

-- 14<sup>th</sup> Call Guidelines --

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP)  
**Research Cooperation in the Field of**

## Health Research

On the topic of

**Infectious Diseases and Immunology  
(including Antimicrobial Resistance)**

14<sup>th</sup> Joint Call for Proposals to be submitted by 31 March 2025

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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) **China:** National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
- 3) **Indonesia:** National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
- 4) **Japan:** Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)
- 5) **Malaysia:** Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
- 6) **Philippines:** Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHRD)
- 7) **Singapore:** Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR)
- 8) **Thailand:** Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)
- 9) **USA:** National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
- 10) **Vietnam:** Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

There are some additional requirements to fulfil the eligibility for the following organizations, please refer to below table:

Member Organizations	Eligibility/Additional requirements
<p>1. National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)</p>	<p>(1) NHMRC requires that collaborations must include a Lead PI or PI from at least one of the following participating member organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Indonesia: National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)</li> <li>● Malaysia: Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)</li> <li>● Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHR)</li> <li>● Singapore: Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)</li> <li>● Thailand: Program Management Unit for Human Resources &amp; Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)</li> <li>● Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)</li> </ul> <p>(2) Applications will only be accepted from NHMRC-approved Administering Institutions. A list of NHMRC-approved Administering Institutions is available on <a href="#">NHMRC's website</a>.</p> <p>(3) All Australian applicants must apply to NHMRC's Grants Management System, Sapphire <b>AND</b> the Lead PI of each project must also submit the common application to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat.</p> <p>(4) Deadline of submission to NHMRC's Grants Management System by <b>17:00 (Australian Eastern Daylight Time, UTC+11)</b> on 2 April 2025</p> <p>(5) Applications to NHMRC must meet the Minimum Data requirements as described in the 2025 NHMRC e-ASIA Grant Opportunity Guidelines.</p>
<p>2. National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)</p>	<p>(1) Chinese applicants are required to complete application submission via the NSFC Grant System: <a href="http://grants.nsfc.gov.cn/">http://grants.nsfc.gov.cn/</a> <b>AND</b> a copy of the research consortium's e-ASIA Common Application must be attached to the application</p> <p>(2) Deadline of submission to NSFC Grant System: <b>16:00 (China Standard Time, UTC+8)</b> on 2 April 2025.</p> <p>(3) Chinese applicants must be researchers affiliated with a higher education or research institution</p>

Member Organizations	Eligibility/Additional requirements
	<p>which registers in NSFC. Chinese Principal Investigator (PI) must have a senior academic rank (title) and have/had been the PI of at least one on-going or completed NSFC research project with the duration of no less than 3 years.</p> <p>(4) Please refer to the Chinese guidelines for details on the eligibility for Chinese applicants (<a href="https://www.nsf.gov.cn/">https://www.nsf.gov.cn/</a>).</p>
<p>3. National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)</p>	<p>(1) BRIN requires that collaborations must include a Lead PI or PI from the participating Member Organisations.</p> <p>(2) Indonesian applicants are required to complete application submission via the BRIN Pendanaan System: <a href="https://pendanaan-risnov.brin.go.id">https://pendanaan-risnov.brin.go.id</a> <b>AND</b> the Indonesian Lead PI of each project must also submit the common application to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat via email.</p> <p>(3) Deadline of submission to BRIN Pendanaan System by <u>17:00 (Western Indonesian Time, UTC+7) on 31 March 2025</u></p> <p>(4) Applications to BRIN must meet the minimum requirements as described in the RIIM Kolaborasi Internasional e-ASIA JRP Guidelines, available on BRIN Pendanaan System: <a href="https://pendanaan-risnov.brin.go.id">https://pendanaan-risnov.brin.go.id</a>.</p>

