Founding, Rationale, and Geographic Scope:

The Asia Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy (ACSEP) within the National University of Singapore Business School came into formal existence by authorization of the NUS Provost in April 2011. ACSEP builds upon, extends, and amplifies the work of the former Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy (CSEP) at NUS. Activity, public awareness, and knowledge of social entrepreneurship and philanthropy are rapidly growing worldwide, but particularly in Asia. A new generation of Asian social entrepreneurs, business leaders, and leaders from other sectors (including those outside Asia) are increasingly seeking opportunities to leverage their skills, wealth, contacts, insights, and passions to address pressing social concerns throughout Asia. There is a manifest need to:

1) generate high quality research that informs the actions of individuals, organizations, and governments regarding social entrepreneurship and philanthropy;
2) provide well-organized, conceptually-rich educational experiences that enable leaders and practitioners at all levels to improve their knowledge, skills, and insights;
3) inform governmental, corporate, and nonprofit policy making on a continuing basis in light of changing realities;
4) develop better data systems and databases that capture the vibrancy, depth, breadth, costs, and potential impact of the social enterprise and philanthropic sectors; and
5) engage in collaborative dialogue, information exchange, and comparative analysis with long-standing comprehensive research and education efforts in North America and Europe in particular and other regions of the world as research and education capabilities grow and mature.

ACSEP’s geographic focus embraces 34 nations and special administrative regions across Asia. In English alphabetical order the nations and administrative regions are: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Hong Kong (SAR of China), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Macau (SAR of China), Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam. We include Australia and New Zealand within our remit because residents and organizations within these two nations are very active in both social entrepreneurship and philanthropy across the region.