

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program

2nd Annual Activity Report - Summary
(2013.6 ~ 2014.6)



e-ASIA JRP Secretariat

Basic Information:

This yearly report summarizes the activities of the e-ASIA Joint Research Program during the period from the previous Annual Board Meeting (June 5, 2013) to the current year's Annual Board Meeting (July 11, 2014).

First Edition

This report was originally approved on July 11, 2014

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Program Administration

The 2nd Annual Board Meeting

1. The 2nd Annual Board Meeting was held on June 5, 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
2. The Chair of the meeting was the Ministry for Research and Technology (RISTEK) of the Republic of Indonesia.
3. Those items that had been approved by the Board through ad hoc Board Meetings were reviewed at the 2nd Annual Board Meeting.
4. Other topics that were discussed at the Meeting include amendment of the Program Statute and sample Letter of Intent (LoI), guidelines for the participation of new Members, basic functions and composition of the Program Secretariat including its location, final project selection from the 2nd Pilot Joint Call for Proposals in the field of “Infectious Diseases”, future Calls for Proposals, Call flexibility, selection and appointment of Scientific Advisory Council members, future activities of the Program, etc.
5. A workshop on “Disaster Prevention” was held on the preceding day.

The 4th ad hoc Board Meeting

6. The 4th ad hoc Board Meeting was held via email at the end of July 2013.
7. The participation of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the United States was formally approved by the Board.

The 5th ad hoc Board Meeting

8. The 5th ad hoc Board Meeting was held via email in September 2013.
9. Out of 8 proposals received in the 2nd Pilot Joint Call for Proposals in the field of ‘Infectious Diseases’, two projects: “International Study on Pulmonary Diseases Infected with Influenza Virus and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*” and

“Comprehensive study on virus quasi-species and vascular permeability factors in severe dengue infection in humans for innovative epidemic and clinical managements” were approved by the Board to receive funding from the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) of Japan, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of Vietnam and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) of the Philippines.

The 6th ad hoc Board Meeting

10. The 6th ad hoc Board Meeting was held via email in January 2014.

11. The participation of the Health Research Council (HRC) of New Zealand was formally approved by the Board.

The 1st Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting

12. The 1st SAC Meeting was held on February 21, 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

13. The Meeting was attended by the SAC Members from five of the eleven Member countries of the Program, namely: the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Philippines, Japan, the Kingdom of Thailand and the United States of America. Also in attendance were the Program Board Member from New Zealand as a representative of their SAC member, and administrative staff from the Kingdom of Thailand and Japan.

14. The SAC Members discussed the main agenda items, including selection of Chair and Vice-Chair, redefinition of the fields of cooperation and potential partners for collaboration.

15. Prof. Teruo Kishi of Japan and Dr. Morakot Tanticharoen of Thailand were selected as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the SAC respectively.

16. The Chair was charged to give a summary report on this Meeting to the Board, as one of his main responsibilities, at the 3rd Annual Board Meeting.



(Group Photo of the 1st SAC Meeting)

Program Secretariat

17. The Program Secretariat office will soon be moved to the Thailand Science Park. NSTDA of Thailand and the Program Secretariat are now preparing for the relocation. A final check on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NSTDA and JST is currently underway.

18. NSTDA will assign one staff member to assist with secretariat functions. The number of person-hours he/she works per week will depend on the workload of the Program Secretariat at that particular time: approximately 1~1.5 days per week, on average.



19. As far as its budget will allow, NSTDA will host the Program Secretariat until the end of June 2017 (i.e. three (3) years).










20. Any Member Organization is welcome to announce itself as a candidate for the next host of the Program Secretariat.

Members

1. List of current Member Organizations and their Board Members and representatives in alphabetical order by country (as of June 2014).

*13 Member Organizations from 11 countries

Country	Name	Title & Organization
 Cambodia	Dr. Kheng Sim	Deputy-Director of Communicable Disease Control Department, MOH
 Indonesia	Dr. Agus R. Hoetman	Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Network, RISTEK

 Japan	Dr. Michiharu Nakamura	President, JST
 Lao PDR	Mr. Malaithong Kommasith	Director of the Department of Planning and Cooperation, MOST
 Lao PDR	Dr. Bounlay Phommasack	Deputy Director General of the Department of Hygiene and Prevention, MOH
 Malaysia	(TBD)	MOSTI (Status: Quasi Member)
 Myanmar	Dr. Win Khaing Moe	Acting Director General, Myanmar Scientific and Technological Research Department, MOST
 New Zealand	Dr. Robin Olds	Chief Executive, HRC
 Philippines	Dr. Amelia P. Guevara	Undersecretary for Research & Development, DOST
 Thailand	Dr. Thaweesak Koanantakool (deputy: Dr. Chadamas Thuvasethakul)	President, NSTDA (Executive Vice President, NSTDA)
 U.S.	Mr. F. Gray Handley	Associate Director for International Research Affairs, NIAID
 U.S.	Dr. Julie Schneider,	Program Director, Center for Global Health, Office of the Director, NCI
 Vietnam	Ms. Le Thi Viet Lam	Deputy Director General of Department of International Cooperation, MOST

* Blue text indicates new Member Organizations which have joined since the last Annual Board Meeting.