Member Organizations	Eligibility/Additional requirements
4. Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)	<p>(1) AMED requires that collaborations must include a Lead PI or PI from at least one of the following participating member organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Indonesia: National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)</li> <li>● Malaysia: Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)</li> <li>● Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHR)</li> <li>● Singapore: Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)</li> <li>● Thailand: Program Management Unit for Human Resources &amp; Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)</li> <li>● Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)</li> </ul> <p>(2) Japan-based applicants are required to complete both e-mail submission to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat (Only for Japan-based Lead PIs) and submission via the “e-Rad” system (For both Japan-based Lead PIs and PIs) at <a href="https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en/">https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en/</a> by 17:00 (Japan Standard Time, UTC+9) on 31 March 2025.</p>
5. Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)	<p><b>Project Eligibility Criteria:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) At Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or above</li> <li>(2) Maximum project duration of 36 months</li> <li>(3) Include collaboration with industry or private companies or Civil Society Organisations (CSO) or local community</li> </ol> <p><b>Malaysia Project Applicant Eligibility Criteria:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Researchers from the institutions of higher learning or Government Research Institution (GRI)</li> </ol> <p><b>Submission:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Submit a copy of the proposal (Form 1E–9E) by 18:00 (Malaysia Time, UTC +8) and 17:00 (Thai Standard Time, UTC+7) on 31 March 2025 to <a href="mailto:mse@akademisains.gov.my">mse@akademisains.gov.my</a>.</li> <li>(2) Upon submission, an acknowledgement receipt will be provided, detailing the subsequent steps required for further processing.</li> </ol>

Member Organizations	Eligibility/Additional requirements
6. Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHR)	<p>(1) 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.</p> <p>(2) The proponent shall submit required documents online through the DOST Project Management Information System (DPMIS) (<a href="http://dpmis.dost.gov.ph/">http://dpmis.dost.gov.ph/</a>)</p> <p>(3) Filipino researcher and implementing agency should comply with the eligibility requirements, especially on Item VI, of the DOST GIA Guidelines.</p>
7. Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)	<p>(1) Lead PI/PI must be an independent researcher from public sector research performers, namely the Institutes of Higher Learning (universities and polytechnics), A*STAR Research Institutes, as well as other non-defence-related public sector agencies (e.g., Ministries, Statutory Boards).</p> <p>(2) Lead PI/PI must hold a primary appointment of at least 75% in a local publicly funded institution and salaried by the institution.</p> <p>(3) Singapore-based applicants must first obtain a written endorsement from their respective Singapore Host Institutions to support the project. This endorsement must take the form of a written approval.</p> <p>(4) The project's Lead PI, whether based in Singapore or elsewhere, is responsible for submitting this written endorsement along with the application form to A*STAR (as the Singapore representative for e-ASIA) and the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat <u>by the stipulate deadline</u>.</p> <p>(5) Therefore, Singapore-based PIs are required to forward the written endorsement from their Host Institutions to their respective Lead PIs. This endorsement should be submitted as a supporting document to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat, and a copy should be sent to A*STAR.</p>

Member Organizations	Eligibility/Additional requirements
<p>8. Program Management Unit for Human Resources &amp; Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Applicants applying as a Lead PI in Thailand must be researchers who are either Thai citizens or non-Thai citizens affiliated with a Thai organization, such as a public or non-profit research institute or university in Thailand.</li> <li>(2) Proposal topics must align with and focus on health threats and emergencies related to climate change-induced diseases, or the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Personalized Medicine, as specified in the PMU-B Annex of the Call Guidelines.</li> <li>(3) The budget should be within the specified limit.</li> <li>(4) Thai applicants must submit their application and endorsement letters from all research partners to PMU-B through NRIIS: <a href="https://nriis.go.th">https://nriis.go.th</a></li> <li>(5) The Thai applicant's institution must endorse the submission in the NRIIS system.</li> <li>(6) Deadline of submission to NRIIS System by <b>17:00</b> (Indochina Time, UTC+7) on <b>31 March 2025</b></li> <li>(7) The Lead PI must also submit the common application to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat.</li> <li>(8) The entire submission process must be completed before the Closing Date.</li> </ol>
<p>9. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) NIAID requires that collaborations must include a Lead PI or PI from at least one of the following participating member organizations' countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Indonesia: National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)</li> <li>● Malaysia: Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)</li> <li>● Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHR)</li> <li>● Thailand: Program Management Unit for Human Resources &amp; Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)</li> <li>● Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)</li> </ul> </li> <li>(2) 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 United States</li> </ol>

