

e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP)
Joint Research Project in the field of “Infectious Diseases”

Within the framework of the e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP)^{*1}, the following 1 collaborative project is selected in the field of 'Infectious Diseases' with the approval of the e-ASIA Board. 10 organizations from 9 countries participated in this joint call for proposals^{*2}.

“Whole-genome sequencing of drug-resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis strains” to be conducted jointly by Gregory Cook, Professor, University of Otago in New Zealand, Wah Win Htike, Professor, University of Medicine-1 in Myanmar, and Bacht Alisjahbana, Chairperson, Universitas Padjadjaran in Indonesia.

This collaborative research aims to determine the role of whole-genome sequencing (WGS) for drug susceptibility testing (DST) of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Myanmar and Indonesia, two high TB burden countries. It will investigate discrepancies between genotypic and phenotypic DST results and use WGS to investigate the population structure of resistant M. tuberculosis.

A total of 22 proposals were submitted in response to the joint call.

***1 The e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP)**

Through the acceleration of science and technology research exchange and collaboration in the East Asian region, the e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP) aims to strengthen research and development capabilities towards resolution of shared challenges across the region, including those associated with environmental protection, natural disaster mitigation and prevention of infectious diseases.

As part of that objective, the e-ASIA JRP is intended to support collaborative research implemented among 3 or more of its member countries. Through the implementation of joint research among participating countries in agreed fields of research, it is the goal of the e-ASIA JRP to contribute to economic and human resource development, as well as the resolution of various challenges in the East Asian region.

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

***2 The list of organizations participating in the joint call for proposals**

Ministry of Health (MOH), Cambodia

MOH is the Cambodian Ministry which administers Health and Medical policies in Cambodia. It also administers activities conducted by hospitals, medical related resources, medical related industries and NGOs etc.

MOH's homepage : <http://www.moh.gov.kh/>

State Ministry of Research and Technology (RISTEK), Indonesia

RISTEK (soon to be renamed), established in 1962, is the Indonesian Ministry whose functions include policy making and implementation in the field of research and technology; coordinating

and synchronizing policy implementation in the field of research and technology; managing state property/assets under the Ministry's responsibility; and promoting higher education in Indonesia. RISTEK's homepage : <http://international.ristek.go.id/>

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Japan

JST is one of the core institutions responsible for the implementation of science and technology policy in Japan, including the government's Science and Technology Basic Plan. From knowledge creation—the wellspring of innovation—to ensuring that the fruits of research are shared with society and Japan's citizens, JST undertakes its mission in a comprehensive manner. JST also works to provide a sound infrastructure of science and technology information and raise awareness and understanding of science and technology-related issues in Japan.

JST's homepage : <http://www.jst.go.jp/EN/index.html>

Ministry of Health (MOH), Lao P.D.R.

MOH is the Laotian Ministry which administers Health and Medical policies in Lao P.D.R. Directly under the authority of the MOH, there are research institutes, national hospitals, universities, schools of public health, and pharmaceutical plants.

MOH's homepage : <http://www.moh.gov.la/>

Health Research Council (HRC), New Zealand

HRC, established in 1990, is the New Zealand agency responsible for managing the Government's investment in health research. HRC is responsible to the Minister of Health. HRC's major funding agreement is through the Minister of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and its research funding is implemented in close cooperation with MBIE.

HRC's homepage : <http://www.hrc.govt.nz/>

Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Philippines

DOST supports, directs and coordinates all scientific and technological activities in the Philippines. DOST encourages greater private sector participation in research and development, and formulates policies, programs and projects to support national development towards achieving technological self-reliance for the Philippines.

DOST's homepage: <http://www.dost.gov.ph/>

National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand

NSTDA was created by the Science and Technology Development Act of 1991 and officially commenced its operations in 1992. It was founded with the explicit aim to conduct, support, coordinate, and promote efforts in scientific and technological development between the public and the private sectors towards maximizing benefit for national development.

NSTDA's homepage: <http://www.nstda.or.th/eng/>

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the United States

NIAID is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which is one of 11 agencies that compose the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). NIAID conducts and supports basic and applied research to better understand, treat, and ultimately prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases. For more than 60 years, NIAID research has led to new therapies, vaccines, diagnostic tests, and other technologies that have improved the health of millions of people in the

United States and around the world.

NIAID's homepage: <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>

National Cancer Institute (NCI), the United States

NCI is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NCI, established in 1937, is the Federal Government's principal agency for cancer research and training. NCI coordinates the National Cancer Program, which conducts and supports research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs with respect to the cause, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer, rehabilitation from cancer, and the continuing care of cancer patients and the families of cancer patients.

NCI's homepage: <http://www.cancer.gov/>

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