

East Asia Science and Innovation Area Joint Research Program

Quarter Activity Report - Summary
(Period: June 28th - September 2012)



e-ASIA JRP Secretariat

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program

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Milestone

1st Annual Board meeting

1. The first Annual Board meeting of the East Asia Science and Innovation Area 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 1st 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. As of 28 June 2012, the Program was formally inaugurated and the Statute of the Program was adopted.

1st Pilot Joint Calls for Proposals

4. The first 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.
5. 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.
6. In addition to the 2 projects mentioned above, NSTDA of Kingdom of Thailand, MOST of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and JST of Japan would fund the third project “Corrosion Mapping of Structural Materials in Asian Area with Understanding Effects of Environmental Factors” once the Board formally approve the project.
7. NSTDA of Kingdom of Thailand, MOST of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and JST of Japan are now preparing official documents to formally start the funding.

Program Secretariat

8. 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.
9. Tentative location of the Program Secretariat is in Biopolis, Singapore. Formal location is subject to Member’s offer.
10. As of October 4, 2012, the Program Secretariat consists of 1 Secretary-General, Mr. Osamu Kobayashi, and 1 Secretariat, Ms. Eriko Kishida, both from JST of Japan.

The 1st ad hoc Board meeting

11. The 1st ad hoc Board meeting was held via email sent to the Board members on 28 September 2012.
12. The topics to be 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.

Future Plan

The 1st ad hoc Board meeting

1. Any objections or suggestions to the 1st ad hoc Board meeting should be given to the Program Secretariat by 12 October 2012. Otherwise, it will be regarded that Members have agreed to those three topics mentioned above.

2nd Pilot Joint Calls for Proposals

2. The 2nd Pilot Joint Calls for Proposals are planning to be conducted in coming November or December in the fields for “Infectious Diseases,” “Disaster Prevention” and “Advanced Interdisciplinary Research towards Innovation” in addition to “Nanotechnology and Materials” and “Biomass and Plant Science” if more than three Members are interested in each field.
3. “Advanced Interdisciplinary Research towards Innovation” field needs to be approved by the Board to be one of the fields of cooperation.
4. The planned schedule for the 2nd Pilot Joint Calls for Proposals is as follows.
 - November or December 2012: Open the Calls
 - 2~3 Months later: Close the Calls
 - 2~3 Months: Evaluation
 - Around summer 2013: Start funding

Symposium

5. JST of Japan will hold an e-ASIA JRP International Symposium on “Infectious Diseases”, “Disaster Prevention” and “Advanced Interdisciplinary Research towards Innovation”, which is tentatively titled “East Asian Initiatives to Resolve Global Issues” on December 4, 2012 in Singapore.

6. The objectives of the Symposium are:
 - a. Promotion of applications to the 2nd Pilot Joint Calls for Proposals;
 - b. Creation of potential international joint research teams of young researchers;
 - c. Dissemination of the e-ASIA JRP to researchers in east Asian countries (including non-member countries).

7. In addition to the Symposium, a Workshop will be held on the following day in which experts from different countries will discuss candidate collaborative research fields, etc.

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