Ver. 1.1
23 December 2020

e-ASIA Joint Research Program (the e-ASIA JRP)
Research Cooperation in the field of "Health Research"
on the topics of
"Infectious Diseases and Cancer"
10th Joint Call for Proposals to be submitted by 29 March 2021

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program (hereinafter referred to as the "e-ASIA JRP") aims to develop a vibrant and collaborative research community in Science and Technology, to promote innovation in the East Asian region, and to contribute to the region's economic development. As part of the program, the Member Organizations of the e-ASIA JRP listed below have agreed to implement a joint call for proposals of multilateral cooperative research activities.

Participating Member Organizations (listed in alphabetical order):

1) Australia: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
2) Cambodia: Ministry of Health (MOH)
3) Indonesia: Ministry of Research and Technology/ National Research and Innovation Agency (RISTEK/BRIN)
4) Japan: Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)
5) Lao PDR: Ministry of Health (MOH)
6) Myanmar: Ministry of Education (MOE)
7) New Zealand: Health Research Council (HRC)
8) Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHRD)
9) Thailand: National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)
10) Thailand: National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
11) United States of America: National Cancer Institute (NCI)
12) United States of America: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

I. Aim of Joint Call and Research Area

Aim

Countries in East Asia and neighbouring regions face infectious diseases and chronic diseases as common health problems. The disease burden is changing

with the rapid socio-economic and demographic shifts in the region[1]. Specifically, the ASEAN region is vulnerable to significant infectious diseases because of its high population density and mobility, and socio- economic development with inadequate public health services[2]. Additionally, due to the increase of environmental factors that stimulate tobacco use, unhealthy diet, and insufficient physical activities in the region, countries are facing a rise of chronic non-communicable diseases[3]. The latest Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study shows that efforts to combat noncommunicable diseases have shown less progress in globally combatting these causes than communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional (CMNN) diseases during 1990-2019[4]. Today, the combination of an aging society with chronic and emerging infectious diseases is becoming a global threat, as exemplified by the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the potential risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is increasing more than ever in human history. Thus, the double burden of infectious and chronic diseases is an urgent problem in all countries of the region and more collaborative actions are necessary to find solutions[2].

Recent advances in information science within medical and health research have resulted in data-driven research and the use of technologies, such as AI leading to more personalized medicine. Moreover, interdisciplinary research and the development of analytical technologies that utilize a variety of data from genomes to electronic health data are extending the horizon of this research field. Knowledge exchange and data sharing among projects will further promote these research trends in the region.

It is important to drive the phases of the research and development process, from basic to applied, clinical research and implementation science, toward the more practical use of research output in society. This advancement of research phases cannot be achieved by individual research projects alone, but by the findings from past and ongoing e-ASIA Health Projects. Since 2013, the e-ASIA

[1] GBD 2013 DALYs and HALE Collaborators et al. Global, regional, and national disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) for 306 diseases and injuries and healthy life expectancy (HALE) for 188 countries, 1990–2013: quantifying the epidemiological transition. Lancet. 2015; 386: 2145-2191

[2] Surin Pitsuwan. Challenges in infection in ASEAN. Lancet. 2011; 377: 619-21

[3] Antonio Dans et al. The rise of chronic non-communicable diseases in southeast Asia: time for action. *Lancet*. 2011; 337: 680-89

[4] GBD 2019 Viewpoint Collaborators. Five insights from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. *Lancet*. 2020; 396: 1135-59

JRP program has supported many basic and applied research projects that are important in the region in the area of infectious diseases and cancer (Figure1). To maximize the synergy effect of the program and to advance toward social implementation, e-ASIA JRP encourages frequent communication and information exchange among projects through workshops and other mechanisms. It also encourages the active engagement of early-career researchers in addition to the research activities on the themes listed below.

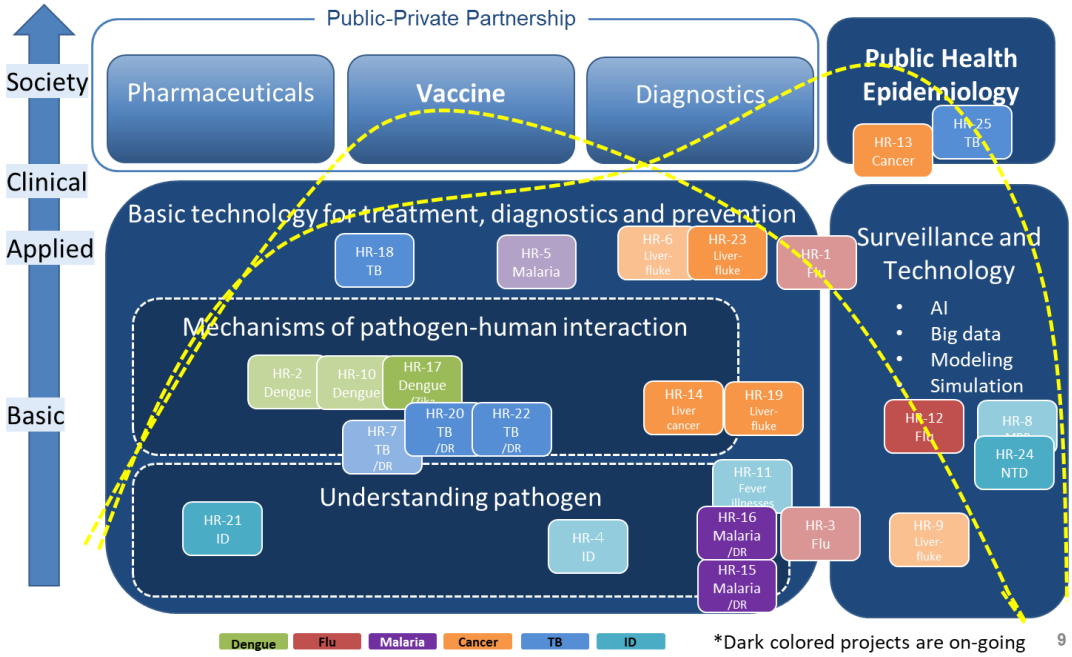


Figure1. Diagram of awarded projects in e-ASIA PRP for the Biomedical R&D pathway

Based on this shared understanding and research needs of each of the e-ASIA countries/member organizations (see Appendix), a working group[5] developed, through intensive discussions with experts, the scope for the 10th joint call. Focusing on infectious diseases and its interaction with chronic diseases, new research topics and integrated approaches were identified to address existing health and medical issues in the region. Research proposals that address risk factors and mechanisms common to different diseases and facilitate

[5] Working group member organizations: AMED, HRC, NHMRC, NIAID, NCI, NRCT, NSTDA, DOST-PCHRD, MOHS

communication and knowledge exchange among diverse projects in the region are encouraged.

The aim of the e-ASIA JRP 10th Health Research Call is to invite proposals for research addressing health and biomedical issues in East Asia and contribute to enhancing regional research capacity through multilateral collaboration. The call topics are:

1. Infectious diseases
2. Cancer

It is expected that applicants will choose one of the research topics below, except where the project is interdisciplinary and corresponds to more than one topic.

1) Infectious Diseases

International collaborative research is critical to address infectious diseases that have global health impact, particularly emerging disease threats with pandemic potential. This Health Research Call aims to identify biomedical and public health research opportunities, facilitate research collaborations, encourage sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources, and expand the global base of knowledge to respond to infectious disease priorities and challenges in the region.

