



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASEAN-Australia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program: Fostering educational partnerships across Australia and Southeast Asia

Australia, 7 March 2025 – The ASEAN-Australia Centre and Asialink Education are proud to announce the selection of 38 exceptional primary and secondary schools from across Australia and Southeast Asia to participate in the 2025-26 ASEAN-Australia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program.

Schools were chosen through a competitive selection process and join a prestigious network of over 1,200 schools that have participated in BRIDGE programs across the Asia-Pacific region since 2008.

The newly established ASEAN-Australia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program builds on the momentum of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations, celebrated in 2024. The Program provides structured learning opportunities and builds cross-cultural connections between educators and students across Australia and Southeast Asia. It will establish 19 new school partnerships, connecting 38 educators and more than 300 students.

The ASEAN-Australia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program commenced on 5 March 2025. It will include monthly professional learning sessions, reciprocal visits from Southeast Asian teachers to Australia (mid-2025) and Australian teachers to Southeast Asia (early 2026), as well as student forums.

Ms Fiona Hoggart, Head of the ASEAN-Australia Centre, commented: "This program plays a pivotal role in supporting the ASEAN-Australia Centre to achieve its mission to strengthen educational ties between Australia and Southeast Asia, and enhance Australians' understanding of the region. We look forward to seeing the innovative projects and lasting friendships that will develop between the students and teachers involved in this wonderful program."

The following schools will participate in the 2025-26 ASEAN-Australia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program:

Australian Schools

- Adelaide High School, SA
- Allegra School, NSW
- Bandiana Primary School, VIC
- Berwick Secondary College, VIC
- Clyde Creek Primary School, VIC
- Cowes Primary School, VIC
- Glendal Primary School, VIC

- Hurlstone Agricultural High School, NSW
- John Curtin College of the Arts, WA
- Kelmscott Senior High School, WA
- Lakeland Senior High School, WA
- Marsden State High School, QLD
- Muhammadiyah Australia College, VIC
- Quarters Primary School, VIC
- Roma Mitchell Secondary College, SA
- St Luke's Catholic College, NSW
- The Gap State High School, QLD
- The Knox School, VIC
- West Wallsend High School, NSW

ASEAN Schools

- Sekolah Menengah Sultan Hassan Temburong, Brunei
- Sekolah Menengah Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Lumut, Brunei
- Southbridge International School, Cambodia
- Footprints International School, Cambodia
- Panyathip British International School, Laos
- Virathavone School, Laos
- Akademi Sains Pendang, Malaysia
- Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Raja Shahriman, Malaysia
- Luis Y. Ferrer Jr. Senior High School, Philippines
- Baras-Pinugay Integrated High School, Philippines
- Teck Ghee Primary School, Singapore
- Mee Toh School, Singapore
- Suankularb Wittayalai Nonthaburi School, Thailand
- Chiang Rai Provincial Administrative Organization School, Thailand
- Samakkhiwittayakhom School, Thailand
- Escola Tecnica no Vocasional de Aileu (ESTV), Timor-Leste
- EBC Dom Baumeta Sucoliurai, Aileu, Timor-Leste
- Ly Tu Trong Secondary School, Vietnam
- Thach That Lower Secondary School, Vietnam

The ASEAN-Australia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program is an initiative of the ASEAN-Australia Centre and is being implemented by Asialink Education (formerly the Asia Education Foundation) at the University of Melbourne.

For more information about the ASEAN-Australia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program, please visit <u>https://asialink.unimelb.edu.au/education/program/asean-bridge/</u> or contact <u>asean-bridge@unimelb.edu.au</u>.

About the ASEAN-Australia Centre

The ASEAN-Australia Centre was announced by the Prime Minister of Australia at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in March 2024, and has been operational since 1 July 2024. The Centre supports the Australian Government's commitment to deepen engagement with Southeast Asia for a peaceful, stable and prosperous region.

The Centre supports the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and implements recommendations from *Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*. It delivers programs and initiatives across its four strategic pillars – Southeast Asia literacy, economic linkages, education and cultural connections.

For more information visit: aseanaustraliacentre.org.au.

About Asialink Education

Asialink Education (formerly Asia Education Foundation) empowers school leaders, teachers, students and young professionals with global perspectives, cultural understanding and relationships to navigate a shared future in our region.

Established in 1992, we have been a trusted partner of the Australian Government, state and territory Governments, and philanthropic organisations for 30+ years. Working in the primary, secondary and tertiary education sectors, and with young professionals, our programs draw on our trusted regional networks to provide life-changing opportunities for building knowledge, skills, partnerships and networks to engage across our diverse region effectively.

For more information visit: asialink.unimelb.edu.au/education.

You can also contact Asialink Education via phone (+61 3 8344 4800) or email <u>asialink-education@unimelb.edu.au</u>.

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