



The Statute Of the East Asia Science and Innovation Area Joint Research Program

Article 1. Purpose of the Statute

The Purpose of the Statute is to define the mission and structure of the East Asia Science and Innovation Area Joint Research Program (hereinafter referred to as the “Program”).

Article 2. Objectives of the Program

- (1) The Program aims to promote science and technology community in the East Asia region, make use of abundant human resources in the region and generate “novel knowledge”, “competitive technology” and “reforms of systems” which are the source of dynamism in the economy and society. Namely, the Program seeks innovation in the region.
- (2) The Program pursues synergistic, supplemental and leveraged effects by multilateral cooperation, which is possible not by a single nation but by combination of best potentials in the region.
- (3) The Program seeks genuine partnerships for mutual contribution and mutual allotments of outcomes.
- (4) Decisions regarding the Program will be made based on data and rational judgments supported by experiences and consciousness of scientists.

Article 3. Commencement

The Program, as well as this Statute, commences on the day when it is approved by the 1st Board Meeting of the Program, and thereafter may be extended on terms and conditions to be discussed and agreed.

Article 4. Memberships

- (1) Participants to the Program are hereinafter referred to as “Members”.
- (2) Those eligible for Membership of the Program are ministries, agencies or other public/governmental bodies, which provide research fund, of East Asia Summit (EAS) participating countries, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Malaysia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Republic of Singapore, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Kingdom of Thailand, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, People’s Republic of China, Republic of India, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and the United States of America. However, the words “public” or “governmental” should be interpreted flexibly as long as candidate institutions have a competitive funding mechanism.
- (3) The organizations which expressed their intention to participate in the Program are as follows as of April 2012:
 - The Ministry for Research and Technology (RISTEK), Indonesia
 - The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan *
 - The Ministry of Health (MOH), Lao PDR
 - The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Lao PDR
 - The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia
 - The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Myanmar
 - Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Philippines
 - National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand
 - The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Vietnam
- * Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) represents Japan, being delegated the administrative authority of MEXT.
- (4) Membership will be lost when a letter of intent for withdrawal from the Program is submitted to the Board 6 months prior to the actual secession.
- (5) New Membership will be acquired when a letter of intent for participation in the Program is submitted to the Board and the Board accepts it after deliberation on the degree of contribution to the Program. The letter of intent requires attachment of the document “Framework of Cooperation”, which, as attached hereto as Appendix A, describes essential elements of the Program.
- (6) “Quasi Members” are those parties who need to take time for the governmental procedures to officially express the intention to join the Program. The Quasi Members are also granted the same opportunities and functions as those granted to Members. However, they shall not participate in decision makings in the Board.
- (7) “Guest Partners” are organizations other than Members or Quasi Members who are, with the consent of the Board, involved in the Program with the same capacity as

Members. However, they will not be constituent members of the Board.

- (8) “Observers” are international organizations, nations or regions other than Members, who may, with the consent of the Board, collect information on the Program.

Article 5. Constitution and Authorities of the Board

The Board is a decision-making body for the management of the Program.

The Board is composed of persons appointed respectively by Members with each person representing his/her organization. One country may have one or more board representatives. Annual meetings will be convened for the Board members to meet at least once a year. Ad hoc meetings will be called upon whenever three or more members of the Board so request.

Additionally, Board meetings can be conducted by teleconferences and exchange of e-mail.

The authorities of the Board, in addition to those specified elsewhere, consist of the following:

- (1) to approve and revise, as appropriate, policies, procedures, and by-laws, as specified in Article 14, of the Program,
- (2) to approve and revise the framework of the Program, such as
 - (a) Mechanism for managing the Program,
 - (b) Fields of collaboration,
 - (c) Formation of organs of the Program, as specified in Article 9 and
 - (d) Guidelines for research agreement among cooperating institutions, as well as treatment of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Material Transfer Agreement (MTA).
- (3) to approve:
 - (a) The Program activity plan and
 - (b) The annual report on the progress of the Program,
 - (c) Projects to be awarded,
- (4) to approve change in the Members in the Program, such as accession and secession, and invitation of Guest Partners and Observers,
and
- (5) to deliberate and decide on other matters as requested by Members or to approve activities necessary to achieve the objectives of the Program.

Decisions are made on a consensus basis among the attendees of a Board Meeting. However, decisions on (3), (4) or (5) are made by a two-thirds majority vote among

those as stated above. The decisions will be reflected in the operation of the Program in such ways as designated by the Board.

Members acknowledge discretion of the Board and accept it as decisions.

Article 6. Chair of the Board Meeting

(1) When each annual Board meeting takes place, the position as Chair will be rotated, with the term of one year, among the Members according to the order of Members shown in the Article 4 (3). The Chair's role is to preside over the meeting and lead the discussion to a conclusion.

(2) The Chair also has the right to vote.

Article 7. Attendance of the Board Meeting

A Board meeting requires the attendance of more than half of Members. Members must give written notification to or not to attend the meeting by e-mail, fax or other means at least two weeks in advance.

