



## DECISION

Reg. No.  
SAMV 2016/504

*Date 16 May 2019*

Vice-Chancellor

# Action plan for Lund University's cooperation with Asia 2019-2021

Approved by the vice-chancellor 16 May 2019

## The procedure leading up to the action plan

The work on producing an Asia strategy for Lund University commenced in spring 2018 when the former deputy vice-chancellor appointed a project manager and a working group of faculty representatives. A draft of the Asia strategy, supported by the Research Board and the International Council, was finalised in June 2017. Based on the seven delivery targets specified in the Asia strategy, in March 2018, the new deputy vice-chancellor requested an action plan for Lund University's cooperation with Asia instead. A new working group of faculty representatives was appointed in October 2018 to complete the work together with the project manager.

Lund University needs to improve its environmental scanning as well as making strategic choices and prioritisations. The University management will therefore produce action plans for different regions that will function as tools in the strategic internationalisation work.

## The importance of Asia for Lund University

Four of the EU's strategic partners are in Asia: China, India, Japan and South Korea. Asia has some of the world's fastest growing economies and emerging global powers, but also many resource-poor nations. The region is facing great challenges such as climate and environmental issues, migration, health and welfare issues,

digitisation, poverty fighting, development issues, different conflicts, including radicalisation and violations of human rights, as well as geopolitical tensions. With its dynamic societies, significant educational needs and investment in research, the region is of great interest to Lund University. In light of Lund University's commitment to Agenda 2030, Asia is also an important region within education and research.

Early on, Lund University understood the importance of establishing cooperation with universities in Asia and to strengthen education and research on Asia and, since 1996, it has taken several University-wide initiatives in this direction. Since the publication of the report Our Future with Asia – A Swedish Asia Strategy for 2000 and beyond more and more Swedish initiatives have been taken to strengthen the cooperation with Asia on both education and research. The European Commission, through the Tempus programme, and through new initiatives since the late 1990s, has strengthened cooperation with Asia within its education and research programmes.

Today, Lund University has extensive expertise and long-term and successful collaborations in both education and research, as well as being attractive to students from Asia. The background material for the Asia strategy also demonstrates the need for a series of measures to strengthen, develop, and specialise cooperation with the region within different areas.

At the end of the period, the action plan for LU's cooperation with Asia 2019-2021 is to be evaluated and reviewed for the next period.

## Goals and measures

### **A Utilise existing knowledge, strengthen expertise, as well as improve the coordination regarding cooperation with Asia**

1. Appoint an internal advisory group with expertise on Asia<sup>i</sup> that represents Lund University's breadth in order to develop the cooperation with Asia and implement the action plan.
2. Improve the use of and highlight the resources and expertise at established interdisciplinary and cross-faculty departments at Lund University such as the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies and SASNET as well as the Asia Library.
3. Exploit Lucris as a strategic tool for highlighting and developing the cooperation with Asia.
4. Review needs and resource planning relating to strategic support for developing cooperation with Asia.

### **B Strengthen cooperation with strategically selected universities and departments in Asia and thereby utilise different institutions and networks**

1. Strengthen cooperation with leading universities and other institutions in Asia
  - a. Produce a specific action plan for cooperation with China
  - b. Investigate the possibilities to develop cooperation with highly ranked universities or U21 universities and research institutes in India, Indonesia, Japan, China, Singapore and South Korea
    - i. Develop the specialised or strategic cooperation with some of the following<sup>ii</sup>:
      1. Hong Kong: University of Hong Kong
      2. Japan: Keio University, University of Tokyo, Waseda University
      3. China: produce an action plan for cooperation with China

4. Singapore: National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University
  5. South Korea: Korea University, Seoul National University
- ii. Explore conditions/opportunities to strengthen cooperation with universities in India
  - c. Monitor the possibilities for cooperation with universities in resource-poor countries
2. Evaluate how we can better utilise different networks and memberships
    - a. Evaluate how we can better utilise the Nordic Centre at Fudan University and the Nordic Centre India
    - b. Evaluate if Lund University's central funds should cover the cost of membership of the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) Nordic Council in Copenhagen
    - c. Utilise the MIRAI project to continue to strengthen the cooperation with Japan and evaluate the MIRAI project
  3. Conduct delegation trips with, among others, the University Management,
    - a. 2019: China
    - b. 2020: India

### **C Promote research cooperation with researchers and universities in Asia**

1. With the aim of promoting long-term, institutional cooperation, explore the opportunities to advertise funding for cross-faculty cooperation and for smaller collaboration projects within prioritised subject areas, i.e. subjects in line with Lund University's research strategy, the Government's research bill and Agenda 2030.
2. Increase the visibility of funds to increase research cooperation within Sweden and internationally
3. Increase the visibility of different funding bodies in Asia

## **D Strengthen educational cooperation, student mobility and student recruitment**

1. Allocate funds for applications for external funds for joint study programmes
2. Strategically utilise different funding tools to increase educational cooperation
3. Strengthen student mobility with Asia
  - a. Review current exchange agreements
  - b. Stimulate and support outgoing mobility for students and doctoral students to Asia
  - c. Develop new exchange agreements that also include mobility for periods shorter than three months
4. Strengthen student recruitment in Asia
  - a. Investigate and develop cooperation with scholarship organisations in the region
  - b. Build up an alumni chapter in China
  - c. Prioritise recruitment according to the following
    - i. Priority 1: India, Indonesia, China
    - ii. Priority 2: Bangladesh, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam
    - iii. Priority 3: Burma/Myanmar, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan
5. Within contract education, prioritise those countries that demonstrate an interest in Lund University and countries prioritised by Swedish authorities.

## **E Strengthen the knowledge of Asia and explore the possibilities to expand the courses and programmes offered at Lund University**

Review the possibilities to prioritise resources in order to

1. provide a lecture series on Asia
2. develop courses on Asia within first cycle education
3. develop programmes that combine language studies with other subjects

## **F Ethical considerations**

Lund University's core values shall permeate cooperation with Asian universities.

## **G Knowledge sharing and communication**

1. The internal aims are to highlight the action plan and organise an Asia day where agreements, collaborations, management delegations and existing education and research are shared as well as discussing new opportunities
2. The external aims are to highlight Lund University in Asia as well as Lund University's expertise on Asia nationally and internationally at different forums and events

i

---

<sup>i</sup> The definition of Asia in the present action plan includes East Asia, South-East Asia, South Asia, and Central Asia east of the Caspian Sea (30 countries).

<sup>ii</sup> Please see the draft Asia strategy for the selection criteria for specialised or strategic cooperation.

<sup>iii</sup> Prioritisation for student recruitment:

Priority 1: A long-term prioritised country with a high student admission rate. At least one large recruitment event/marketing activity takes place in the country per year, as well as some kind of pre-departure event for admitted students. There is a person responsible for marketing in the specific country who is responsible for ongoing region-specific contact.

Priority 2: The country is an interesting recruitment market for relevant activities, where we see potential. This category includes countries from a large range and are countries that can potentially be included in priority 1. There is normally a recruitment event/targeted marketing event per year (physically or digitally). There is a person responsible for marketing in the specific country who is responsible for ongoing region-specific contact.

Priority 3: The country is seen as a growing market. Recruitment events/marketing activities take place according to interest and opportunity. There is a person responsible for marketing in the specific country who is responsible for ongoing region-specific contact.