

# ***The e-ASIA Joint Research Program***

Annual Activity Report - Summary  
(2012.6 ~ 2013.6)



e-ASIA JRP Secretariat

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(1<sup>st</sup> year: 2012.6 ~ 2013.6)

**Program Administration**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Board Meeting

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Board Meeting of the e-ASIA Joint Research Program (the “Program”), chaired by Dr. Takayoshi Mamine, Japan Science and Technology (JST), was held on 28 June 2012 in Singapore at Mandarin Orchard Hotel.
2. The meeting was attended by six Board Members from six Members of the Program, namely, RISTEK of Republic of Indonesia, MEXT of Japan, MOST of Lao People’s Democratic Republic, MOST of Republic of the Union of Myanmar, NSTDA of Kingdom of Thailand and MOS of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, with guest speakers from Japan and Kingdom of Thailand and observers form MOD of Brunei Darussalam, MIME of Kingdom of Cambodia, Embassy of People’s Republic of China in Singapore and A\*STAR of Republic of Singapore.



(Group Photo of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Board Meeting)

Formal inauguration of the Program

3. The attending six Board Members confirmed the concept of the Program and the Members at the time of inaugurating the Program. On 28 June 2012, the Program was formally inaugurated and the Statute of the Program was adopted.

Program Secretariat

4. The Board acknowledged that the tentative Program Secretariat had been in operation through support from JST of Japan which would continue for three

years. For long-term sustainability, detailed mechanism should be discussed at the next Annual Board meeting.

5. Tentative location of the Program Secretariat is in Biopolis, Singapore. Formal location is subject to Member's offer.
6. As of June 2013, the Program Secretariat consists of 1 Secretary-General, Mr. Osamu Kobayashi, and 1 staff member, Ms. Eriko Kishida, both from JST of Japan.

#### The 1<sup>st</sup> ad hoc Board meeting

7. The 1<sup>st</sup> ad hoc Board meeting was held via email sent to the Board members on 28 September 2012.
8. The topics that were approved by the Board are:
  - (1) 2nd Pilot Joint Calls for Proposals
  - (2) Symposium to be held in December in Singapore
  - (3) Additional Project to be approved from the 1st Pilot Joint Call for Proposals.

#### The 2<sup>nd</sup> ad hoc Board meeting

9. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ad hoc Board meeting was held via email sent to the Board members on 6 February 2013.
10. The topics that were approved by the Board are:
  - (1) Program related documents
    - Scientific Advisory Council Terms of Reference
    - Peer-Review Panel Terms of Reference
    - Guideline/Template of Collaborative Research Agreement
    - Guideline/Template of Joint Application Agreement for Intellectual Property Rights
    - Guideline/Template of Material Transfer Agreement
  - (2) Formal participation of the Ministry of Health, Cambodia
  - (3) Future activity plans (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot Joint Calls for Proposals, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Board Meeting and Workshop in Lao PDR)

#### The 3<sup>rd</sup> ad hoc Board Meeting




11. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ad hoc Board Meeting was held via email sent to the Board members on 15 March 2013.
12. The participation of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the United States was formally approved by the Board.





#### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Board Meeting

13. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Board Meeting was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June in Jakarta, Indonesia.
14. The Chair of the meeting was the Ministry for Research and Technology (RISTEK) of Republic of Indonesia.
15. Those items that have been approved by the Board through ad hoc Board Meetings were reviewed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Board Meeting.
16. Other topics that were discussed at the Meeting include amendment of the Program Statute and sample Letter of Intent (LoI), guideline for the participation of new Members, basic functions and composition of the Program Secretariat including its location, final projects selection from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot Joint Call for Proposals in the fields of “Infectious Diseases”, future Call for Proposals, Call flexibility, selection and appointment of Scientific Advisory Council members, future activities of the Program, etc.
17. A Workshop on “Disaster Prevention” was held on the preceding day.

#### **Members**

1. List of Current Members and Board Members in alphabetical order by country (as of June 2013).

Country	Name	Title & Organization
 Cambodia	Dr. Touch Sok	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
 the Philippines	Dr. Amelia P. Guevara	Undersecretary for Research & Development, DOST
 Thailand	Dr. Thaweesak Koanantakool (by deputy: Dr. Chadamas Thuvasethakul)	President, NSTDA (Executive Vice President, NSTDA)
 U.S.	Mr. F. Gray Handley	Associate Director for International Research Affairs, NIAID
 Vietnam	Ms. Le Thi Viet Lam	Deputy Director General of Department of International Cooperation, MOST

### **Joint Call for Proposals**

#### **The 1<sup>st</sup> Pilot Joint Calls for Proposals**

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Pilot Calls for Proposals were conducted in the fields of “Nanotechnology and Materials” and “Biomass and Plant Science” among NSTDA of Kingdom of Thailand, MOST of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and JST of Japan in May 2012.
2. Out of 14 proposals received, 11 for “Nanotechnology and Materials” and 3 for “Biomass and Plant Science”, the two projects “Plasmonic bio-sensor for detecting serious diseases in Southeast Asia” and “Advancement of Asian Cassava Molecular Breeding by Cutting-edge Technologies” were approved by the Board to receive fund from NSTDA of Kingdom of Thailand, MOST of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and JST of Japan.
3. In addition to the 2 projects mentioned above, NSTDA of Kingdom of Thailand, MOST of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and JST of Japan decided to fund the third project “Corrosion Mapping of Structural Materials in Asian Area with Understanding Effects of Environmental Factors”.