Projects can be submitted from the full spectrum of health research from basic science, clinical, to applied public health research. (Please refer to the appendix for qualifying research by funding agencies, some of which fund specific types of research, e.g., basic research). Possible research topics in infectious diseases include the following, but are not limited to:

- Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (e.g., COVID-19, influenza, and other viral and zoonotic diseases of pandemic potential)
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and drug resistance (e.g., multi-drug resistant tuberculosis), including impact of COVID-19, innovations in AMR surveillance, diagnostics and research related to antimicrobial stewardship

- Infectious diseases that are predominant in or specific to the East Asian region
- Pandemic preparedness and response (e.g., surveillance, interventions, public awareness and prevention, vaccine development)
- Public health measures and effectiveness, including communication strategies
- Impact of pandemic on endemic health problems in the region
- Interventions and countermeasures tailored toward regional context
- Infectious disease co-morbidity interactions
    - common risk factors that aggravate the condition (e.g. tobacco, obesity)
    - immune response, inflammation, metabolism, and microbiome
    - impact of the pandemic on screening and other interventions for NCD prevention/early detection
- Advanced technology (e.g., e-health, telemedicine, surveillance, mapping tool, etc.)

2) Cancer

Collaborative work on high-burden and regionally prevalent cancers as well as associated risk factors is critical to cancer control. Commonly occurring cancers in the ASEAN region, such as lung, breast, and liver cancer as well as those associated with the highest mortality (i.e., lung, liver, and colorectal) deserve particular attention.

Projects proposed may be focused on any of the listed areas or their combination as appropriate:

- Basic research in cancer biology;
- Research in cancer surveillance, epidemiology, health services, behavioral science, and cancer survivorship;
- Research to assess a person's risk of developing cancer and to find ways to reduce that risk;
- Initial small-scale testing of new anticancer agents and biomarkers;
- Research to identify new and innovative scientific opportunities to improve cancer outcomes in communities experiencing an excess burden of cancer;

Tobacco is an important risk factor associated with several prevalent cancers. Possible research topics in this area include the following, but are not limited to:

- Advertising and marketing of tobacco products
- Epidemiology and surveillance of tobacco knowledge, attitudes, and behavior
- Etiology, predictors, correlates, and determinants of tobacco use, nicotine dependence, and cessation
- Other tobacco products, e.g., smokeless tobacco[6], cigars, roll-your-own, hookah, bidis, etc.
- Tobacco prevention and cessation interventions at the individual, system, and population levels
- Tobacco use and cessation in cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship
- Tobacco regulatory science, such as laboratory studies of characteristics of tobacco and tobacco products, including novel nicotine delivery devices.
- Studies of biomarkers of exposure and/or harm associated with nicotine and tobacco product constituents

Approximately one quarter of all cancer cases and deaths in the ASEAN region are infection-associated. In particular, hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), human papillomavirus (HPV), and *Helicobacter pylori* (HP) make up some of the principal infectious agents associated with cancers in the region. Additionally, given these infectious etiologies, it is important to consider combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) coverage for HIV/AIDS. Even with widespread coverage in high-resource settings, cART has not eliminated virally induced tumors such as Kaposi Sarcoma, Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (Burkitt), HPV tumors (cervix and anus) and to the contrary, as the HIV population ages (as is being seen in the United States) the issues of cancer in the context of HIV is actually on the rise.

The area of Cancer Research in the e-ASIA JRP therefore supports research focused on the burden of cancer in ASEAN countries and associated risk factors, with additional emphasis on tobacco control, infectious etiologies, and

[6] https://monographs.iarc.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/mono100E-8.pdf

HIV/AIDS-associated malignancies.

Research Approach:

The e-ASIA JRP presents a research collaboration opportunity for researchers, as it offers access to funding and other resources to support multi-investigator research engaging scientists in the 10 countries participating in this call. To effectively utilize and maximize the unique opportunities provided through the e-ASIA JRP and to synergistically address various public health issues/problems in the East Asian region, proposals that include the following integrated research approaches are strongly encouraged:

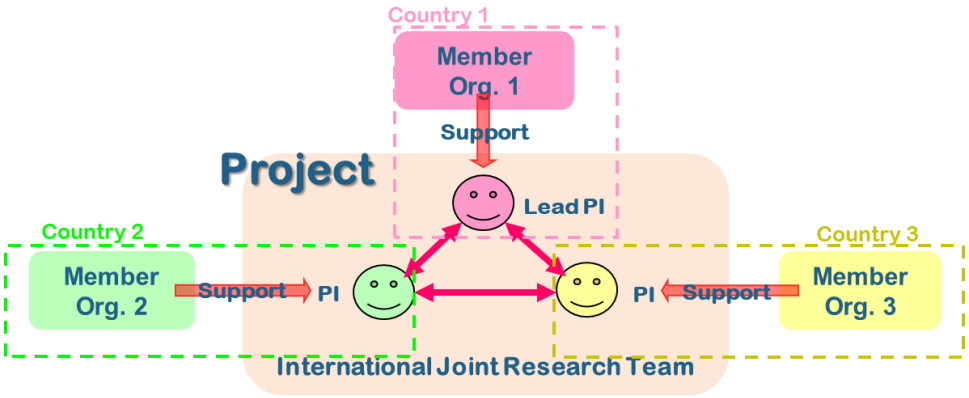
- Interdisciplinary research
- Capacity building: such as training, mentorship, and career development of early-career (early-stage) investigators
- Communication, information and data exchange, including sample/data sharing and analysis (e.g., biorepositories)
- Community engagement, as appropriate
- Commitment to long-term sustainability of research relationships
- Establishment and maintenance of networks of collaborating institutions
- How the research design will support diverse populations and social and cultural contexts, and support the development of culturally appropriate solutions
- Consideration of health equity issues and the needs of population groups at risk of adverse health outcomes
- Pathway to impact
- Given the rapidly evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers are encouraged to consider how their project may be required to adapt to potential changes in environment and/or work situations. It is recommended that the applicants describe how they will mitigate these potential changes as part of their proposals.

Collaborative research projects, supported through this program, should be pursued through mutually beneficial partnerships and shared leadership that contribute to scientific innovation and research capacity in the region. The study findings from the e-ASIA JRP projects should be disseminated to expand scientific knowledge and facilitate the utilization of the research results to enhance evidence-based biomedical and public health practice in East Asia and

in other parts of the world.

II. Support/ Funding Modality

In principle, each Member Organization will support its own country's researchers in research projects selected for funding through this joint call with the type of support available as defined under "Funding Modality" in the table below. The duration of a selected research project will be three years (36 months), in total, from the start date. Details of conditions of support will vary by Member Organization. Applicants should carefully consider information included in the Appendix for each Member Organization's rules and regulations.



