monsoon

The Sphere of Cultutal and Trade Influence

International Conference
February 2025

CALL FOR
POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The Advanced Study Institute of Asia at SGT University invites scholars, researchers, historians, and cultural heritage professionals to submit abstracts for Poster Presentations for an upcoming International Conference in February 2025 on *"Indian Cultural Influence and Historical Connections Across South Asia and Southeast Asia"*. This conference seeks to explore and document significant heritage sites, historical accounts, trade relations, and sociopolitical contexts that illustrate the intricate cultural and historical connections between India and its neighboring regions.

Background

The cultural exchange between India and Southeast Asia has a deeply rooted history, shaped by the trade routes, migrating communities and spread of Indian religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. Indian heritage left a lasting impact on the spiritual life, art, and architecture of countries like Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam. Temples such as Cambodia's Angkor Wat and Indonesia's Borobudur are iconic examples of how Indian traditions influenced Southeast Asian cultures and traditions. These monuments reflect a fusion of Indian philosophies with local customs, creating unique cultural expressions that have endured over centuries.

Trade routes like the Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Route were vital in facilitating not only the exchange of goods but also ideas, technologies, and art between India and Southeast Asia. Indian merchants, scholars, and religious figures brought with them philosophies and political structures that were embraced and adapted by Southeast Asian rulers. This exchange was not one-sided; Southeast Asian leaders selectively incorporated Indian customs and governance models, like the Mandala political system, into their own political landscapes. The resulting cultures are a testament to the dynamic and reciprocal nature of this historical exchange.

The process of Indianization in Southeast Asia was one of mutual enrichment rather than imposition. Southeast Asian societies selectively integrated Indian religious texts like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, reinterpreting them through local cultural lenses.

The influence of Sanskrit further cemented India's role as a centre of learning and religious thought in the region. Over time, this blending of Indian and Southeast Asian traditions created a lasting legacy that continues to influence religious practices, art, and governance in Southeast Asia today, showcasing the deep and enduring impact of India's cultural heritage.

Our conference aims to delve into the **enduring influence of Indian trade and culture on South and Southeast Asia and idea exchange which manifested in various traditions and innovations across centuries.** We invite submissions that shed light on the following key themes (but not limited to the following):

Themes

1. **Trade Networks and Cultural Flow:** Posters exploring how trade routes like the Silk Road and Maritime Silk Route spread Indian culture, technology, and art to Southeast Asia.
2. **Trade, Travel, and Pilgrimage Impact:** Research on the role of traders, travellers, and pilgrims in spreading Indian religious practices in Southeast Asia.
3. **Ancient Trade Innovations:** Analysis of advancements in shipbuilding, navigation, and commerce that strengthened India-Southeast Asia trade ties.
4. **Port Cities as Exchange Hubs:** Posters on port cities like Calicut, Malacca, and Palembang as centres of trade, innovation, and cultural exchange in the Indian Ocean.

Submission Guidelines

1. Abstracts should be between **200-300 words**, outlining the proposed poster's scope, methodology, key arguments and 6 keywords.
2. The abstract should read as a **standalone document.**
3. Please include a short bio (up to 150 words) with your submission.
4. The abstract must be submitted in a **Word document,** formatted in **Times New Roman or Garamond font, size 12, with 1.5 line spacing**
5. All submissions should be sent to **khushi@advancedstudy.asia** and **communication@advancedstudy.asia** by **7th December 2024.**

Important Dates

Submission Deadline	7th December 2024
Intimation of Acceptance of Proposal	15th December 2024
Final Submission of Poster	31st December 2024
International Conference	February 2025