

**e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP) 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event**  
**- The past and future of regional cooperation in STI -**  
**Event Report**

Date: 11-12 July 2022  
Event Format: Hybrid (On-site: Mercure Bangkok Sukhumvit 24, Bangkok, Thailand & Online)  
Co-organizers: Thailand National Science and Technology Development Agency(NSTDA)  
Thailand Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)  
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) / e-ASIA JRP Secretariat  
Participants: 58 in-person & 40 online participants

Event summary:

The e-ASIA JRP is a multilateral international R&D program among East Asia Summit member countries (the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and the surrounding eight countries), aiming to energize collaborative science & technology activities and jointly tackle common challenges in this region. Since the program's establishment in June 2012, science ministries and funding agencies (collectively referred to as "Member Organizations" or "MOs") from nine AMSs as well as the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Russia have joined as members of this program, and through this expansion over the past ten years, the e-ASIA JRP has become an impactful international collaborative initiative and conducted more than 80 international joint research projects and over 20 international events.

This event has marked the 10th anniversary of the e-ASIA JRP by providing a chance for Principal Investigators of the e-ASIA projects to showcase their research outcomes and a networking opportunity for the attendees on the 1st day as well as having internal discussions among Member Organizations on the improvement of the program on the 2nd day.

Day 1 was started with opening remarks by First Secretary Mr. Keisuke Hosono, Japan Embassy in Thailand, Professor Prasit Palittapongarnpim, Executive Vice President of National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and Ms. Emi Kaneko, Director of JST Singapore/ Secretary General of the e-ASIA JRP on behalf of Dr. Teruo Kishi, Chair of the e-ASIA JRP Scientific Advisory Council (SAC).

Seven researchers gave presentations on the research outcomes, new prospects and experiences in their e-ASIA projects, followed by a short Q&A session with each researcher.

Dr. Virak Khieu, National Centre for Parasitology Entomology and Malaria Control, Cambodia, talked about his three-country (Japan-Cambodia-Vietnam) joint research project, with the aim to collect information for making the strategy and plans against the infectious diseases caused by Thai liver fluke in Cambodia and Vietnam. (5<sup>th</sup> call for proposals in the field of Health Research)

Dr. Tararaj Dharakul, National Nanotechnology Centre, Thailand showcased her three-country (Japan-Vietnam-Thailand) joint research project, which aimed to develop biosensors that can detect cervical cancer and malaria which are serious diseases in Southeast Asia." (1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals in the field of Materials)

Dr. Anh Nguyen, Institute of Agricultural Genetics, Vietnam (on behalf of the Principal Investigator Dr. Ham Huy Le) presented Dr. Le's three country (Japan-Vietnam-Thailand) joint research project, aiming at breeding cassava at molecule with high yields and high value added in Southeast Asia. (1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals in the field of Agriculture)

Dr. Somchanh Bounphanmy, National University of Laos, Laos talked about her four country (Japan-Thailand-Indonesia-Laos) joint research project, which aims to develop new biorefinery processes including biofuels using heat-tolerant microorganisms derived from tropical environment. (5<sup>th</sup> call for proposals in the field of Alternative Energy)

Dr. Arturo S. Daag, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, the Philippines presented his five country (Japan-Philippines-Indonesia-Thailand-Vietnam) joint research project, aiming at the development of information gathering and utilization systems using small unmanned aerial vehicles for disaster risk assessment, monitoring and response. (5<sup>th</sup> call for proposals in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management)

Prof. Taikan Oki, University of Tokyo, Japan showcased his three country (Japan-Thailand- Laos) joint project, aiming to implement a dam prediction and operation model by utilizing the meteorological big data, AI, and deep learning. (9<sup>th</sup> call for proposals in the field of Advanced Interdisciplinary Research towards Innovation)

Dr. Yuming Guo, Professor, Monash University, Australia presented his three country (Australia-Japan-Thailand) joint research project, aiming to examine the current evidence on temperature and human health, project future health risks associated with temperature under climate change and assess health benefits of mitigation policies in Asia. (9<sup>th</sup> call for proposals in the field of Environment)



Professor Taikan Oki, the University of Tokyo of Japan, showcased his on-going e-ASIA project.



Dr. Anh Nguyen, Institute of Agricultural Genetics of Vietnam, explained the importance of enhancing the cassava research.



Dr. Pongpan Kaewtatip, Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI) posed questions to one of speakers.

At Closing session on Day 1 of the event, representatives of 10 MOs expressed their expectation for the continued cooperation and the further development of the program.

The closed discussion sessions were held on Day 2 among MOs towards the improvement of the program. The participating MOs realized the importance of further consideration.

The event was closed with the closing remarks delivered by Dr. Worajit Setthapun of PMU-B, Prof. Prasit Palittapongarnpim of NSTDA and Mr. Osamu Kobayashi of JST.



In addition to the e-ASIA Board Members, representatives and staff of MOs and the Secretariat, the e-ASIA JRP researchers, early career researchers interested in the program as well as Japanese research institutes/universities/agencies in Thailand attended the Day 1 of the event,