

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program
5th Annual Activity Report - Summary
(2016.8 ~ 2017.6)



e-ASIA JRP Secretariat

Basic Information

This yearly report summarizes the activities of the e-ASIA Joint Research Program during the period from the Fifth Annual Board Meeting (August 2-3, 2016) to the Sixth Annual Board Meeting (June 22-33, 2017).

First Edition

This report was originally approved on Aug 23, 2018

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Program Administration

The 5th Annual Board Meeting

1. The 5th Annual Board Meeting was held on August 2-3, 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand, chaired by the Health Research Council (HRC).
2. The items that had been approved by the Board through the 11th and 12th ad hoc Board Meetings were reviewed at the 5th Annual Board Meeting.
3. The Board also discussed the conditions of “Guest Partners” and finally approved the following conditions:
 - i Approval by the Board is necessary to be a “Guest Partner”;
 - ii Observing Board Meetings is possible but “Guest Partner” Organizations will not be represented on the Board (i.e., no voting rights);
 - iii Participation will be on a call by call basis;
 - iv Separate or additional approval by the Board is not necessary for a “Guest Partner” to participate in any one of the calls for proposals;
 - v Participation in an individual call for proposals is possible for “Guest Partners” only when at least three Full Member Organizations participate in the call for proposals (i.e., “Guest Partners” may join a call for proposals only as the 4th participant and after the other participating organizations);
 - vi Participation in a joint project is possible for PIs from the countries of the “Guest Partner” organizations only when at least three PIs from the countries of the Full Member Organizations participate in the project (i.e., PIs of the countries of the “Guest Partner” organizations may join a project only as the 4th PI and after the PIs from the countries of the Full Member Organization);
 - vii “Guest Partner” organizations can participate in a call for proposals by any of the funding modalities (“new funds”, “re-budgeting”, and/or “in-kind”);
 - viii No nominating right of SAC Member (Observation only).
4. The Board reconfirmed that Bangladesh, Mongolia, and Sri Lanka are among the countries not participating in the East Asia Summit (EAS) that are

currently eligible according to the conditions of “Guest Partners”. The Board welcomed these collaborations at previous Annual Board Meetings. The Board also decided to defer further discussion with regard to the expansion of e-ASIA JRP participation to organizations from countries other than EAS participating countries, with the exception of these three countries. The Board agreed that currently additional countries would not be actively pursued; but, the Board also agreed to discuss this again when organizations from other countries express interest in joining the Program.

5. The Board also re-discussed the number of SAC members with the suggestion given by SAC to maintain 1 SAC member from 1 country, and concluded in the meantime to keep the multiple number of SAC members from 1 country as already had approved at the 4th Annual Board Meeting. At the same time, the Board requested the Secretariat to report the discussion points to SAC and for the next Board Meeting in 2017 to have more detailed information concerning the rationale for a single SAC member per country.
6. The Board expressed a great appreciation to NSTDA and welcomed the NSTDA statement that they intend to extend the term to host the e-ASIA Secretariat Office in NSTDA of Thailand. NSTDA and JST will renew the MOU, which will expire at the end of July 2017, to locate the Secretariat Office in NSTDA for another three-year term.
7. Other topics that were discussed at the meeting included the approval of the contents of the 3rd Annual Activity Report, clarification of the review process for a call for proposals, review of the 5th Calls for Proposals, modification of the Program Statute to add a new document to clarify the application screening and review process and to redefine the “Ad-hoc Board Meeting” to have the same decision making authority as the Annual Board Meeting, correction of the TOR of SAC regarding the duration of SAC membership as well as the term of its Chair and Vice-Chair, conditions/requirements to launch a call or to start funding, ethical requirements and future activities of the Program including the possibility to collaborate with other programs, etc.

The 13th ad hoc Board Meeting

8. The 13th ad hoc Board Meeting was held via email sent on 26th October 2016.

9. Formal participation of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) of the Commonwealth of Australia was approved.

The 14th ad hoc Board Meeting

10. The 14th ad hoc Board Meeting was held via email sent on 23rd January 2017.
11. Out of 9 proposals, two collaborative research projects on “Development of New Processes with Thermotolerant Microbes for Bio-refinery Including Biofuels, towards Utilization of ASEAN Biomass” and “Feasibility Study on Social Implementation of Bioenergy in East Asia” were approved from the 5th call for proposals on the topic of “Bioenergy” in the field of “Alternative Energy”.

The 15th ad hoc Board Meeting

12. The 15th ad hoc Board Meeting was held via email sent on 11th March 2017.
13. Matters approved are the following:
- i Format of the Progress Report
 - ii Minutes of the 5th Annual Board Meeting with Appendix
 - iii Revision of the Program Statute
 - iv Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Scientific Advisory Council

The 16th ad hoc Board Meeting

14. The 16th ad hoc Board Meeting was held via email sent on 11th April 2017.
15. Matters approved are the following:
- i Formal participation of the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) of Thailand
 - ii Participation of the National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka (prospective Guest Partner organization) to the 4th Scientific Advisory Council Meeting on 20 April, 2017 in Siem Reap as an observer

The 17th ad hoc Board Meeting

16. The 17th ad hoc Board Meeting was held via email sent on 13th June 2017.

17. Format of the Final Report was approved.

The 4th Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting

18. The 4th SAC Meeting was held on April 20, 2017 in Siem Reap, the Kingdom of Cambodia.

19. Prof. Teruo Kishi from Japan and Dr. Chanwit Tribuddharat from Thailand were selected as the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the 2nd term's SAC respectively. Their term of office will be 2017-2020 (4th to 6th SAC meetings).