(i) Infectious Diseases

Participating Member Organizations	Funding Modality
(1) NHMRC (Australia)	New, In-kind
(2) MOH (Cambodia)	In-kind
(3) RISTEK/ BRIN (Indonesia)	New
(4) AMED (Japan)	New
(5) MOH (Lao PDR)	In-kind
(6) MOE (Myanmar)	In-kind
(7) HRC (New Zealand)	New
(8) DOST-PCHRD (Philippines)	NEW
(9) NRCT (Thailand)	New
(10) NSTDA (Thailand)	New, In-kind
(11) NIAID (USA)	New, Re-budgeting, In-kind

(ii) Cancer

Participating Member Organizations	Funding Modality
(1) NHMRC (Australia)	New, In-kind
(2) MOH (Cambodia)	In-kind
(3) RISTEK/ BRIN (Indonesia)	New
(4) AMED (Japan)	New
(5) MOH (Lao PDR)	In-kind
(6) MOE (Myanmar)	In-kind
(7) HRC (New Zealand)	New
(8) DOST (Philippines)	New
(9) NCI (USA)	Re-budgeting, In-kind

New: Each Member Organization will support a selected project by new funding

Re-budgeting: Funds already allocated to an existing project by each Member Organization will be reallocated to the e-ASIA JRP

In-kind: Each Member Organization does not provide budget for a selected project. A researcher participating in a selected project will use funds that are already available, but no additional fund will be provided by each Member Organization. In principle, at least one country must participate via “new” or “re-budgeting” funding modality. In other words, proposals cannot be accepted if all the applicants intend to participate through an “in-kind” basis.

III. Application

In addition to the following common requirements, there are specific rules clarified by each Member Organization. For specific rules by each Member Organization, please refer to the Appendix or consult the person noted in Section VI.

III-1. Applicant/ Project Consortium

A project consortium must consist of at least three eligible research teams from at least three different participating countries listed above.

Each research team shall be led by a Principal Investigator (PI), and a consortium shall be led by a Lead Principal Investigator (Lead PI) specified among the PIs.

The Lead PI will be responsible for running and managing the project. The Lead PI will be the contact point with the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat on behalf of the whole consortium and is responsible for the administrative management of the complete project, should it be awarded support. In addition, the Lead PI is responsible for leading the project activities at his/her own institution. The Lead PI must be affiliated with an institution situated in the home country of one of the Member Organizations participating in this call.

All PIs must fulfil their respective domestic eligibility rules for research application. Researchers from industry are encouraged to participate in the collaboration in accordance with domestic eligibility rules. PIs should contact the person noted in Section VI for information on their respective domestic eligibility rules.

III-2. Proposal Submission

Proposals must be submitted from the Lead PI by e-mail to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat at the e-mail address specified below. Applications must be written in English.

Deadline for Submission:
17:00 (Thai Standard Time, UTC+7) 29 March 2021

Please submit the proposal to:

Yoshihide Kobayashi (Mr.)
e-ASIA JRP Secretariat
E-mail: easia_secretariat@jst.go.jp

Note 1: The e-ASIA JRP Secretariat will send a confirmation email to the Lead PI to confirm receipt of his/her proposal. In case the Lead PI does not receive a confirmation e-mail from the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat within one week, they should contact the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat at the address above. The e-ASIA JRP Secretariat does not assume any responsibility for delay or error in e-mail

delivery.
Note 2: Application forms sent by any method other than e-mail (such as post, fax or telex) will be rejected.

< Important Notice to ALL PIs >

Make sure to submit all necessary application documents requested by each Member Organization of your country, in addition to the application to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat (submitted by Lead PI only), because each Member Organization may request applicants of its country to submit another form of proposals with another deadline date. Proposals shall satisfy both common requirements written in this call guideline and individual requirements requested by each Member Organization. A research team that does not satisfy individual requirements of the Member Organization of your country will not be deemed as eligible research team.

For individual requirements by each Member Organization, please refer to the Appendix or consult the person noted in Section VI.

The proposal shall include:

a) Project description including how the collaboration will be carried out, with clear statements of what roles each country's researchers will play respectively in the project;
b) Description of the expected outcomes of the proposed project, scientifically as well as in terms of relevance for industry and society;
c) Description of the ongoing activities and specific advantages of each group respectively, which form the basis for the proposed joint project;
d) Description of the expected value added from the proposed joint project, including how the competence, technology and other resources in each group complement each other;
e) Description of how the project is expected to help strengthen multilateral research collaboration over the longer term;
f) Description of the expected value added from the multidisciplinary approach in the proposed joint project; and
g) Description of how the proposed joint project interacts with or impacts

other comparable activities worldwide.

III-3. Application Forms

Researchers must prepare the following application (proposal) forms in English ("E").

For further requirements by each Member Organization, researchers shall refer to the Appendix or shall consult each Member Organization of his/her country.

Form 1E	Application outline (title, acronym, general description and proposed period of cooperative research project)
Form 2E	Summary of the project
Form 3E	Research leaders' information (their CVs*****)
Form 4E	Research team (list of individuals committed to the cooperative research project in each country)
Form 5E	Description of the cooperative research project
Form 6E	Research networking plan
Form 7E	Plan to nurture early career researchers
Form 8E	Budget plan for the project
Form 9E	Research infrastructures and funds from other sources

***** *The description of Curriculum Vitae (CV) from each PI shall include basic information on education, past and present positions, membership of relevant organizations/associations and a publication list in the past 5 years.*

In addition to the documents above, all projects must comply with ethical review and requirements of each Member Organization, especially for research activities related to human and animal subjects. PIs shall refer to the Appendix for each Member Organization's ethical requirement.

IV. Evaluation

IV-1. Evaluation Process

A proposal will be evaluated at each relevant Member Organization of the project consortium, according to the evaluation criteria clarified in the following subsection.

Based on the results of the evaluation conducted at each Member Organization, a final decision will be made at the joint panel meeting among the participating

Member Organizations, followed by approval at the e-ASIA JRP Board Meeting.

IV-2. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following common e-ASIA JRP evaluation criteria, incorporated with evaluation criteria clarified by each Member Organization. For the evaluation criteria clarified by each Member Organization, please refer to the respective Appendix or consult each respective Member Organization.

1) Regional Relevance of the Research

The research activity should contribute to:

- The advancement of scientific discovery;
- The development of science and technology in the region; and
- The resolution of significant relevant issues across the region.

2) Mutual Benefits of the Joint Research

Activities of mutual benefit to the collaborators and their institutions are desirable. Mutually beneficial in the sense that the projects utilize unique opportunities the e-ASIA JRP will provide that could not be achieved either through bilateral or individual research but only through multilateral cooperation.

3) Effectiveness of Exchange

The project should:

- Contain activities to nurture early career researchers through research activities;
- Contain activities to engage female researchers where strengthening capacity is needed; and
- Enhance research capacity in the region.

IV-3. Notification of the Final Decision

The Lead PI will be notified the final decision by the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat as soon as the final decision is taken and approved by all Member Organizations in the e-ASIA JRP. (Approximate implementation of the notification: End of November 2021)

V. Project Implementation

Project reporting will be in accordance with the respective Member Organization's rules. Please contact respective Member Organizations for more details.

In addition to the Member Organization's requirements, the consortia are expected to deliver Progress Reports and Final Reports to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat, in English, including a description of their collaboration and a publishable summary of the project status. The Progress and Final Reports will be reviewed by the Board and Scientific Advisory Council. It is also encouraged that the project proactively disseminates its achievements to the public.

V-1. Progress Report

In the middle of research period (i.e., after one and a half year), the lead PI shall promptly develop and submit an integrated progress report to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat on the status of the joint research.