Joint Calls for Proposals

1. The 1st Pilot “Flexible” Joint Call for Proposals in the field of ‘Infectious Diseases’ was launched by the following 10 Member Organizations (listed in alphabetical order):

- 1) Cambodia: Ministry of Health (MOH)
- 2) Indonesia: State Ministry of Research and Technology (RISTEK)
- 3) Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- 4) Lao P.D.R.: Ministry of Health (MOH)
- 5) Myanmar: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
- 6) New Zealand: Health Research Council (HRC)

- 7) The Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
- 8) Thailand: National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
- 9) USA: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
- 10) USA: National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Prior to the 3rd Annual Board Meeting, the participating Member Organizations will gather together and discuss the evaluation results. It would be desirable to reach a conclusion during that discussion and to formally approve the selected successful project(s) at the 3rd Annual Board Meeting.

2. The Joint Call for Proposals in the field of 'Functional Materials' was lunched by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) of Japan, the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) of Thailand and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) of the Philippines. These Member Organizations are now reviewing the proposals. The selected project(s) shall be approved at the 3rd Annual Board Meeting.

Researcher Interaction

Workshop in Lao P.D.R

1. A workshop on 'Renewable Energy', co-organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of Lao P.D.R. and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) of Japan, and hosted by the Renewable Energy and New Materials Institute (REMI) of Lao P.D.R. was held from July 31 to August 1, 2013 in Vientiane, Lao P.D.R.
2. In the workshop, 23 stakeholders from academia and government from 8 different countries enthusiastically discussed future possibilities for international collaboration in the field of "Renewable Energy", namely 'Solar Energy and Photovoltaics' and 'Biomass Utilization'.
3. The observations and recommendations from this workshop would be reported to the Board by the Program Secretariat and shared with prospective Member Organizations for their further consideration of possible future research collaborations.



(Opening Session)



(Participants of the Workshop)

Workshop in Myanmar

4. A workshop on 'Intelligent Infrastructure', co-organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and Yangon Technological University (YTU) of Myanmar and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) of Japan was held from December 2 to 4, 2013 in Yangon, Myanmar.
5. The approaches to ultimate intelligent infrastructure were organized into four sections: (1) surveying and analysis, (2) modeling and simulation, (3) optimization, and (4) implementation. This holistic interdisciplinary approach is expected to contribute to both innovating infrastructure itself in the region, and to innovations in the science of infrastructure worldwide.
6. The workshop brought together academics as well as researchers from academic societies, industry and government sectors with different backgrounds to discuss intelligent infrastructure and current issues which are threatening infrastructure planning and management; to share knowledge, experience and innovation among the Members of the Program and to review current trends and important future directions for the Program to optimize international efforts.
7. The next step is to hold a second workshop on the same theme with the same speakers. JST is now consulting with the Program Secretariat to host this workshop at the end of November this year in Tokyo, Japan.



(Participants of the Workshop)



(Session)

“Infectious Diseases” Science Talk Luncheon in Bangladesh

8. On February 10, 2014, the Program Secretariat held a Science Talk Luncheon during the 'U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Sciences Program Regional Conference 16th International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Pacific Rim' organized by NIAID in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

9. This luncheon aimed to introduce the Program to the event participants and to further explore what opportunities there are for multilateral cooperative research in the field of Infectious Diseases in the East Asian region.

10. The participants from the region and the U.S. introduced their research in order to discuss potential opportunities for international cooperation in their field.

11. Reports of the discussion were posted on the website.



(Science Talk Luncheon)



(Conference)

Ongoing Projects

The two selected Japan-Vietnam-Philippines collaborative projects from the 2nd Pilot Joint Call for Proposals in the field of 'Infectious Diseases' are as follows:

1. "International study on pulmonary diseases infected with influenza virus and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*" to be conducted jointly by Dr. Kazuo Suzuki, Director General of the Institute of Asia International Infectious Disease Control at Teikyo University in Japan, Dr. Phung Thi Bich Thuy, Head of the Department of Biomolecular Research for Infectious Disease at the National Hospital of Pediatrics in Vietnam, and Dr. Jaime Montoya, Professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine.

This collaborative research aims to control pulmonary diseases among those infected with the influenza virus and *Mycobacterium* in Japan, Vietnam and the Philippines, applying molecular epidemiology and elucidation of severity of these diseases in laboratories, through exchange of scientists and education.

2. "Comprehensive study on virus quasi-species and vascular permeability factors in severe dengue infection in humans for innovative epidemic and clinical managements" to be conducted jointly by Dr. Futoshi Hasebe, Professor at the Center for International Collaborative Research at Nagasaki University in Japan, Dr. Thi Quynh Mai Le, Head of the Department of Virology at the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Vietnam, and Dr. Filipinas F. Natividad, Vice-President in the Research and Biotechnology Division of St. Luke's Medical Center in the Philippines.

This collaborative research aims to identify dengue viral characteristics (serotype, genotype and quasi-species) and vascular permeability factors in human hosts to determine the mechanism of disease severity and to apply that data for predicting dengue epidemics in Vietnam and the Philippines.

For more information, please visit the following website:

<http://www.the-easia.org/jrp/>

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