

February 21st 2014

The 1<sup>st</sup> Scientific Advisory Council Meeting of  
the e-ASIA Joint Research Program

February 21<sup>st</sup> 2014

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Minutes of the Meeting

**1. General Outline**

1) The first Scientific Advisory Council (hereinunder referred to as the “SAC”) Meeting of the e-ASIA Joint Research Program (hereinunder referred to as the “Program”) was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at the Corus Hotel. The meeting was attended by the SAC Members from five of the eleven Member countries of the Program, namely: the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Philippines, Japan, the Kingdom of Thailand and the United States of America. Also in attendance were the Program Board Member from New Zealand as a representative of their SAC member, and administrative staff from the Kingdom of Thailand and Japan. A list of the participants is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1. Although there were no participants from the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, they sent their opinions in advance of this Meeting, which were shared with the attending SAC members by the Program Secretariat.

2) Firstly, Mr. Kobayashi of the Program Secretariat/ Japan Science and

Technology Agency (“JST”) Singapore Office explained the Program outline and the different forms of cooperation possible within the Program, which are (a) multilateral co-funding of joint research; (b) research exchange by providing on-top funding to existing projects; (c) information exchange regarding best practices; and (d) promotion of research exchange.

3) Secondly, the participants discussed the main agenda items, including selection of Chair and Vice-Chair, redefinition of the fields of cooperation and potential partners for collaboration.

4) Lastly, Mr. Hideyuki Yamaguchi of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, explained about two scientific exchange programs: “Research in Japan” and “Sakura Science Program”.

## **2. Proposals for Program Improvement and/or Operation Clarification**

1) In order to launch more calls for proposals, commitments from executives of the Member organizations are necessary. Therefore, inviting those executives to our workshops and showing them the scientific community’s enthusiasm for international collaboration is a good way to make them realize the importance of research collaboration.

2) In order to foster young talent in the region, the participation of young researchers as well as senior researchers in our workshops and projects should be promoted. Moreover, it may be desirable to add “training of young scientists” to the evaluation criteria for selection of successful projects.

3) In order to aid understanding of the progress of each joint research project supported by the Program, the setting up of opportunities for the funded researchers to report their progress at the early stages of their research shall be considered.

4) Promoting interaction among researchers is one of the most important objectives of the Program. One option is to make available relatively small funds to help researchers to build networks among themselves. Another option is to more frequently organize small workshops to facilitate mingling among researchers who do not know each other. To reduce costs, it might be a good idea to hold such workshops back-to-back with (or as a part of) large international meetings or conferences organized by other programs and organizations, such as the annual meeting of the 'American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene' to be held in November 2014 in the United States.

5) There are two options for evaluating research outcomes from our joint research projects. One is that evaluation is conducted by applying clear evaluation standards which should be set in accordance with the objectives of the Program, as described in Article 2 of the Program Statute. Another option is to simply consider international collaboration itself as the achievement of the Program. This point will be discussed again in future Board and SAC Meetings.

### **3. Redefinition of the Fields of Cooperation**

1) The existing five fields of cooperation should be maintained as they are

until the Program starts supporting projects in each field, in order to demonstrate the relevance of the current definition. In other words, it was strongly suggested that the Member organizations endeavor to support joint research projects in ‘Disaster Prevention’ and ‘Advanced Interdisciplinary Research towards Innovation’, the two research fields in which no projects have yet been supported. Although there was a discussion about adding “Health Research” as a new field of cooperation, the SAC members chose not to make this their recommendation as the term “Health Research” may sound too broad and untargeted. Even the United States and New Zealand, which target not only infectious diseases but also health research, agreed to this point.

2) It was suggested that more collaborative activities in the field of ‘Infectious Diseases’ should be promoted. This research field stands out as a very straightforward and clear example for regional collaboration, which is meant for tackling serious problems shared across the region.

#### **4. Potential Partners for Collaboration**

1) All the attending SAC Members as well as some not attending, i.e. the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, would welcome collaboration with non-Member countries in and around the region, namely the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Mongolia. The involvement of these countries in the Program would further strengthen the significance of our international collaboration.

#### **5. Others**

- 1) Dr. Teruo Kishi of Japan and Dr. Morakot Tanticharoen of the Kingdom of Thailand were selected as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the SAC respectively.
- 2) The Chair will give a summary report on this Meeting to the Board, as one of his main tasks, at the next Annual Board Meeting which is scheduled to be held in early July this year in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
- 3) The slides for presentations given at this Meeting shall be shared among the Member organizations by the Program Secretariat unless otherwise instructed by the participants of this SAC meeting.

**List of Participants:****SAC Members**

1	Japan	Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	Prof. Teruo Kishi	Program Director
2	Lao P.D.R.	Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)	Dr. Kosonh Saypakatsa	Director of Genetic Resources Division
3	The Philippines	Department of Science and Technology (DOST)	Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara	Executive Director
4	Thailand	National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)	Dr. Morakot Tanticharoen	Senior Advisor to President
5	United States	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	Dr. David M. Morens	Senior Advisor to the Director

**Board Member, as the representative of the NZ SAC Member**

6	New Zealand	Health Research Council (HRC)	Dr. Robin Olds	Chief Executive
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**Other Participants**

7	Thailand	National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)	Dr. Pattaraporn Suntharasa	Director of International Cooperation
8	Japan	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)	Mr. Hideyuki Yamaguchi	Deputy Director
9	Japan	Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) Singapore Office / e-ASIA JRP Secretariat	Mr. Osamu Kobayashi	Director / Secretary General
10	Japan	Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Tokyo Head Quarters	Ms. Emi Kaneko	Chief
11	Japan	Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) Singapore Office / e-ASIA JRP Secretariat	Ms. Eriko Kishida	e-ASIA Special Program Coordinator

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