V-2. Final Report

A final report shall be developed and submitted by the Lead PI to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat within two months after the completion of the joint research period.

V-3. Others

All the researchers/research institutions organizing a consortium are strongly recommended to conclude a Collaborative Research Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "CRA") to assure optimal understanding and coordination among the collaborating scientists working on each project before project starts. CRA should, with due respect to the researchers' institutions and the Member Organizations' intellectual property and data handling policy, include the treatment of intellectual property rights, handling of confidential information, publication of research results, warranty and indemnification, and access to and transfer of the relevant materials. Applicants shall refer to the Appendix for each Member Organization's requirement.

VI. Contact information

Applicants should contact the following for information on each Member Organization's eligibility rules or support conditions:
Also please refer to the Appendix for information of each Member Organization.

Country: Member Organization	Contact Point
(1) Australia: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)	NHMRC Research Help Centre Tel: +61 1800 500 983 (+61 2 6217 9451 for international callers) E-mail: help@nhmrc.gov.au
(2) Cambodia: Ministry of Health (MOH)	Mr. TEK Bunchhoeung Tel: (+855) 78 990 566 E-mail: bunchhoeung@yahoo.com
(3) Indonesia: Ministry of Research and Technology/ National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	Ms. Anggun Amalia Fibriyanti/ Mr. Adhi Indra Hermanu Tel: +62-21-3169119 e-mail: afibriyanti@ristekbrin.go.id / manoe@ristekbrin.go.id
(4) Japan: Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)	Dr. Naoko Kojima, Ms. Yukiko Watanabe Tel:+81 (0)3-6870-2215 E-mail: e-asia@amed.go.jp
(5) Lao PDR: Ministry of Health (MOH)	Dr. Bouakham VANNACHONE Tel: +856-20- 22474516 E-mail: bkvnchone@gmail.com
(6) Myanmar: Ministry of Education (MOE)	Ms. Phyu Phyu Win Tel: +95-9-441220027 E-mail: dripphyuwin@gmail.com
(7) New Zealand: Health Research Council (HRC)	Ms. Fiona Kenning DDI: 64 9 303 5208 E-mail: fkenning@hrc.govt.nz
(8) Philippines: Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST -PCHRD)	Mr. Vincent John H. Tumlos Tel: +632-837-7537 local 102 E-mail: vhtumlos@pchrd.dost.gov.ph Mr. Paul Ernest N. De Leon Tel: +632-837-7535 E-mail: pndeleon@pchrd.dost.gov.ph

(9) Thailand: National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)	Ms. Arpar Nateprapai Tel: +66 2 579 2285, +66 2 561 2445 ext. 207 E-mail: arpar.n@nrct.go.th
(10) Thailand: National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)	Ms. Mullika Kulsiripruck Tel: +66 2 564 7000 ext. 71486 E-mail: mullika.kul@nstda.or.th
(11) USA: National Cancer Institute (NCI)	Dr. Paul C Pearlman Tel: (+1) 240.276.5354 Email: paul.pearlman@nih.gov
(12) USA: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	Mr. Gray Handley Tel: +1 (301) 594-6128 Email: handleygr@niaid.nih.gov Ms. Gayle Bernabe Tel: +1 (301) 451-1018 Email: gbernabe@niaid.nih.gov

Applicants should contact the following for general inquiries:

Yoshihide Kobayashi (Mr.)
e-ASIA JRP Secretariat / Japan Science and Technology Agency
Room 218 Innovation Cluster1 Building
National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
111 Thailand Science Park, Phahonyothin Road
Khlong Nueng, Khlong Luang, Pathum Thani 12120 THAILAND
Tel: +66-2-564-7713 H/P: +66-61-421-0316
E-mail: easia_secretariat@jst.go.jp

Appendix

e-ASIA Joint Research Program (the e-ASIA JRP)
Research Cooperation in the field of "Health Research"
on the topics of
"Infectious Diseases and Cancer"
10th Joint Call for Proposals to be submitted by 29 March 2021

Information about each Member Organization (alphabetical order by country)

1) Australia: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

This call will support partnerships between Australia and member organisations from countries of the e-ASIA Joint Research Program participating in the 10th Health Research Call. NHMRC is supporting both topics for the 10th Health Research Call.

Eligibility is dependent on the following:

• Projects require support from a minimum of three (3) e-ASIA member organisations including NHMRC, i.e. a research project must consist of an Australian research team collaborating with research teams seeking support from a minimum of two (2) e-ASIA participating member organisations in the relevant call. Support can be provided in the form of New, In-Kind or Re-budgeting modalities. In order for a collaborative project to be successful, at least one form of member organisation support must be New or Re-budgeting.

NHMRC is only offering New and In-Kind support modalities for this call.

• Attachment of the e-ASIA Common Application to the NHMRC application form.

• Australian researchers must submit an application to NHMRC to be considered for the NHMRC e-ASIA Joint Research Program. This is of particular importance to those Australian applicants seeking in-kind support only from the NHMRC.

• Member organisations from other e-ASIA countries must be supporting the topic in the call for applications. It is the applicant's responsibility to verify the member organisation participation in respective calls.

• Partnering country applicants are required to submit their applications to their respective member organisation in line with the applicable funding organisation due dates.

• The application must address one or more of the research topics for the Health Research call.

Applications will only be accepted from NHMRC-approved Administering Institutions. A list of NHMRC-approved Administering Institutions is available on NHMRC's website.

Funding for the Australian research component of collaborative projects will be capped at $750,000 (AUD) per grant. Applicants should consider this when developing their research proposals.

The Chief Investigator A (CIA) and Administering Institution must ensure applications meet all eligibility requirements, as set out in these guidelines, at the time of submission and for the duration of peer review. Applications that do not meet these eligibility requirements may be ineligible and may be excluded from further consideration.

An eligibility ruling may be made by NHMRC at any stage following the close of applications, including during peer review. Where an eligibility ruling is being considered, NHMRC may request further information in order to assess whether the eligibility requirement has been met.

Decisions are made based on current policies and considerations specific to this grant opportunity. Decisions made in relation to previous grant opportunities or other NHMRC funding schemes will not be regarded as precedents and will not be considered when assessing compliance with the requirements of this grant opportunity.

Administering Institutions will be notified in writing of ineligible applications and are responsible for advising applicants.

Grant offers maybe withdrawn if eligibility criteria to accept a grant are not met. Action may also be taken over the life of a grant if eligibility criteria to continue holding a grant are not met.

NHMRC staff will not make eligibility rulings before an application is submitted. Applicants should refer to the full NHMRC e-ASIA 2021 Joint Research Program Guidelines via the NHMRC and the GrantConnect websites.

NHMRC Research Help Centre

Tel: +61 1800 500 983
(+61 2 6217 9451 for international callers)

E-mail: help@nhmrc.gov.au

Refer to the Research Help Centre webpage for further information and opening hours

Australian Government

National Health and Medical Research Council

2) Cambodia: Ministry of Health (MOH)

Cambodian researchers can participate in research projects only on an "in-kind" basis, as there will be no new or additional support available from the Cambodia MOH.

Please consult the person in charge directly.