20. The number of SAC members per country was discussed again with the request from the Board to get detailed information concerning the rationale for a single SAC member per country. In conclusion, the SAC's proposal to the Board was as follows:

- i SAC supports "1 SAC member per 1 country".
- ii SAC members can obtain inputs from other experts prior to an annual SAC meeting to cover a broader area of expertise.
- iii If there are multiple member organizations in one country, the SAC member of that country should have a pre-meeting before an annual SAC meeting with other in-country member organizations to collect their inputs.
- iv SAC agreed that other experts are able to attend SAC as "Observers" if the official SAC member can't cover specific area of science and technology to be discussed in a SAC meeting.

21. Other topics that were discussed at the meeting included 'Priority Topics for Future Collaboration', 'Final Reports and the Progress Reports', 'e-ASIA Alumni Network', etc.

Program Secretariat

22. The Board re-endorsed the new Program Secretariat staff, Mr. Yoshihide Kobayashi of JST as the replacement of Ms. Eriko Kishida, a former Program Secretariat staff, and endorsed Ms. Jirawadee Matoon of NSTDA sent from NSTDA as the new assistant staff at the 5th e-ASIA Annual Board Meeting.


23. The MOU between JST and NSTDA to locate the Program Secretariat Office


in NSTDA of Thailand is supposed to expire at the end of July 2017. NSTDA and JST are currently preparing a renewal agreement to extend the term for an additional three years. A final review of the agreement is currently underway.

Member Organizations

1. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) of Australia and the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) of Thailand joined the Program as new and formal Member Organizations in November 2016 and April 2017, respectively.
2. List of current Member Organizations and their Board Members and representatives in alphabetical order by country (as of June 2017).

*19 Member Organizations from 13 countries

	Country	Name	Title & Organization
1	 Australia	Prof. Anne Kelso AO	Chief Executive Officer, NHMRC
2	 Cambodia	Dr. Kheng Sim	Deputy-Director of Communicable Disease Control Department, MOH
3	 Indonesia	Prof. Ocky Radjasa	Directorate General of Research and Development, RISTEKDIKTI
4	 Japan	Mr. Masahiko Noda	Managing Director of Department of International Affairs, AMED
5	 Japan	Dr. Michinari Hamaguchi	President, JST (as the agent of MEXT)
6	 Lao PDR	Dr. Silap Boupha	Director of ASEAN and International Organization Affairs, MOST
7	 Lao PDR	Dr. Bounlay Phommasack	Deputy Director General of the Department of Hygiene and Prevention, MOH
8	 Malaysia	(TBD)	MOSTI (Status: Quasi Member)
9	 Myanmar	Dr. Win Khaing Moe	Director General, Department of Research and Innovation, MOE
10	 New Zealand	Prof. Kathryn McPherson	Chief Executive, HRC
11	 The Philippines	Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara	Undersecretary for Research & Development,

			DOST
12	 Russian Federation	Mr. Oleg Sharipov	Head of International Relations, RFBR
13	 Thailand	Ms. Kunvara Chotiphansophon	Deputy Director, ARDA
14	 Thailand	Dr. Narong Sirilertworakul (Deputy: Prof. Prasit Palittapongampim)	President, NSTDA (Executive Vice President, NSTDA)
15	 Thailand	Dr. Nares Damrongchai	Chief Executive Officer, TCELS
16	 Thailand	Assoc. Prof. Waranya Wongwit	Assistant TRF Director for International Research Network and International Relations, TRF
17	 U.S.	Mr. F. Gray Handley	Associate Director for International Research Affairs, NIAID
18	 U.S.	Dr. Paul Pearlman	Health Science Policy Analyst, Center for Global Health, NCI
19	 Vietnam	Ms. Le Thi Viet Lam	Deputy Director General of Department of International Cooperation, MOST

Joint Calls for Proposals

The 5th Joint Call for Proposals

1. Out of 9 proposals submitted to the 5th Joint Call for Proposals on the topic of “Bioenergy” in the field of “Alternative Energy” opened from August to October 2015, the following two projects were approved by the Board to be supported:
 - i “Development of New Processes with Thermotolerant Microbes for Bio-refinery Including Biofuels, towards Utilization of ASEAN Biomass” to be supported by JST of Japan, ARDA of Thailand, RISTEKDIKTI of Indonesia, and MOST of Lao PDR.
 - ii “Feasibility Study on Social Implementation of Bioenergy in East Asia” to be supported by JST of Japan, ARDA of Thailand, MOST of Vietnam,

RISTEKDIKTI of Indonesia, MOST of Myanmar, and MOST of Lao PDR.

