As Asia continues to rise in importance in the global arena, there exists a need to identify and address the region’s greatest challenges at a deeper level.

Established in 2009, the NUS Global Asia Institute (NUS GAI) takes the lead in advancing NUS to become a pre-eminent center for thought-leadership, research, and education on issues critical to Asia. Using quantitative, data-driven research and field experimentation, NUS GAI will spearhead research with NUS’s top researchers to address current societal challenges in Asia. The Institute will complement existing NUS programs that already have a significant Asian component. With insights gained from these research projects, NUS GAI will take a holistic approach to fundamental issues confronting Asia and the world.

NUS Global Asia Institute

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Through GAI’s work, we expect NUS to become a pre-eminent center for thought-leadership, research and education on critical issues for Asia.

- Prof. Tan Chorh Chuan, NUS President
THE NUS GLOBAL ASIA INSTITUTE AIMS TO ADVANCE THE RESEARCH PROFILE OF NUS IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- Producing research publications that impact public policy and thinking
- Engaging thought-leaders within NUS and from research institutions in other countries
- Involving three to six world-renowned researchers in each of our six research programs

NUS GAI HAS:

TWO CORE RESEARCH PROGRAMS

1. **Behavioral Change** aims to develop scalable instruments to influence behavioral change in Asians in order to make them adopt good habits (e.g., saving energy, planning early for retirement, and exercising regularly), and abandon bad ones (e.g., smoking and over-eating). Several projects undertaken with different government agencies will examine how environment (e.g., social norms and influences), knowledge (about the problem or the norm and the process of change), and incentives (intrinsic and extrinsic) can encourage the formation of good habits. The primary goal is to develop low-cost, innovative field interventions that will lead to positive long-term outcomes.

2. **Data Analytics** explores the development and integration of state-of-the-art analytics with the goal of understanding and addressing relevant and important issues in Asia, such as healthcare delivery, consumption expenditure, and retirement planning, among others. Analytics deals with the study of data with the aim of discovering new and useful insights, validating or refuting existing hypotheses, and creating realistic, data-driven mathematical models that facilitate decision- and policy-making. Analytics empowers stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to make informed and timely decisions in a complex environment under risk and uncertainty.

FOUR SIGNATURE RESEARCH PROGRAMS

1. **The J Y Pillay Comparative Asia Research Centre (JYP CARC)** was set up in 2012 to pursue comparative research into key development issues in Asia, focusing particularly on the three “giants” of Asia – China, India, and Indonesia. The JYP CARC focuses on relatively neglected areas of research on human capital development, with particular attention on their underlying demographic dynamics. This includes educational development, changing labor markets, migration and urbanization, unequal access to education and employment, and the effects of patterns of human capital development on productivity.

2. **NIHA (NUS Initiative to Improve Health in Asia)** is an integrative initiative to improve public health and healthcare delivery in Asia. It is coordinated by the NUS Global Asia Institute, in collaboration with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, and the NUS Business School. NIHA will also collaborate with other institutions with relevant expertise, in Singapore and around the world. The key objective is to make a significant contribution to thinking and policy-formulation in public health and health systems development in Asia, and to elevate Singapore to a leading position in healthcare policy and related research.

3. **Lifecycle Financing** is one of GAI’s signature research programs because the issue cuts across multiple research clusters (Finance and Risk Management, Ageing, and Biomedical Science and Translational Research) and it is one of the most critical issues facing rapidly aging populations in many Asian countries, including Singapore. Lifecycle financing is complex, and good solutions involve insights from multiple disciplines, including economics, engineering, finance, life sciences, medicine, public health, psychology, real estate, and statistics. The main objective is to provide relevant scientific insight to this important issue.

Asian Cities aims to answer the fundamental question “How can Asian cities address challenges and remain on the path to economic growth and development in the 21st century?” In an increasingly globalized world, with a rapid rise in prominence, unprecedented levels of urban growth, and a cultural and social renaissance, countries, and especially cities, in Asia are faced with many fundamental, multifaceted, interconnected challenges that threaten their sustained growth. To meet these challenges, new and unique solutions need to be found through innovative research that provides integrated understanding and holistic insight.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS ARE HEADED BY:

Core Research Programs
Prof. Ho Teck Hua (Behavioral Change)
Prof. Melvyn Sim (Data Analytics)

Signature Research Programs
Prof. Gavin Jones (J Y Pillay CARC)
A/Prof. Eric Finkelstein (NIHA)
Prof. Deng Yongheng (Life Cycle Financing)
Prof. Henry Yeung (Asian Cities)