Contact Information

Mr. TEK Bunchhoeung
Vice Chief of Bureau, Pharmacist
Department of Communicable Disease Control
Ministry of Health, Cambodia
Tel: (+855) 78 990 566
E-mail: bunchhoeung@yahoo.com

3) Indonesia: Ministry of Research and Technology/ National Research and Innovation Agency (RISTEK/BRIN)

Indonesian researchers who seek new funds from RISTEK/BRIN need to apply for “Riset Kemitraan” Scheme, RISTEK/BRIN’s competitive funds. The Indonesian PI MUST be from Higher Education Institutions/University under Ministry of Education and Culture (KEMDIKBUD). Other research Institutions may join the project as Co PI. After the awardee list has been announced by the e-ASIA secretariat of the Joint Research Program (the e-ASIA JRP), Indonesia PI should contact RISTEK/BRIN for the proposal submission process.

RISTEK/BRIN requires the Indonesian Principal Investigator to meet conditions by Simlitabmas Guideline, with minimum requirements as follows:

- Applications only are accepted from PI in University. The Indonesian PI MUST be from Higher Education Institutions/ University under KEMDIKBUD.
- Indonesian citizens and hold a permanent or fixed-term contract in an eligible university or research institute in Indonesia;
- Competent in oral and writing English skills;

The proposed budget submitted must be related to the Minister of Finance Regulation, for each unit/component have a maximum budget at year (standard of special cost and standard of input cost). The awardee selected proposed funding will be subject to assessment by RISTEK/BRIN reviewer. The amount of funds will be determined through the evaluation process by the reviewer assigned by RISTEK/BRIN.

Personnel Costs

Costs for student research assistants can be covered if their work is related to the research project, by referring to the Regulation of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, specifically the “Standar Biaya Masukan (Standard of input cost)”.

Mobility of Indonesian and foreign researcher and experts

For Indonesian researcher to the country of research partner:

- Flight to and from destination: economy class flight
- Visa costs
- Transfer to and from the airport

- Daily allowance (the amount depends on the destination, check the standard of input cost)
- Insurance fees

For Foreign researcher:

Our research grant is restricted with Indonesian Financial regulation that limits the use for Indonesian researcher only.

Equipment

Indonesian grant could not be used for equipment.

Scientific events and project meetings in Indonesia or country of research partner

- Room rent
- Catering
- Other costs necessary for the implementation
- Publications
- Travel costs and accommodation for external experts based on the regulation above
- The costs for the event have to be requested by the project partner in the hosting country

Please adjust the simlitabmas guidelines as a reference for funding from Indonesia.

Contact Information

RISTEK-BRIN

Ms. Anggun Amalia Fibriyanti / Mr. Adhi Indra Hermanu

Directorate of Research and Community Services

Ministry of Research and Technology / National Research and Innovation Agency (RISTEK/BRIN)

Tel: +62-21-3169119

e-mail: afibriyanti@ristekbrin.go.id, manoe@ristekbrin.go.id

4) Japan: Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

Japan-based applicants must read and understand the following AMED-specific conditions for this program. Please refer to the information on the following websites: https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/20/01/2001B_00004.html

For project proposals which Japan-based applicants intend to be funded by AMED, it is encouraged that at least half of the countries participating in a project fund (either additionally or newly) their own researchers in that proposal.

I. Eligibility for Japan-based applicants

• The Japan-based Principal Investigator must be personally affiliated with a domestic research institution and conduct research there. Domestic research institutions on the Japanese side refer to universities, independent administrative institutions, national/public testing and research institutions, specially authorized corporations, public-service corporations and enterprises, etc. that must satisfy predetermined requirements specified by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in Japan.

• Any individual who satisfies any of the following conditions is also eligible to apply as Japan-based Principal Investigator.

i) Researcher holding citizenship other than Japanese who belongs to a Japanese domestic research institution.
ii) Researcher who is not currently affiliated with a particular research institution, but who will be affiliated with a Japanese domestic research institution and able to conduct research there if selected as Japan-based Principal Investigator.
iii) Japanese researchers currently residing overseas who will be affiliated with a Japanese domestic research institution and able to conduct research there if selected as Japan-based Principal Investigator.

• Japan-based Principal Investigator must be able to take responsibility for the duties of the entire project for the full duration of the joint research project.

• Japan-based researchers from industry are eligible to participate in the joint research project in the Japan-based Team.

II. Support

II-1. Budget for Cooperative Research Projects

The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities, but the total budget for the Japanese researcher over a full 3-year period (i.e. 36 months) should be 24 million Japanese Yen as direct expenses. 30% of direct expenses will be provided as overhead expenses. According to the budgetary limitations for this program, the amounts will be adjusted each year.

II-2. Details of Support

This program is designed to support additional expenses related to cooperation by a Japan-based researcher with their counterparts, such as expenses for travel and/or conducting seminars/symposia. A precondition for applying to this Joint Call is that the main research infrastructure is already ensured by each research group. The duration of a co-operative research project shall be no longer than three (3) years (thirty-six (36) months) in total from the start date.

II-3. Eligible costs

Research grants will be awarded in line with standard AMED policy. Funding provided within this call is intended to enhance the capacity of the applicants to collaborate. Funding will therefore be provided mainly in support of collaborative activities but may also cover some of the local research costs that are necessary for the collaboration.

1. Direct Expenses:
   i) Travel expenses: In principle, travel expenses should be based on the rules of the institution to which the Principal Investigator (hereinafter referred to as the PI) belongs.
   ii) Expenses for holding symposia, seminars and meetings
   iii) Expenses for facilities, equipment and consumables
   iv) Expenses for personnel: Stipend or salary for a PhD student, or salary for a post-doctoral fellow or Japan-based researchers including PI.

v) Others: Expenses for creating software, renting or leasing equipment, transporting equipment, expenses of buyout cost, etc.

2. Overhead expenses shall be 30% of direct expenses.

3. Expenses not covered/funded by the program:
   i) Expenses relating to the acquisition of or rental of real estate or constructing buildings or other facilities.
   ii) Expenses related to the procurement of major equipment.
   iii) Expenses related to dealing with accidents or disasters occurring during the co-operative research periods.
   iv) Expenses unrelated to the implementation of this co-operative research project.

For more details about salary for Japan-based PI and buyout cost, please visit the following website:
https://www.amed.go.jp/keiri/youshiki_itaku.html

II-4. Conclusion of contracted R&D agreement

For each awarded R&D project, a one-fiscal-year contracted R&D agreement shall be concluded between the research institution implementing the R&D project and AMED, in accordance with the principle of the accounting period of the national government. Successful applicants shall receive detailed information from AMED following project selection.

II-5. Collaborative Research Agreement

A Collaborative Research Agreement (CRA) MUST be concluded among institutions with which collaborating researchers are affiliated. The contract for cooperative research shall include conclusions of discussions among Parties which are entitled to intellectual property arising as a result of research collaboration, and Institutions concerned, on issues regarding treatment of research information brought by researchers involved for the implementation of research collaboration, of research achievements as a result of research collaboration and of intellectual properties among the concerned parties. The agreement so concluded shall be reported to the Parties. A sample form can be

found in the following websites:
https://www.the-easia.org/jrp/documents.html

III. Application

Please note that Japan-based applicants are required to complete both e-mail submission to the e-ASIA Secretariat and submission via the “e-Rad” system. Applications will be considered ineligible if the proposal documents are not submitted by the deadline through both ways of submission.

III-1. Application Forms

Only for Japan-based applicants, Form J should be prepared in Japanese (“J”) in addition to the common application form in English.

