evaluation process, etc.</li> <li>Develop FAQs and slides</li> <li>Set timeline for promotional briefing               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target: 1 open session, 10 AMS Unis, and 5 ROK Unis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
March – April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch contest and open for submission of proposal*</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate proposals</li> </ul>
May – July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Announce selected proposals</li> <li>Open for submission of essay</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate essays (preliminary and secondary evaluation)</li> <li>Announce winners</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winner’s presentation for Academic Conference to be submitted</li> <li>2024 KASEAS Conference (Busan)</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program Report</li> </ul>

**\*Essay Contest Timeline (March – September) (TBC)**

**Launch Date:** Week of March 18

**Proposal Submission Deadline:** April 22

**Proposal Screening:** April 23 – May 10

**Announcement:** May 14

**Essay Submission Deadline:** July 7

**Essay Evaluation** July 9 – August 2

**Winner Announcement:** August 7

**2024 KASEAS Conference (Winning Essay Presentation):** End of August (TBC)

**Study Visit:** September (TBC)

**ANNEX 2. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Evaluation Criteria /Rate	
<b>Research Questions</b> Importance – contributions to promoting the ASEAN-Korea relationship Puzzle – originality and creativity, hard to explain with pre-existing studies	30%
<b>Argument</b> Relevance – proper answers (hypothesis) to the research question Logic – convincing causal explanations	25%
<b>Methodology &amp; Evidence</b> Appropriate methods to offer evidence Good evidence to support the argument	25%



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<b>Policy Suggestion</b> Realistic, feasible suggestions and recommendations based on the analysis of the causal mechanism	15%
<b>Sources and References</b> Proper use of APA 7 <sup>th</sup> edition Appropriate use of references, including in-text citations, and bibliography	5%

/END