SEACEN Research Topics in 2018

Visiting Research Economist (VRE)

The South East Asian Central Banks (SEACEN) Research and Training Centre will be undertaking two collaborative research projects between participating economists of member central banks/monetary authorities and a visiting research economist (VRE).

The SEACEN Centre is therefore seeking research proposals on any aspect of the following ten research themes that have been identified for 2018:

1. Macroprudential policies: cross-border co-ordination, spill-overs, interaction with monetary policy and effectiveness
2. Cross-border interbank contagion risk analysis
3. Risk-based supervision practices among SEACEN member economies
4. Payment system operations in SEACEN member economies
5. Payment aspects of financial inclusion in SEACEN member economies: comparisons and policy approaches
6. Financial innovation and its impact on monetary policy
7. Implications of digital currency on SECEN member central banks
8. Incorporating financial stability considerations into monetary policy formulation
9. Current account dynamics and policy implications in SEACEN member economies
10. Price-setting behaviour and inflation dynamics in SEACEN member economies and their implication for inflation

Two research proposals will be chosen based on (in no particular order):

- their individual merit;
- their feasibility considering available data and resources in SEACEN member economies;
- their applicability to SEACEN member central banks/monetary authorities; and
- their benefit to SEACEN member central banks/monetary authorities;

The two best research projects chosen by The SEACEN Centre will then be pursued under the supervision of the VREs that have submitted the winning entries. Based upon the chosen research projects, The SEACEN Centre will invite staff of member central banks/monetary authorities to participate in the chosen research projects.

The VRE will take the role of a project leader and provide guidance to Project Team Members (PTMs) from SEACEN member central banks/monetary authorities in implementing the chosen research projects.

Prospective candidates are expected to conduct one online workshop and one seminar with the PTMs and complete an integrative report based on the findings of the PTMs. The seminar will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The duration of the project is eight (8) months. For the Terms and Reference and application form, please see the attachments below.

Prospective candidates should submit their application together with a cover letter, curriculum vita, application form and a two to three-page research proposal detailing the project’s coverage and methodology. Applicants from SEACEN member central banks/monetary authorities should submit their applications through their respective member central banks/monetary authorities.
All applications should be sent to the following e-mail address: hr@seacen.org by 23 March 2018. Please indicate “VRE: Research projects 2018” in the subject header.
Participants: Researchers from member central banks/monetary authorities, academia and experts in relevant fields of central banking areas/studies.

Honorarium/Payment: Depending on the nature of the research project and the VRE’s qualifications, a competitive honorarium of up to USD15,000 will be provided. The VRE is expected to conduct one online workshop and one seminar. Ten percent of the honorarium is payable after each event, while the rest will be disbursed fully upon the timely submission of the final integrative draft report, deemed publishable by The SEACEN Centre by 15 December 2018.

Visits to the Centre: A maximum of two (2) visits, with a maximum total duration of 60 days.

Airfare: Round-trip business-class airfare. The SEACEN Centre will not reimburse any other expenses associated with travel, such as visa fees, travel insurance, travel agent fees, passport issuance and/or renewal, inoculations, etc.

Hotel Stay: Lanai Kijang, Kuala Lumpur or another location if Lanai Kijang is unavailable. The SEACEN Centre will select the hotel and make the necessary arrangements.

Local Transportation: The SEACEN Centre will provide airport transfer upon arrival and departure as well as daily transportation from/to the hotel to/from The SEACEN Centre. If accommodation is at Lanai Kijang, the VRE is advised to take the free shuttle service provided by Lanai Kijang.

Responsibilities/Deliverables of VRE:

- The VRE will implement a collaborative research project as assigned by The SEACEN Centre and complete the project within the stipulated period.
- The VRE acts as Project Leader for the project in designing the research proposal (including the methodology, coverage, etc.), and guides and assists the Project Team members (researchers from member central banks/monetary authorities).
- The VRE will conduct one (1) online research workshop and one (1) research seminar with the Project Team Members: the online workshop will discuss the proposal and the
seminar will discuss the research findings of the study. The SEACEN Centre will provide and assist in the administrative arrangements in conducting the online workshop and seminar.

- The VRE will develop an integrative report based on the research papers provided by Project Team Members and draw useful policy recommendations for SEACEN members.
- At the discretion of The SEACEN Centre, the VRE may be invited to present findings and facilitate discussions relating to the project.

The nominated VRE should have the following qualifications and experience:

- A relevant postgraduate degree and strong analytical skills;
- Resourcefulness and an ability to work independently;
- Experience in conducting research as well as field experience, preferably in the relevant field(s) related to the project;
- Proficiency in written and spoken English; and
- Exhibit strong leadership quality