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Netherlands Institute of International Relations



CLINGENDAEL AND CICP ESSAY COMPETITION 2022

EU-ASEAN SYNERGIES FOR A GREEN AND DIGITAL WORLD

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

With the support of the 'EU-ASEAN Think Tank dialogues for strategic partnerships' project, the Clingendael Institute of International Relations and the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) are organising an essay competition on the theme of 'EU-ASEAN synergies for a green and digital world'.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union (EU) are working urgently to address one of the most pressing challenges of our time – climate change. Home to more than 1.1 bn people, ASEAN and the EU have an inherent interest to cooperate and find ways to minimise the impact of climate change, while capitalising on the benefits of the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient future. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has spurred on a hasty adoption of technology in the European Union and ASEAN regions. Support for digital infrastructure, literacy and the e-economy is vital for supporting the resilience of the economies and creating sustainable employment opportunities in the post COVID era. The importance of simultaneously pursuing the twin goals of green and digital transition is increasingly evident in EU-ASEAN relations.

University students and recent graduates in ASEAN, the EU and beyond are invited to submit a written piece of 1500-2000 words for our essay competition that seeks to gather innovative, forward-looking ideas for the EU and ASEAN to strengthen joint approaches and improved practices for a green and digital world.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The contest is free and open to:

- university students from undergraduate and graduate studies or recent graduates within 1 year;
- with an EU or ASEAN nationality, or
- with other nationalities working/studying in EU or ASEAN countries.

Participants should submit a **short essay or a policy brief (1500-2000 words)** on one of four selected categories, **within the framework of EU-ASEAN relations**:

- **Green policies**
- **Digital policies**
- **Twin transition of green and digital**
- **Climate adaptation**



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Participants can focus on one or more of the following questions below but are not bound to these proposals and new ideas are welcome:

- How to fight climate change threat?
- Which model of sustainable development?
- How to jointly benefit from a green and digital transition?
- How to work together towards a green energy transition?
- What role for smart technologies in green policies?
- What role for citizens, civil society and the private sector?
- What opportunities to further a human-centered approach in digital policies?
- How to foster trusted digitalisation?
- How to best adapt economies and societies to cope with climate change?

For the **references**, please use the Chicago A footnote style with hyperlinks. See example: Farhad Manjoo, "[Snap Makes a Bet on the Cultural Supremacy of the Camera](#)", New York Times, March 8, 2017.

If you want to take a look at a Clingendael policy brief, here are a couple of examples:

- [Growing stronger together. Towards an EU-ASEAN digital partnership?](#)
- [Turning EU green energy diplomacy into reality](#)

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Essays should be submitted **no later than Friday 17 June 2022** (midnight) by writing an email to gcretti@clingendael.org and pichcharadine@gmail.com with "Essay Competition EU-ASEAN" as the subject of the email. Please send the essay in both world and pdf format and save it as 'Essay Competition LAST NAME'. For any question on the contest, please send an e-mail to gcretti@clingendael.org.

EVALUATION AND PRIZE

The essays will be judged by the project team along the lines of feasibility of ideas, creativity, writing style and the originality of the perspective the essay provides. The result will be announced by November 2022.

The top 5 essays will be published on the Clingendael Spectator and CICP website. The winner of the best essay will be invited to join us for the physical closing conference of the project which will take place in Phnom Penh (Cambodia) in February 2024 with travel and accommodation costs covered (up until €1,000). He/she/they may present the essay with a short presentation.