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot Joint Call for Proposals

4. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot Joint Call for Proposals was conducted in the field of “Infectious Diseases” among DOST of the Philippines, MOST of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and JST of Japan from February to April 2013.
5. As of June 2013, final project selection is subject to subsequent internal process and final approval by the three agencies involved, as well as the Board's decision.

### Next Joint Call for Proposals

6. Another Joint Call for Proposals, in the field of “Functional Materials”, is planned to be conducted after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Board Meeting. Interested Members (NSTDA of Kingdom of Thailand, MOST of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and JST of Japan) are now discussing the necessary arrangements.

### Researcher Interaction

#### Scholarship

1. Starting in November 2012, research students who are nationals of an e-ASIA JRP member country and who wish to pursue a PhD are eligible to apply to the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship program within the e-ASIA framework. Applications from e-ASIA JRP member countries are being encouraged.

### The 1<sup>st</sup> Symposium

- 2 The first Symposium, sponsored by JST and supported by RIKEN and Japanese Embassy in Singapore, was held on December 4, 2012 at the Regent Hotel Singapore. About 90 people from several East Asian countries attended this event.
3. At the symposium, participants were researchers from the East Asian countries working in the cooperation fields of “Infectious Diseases,” “Disaster Prevention” (research fields which were not covered in the 1st pilot call for proposals) and “Advanced Interdisciplinary Research toward Innovation” (new field) and the following objectives were targeted:
  - a. Promotion of applications to the 2nd Pilot Call for Proposals;
  - b. Creation of potential international joint research teams of young

researchers;

- c. Dissemination of the Program to researchers in East Asian countries (including non-member countries).

4. Opening remarks and the keynote speech were delivered by Mr. Masaaki Tanaka, Senior Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT) and Prof. Teruo Kishi, Program Director at Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) respectively.

5. Speakers for each session were as follows:

<Infectious Diseases>

- Prof. Kiyoshi Kita, University of Tokyo, Japan (Program Officer)
- Mr. F. Gray Handley, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S.

<Disaster Prevention>

- Prof. Yoshimori Honkura, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan (Program Officer)
- Dr. Vu Kien Trung, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam

<Advanced Interdisciplinary Research toward Innovation>

- Dr. Haruo TAKEDA, Hitachi, Ltd. (Program Officer)
- Dr. Tamio Tanikawa, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan
- Dr. See-Kiong Ng, Institute of Infocomm Research (I2R), Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), Singapore

6. The following day, breakout workshop sessions were held for each field. To find out the most appropriate themes of collaboration, to promote creation of potential international joint research teams, and to encourage participants to submit joint proposals for the expected joint call for proposals, these workshop sessions provided a platform for representatives from each country to present their interests and to discuss various aspects of the fields of "Infectious Diseases", "Disaster Prevention" and "Advanced Interdisciplinary Research towards Innovation".



(Symposium Speakers)



(“Infectious Diseases” Workshop)

### “Infectious Diseases” Science Talk Luncheon

7. On March 12<sup>th</sup> 2013, JST sponsored a Science Talk Luncheon during the 'U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Sciences Program Regional Conference on Emerging Viral Diseases 2013' organized by NIAID in Singapore.
8. This luncheon aimed to introduce the e-ASIA JRP 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.
9. After a brief self-introduction, the 11 participants from the region were separated into 3 groups according to their specialism (1. Rotavirus and Gastroenteritis, 2. Dengue Fever and 3. Hepatitis) in order to discuss potential opportunities for international cooperation in their field.
10. Summaries of the discussions held at each table were distributed via email and are also posted on the website.

### Workshop in Indonesia

11. Back-to-back with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Board Meeting, a workshop on “Disaster Prevention “ was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June in Jakarta, Indonesia.
12. The objectives of this Workshop are to disseminate information on the e-ASIA Joint Research Program and to promote researcher interaction in the region.

### Workshop in Lao PDR









13. JST is now consulting with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of Lao PDR to co-host a workshop at the end of July or the beginning of August this year.

14. The proposed theme is “Biomass” or “Alternative Energy”.




### **Ongoing Projects**

There are 3 ongoing projects (2 and 1 are respectively in the fields of “Nanotechnology and Materials” and “Biomass and Plant Science”) as of June 2013. All of the 3 projects receive funding from NSTDA of the Kingdom of Thailand, MOST of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and JST of Japan.

#### 1. “Nanotechnology and Materials”

Project Title	PI	Affiliation	Country
Corrosion Mapping of Structural Materials in Asian Area with Understanding Effects of Environmental Factors	Group Leader, Dr. Tadashi Shinohara	National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS)	 Japan
	Director, Dr. Hong Lien Le	Institute of Materials Science (IMS), VAST	 Vietnam
	Researcher, Dr. Amnuaysak Chianpairot	National Metals and Materials Technology Center (MTEC), NSTDA	 Thailand
Plasmonic Bio-Sensor for Detecting Serious Diseases in Southeast Asia	Group Leader, Dr. Kazushi Miki	National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS)	 Japan
	Director General, Prof. Quang Liem Nguyen	Institute of Materials Science (IMS), VAST	 Vietnam
	Senior Advisor and Lab Head, Dr. Tararaj Dharakul	National Nanotechnology Centre (NANOTEC), NSTDA	 Thailand

#### 2. “Biomass and Plant Sciences”

Project Title	PI	Affiliation	Country
Advancement of Asian Cassava Molecular Breeding by Cutting-edge Technologies	Team Leader, Dr. Motoaki Seki	RIKEN Plant Science Centre	 Japan
	Director, Dr. Ham Huy Le	Institute of Agricultural Genetics (AGI)	 Vietnam
	Associate Professor, Prof. Jarunya Narangajavana	Mahidol University	 Thailand

For more information, please visit the following website.

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

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