Form J is available from the AMED website:
https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/20/01/2001B_00004.html
(in Japanese only)

III-2 Submission of Application Forms by Applicants

Proposals must be submitted by e-mail to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat.

Japan-based applicants must also submit a project title, a summary of the project, and detailed budget information in Japanese with their application forms through the online application system, “e-Rad” (http://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html) by **17:00 (Japanese Standard Time) on 29th March 2021.**

Application to the program is not complete at the point that the PI submits the application to their affiliated research institute via e-Rad. Be sure to undergo procedures to obtain approval of the submission of the application from your affiliated research institute.

IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals

The program evaluation committees consisting of relevant experts will evaluate all proposals. Based on the results of their evaluation, a common decision will be made jointly among the participating Member Organizations regarding funding of the selected proposals.

IV-1. Evaluation Criteria

1. Compatibility with the program's purpose
   - Is the project compatible with the program's purpose and objectives, etc.?
2. Scientific/technological significance and advantage
   - Are the current technological level and previous performance sufficient?
   - Does the project proposal have originality, novelty, and innovativeness?
   - Does the project contribute to the advancement of the field of medicine?
   - Does the project contribute to the generation of new technologies?
   - Does the project respond to social needs?
   - Is the project compatible with national policies regarding R&D in the field of medicine?
3. Appropriateness of the plan
   - Are the overall content and objectives of the plan clear?
   - As the plans for each fiscal year detailed and realizable?
   - Is the project plan in compliance with laws and ordinances related to bioethics or safety measures?
4. Implementation system
   - Has an R&D system centered on the applicant been organized appropriately?
   - Has a sufficient collaboration network been constructed?
   - Are the efforts of the applicant appropriate?
   - Is there unreasonable duplication/excessive concentration?
5. Costs
   - Are the breakdown of costs and spending plan appropriate?
6. Items prescribed under the program and items that should be considered comprehensively
   - Contribute to the development of science and technology in the East Asian region? [Regional Relevance of the Research]
   - Contribute to solving significant relevant issues across the East Asian

region? [Regional Relevance of the Research]

- Is there a unique opportunity set provide that could not be achieved either through bilateral or individual research but only through multilateral cooperation? [Mutual Benefits of the Joint Research]
- Does it contain activities to nurture early career researchers through research activities? [Effectiveness of Exchange]
- Does it enhance research capacity in the East Asian region? [Effectiveness of Exchange]

V. Responsibilities of PIs after Proposals are Approved

V-1. Progress Report to AMED

At the end of each fiscal year, the Japan-based PI shall promptly submit to AMED an annual progress report on the status of research exchange, and the institution with which the PI is affiliated shall promptly submit to AMED a financial report on research expenses.

V-2. Final Report to AMED

Final reports should be submitted within four months (4) before completion of the research period.
The institution with which the PI is affiliated shall submit a financial report on research expenses to AMED within two months after termination of contract.

Contact Information

国立研究開発法人日本医療研究開発機構
Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development

Dr. Naoko Kojima / Ms. Yukiko Watanabe
Office of International Collaboration, Division of International Strategy
Department of International Strategy
Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development

TEL: +81 (0)3-6870-2215 FAX: +81 (0)3-6870-2240
E-mail e-asia@amed.go.jp

5) Lao PDR: Ministry of Health (MOH)

Laotian researchers can participate in research projects only on an "in-kind" basis, as there will be no new or additional support available from the Lao MOH.

Please consult the person in charge directly.

Contact Information

Dr. Bouakham VANNACHONE
Prevention Division,
Department of Communicable Disease Control,
Ministry of Health, Lao PDR
Tel: +856-20- 22474516
E-mail: bkvnchone@gmail.com

6) Myanmar: Ministry of Education (MOE)

Myanmar researchers can participate in research projects only on an "in-kind" basis, as there will be no new or additional support available from the Myanmar MOE.

Please consult the person in charge directly.

Contact Information

Ms. Phyu Phyu Win
Deputy Director General
Department of Research and Innovation
Ministry of Education, Myanmar
Tel: +95-9-441220027 Fax: +95-1-668033
E-mail: dripphyuwin@gmail.com

7) New Zealand: Health Research Council (HRC)

Please note that these guidelines have been specifically tailored for the e-ASIA JRP Joint Call for Proposals.

Statistical Purposes
The information requested in an application will be used for the purpose of assessing that application and, in a non-identifiable form, some information will be used for HRC statistical purposes. The HRC undertakes to store all applications in a secure place and to destroy declined applications after due process to preserve confidentiality, unless applications are required to be kept by the National Archives.

Peer Review
Personal information contained in the application may be made available to external reviewers and members of the HRC Committees relevant to the review of the application. This includes electronic and paper copies of the application. The HRC may seek reports from reviewers, where appropriate, to assess the scientific merit, health importance and cultural appropriateness of the application.

Media Release
In the event that an application is successful, the HRC reserves the right to release applicants' names, details of the host institution, contact details (work phone or email), contract title, lay summaries and funding awarded for public interest purposes and to meet the statutory requirements of the Health Research Council of New Zealand Act 1990.

Official Information Act
Should the HRC receive requests for information in an application via the Official Information Act then we will consult with the host institution in handling the request. Where appropriate, or in certain circumstances the request may be transferred by the HRC to the host institution.

Enquiries
All enquiries related to NZ proposals for this fund should be directed in the first instance to the Research Office of the applicant's host institution.

Where the research office cannot assist, or if you do not have a research office, contact the HRC (see contact details below)

I. Eligibility for NZ-based applicants

If you are the first-named investigator (i.e. lead researcher) on an application applying for HRC funding, you must be based in New Zealand and employed with a New Zealand host organisation.

II. Support

II-1. Budget for Cooperative Research Projects

The HRC Rules, available from the HRC website www.hrc.govt.nz set out the permissible use of HRC Funding. These Rules are applicable to all proposals, contracts or contract extensions where funding has been offered and should also be read carefully by all contractors and applicants seeking HRC funding. Further budget details will be requested at contracting.

II-2. Details of Support

The HRC has $400,000 over three years available for allocation to one research project. It is acceptable for the proposed research to be an ‘add on’ to an existing collaborative activity or a new research project.

II-3. Contract between host organisation and HRC

The HRC’s Standard Contract for Research Funding will be utilised for the successful e-ASIA JRP proposal. There may be a customised reporting schedule for the purposes of the e-ASIA JRP. The HRC will provide details of this to the successful provider.

Applicants should note that all ethical and other approvals must be in place to allow the Contract to start no later than the date set down in the HRC Funding Outcome Letter or the date set down in the Proposal.

III. Application

III-1. Application Forms and Submission

Applicants applying for New Zealand funding must register on HRC Gateway by 1pm (NZT), Monday 22 March 2021.
Please note that New Zealand applications requesting HRC funding are required to complete both an email submission to the e-Asia Secretariat and a submission on HRC Gateway. Applications which do not complete both submissions will be considered ineligible. Note: Applicants are required to

submit a separate HRC budget in excel form for the NZ component of requested funding.

IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals

HRC funding recommendations will be determined by the results of peer review, which includes independent referees, applicant rebuttal and review by an Assessing Committee.

Applicants will have the opportunity to undertake applicant rebuttal, this process will be on HRC Gateway. Refer to HRC Gateway for key dates.

