



INSTITUTE OF ASIAN RESEARCH STRATEGIC MISSION

VISION & MISSION

The Institute of Asian Research (IAR) aims to foster closer understanding and human networks between Asia and North America. It is this cross-Pacific relationship that will have a defining impact on the future global challenges of our common world.

The IAR is the focal point on Asia policy and current affairs at The University of British Columbia (UBC). The Institute seeks to build knowledge that supports deep understanding and effective action in addressing a wide range of domestic, regional and global problems centered on Asia. IAR advances this mission through five major activities:

- Research
- Teaching (Asia oriented policy degree)
- Network-building across the university and with scholarly communities elsewhere
- Community interaction
- Policy engagement

The Institute works closely with the International Office and a number of academic departments across campus in supporting collaborations with Asian partners.

RESEARCH HUB ON ASIA POLICY AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

With its mission as a campus-wide hub, the IAR supports individual research and incubates collaborative projects in a range of interest areas, such as:

- Governance and politics in Asia
- Domestic and regional economic policy
- Asian societies in transition: migration, social issues, religion and society, minorities and nationalism, education, and social change
- Urbanization in East Asia
- Regional security
- Regional and global governance
- Environmental Issues in East Asia: water, climate, biodiversity, agriculture biotechnology
- Resource management, energy and mining



Reflecting the complexities and significance of contemporary Asia, the Institute will continue to build and expand collaborations across a range of disciplines, starting with the social sciences and humanities, and extending into the natural sciences, commerce, law, and health. The Institute is also actively developing partnerships with key research and teaching organizations in Asia and beyond.

The Institute is the home to five regional centres:

- China
- Japan
- Korea
- Southeast Asia,
- India and South Asia

The Institute is in the process of bringing together cross-campus teams of researchers around thematic clusters, including:

- Urbanization Across Asia
- Religion and Society
- Culture and Society
- Water Governance
- Mining and Energy
- China and Global Governance

With these thematic clusters, the IAR intends to quickly respond to the changing forces at play in Asia and to incubate innovative cross-disciplinary research on core global issues.

PUBLICATION AND OUTREACH

To support its mission, the Institute continues its long-standing commitment to *Pacific Affairs*, a highly respected academic journal, and e-publications focused on reaching wider public and policy audiences, such as the *Asia Pacific Memo*. IAR also supports research programs with partners in several Asian countries.

INCUBATOR FOR ASIA (AND SUSTAINABILITY) POLICY

IAR is home to an established Master of Arts degree in Asia Pacific Policy Studies (MAAPPS). In the near future, it is expected that this degree will be expanded into a 2-year professional Master of Public Policy (MPP) with a focus on Asia policy issues, the role of Asia in global affairs, and sustainability questions.

The MPP seeks to provide a combination of necessary skills and attributes to incubate future policy leaders that have the capacity to deal with a fast changing global system and national policy environment. Graduates have the ability to function as

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entrepreneurs at the interface between developed Western societies and emerging Asian societies and to nudge policy-making toward more sustainable governance.

The MPP is developed in partnership with the Liu Institute for Global Issues and the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES). It will include dual degree partnerships with other UBC programs and with academic institutions in Asia and beyond.

As a dynamic Asia expands its reach across the world, IAR is ideally situated in Vancouver to serve as the North America-Asia gateway and be at the forefront for newly arising research and teaching opportunities for UBC.

IAR FELLOWSHIP

The Institute houses the IAR Fellows Program, a campus-wide fellowship program that fosters graduate students as the next generation of public and private sector leaders with an interest in Asia policy issues. It is open to all graduate students at UBC who have a substantial empirical interest in Asian issues. The program provides research support, group and individual mentoring, a platform for cross-disciplinary discussions, and a venue to provide student cohorts with the opportunity to network that would not be possible otherwise.

POLICY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Institute aims to make policy research accessible and useful to the larger community in Vancouver, regionally and globally.

IAR welcomes the wider Asian-Canadian communities on discussions of contemporary Asia, and is closely linked with policy communities in Canada, the United States, and the Pacific. Part of the Institute's community outreach comes through regular public events on contemporary Asia.

COLLABORATION ACROSS UBC

IAR collaborates closely with the Department of Asian Studies—the university's focal point on Asian humanities, language and culture—and the Liu Institute for Global Issues in joint appointments and programs. It continues to develop partnerships with the social science disciplines (economics, political science, sociology, anthropology, geography, gender studies) as well as with other academic units across campus—Business (Sauder), Law, the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP), Science, Applied Sciences, Education, Medicine, Forestry, among others—equally important in addressing contemporary policy issues.