



**Terms of Reference of Visiting Research Economist (VRE) in 2026
Research Project 2: Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation in SEACEN
Economies**

- Participants:** Researchers from SEACEN member central banks/monetary authorities, academia and experts in relevant fields of central banking areas/studies.
- Honorarium/Payment:** An honorarium of USD 12,500 will be provided. Fifty per cent of the honorarium is payable upon submission of a complete preliminary draft, while the rest will be disbursed fully upon the timely submission of the final report, deemed publishable by The SEACEN Centre. The deadline for submitting the final report is March 2027.
- Selection Process:** Selection of the research proposal(s) will be undertaken by The SEACEN Centre's Research Advisory Council, based on (in no particular order):
- the research proposal's individual merit;
 - the research proposal's feasibility considering available data and resources in SEACEN member economies;
 - the research proposal's applicability to SEACEN member central banks/monetary authorities; and
 - the research proposal's benefit to SEACEN member central banks/monetary authorities.
- Responsibilities/Deliverables of VRE:**
- The VRE will implement a collaborative research project as assigned by The SEACEN Centre and complete the project within the required 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 maximum duration of the project is seven (7) months.
 - The VRE will conduct one virtual research seminar (May 2026) and one in-person research workshop with the Project Team Members (first week of September 2026): the seminar will discuss the proposal, and the workshop will discuss the research findings of the study. The workshop will be held in the Philippines. The SEACEN Centre will provide and assist in the administrative arrangements of conducting the seminar and workshop.



- 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 related to the project.

Airfare: One (1) round-trip business-class airfare for the research workshop will be provided. 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, parking fees, etc.

Hotel Stay: The SEACEN Centre will help with the selection of 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 venue.

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

Requests for further information or any questions concerning the VRE position can be directed to Meltem Chadwick, Senior Economist, Macroeconomic and Monetary Policy Management, The SEACEN Centre, at meltem.chadwick@seacen.org and cc to Ahmad Aizudeen Japri, Research Associate, at ahmad.aizudeen@seacen.org.

