



European Alliance
for Asian Studies

The Role of Global Asian Studies in supporting EU's Global Strategy

A position paper on Asian Studies in the EU

Established in 1997, the European Alliance for Asian Studies (EAAS) brings together institutions and universities that address the study of Asia and of the continent's global projection by bringing forth strategic knowledge and expertise.

This position paper was drafted by members of the European Alliance for Asian Studies (EAAS) during the annual meetings held in Athens, in September 2025. It reflects the collective vision, and strategic priorities of the Alliance regarding knowledge on and with Asia in the global context, and how they can support EU's international policy.

Website: <https://www.asiascholars.eu/>

In this position paper, we outline and propose the following key points:

1. The partnership between European and Asian knowledge actors is key in understanding and addressing European challenges in the world.
2. The current decrease of knowledge infrastructure and capacity in Asian Studies puts at risk European global influence.
3. Research and training activities on, in, and with Asian societies require sustained and consistent support, and should be based on enhanced collaboration and knowledge community building.
4. A new strategic framework for European scholarship on Global Asia will play a crucial role in determining how Europe successfully engages with a multi-centered and interconnected world.
5. This framework needs to reflect an evolution from merely competitive to collaborative co-creation of knowledge.
6. The trans-disciplinarity of Asian Studies and that of Global Asia in Europe is relevant beyond mere academic pursuits.
7. The expansion of Global Asian Studies, in particular of Asia's projection in the 'Global South' requires an EU-coordinated support strategy.

The integration of Global Asian Studies expertise into EU policy-making processes will generate tangible benefits across multiple dimensions:

1. The EU will benefit from a pool of knowledge on Global Asia that will shape its external actions and act as a valuable policy resource.
2. New collaborative frameworks will allow Global Asian Studies to pool expertise and overcome the fragmentation of knowledge institutions in Europe.
3. Supporting network and institution-building strategies, both among European and between European and Asian institutions, will increase funding efficiency and policy impact.
4. A direct channel of communication between European knowledge contributors on Global Asia and the different branches of the EU, including its External Services, should be established.

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