Article 8. Delegation of Power

When a Board member is unable to attend the Board Meeting, there are alternative ways for representing or voting for a Board decision as follows.

Alternative 1: to delegate his/her right to vote to his/her proxy from the Member he/she represents

Alternative 2: to express his/her consent to the Board decision by written notification by e-mail, fax or other means to the Board in advance of the Board Meeting.

Alternative 3: to participate in the Board decision by other means agreed upon by the Board members

Article 9. Organs of the Program

Organs of the Program are as follows:

(1) Board

Constitution and functions of the Board are as detailed in Articles 5, 6, and 7.

(2) Scientific Advisory Council

The Scientific Advisory Council consists of senior researchers recommended respectively from each Member, gives recommendation or advice on principal issues for science and technology regarding activities of the Program, such as research fields.

Recommendations or advices by the Scientific Advisory Council will be respected

by the Board.

(3) Peer-Review Panel

The Peer-Review Panel consists of experts who have expertise in the respective collaborative areas, are fully responsible for evaluating and selecting projects in response to calls for proposals in determined collaborative areas, reviewing progress of selected projects and conducting post evaluation. At least one expert is appointed or selected from each Member who is participating in the call for proposals. The chair of Peer-Review Panel attends Board Meetings as an Observer.

(4) Area Advisor

An Area Advisor is a scientist who perceives progress of projects which are supported under respective collaborative areas and gives advice to Lead Principal Investigators. It is desirable that the chairperson of the Peer-Review Panel be the Area Advisor.

(5) Program Secretariat

The Program Secretariat consists of the Secretary-General and staff members, each of whom is sent from contributing Members on a voluntary basis. The term for the Secretary-General and staff members is three years, respectively. However, the term may be subsequently extended thereafter annually, unless otherwise advised by the Board.

The Program Secretariat supports the overall operation of the Program and handles communication from Members regarding the Program.

Article 10. Fields and Areas of Collaboration

- (1) Fields of Collaboration will be such themes which are mutually beneficial and challenging issues among Members, which are the basis for economic and social developments in the region, as well as solutions to common issues within the region.
- (2) The Program will focus on pre-competitive fields which would at a later stage definitely contribute to the competitiveness of the industry.
- (3) Specific collaborative research areas in the set Fields of collaboration, as specified in the Article 5(2)(b), will be determined by three or more interested Members.
- (4) Research areas of Collaboration and other related information such as schedules and participants of the calls, should be reported to the Board.

Article 11. Financial Resources

Voluntary contribution from Members for functions of the Program Secretariat, including personnel cost, rental of the office, office operation cost, expenses for travel

and accommodation, is desired.

Article 12. Amendment of the Statute

Any differences or disputes concerning the interpretation or amendment of this Statute shall be settled by decision of the Board on a consensus basis.

Article 13. Termination of the Program

- (1) The Program may be terminated at any time by a resolution adopted by the Board on a consensus basis.
- (2) The termination of the Program shall not affect any collaborative projects or activities initiated under the Program statute that are the subject of its own binding agreement.

Article 14. By-Laws

By-laws may be created or amended, as necessary, based on the decision of the Board. If newly created or amended by-laws have to be applied for any urgent reasons, prior to the approval of the Board, they may be provisionally effective until the next meeting of the Board through the approval of Members by e-mail, fax or other means.

Article 15. Urgent Matters

Notwithstanding the provision set out in this statute, urgent matters regarding the Program will be discussed competently by e-mails, fax or other means among Members whenever so requested by a Member (or Members).

Approval Dates

This Statute was originally approved on June 28, 2012

Appendix A

Framework of Cooperation

1. The participants who intend to join the “e-ASIA Joint Research Program” (hereinafter referred to as the “Program”) are hereinafter referred to as the “Members”.
2. The objectives of the Program are; (a) Economic and social development, (b) Solving common issues, and (c) Advancement in science and technology which includes fostering young researchers, in the East Asia region.
3. The prospective Members at present of the Program are public funding institutions including governmental bodies and /or independent funding agencies who received an invitation letter from Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Countries of those organizations are the East Asia Summit (EAS) participating countries.
4. Activities to be conducted under the Program are; (a) Joint research by Matching Fund, (b) Research exchange by On-top fund to existing projects, (c) Facilitation of networking and (d) Information exchange regarding best practices in national research and development activities and international cooperation.
5. For management of the Program, “Board” as a decision-making body and “Scientific Advisory Council” for scientific advice to the Board will be established.
6. Science and Technology research projects to be supported under the Program should be multilateral among research groups from three or more different countries, and will be selected on a competitive basis. Priority will be given to projects having scientific merit as well as impact on economy and society in the region. Agreement should be concluded among the participating research institutions and a guideline template for the agreement to be provided by the Board.
7. Intention of accession by a prospective Member will be kept by JST in writing and secession by a Member will be notified to the Board by a writing six months prior to the intended conduct.
8. The activities under this Framework of Cooperation will be subject to the respective laws and regulations of each Member’s country and within its budgetary

appropriation.

9. This Framework of Cooperation will commence among the Members who have sent the Letters of Intent to the Board.