IV-1. Evaluation Criteria

Independent experts engaged by the HRC to review e-ASIA JRP project proposals will consider:

- The **health significance** of the proposed research
- The **scientific merit** of the proposal
- The **design and methods** proposed
- The research **team's expertise and track record** as a basis for meeting the requirements of the proposed research, and
- The **quality of the research partnership**.

The above criteria incorporates the common e-ASIA JRP evaluation criteria. Anchor point descriptors are available on HRC Gateway. Applicants are encouraged to consider the criteria when creating their application.

V. Responsibilities of PIs After Proposals are Approved

V-1. Progress Reports to HRC

Principal Investigators should note that regular contract progress reports will be required under the HRC's contract, via HRC Gateway. These reports should be meaningful and provide detailed information on the progress of the project and highlight any risks to the project.

The HRC Research Partnerships team will contact the PI, via their research office, to confirm the reporting due dates.

The HRC will also contact the PI, via their research office, should there be any further requests for information from an HRC Assessing Committee and/or the HRC requires additional information to meet reporting and information obligations. This may include brief update reports. All such requests will be

discussed with the Contractor to ensure reasonable timeframes and workload associated with such requests.

V-2. Final Report to HRC

A final progress report covering the entire term of the e-ASIA contract including the project's aims and objectives should also be submitted to the HRC. Where there is no information available on all or parts of the research project, reasons should be given for this.

IV. Contact Information

hrc nz
Health Research Council of New Zealand
Te Kaunihera Rangahau Hauora o Aotearoa

For all enquiries:

Fiona Kenning
Research Investment Manager, International
Health Research Council of New Zealand
DDI: 64 9 303 5208
E-mail: fkenning@hrc.govt.nz

8) Philippines: Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST -PCHRD)

I. Review Procedures

Approval of proposals for research grants will be based on a multi-level review process.

1. In-house screening in terms of alignment to the research priorities, duplication, and completeness of requirements.
2. Technical review and scoring by external consultants (Technical Panel) based on the following criteria:

Relevance & Sensitivity	Alignment to national S&T priorities, strategic relevance to national development and sensitivity to Philippine political context, culture, tradition and gender and development.
Technical/Scientific	Merit Sound scientific basis to generate new knowledge or apply existing knowledge in an innovative manner.
Financial Feasibility	Financial viability of the undertaking with proponent's and institutional capacity to manage R&D funds vis-à-vis the proposed work plan and budget.
Proponent's / Institutional Capacity	Good track record or CV with proven competence to implement and complete the R&D program / project within the approved duration and budget.
Program Contribution	How much the proposal will contribute to the overall achievement of the program? Other potential socio-economic, environmental, and health impact.

3. Final approval by the PCHRD Governing Council or the PCHRD Executive Director depending on the recommended total budgetary requirement of the proposal.
4. In each stage of the review process, the proponent may need to revise the proposal on the basis of the recommendations of the reviewers. The review process will take 40 working days provided that all the requirements had been submitted.

II. Who may apply

Filipinos with at least a Master's Degree in a relevant field, have proven research competence / track record, and employed in universities/colleges, research agencies/institutes, hospitals, and other health related agencies are eligible to apply for the research grant.

III. How to apply

The proponent shall submit the following requirements online through the DOST Project Management Information System (DPMIS) (http://dpmis.dost.gov.ph/):

- Project Proposal following the prescribed format in the DOST DPMIS website
- Work plan Schedule (Gantt Chart of Activities)
- Proposed Line-Item Budget (LIB) (DOST-GIA LIB Form)
- Counterpart Funding of Implementing Agency
- Informed Consent Form (for studies involving human participants)
- Case Report Form, if applicable
- Endorsement of Agency Head
- Curriculum Vitae of Proponent(s)
- Duties and Responsibilities of each Project Personnel
- Letter of request addressed to:

  The Executive Director
  Philippine Council for Health Research and Development
  Department of Science and Technology
  Saliksik Bldg., DOST Science Complex, Gen. Santos Avenue
  Bicutan, Taguig City, Metro Manila

DOST-PCHRD shall also require the proponent to submit the following documents before the start of project implementation:

- Biosafety Clearance, if applicable
- Animal research permit, if applicable
- Bureau of Animal Industry Clearance, if applicable
- Ethics Clearance (for studies involving human subjects)

Deadline for online submission will be **on or before 30 March 2021** (Philippine Standard Time). ***Note:*** *Online submission will be through the DOST DPMIS website only. Submission through emails will not be accepted.*

IV. Funding Support Available

DOST-PCHRD will allocate up to **100,000 USD** for each research project for a duration of three years. DOST Grants in Aid guidelines shall be applied.

V. Contact Information

Mr. Vincent John H. Tumlos
Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)
Tel: +632-837-7537 local 102
E-mail: vhtumlos@pchrd.dost.gov.ph

Mr. Paul Ernest N. De Leon
Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)
Tel: +632-837-7535
E-mail: pndeleon@pchrd.dost.gov.ph

9) Thailand: National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)

I. Eligibility for Thai applicants

The applicants must be **"Thai**" researchers and/or university professors/instructors who work in public research institute or university in Thailand, and are competent in conducting a research with international partners.

"NRCT will provide support only for the area of infectious diseases, including AMR on the topic as follows;

1. Antimicrobial resistance **(**AMR**)** and drug resistance **(**e**.**g**.**, multi**-**drug resistant tuberculosis**)**, including innovations in AMR surveillance, diagnostics and research related to antimicrobial stewardship
2. Pandemic preparedness and response **(**e**.**g**.**, surveillance, interventions, public awareness and prevention, vaccine development**)**
3. Interventions and countermeasures tailored toward regional context including implementation and actions to understand or address the socio-economic, educational and international impacts of COVID-19.
4. Infectious disease**-**Co**-**morbidities interactions
5. Advanced technology **(**e**.**g**.**, e**-**health, telemedicine, surveillance, mapping tool, etc**.)**

II. Support

The total budget for the Thai researcher over a full 3-year period is up to 3,000,000 THB. The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities.

III. Application

1. Thai applicants who are interested to be granted by NRCT must submit a national proposal to NRCT through NRCT system (NRIIS: https://nriis.go.th) no later than 23.59 (Thai time) **26 March 2021.**
2. Lead PI must also submit proposal to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat's e-mail no later than17:00 (Thai Standard Time, UTC+7) **29 March 2021.**

*****NRCT will not accept the proposal if the applicants fail to submit to NRCT system (NRIIS) and/or e-ASIA JRP Secretariat**.

IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals

Proposals will be peer-reviewed, and evaluated by a committee according to NRCT internal rules and procedures. The final selection will be done by the international selection committee of e-ASIA.

IV.I Evaluation Criteria

To be funded, proposals must be internationally competitive. It should lead to the advancement of the research field, or novel applications or increase of research capacity.

Key evaluation criteria are:

- Significance and impact of the research
- Scientific Rationale: novelty, importance and timeliness of the research
- Design and feasibility of the project plan
- Partnership: including strength and clarity of collaborations and opportunities provided, quality of the project management structure proposed;
- Quality and suitability of the research environment and of the facilities;
- Ethical considerations and governance arrangements

V. Reporting

- Thailand PI should submit a progress report on the status of joint research according to NRCT's funding procedures.
- After completion of the period of joint research, the Thailand PI shall submit within two months a final report on the results of the joint research to NRCT.

