

## APPLICATION

Each prospective fellow must fulfil the following criteria for consideration:

- has completed a PhD thesis within less than five years or is at an advanced stage of completing his/her thesis;
- is a citizen of one of the following countries: Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore;
- is not more than 45 years old;
- possesses spoken and written proficiency in English;

Interested candidates should submit their application with the following items:

- a duly completed application form together with two letters of recommendation with at least one of the referees having an academic background;
- an abstract of not more than 300 words for the paper they are proposing to work on for the programme;
- a sample of their academic writing in the form of a published article, or a chapter of their thesis;
- a copy of their up-to-date curriculum vitae.

Completed applications must be received by post or email no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2009. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by the end of May. Successful applicants will be required to submit by email a work-in-progress paper of approximately 6,000 words by 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2009. This paper will be revised following the series of discussions during their residency at IKMAS.



## CONTACT

Completed applications should be sent to:

**SEAF Programme**  
**Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS),**  
**Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia**  
**43600 Bangi, Selangor DE, MALAYSIA**  
**(Attention: Puan Roslina Rosli)**

**E-mail: [seaf@ukm.my](mailto:seaf@ukm.my)**  
**Tel: 603 8921 3205 / 4169 / 3625**  
**Fax: 603 8926 1022**  
**IKMAS Website: <http://www.ukm.my/ikmas>**

## SEAF 2009 Southeast Asian Scholars and Public Intellectuals Fellowship Programme



## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Southeast Asian Scholars and Public Intellectuals Fellowship (SEAF) is a short-term residential Programme based at the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (the National University of Malaysia), located in Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.

SEAF Programme provides for IKMAS to invite selected scholars, public intellectuals, scholar-activists, journalists and others from Southeast Asian countries to participate in SEAF Fellowships Programme. Successful applicants spend between 4 to 8 weeks at the University pursuing research and writing while participating in dialogues, seminars and public talks.

Established in 2000 and funded by the Kaneka Corporation, the biennial SEAF Programme offers scholars and public intellectuals the opportunity to deepen knowledge of one another's national political cultures and the links between them. The immediate objective is to facilitate dialogues and interactions that can be documented and disseminated through publications.

The Programme offers Fellows the opportunity to collectively reflect and write on ideas and experiences in the region that they would not otherwise have the time or space to undertake. This promotion of intellectual and intercultural dialogues and exchange in the region may well influence the shape of the emergent globalism: the ideal and lived experience of a world community.

Fellows are sought who possess a commitment to explore the region through informal discussions, seminars, public talks, and research. A willingness to take an interest in each other's culture, engage issues of common concern and participate in dialogues with the campus community, public intellectuals and the general public is important.

The SEAF 2009 invites post-doctoral applicants who have been working on the theme of democracy and social transformation in one of the following Southeast Asian countries: Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore. The Fellowship in 2009 will be for the duration between 5<sup>th</sup> October and 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2009.

The SEAF Programme bears the cost of return transportation from candidates' home country/town to Bangi and lodging. In addition, a stipend of RM 4,000 that amply covers other expenses during the residency and period of Fellowship will be provided.

## DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION: ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL PROCESSES

The political idea of the sovereignty of a people as a nation goes hand in hand with the concept of democracy. Southeast Asian countries, except for Thailand, shook off the shackles of Western colonialism and embraced the modern system of nation-state at a relatively recent time.

Despite a popular desire for political autonomy, the institutionalisation and consolidation of a democratic political system appropriated from the Western nation-states had only begun at independence.

The flourishing of a modern system of governance of the people, by the people and for the people where participation and accountability set the benchmark depends on the combination of a spectrum of societal factors. They include, among others, the cultivation of a political culture conducive to democracy, effective operation of modern state machineries such as the judiciary, legislative and executive as well as the electoral system, the role of the army, the extent of free circulation of credible and relevant news and information. Social transformation taking place following the increased social differentiation of the population due to economic development, the emergence of charismatic leaders and various social interest groups in political contestation, political empowerment of common citizens through popular social movements, a significant political event, etc. could all contribute to changing the political configuration and dynamics of power play in the public sphere.

We are interested in candidates who could tap into their state-of-the-art knowledge of this trajectory of democratisation of their respective country of study. Successful candidates are encouraged to analyse the social transformation and political processes influencing and leading to the recent or last general election, so as to make a critical assessment of the dynamics between state, market and society as well as the political actors in determining the state of democracy of the country.

## STRUCTURE

As soon as successful applicants are notified of their acceptance, they will be put in touch with each other and Fellows in IKMAS through an e-mail discussion list in order to begin dialogues and readings towards developing a common framework and theme for their research and writing for the purpose of the fellowship.

During their residency, Fellows will present and discuss their working drafts in weekly seminars. There will be numerous opportunities to interact with the University community and invited guests through various programmes, research work, and social activities of IKMAS. Dialogues and writing will be in the English language.

Each Fellow is expected to complete an article of substance and intellectual merit. The final draft of the paper will be presented at the SEAF-Kaneka Public Forum at the conclusion of the Programme. After the Forum, the papers will be published in book form or in a special issue of an international journal to be decided subsequently.

## SEAF REQUIREMENTS

- Residency on the UKM campus will last for five weeks between 5<sup>th</sup> October to 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2009.
- Participation in all SEAF and IKMAS activities.
- Completion of a paper of publishable quality