The 6th Joint Calls for Proposals

2. The 6th Joint Calls for Proposals on the topics of 'Intelligent Infrastructure for Energy' in the field of 'Advanced Interdisciplinary Research towards Innovation' and 'Functional Bio-nanotechnology for Innovative Materials System' in the field of 'Materials' were open from January to March 2017, and on the topics of 'Infectious Diseases and Cancer' in the field of 'Health Research' were open from December 2016 to February 2017. These calls were supported by the following Member Organizations (listed in alphabetical order):

Participating Members and their funding modalities of the 6th Calls for Proposals

		Bio-nanotechnology	Intelligent Infrastructure for Energy	Infectious Diseases/Cancer
Australia	NHMRC	-	-	-
Cambodia	MOH	-	-	In-kind
Indonesia	RISTEK DIKTI	-	-	New ^{*1} , In-kind
Japan	JST	New	New	-
	AMED	-	-	New
Lao P.D.R.	MOST	-	-	-
	MOH	-	-	-
Malaysia	MOSTI	-	-	-
Myanmar	MOE	In-kind	In-kind	-
New Zealand	HRC	-	-	New
Philippines	DOST	New, In-kind	New, In-kind	New, Re-budget
Russia	RFBR	New	New	New
Thailand	NSTDA	New	New	-
	ARDA	-	-	-
	TCELS	-	-	-
USA	NIAID ^{*2}	-	-	New, In-kind, Re-budget
	NCI ^{*3}	-	-	Re-budget
Vietnam	MOST	New, In-kind	-	New, In-kind

*1: "New" funding by RISTEKDIKTI is under the Indonesian funding Program,

“INSINAS” and “KLN”; but, its review process does not proceed in full coordination with the e-ASIA JRP joint call.

*2: NIAID supports “Infectious Diseases” related projects only.

*3: NCI supports “Cancer” related projects only.

The selection of the proposals for all these three fields are in progress.

Researcher Interaction

Workshop in Lao P.D.R.

1. A workshop on “Green and Renewable Energy Technology for Sustainable Environment”, co-organized by JST of Japan and the e-ASIA Joint Research Program Secretariat and hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology of Lao P.D. R., was held on October 31 and November 1, 2016 in Vientiane, Lao P.D.R.
2. In the workshop, 57 participants, including 22 presenters, from academia and government of Japan, Thailand, Lao PDR, Malaysia, and Vietnam enthusiastically discussed future possibilities for international collaboration in the field of “Bioenergy”.
3. By separating three topic groups, “Biomass Production and Management”, “Biomass Energy Technology” and “Biorefinery”, researchers in each group discussed potential future collaborative research topics and combination of the countries for the topics through active discussion with a view of applying to future Bioenergy call in the e-ASIA JRP.

Selected Projects

1. The selected projects from the 5th call in the field of “Bioenergy”, which was open from August to October 2015, are as follows.

Bioenergy

- i. “Development of New Processes with Thermotolerant Microbes for Bio-refinery Including Biofuels, towards Utilization of ASEAN Biomass”

(Countries and Principal Investigators)

Japan: Mamoru Yamada, Professor, Yamaguchi University,
Thailand: Savitree Limtong, Professor, Kasetsart University,
Indonesia: Anton Muhibuddin, Assistant Professor, University of Brawijaya,
Lao PDR: Somchanh Bounphanmy, Associate Professor, National
University of Laos

(Forms of Participation)

Japan: New funds from Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Thailand: “In-kind” participation supported by Agricultural Research
Development Agency (ARDA)

Indonesia: “In-kind” participation supported by Ministry of Research,
Technology and Higher education (RISTEKDIKTI)

Lao PDR: “In-kind” participation supported by Ministry of Science and
Technology (MOST)

This project aims to develop new processes for bio-refinery including
biofuels using thermotolerant microbes from tropical environment towards
utilization of ASEAN biomass.

ii. “Feasibility Study on Social Implementation of Bioenergy in East Asia”

(Countries and Principal Investigators)

Japan: Masahumi Katsuta, Professor, Waseda University,

Thailand: Paritud Bhandhubanyong, Executive Director Panyapiwat
Institute of Management,

Vietnam: Tuan Le Anh, Associate Professor, Hanoi University of Science
and Technology,

Indonesia: Anugerah Widiyanto, Head of Technology Incubators, BADAN
PENGKAJIAN DAN PENERAPAN TEKNOLOGI (BPPT),

Myanmar: Ei Ei Htwe, Associate Professor, Mandalay Technological
University,

Lao PDR: Bounmy Keohavong, Director, Souphanouvong University,

(Forms of participation)

Japan: New funds from Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Thailand: “In-kind” participation supported by Agricultural Research

Development Agency (ARDA)

Vietnam: “In-kind” participation supported by Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

Indonesia: “In-kind” participation supported by Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher education (RISTEKDIKTI)

Myanmar: “In-kind” participation supported by Ministry of Education

This research aims to conduct feasibility study of social implementation of bioenergy in East Asia by region-wide collaboration among ASEAN countries and Japan. Hands-on training of young researchers is also included in this research.

For more information, please visit the following website:

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

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