

Call for Proposals: 2022 ASEAN-Korea Academic Essay Contest

Organized by

ASEAN-Korea Centre
Korea University ASEAN Center

Academic partnership with

Korea University ASEAN Center
Royal University of Law and Economics, Cambodia

Supported by

ASEAN Secretariat, ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ASEAN University Network

BACKGROUND

A relationship centered around its community of people continues to be a key focus in the ASEAN-Korea partnership. Particularly, this has provided vast opportunities for greater participation and engagement for youths in both regions to contribute towards solidifying the partnership between ASEAN and Korea and in promoting its integration. As the future of ASEAN-Korea community and potential beneficiaries of a sustainable ASEAN-Korea partnership, it is thus important for youth to have a constant interest in issues important to ASEAN-Korea relations and build their own perspectives on the future of the relationship.

Against such a backdrop, the ASEAN-Korea Centre in collaboration with the Korea University ASEAN Center (KUAC) and Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE) is hosting the **2022 ASEAN-Korea Academic Essay Contest** inviting graduate and undergraduate students of ASEAN and Korean nationality to conduct research and share their perspectives and knowledge on ASEAN and ASEAN-Korea relations. Through the contest, we look forward to receiving creative and analytical essays on challenges in promoting the ASEAN-Korea relationship and suggestions as to how ASEAN and Korea can further expand and deepen their cooperation towards a more sustainable ASEAN-Korea partnership. Interested applicants can work as an individual or in teams (up to 3 students) and are strongly recommended to work with an academic advisor to write the proposal and the final essay.

THEME: Strengthening Cooperation and Advancing a Sustainable ASEAN-Korea Partnership, through one of the following sub-themes:

(1) ASEAN Centrality and Strategic Importance of ASEAN-Korea Cooperation

The momentum of an “ASEAN centrality” has been growing in importance especially amidst the rising challenges faced by ASEAN member states and the surrounding region,

such as from the ongoing global power conflicts. During the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok in 2019, ASEAN leaders adopted the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific statement which further reaffirms ASEAN's centrality in addressing the evolving Indo-Pacific construct and rising threats of non-traditional issues. Additionally, the Korean government hosted the 2019 ASEAN-ROK commemorative summit to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Partnership. This initiative signified Korea's commitment to enhance the strategic partnership with ASEAN while diversifying the scope of regional cooperation. Despite such efforts, survey findings from an ISEAS study (2022) observed that ASEAN still perceives Korea as the second least preferred strategic partner. The essay is thus expected to analyze challenges in promoting the ASEAN-Korea cooperation in the context of ASEAN centrality, and to offer policy suggestions based on the analysis.

(2) Opportunities and Prospects in Future Industries

The global economy is entering the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This includes a set of highly disruptive technologies that transform the economic system, which offers people the opportunity to be better connected, helps economies grow and become more competitive. While its impact on ASEAN is inevitable, the landscape of industries will look quite different from those we know today. Though we cannot fully predict the direction or scope of the transformation, we can take lessons from the past and knowledge of the region's capabilities. In this respect, the essay is expected to analyze challenges confronting ASEAN in the process of shaping and advancing future industries, and to suggest how the ASEAN states can work together with Korea to foster a more resilient and innovative economy.

(3) Enhancing Mutual Cultural Understanding and Perceptions

Cultural diversity is an integral part of the values of ASEAN. While there has been a number of initiatives undertaken by public and non-public organizations to expand two-way cultural exchanges with ASEAN member states, a recent survey conducted by ASEAN-Korea Centre (2022), however, shows that there are still apparent gaps in the levels of mutual awareness and understanding that ASEAN and Korean youths have for each other. Since psychological distance may distract future-oriented relationships, building mutual cultural understanding and perceptions is therefore essential. In this respect, the essay is expected to analyze challenges in enhancing mutual cultural understanding and perceptions among the peoples of ASEAN and Korea, and to suggest how to create more inclusive, mutually beneficial and sustainable relationship.

ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to all undergraduate and graduate students with ASEAN or Korean nationality.

- Applicants must submit a proposal as an individual or as a team, consisting of up to 3 students.
- Applicants must submit a recommendation form by their academic advisor.

LANGUAGE

Submissions must only be made in English

PROCESS AND SCHEDULE (TBC)

Stages	Date	Note
Proposal stage: Submission and Evaluation		
Submission Deadline	2022. 05. 29 (Sun)	- Submit by 6 PM (KST) via essay@aseankorea.org - cc your teammate if any
Proposal Screening	2022.05. 30 (Mon) – 06. 24 (Fri)	Refer to <i>Evaluation</i> below
Announcement	2022.06. 27 (Mon)	- Announcement will be made individual email. - Only selected proposals are subject to essay stages.
Essay stage: Submission and Evaluation		
Submission Deadline	2022.09.25 (Sun)	Submit by 6 PM (KST) via essay@aseankorea.org
Evaluation	2022.09.26 (Mon) – 10.21 (Fri)	Refer to <i>Evaluation</i> below
Announcement	2022.10.24 (Mon)	- Public announcement will be made on AKC website - Winners will receive individual email
Award Ceremony and Presentation		
ASEAN-Korea Forum	2022.11.11 (Fri)	- Grand prize winner will have the opportunity to present their winning essays at the ASEAN-Korea Forum - Grand prize winners will submit PPT for the 10-minute presentation at the Forum.
	2022.11.25 (Fri)	- Instruction will be provided before the Forum

EVALUATION

All eligible entries received will be assessed by a qualified panel of judges from ASEAN and Korea.

Evaluation Criteria /Rate	
Research Question Importance – contributions to promoting the ASEAN-Korea relationship Puzzle – originality and creativity, hard to explain with pre-existing studies	30%

Argument Relevance – proper answer (hypothesis) to the research question Logic – convincing causal explanations	25%
Methodology & Evidence Appropriate methods to offer evidence Good evidence to support the argument	25%
Policy Suggestions Realistic, feasible suggestions and recommendations based on the analysis of the causal mechanism	15%
Sources and References Proper use of APA 7th edition Appropriate use of references, including in-text citations and bibliography	5%

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

Stages	Documents
Proposal stage	① Proposal ② Application form & Consent form ③ Recommendation form (by advisor) ④ Copy of Student ID card
Essay stage	① Essay (with abstract) - Max. 5,000 words (excluding reference) - Times New Roman, 12 points, 1.5 interlinear - in Microsoft Word

ESSAY STAGE

- Selected proposals will be announced via individual emails
- Additional guidelines for the essay stage will be provided upon announcement of selected proposals

PRIZES

- Grand Prize (3 teams): KRW 2,000,000
- Excellence Prize (3 teams): KRW 1,000,000
- Merit Prize (3 teams): KRW 500,000

** Grand Prize Winners will have the opportunity to present their winning essays at the ASEAN-Korea Forum (tentatively scheduled on Nov 25, 2022).*

NOTICE

- All requirements must be submitted via email essay@aseankorea.org.
- For any inquiries, please contact us at essay@aseankorea.org
