

Draft Summary Notes

September 8, 2022

e-ASIA Annual Board Meeting

- Opening remarks and welcome greetings given by Mr. Gray Handley and Ms. Emi Kaneko

Session 1 – Post Workshop Discussion

- Acknowledgements and brief summary of Climate Change and Health Workshop
- Gray asked if the time is right for a call on Climate Change as discussion points for consideration.
- MOs expressed interest but also would need to consider resources available and how to develop an overarching/multidisciplinary call that has a broad scope with specificity (possibly materials, agriculture, climate change, disaster prevention and mitigation and health).
- Secretariat asked for volunteers to develop text for call; NHMRC, DOST-PCIEERD and DOST-PCAARRD volunteered for health, environment and agriculture, respectively; NIAID can contribute for infectious diseases and NCI for non-communicable diseases; AMED offered to help as well; Secretariat was asked to develop an initial draft outline and other MOs can contribute as well.

Session 2 Discussion – Proposed topics for the future call by DIKBUDRISTEK

- Fields of cooperation
 - Health Research: medical devices (e.g., diagnostic kits), precision medicine, genomics, and telemedicine (e.g., digital and telehealth)
 - Materials (nanotechnology): battery materials for electric vehicle and materials for carbon capture
 - Alternative energy: renewable energy (bio energy) – reduce pollution (non-fossil dependent energy)
 - Advance Interdisciplinary Research: improve effectiveness and efficiency by carrying out digital transportation, including Internet of Things (IoT) for Digital Transformation, AI for Health, and AI for Education
- Health Research discussion
 - NCI mentioned proposed topics could be applied to cancer research and would be happy to further discuss potential topics in more depth.
 - Additional clarifying questions from DOST, JST, Prof. Kishi were asked regarding medical devices, genomics, and basic or applied science.
 - A call could be launched if there is interest by 3 MOs.
- Material Science discussion
 - PCAARRD expressed interest in pesticide and fertilizer and nanotechnology in agriculture and could be a good area for collaboration.

- DIKBUDRISTEK mentioned that energy and climate change are of interest but could also expand to food and agriculture.
- Questions were asked by JST regarding electric vehicle batteries and if an agreement is needed for research.
- DIKBUDRISTEK is focusing on natural resources (e.g., nickel) and materials available in Indonesia; through university and government partnership will give you permission to do use/research materials in Indonesia and will also need permission to use or take out the materials abroad; they are open to promoting material data science.
- If three MOs are interested, they can launch a call.
- Alternative Energy (AE) discussion
 - JST- Mr. Sato asked about focusing on bioenergy.
 - DIKBUDRISTEK have bioproducts to use for energy that might be cheaper and would like to use them (e.g., palm, grass, seaweed) and they are open to consider new and renewable energy, and not limited to bioenergy, and also interested in the process and generating energy
 - DOST-PCIEERD expressed interest in alternative energy
 - Secretariat encouraged them to consider broadening the scope and not too specific. Myanmar expressed interested in AE but different niche topic and will need 3 MOs to proceed with a call.
- Advance Interdisciplinary Research (e.g., Smart Cities)
 - DOST-PCIEERD expressed interest and could join another call and there could be opportunities for climate change.
 - JST-Mr. Sato and DOST-PCAARD asked questions regarding interdisciplinary and smarter/greener cities, which could include health, agriculture, infrastructure
 - DIKBUDRISTEK mentioned that it could be similar to a previous call with a focus on digital and smart (AI).
 - NCI shared example of use of AI in cancer prevention, surveillance, characterization of tumors; if there is any interest, they would be happy to support their proposal.
 - Indonesia interested in AI research on cancer.
 - Secretariat will be facilitating subsequent discussions.

