

Institutional Profile		
Year	Director	Mission
1997-2002	Prof. Michael Leigh	The Institute of East Asian Studies (IEAS) at UNIMAS will take advantage of the university's strategic location to encourage a deeper understanding of current and projected change in the regional and global socio-economic environment. The Institute is the first of its kind to be set up in an ASEAN country. Its role is to coordinate and promote a range of interdisciplinary programs and activities to advance a better understanding of the evolving political economy of the East Asian region in a global context, taking into account the social, cultural, religious and historical character of the nations, states and civilisations in the region.
2005-2013	Assoc. Professor Dr. James Chin Ung Ho	Stretching from China in the north to Indonesia in the south, Japan in the east, to Burma/Myanmar in the west, East Asia is one of the most dynamic and challenging regions of the globe. Understanding this key region requires a variety of skills and perspectives, a combination of familiar and new forms of knowledge , and the development of new networks. It will also require an understanding of the Asian region's evolving political economy in global context taking into account the social,cultural, religious and historical character of the nations, states and civilizations in the region. The Institute of East Asian Studies (IEAS) at UNIMAS is the first of its kind to be set up in an ASEAN country. It coordinates and promotes a range of interdisciplinary programmes and activities to advance a better understanding of the East Asian region. Taking advantage of the university's strategic location, IEAS encourages a deeper understanding of current and projected change in the regional and global socio-economic environment.
2015	Prof. Dr. Shahren Ahmad Zaidi Adruce	Stretching from China in the north to Indonesia in the south, Japan in the east, to Burma/Myanmar in the west, East Asia is one of the most dynamic and challenging regions of the globe. Understanding this key region requires a variety of skills and perspectives, a combination of familiar and new forms of knowledge , and the development of new networks. It will also require an understanding of the Asian region's evolving political economy in global context taking into account the social,cultural, religious and historical character of the nations, states and civilizations in the region. The Institute of Borneo Studies (IBS) at UNIMAS is the first of its kind to be set up in an ASEAN country. It coordinates and promotes a range of interdisciplinary programmes and activities to advance a better understanding of the East Asian region. Taking advantage of the university's strategic location, IBS encourages a deeper understanding of current and projected change in the regional and global socio-economic environment Recent Conferences/Workshops.
2016 - 2019	Prof. Dr. Shahren Ahmad Zaidi Adruce	Empowering multi-disciplinary research on communities, organizations and industries around the island of Borneo; followed by intervention and development activities to improve stature/quality/productivity of the community, organization or industries involved.
2020 - 2025	Prof. Dr. Poline Bala	To advance Borneo knowledge through building research capacity for transnational, comparative and collaborative, and interdisciplinary works on Borneo in an intellectually vibrant environment. This knowledge bears perspectives on contemporary global issues to inform policies and development debates and empower communities, organizations and industries around Borneo.
2026 - Now	Prof. Dr. Poline Bala	1. To provide a rigorous, inclusive, and supportive postgraduate research environment for local and international students. 2. To strengthen research capacity in Borneo studies through high-quality postgraduate training grounded in local, regional, and global perspectives. 3. To advance transnational, historical, comparative, and interdisciplinary research on Borneo and related regions. 4. To foster a dynamic intellectual community that encourages collaboration across cultures, disciplines, and institutions. 5. To prepare graduates to engage critically with complex societal, ecological, scientific, and global challenges through research rooted in Borneo's unique social, cultural, and environmental contexts.