

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program

Quarterly Activity Report - Summary
(Last Quarter 2012)



e-ASIA JRP Secretariat

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Milestone

The 1st Symposium

1. The first Symposium of the e-ASIA Joint Research Program (the “Program”), 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.

2. 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).

3. 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.

4. 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

5. 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)

Additional Project from the 1st Pilot Joint Calls for Proposals

6. The third project “Corrosion Mapping of Structural Materials in Asian Area with Understanding Effects of Environmental Factors” was formally approved by the Board to receive funding from NSTDA of the Kingdom of Thailand, MOST of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and JST of Japan.

Project Kick-off Meetings

7. Kick-off meetings were held for the two projects “Corrosion Mapping of Structural Materials in Asian Area with Understanding Effects of

Environmental Factors” and “Plasmonic bio-sensor for detecting serious diseases in Southeast Asia” in November and December respectively.

Updates

1. The Ministry of Health of Cambodia has submitted their Lol to participate in the Program. This will be one of the topics to be discussed at the 2nd ad hoc Board Meeting.
2. 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.

Future Plan

The 2nd ad hoc Board meeting

1. The 2nd ad hoc Board meeting will be held via email at the end of January 2013.
2. The topics to be 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 (2nd Pilot Joint Calls for Proposals, 2nd Annual Board Meeting and Workshop in Lao PDR)

The 2nd Pilot Joint Call for Proposals

3. The 2nd Pilot Joint Call for Proposals is planned to be conducted this coming February and/or March in the fields of “Materials,” “Infectious Diseases” and “Advanced Interdisciplinary Research towards Innovation.” Interested Members are now preparing the necessary documents.

The 2nd Annual Board Meeting

4. The second Annual Board Meeting of the Program is to be held in June or July. The venue is yet to be decided.
5. The Chair of the meeting will be the Ministry for Research and Technology (RISTEK) of Republic of Indonesia.

Workshop in Lao PDR

6. JST is now consulting with MOST of Lao PDR to co-host a Workshop in July this year.
7. The proposed theme is “Biomass”

Feature

1. One of the approved projects of the 1st Pilot Joint Call for Proposals “Advancement of Asian Cassava Molecular Breeding by Cutting-edge Technologies” has started its research from September in Thailand, October in Japan and January in Vietnam.
2. Principal investigators are Dr. Narangajavana, Associate Professor at Mahidol University of Thailand, Dr. Le, Director at Institute of Agricultural Genetics of Vietnam and Dr. Seki, Team Leader at RIKEN Plant Science Center of Japan.
3. Cassava is an important tropical crop for food security, income generation and industrial application in many Asian countries.



(Cassava)

4. This research aims to identify useful cassava genes, such as high-yield and disease-resistant by Omics analysis and to advance molecular breeding of the cassava by genetic transformation using heavy-ion mutagenesis.
5. It is expected that this research will contribute to industrial application (e.g. amino acids, biopolymers, biofuel, etc) and sustainability of human life in the East Asian region.

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