Start of expanded ABM

- Dr. Teruo Kishi gave opening greetings
- Brief greetings for MOs:
 - NHMRC, Australia
 - MISTI, Cambodia (not yet connected)
 - DIKBUDRISTEK, Indonesia
 - MEXT, Japan
 - JST, Japan
 - AMED, Japan
 - MOES, Laos (not connected)
 - MOST, Myanmar
 - HRC, New Zealand (not connected)

- DOST, Philippines
- NSTDA, Thailand
- ARDA, Thailand (not connected)
- TSRI, Thailand (not connected)
- NRCT, Thailand
- PMU-B, Thailand
- NIAID, USA
- NCI, USA
- MOST, Vietnam
- e-ASIA Secretariat

Session 3: Discussion – Expansion of Our International Collaboration (based on previous discussion)

- MOs public funders, but consider expansion
- Solicitation of non-medical research FAs in Australia, New Zealand and USA is needed
- We should provide networking opportunities and fostering activities to researchers
- It is important to focus on improving the quality of the content of our Call for Proposal and the research proposal
- Questions:
 - How should we invite non-medical research FAs?
 - What do you think of providing provide networking opportunities and fostering activities to researchers?
 - How can we improve quality... (to be discussed in next session)
 - Any other suggestions?
- How should we invite non-medical research FAs
 - NHMRC offered to facilitate introductions and have a dialogue
 - MEXT mentioned that may be other countries also have FAs to be considered and could use existing joint committee meetings to suggest and inform about e-ASIA
 - NIAID also happy to introduce or provide contacts to other organizations covered by e-ASIA.
 - Secretariat mentioned that sometimes it is difficult to identify contact/entities and if MOs could assist and facilitate dialogue with other potential/candidate partners that would be helpful; candidate FAs do not have to be a member but can start as observer, similar to having NIEHS involved.
 - DOST-PCIEERD provided an example of using a side door approach and look at other networks via short questionnaire or survey and how they are being supported and degree of connectivity with other funding institutions; researchers can reach out to their collaborators who may already being funded by other institutions.
 - Secretariat mentioned that this has been a long-time homework for them. In the JRP website, it includes links to research database; and they appreciate DOST-PCIEERD's suggestions to get to know their collaborators and the FAs that are supporting them.
- What do you think of providing networking opportunities and fostering activities to researchers?

- JST-Mr. Sato asked if workshops are sufficient or what additional networks or networking opportunities are needed.
- Secretariat mentioned e-ASIA could put more effort in fostering collaborations, some MOs cannot fund research but still interested in joint activities.
- NSTDA agreed that networking opportunity can lead to #3 for higher quality research, e.g., workshop held on alternative energy, expand participation from other organizations and countries to know more about e-ASIA.
- DOST-PCIEERD suggested organizing some networking activity with in-person interaction, engage younger researchers, futures thinking and longer-term strategies.
- PMU-B also interested in engaging younger researchers and senior researchers to facilitate networking, capacity building and opportunities for equal contribution.
- Other suggestions included possible expansion of research areas but also a concern raised that Secretariat has taken note of if few proposals are currently being funded, and there are more interdisciplinary interests.

Session 4: Discussion – Reconsideration of our current research fields (based on previous discussion)

- Secretariat provided background: 7 research field set 10 years ago, but global agenda has changed
- Previous suggestions from 10th year anniversary:
 - Include research files/topics that developing countries need
 - More effort put into scoping of call content, not only consider social demands or global issues, but also MO priority areas
 - Clarify/determine which MO(s) should be in charge for cross-cutting call topics
- How can we include research fields/topics that more MOs think necessary?
 - Each MO to extent possible for a call to be more inclusive rather than specific niche to be able to find partners was Secretariat’s advice based on experience and to try to give more opportunities for MOs to express their input.
 - MEXT suggested that it may be good to get to know each other more to better understand priorities and interests of MOs.
- How can we improve our scoping of call content?
 - Based on session 1 discussion, next round of Call for Proposals to launch in December, and could have overarching call to include materials, agriculture, climate change, disaster, and health. MOs were requested to give their input.
 - Suggestions included considering funder’s viewpoint (e.g., goals and vision to achieve) and also scientists, learning from other examples (e.g., Belmont Forum, GACD) but have to consider timelines; longer timeline to be accommodated if this is something of interest to MOs
- How can we determine and clarify the coverage area of each MO for cross-cutting call topics?

- Suggestions included submitting earlier in the process, consider options when writing proposal, clear and explicit in guidelines, provide contact who could be consulted in advance, submit letter of intent with brief description of proposed research or consider which MO/council to assign during eligibility review period.