Contact Information

Ms. Arpar Nateprapai
Foreign Relations Officer

Division of International Affairs
National Research Council of Thailand
Tel: +66 2 579 2285, +66 2 561 2445 ext. 207
E-mail: arpar.n@nrct.go.th

10) Thailand: National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

I. Eligibility for Thai applicants

The applicants must be researchers and/or university professors/instructors who work in public research institute or university in Thailand, and are competent in conducting a research with international partners.

NSTDA will provide support for 1-3 projects on the topic of Infectious diseases, including AMR on the topic as follow.

1. Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases e.g. COVID-19, influenza, and other viral and zoonotic diseases of pandemic potential
2. Infectious diseases that are predominant in or specific to the East and South Asian region

II. Support

The total budget for the Thai researcher over a full 3-year period is up to 5,000,000 THB. The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities.

III. Evaluation of Project Proposals

Proposals will be peer-reviewed, and evaluated by a committee. The final selection will be done by the international selection committee of e-ASIA.

III.I Evaluation Criteria

To be funded, proposals must be internationally competitive. It should lead to the advancement of the research field, or novel applications or increase of research capacity.

Key evaluation criteria are:

- Significance and impact of the research
- Scientific Rationale: novelty, importance and timeliness of the research
- Design and feasibility of the project plan
- Partnership: including strength and clarity of collaborations and opportunities provided,

  quality of the project management structure proposed;
- Quality and suitability of the research environment and of the facilities;

  Ethical considerations and governance arrangements

IV. Grant Manual

More details on NSTDA funding procedures at
https://www.nstda.or.th/th/industrial-research

Note:

1. Awardee (Thai PI) need to prepare proposal in Thai language due to the internal process of NSTDA to register the project. Download the form in the link https://www.nstda.or.th/th/industrial-research
2. For any research project which NSTDA researcher as a Co-PI, it would be considered as a joint research project. Specific format of such project can be download from the link
https://www.nstda.or.th/th/industrial-research

V. Reporting

• Every six months, the Thailand PI shall promptly submit a progress report on the status of joint research to NSTDA.

• After completion of the period of joint research, the Thailand PI shall submit within three months a final report on the results of the joint research to NSTDA.

Contact Information

Ms. Mullika Kulsiripruck
International Relations Officer
International Collaboration
National Science and Technology Development Agency
Tel: +66 2 564 7000 Ext. 71486
E-mail: mullika.kul@nstda.or.th

11) USA: National Cancer Institute (NCI)

NCI participation in this e-ASIA Joint Research Program solicitation is limited to in-kind and re-budgeting only. No additional application materials are required to be submitted directly to NCI**.** Only the e**-**ASIA JRP application submitted directly to the e**-**ASIA Secretariat is required and will be reviewed**.**

Please consult the person in charge directly.

Contact Information:

Dr. Paul C. Pearlman, Ph.D.
Program Director
Lead, Global Health Technology
Center for Global Health
National Cancer Institute
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human Services
9609 Medical Center Driver
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: +1 (240) 276-5354
Email: paul.pearlman@nih.gov

12) USA: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

NIAID funding may be requested to support basic, clinical and applied biomedical research. For example, applications focused on health care quality assurance or similar issues would not be eligible for NIAID funding. No additional application materials are required to be submitted directly to NIAID. Only the e-ASIA JRP application submitted directly to the e-ASIA Secretariat is required and will be reviewed. Please see below for more information.

Eligibility

The U.S. PI and participants on the U.S. team may be foreign nationals (U.S. permanent residents or visa holders) but must reside in the U.S. for at least 50% of the award period. Graduate students on the U.S. team may be foreign nationals, but they must be enrolled in an accredited degree program at a U.S. institution during the period of their participation in the project.

Scientists employed by the U.S. federal government may apply for this program, however the U.S. PI and affiliated federal agency are **not permitted** to receive funding under this program.

Budget and Allowable Costs

The maximum total award is up to **$100,000** U.S. Dollars (USD) disbursed over three years. Utilizing funds from NIAID, the U.S. institution will receive a cost-reimbursable grant (fixed obligation award) from CRDF Global, pending the submission and acceptance of all necessary approvals and documentation (e.g., IRB approval, award agreement, animal subject review, etc.).

CRDF Global will support expenses for the U.S. teams from universities and non-profits with the exception of large-scale equipment purchases. U.S. team applications may propose utilizing some of the requested funding to support foreign partners, but the allowed maximum still cannot exceed amount described in the preceding paragraph. U.S. federal government agencies and U.S. teams from for-profit companies may apply in partnership with other U.S. or regional scientists, but are not permitted to receive funding under this program.

i. Funding may be requested for the following expenses:

(1) Labor

(2) Equipment, Supplies and Services

(3) Travel

(4) Indirect Costs. Applicants (Primary and Secondary collaborators, including those from foreign institutions) may request indirect costs/ overhead expenses on all direct costs except for equipment (over $5,000), capital expenditures, rent, student tuition, participant support costs[1] and sub-awardees expenses (after the first $25,000). Total direct costs minus these items is considered the modified total direct cost (MTDC) amount for which the IDC rate should be applied. IDCs combined with the total direct costs cannot exceed the funding total allowed to request. Below are helpful calculations:

- **IDC $** = IDC% x MTDC = $
- **Maximum Total Sub-Team budget** = total direct costs $ (including MTDC) + IDCs $

Foreign Institutions may **not request more than 8%** of the modified total direct costs in IDCs. U.S. institutions with a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rates Agreement (NICRA) may request up to their approved NICRA rate. Documentation for these rates should be provided in the budget narrative if the institution requires this payment. U.S. institutions without a NICRA may **not request more than 10%** in IDCs.

Cost sharing is permitted and encouraged to maximize scientific achievements with the funding that is available to support this program. Awardees with a NICRA exceeding 8%, are encouraged to provide a cost share to cover the difference in cost rate, so that the applied Indirect Cost rate does not exceed 8% of the award's modified total direct costs.

Contact Information

[1] Participant Support costs include stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with meetings, conferences, symposia or training projects, scholarships/fellowships.

Mr. Gray Handley, MSPH
Associate Director for International Research Affairs
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human Services
5601 Fishers Ln Rm 1E MSC 9802
Bethesda, MD 20892-9802 [For courier deliveries: 20852]
Phone: +1 (301) 594-6128
Email: handleygr@niaid.nih.gov

Ms. Gayle Bernabe, MPH
Regional Program Officer-East/SE Asia and the Pacific
Office of Global Research (OGR)
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human Services
5601 Fishers Ln Rm 1E MSC 9802
Bethesda, MD 20892-9802 [For courier deliveries: 20852]
Phone: +1 (301) 451-1018
Email: gbernabe@niaid.nih.gov

General inquiries

Yoshihide Kobayashi (Mr.)
e-ASIA JRP Secretariat / Japan Science and Technology Agency
Room 218 Innovation Cluster1 Building
National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
111 Thailand Science Park, Phahonyothin Road
Khlong Nueng, Khlong Luang, Pathum Thani 12120 THAILAND
Tel: +66-2-564-7713 H/P: +66-61-421-0316
E-mail: easia_secretariat@jst.go.jp