Member Organizations	Eligibility/Additional requirements
	<p>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.</p> <p>(3) Scientists, and other personnel working in U.S. federal government facilities, whose salaries are paid using direct U.S. federal funding, or personnel working under a contract supported by the U.S. federal government, may apply for this program; however, they are not permitted to receive funding or other support (e.g., travel) under this program. U.S. government employees must apply as the U.S. PI. The federally funded U.S. PI and the affiliated U.S. federal agency participation must be in-kind or funding must be received by a collaborating non-federal U.S. institution, PI, and key personnel.</p>
<p>10. Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)</p>	<p>(1) The Vietnamese applicants must finish the application form in Vietnamese template and send to MOST for further internal procedures and notation.</p> <p>(2) Deadline of submission to MOST by <u>17:00 (Indochina Time, UTC+7) on 31 March 2025</u></p> <p>(3) Please kindly visit the website to get further information in detail relating to the internal procedures of Viet Nam as followings: <a href="http://www.most.gov.vn">http://www.most.gov.vn</a> or please consult the person in charge directly.</p>

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** It is essential to read the call guidelines thoroughly, as they may impact the eligibility of the entire research team. For further information regarding eligibility and additional requirements, please refer to the Appendix.

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**I. Aim of Joint Call and Research Area**

The aim of the e-ASIA JRP 14th Call in the field of Health Research is to invite applications that will address health and medical issues in East Asia and neighboring regions and

contribute to enhancing regional research capacity through multilateral collaboration. The topics identified for the e-ASIA JRP 14th Health Research Call pose a considerable health threat to East Asian countries and are more broadly considered global health issues.

The focus of this joint call, within the “Health Research” program of the e-ASIA JRP, is on Infectious Diseases and Immunology (including Antimicrobial Resistance).

International collaborative research is critical to address infectious diseases that have global health impact, particularly emerging disease threats with pandemic potential, and the rise of antimicrobial resistant (AMR) pathogens.

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, that directly relate to human health. Please refer to the appendix for qualifying research by Member Organizations, some of which fund specific types of research, e.g., basic research.

Possible research topics in infectious diseases and immunology include the following, **but are not limited to:**

1. Multiple long-term conditions:
  - a) Intersections between chronic and infectious disease, including co- and multi-morbidities
  - b) Common risk factors that aggravate the condition (e.g. tobacco, obesity)
  - c) Immune response, inflammation, metabolism, and microbiome
  - d) Identifying, preventing, and managing multiple chronic conditions and greater integration of living with multiple long-term conditions into research.
2. Novel vaccine immunogens for combatting emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases
3. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and drug resistance (e.g. Innovations in AMR surveillance, diagnostics and research related to antimicrobial stewardship)
4. Health threats and emergencies



- a) Identifying and targeting emerging health threats and emergencies, including working with partners towards a One Health research approach to climate change, health and the environment, biodiversity, and antimicrobial resistance.
  - b) Climate change-related diseases, (e.g. diseases of interest may include vector-borne diseases, water and food-borne diseases, respiratory infectious diseases, zoonotic diseases, fungal infections, as well as related issues such as antimicrobial resistance)
  - c) Pandemic preparedness and response (e.g., surveillance, interventions, public awareness and prevention, vaccine development)
5. Integration of artificial intelligence into research and its safe, equitable, ethical and effective application in health care, particularly with a focus on the ethical implications and regulation of rapidly emerging technologies in research and health care.
6. Development of detection systems, drugs, and therapy
- a) Discovery, development, and application, including its safe, equitable, ethical and effective application of detection systems for infectious diseases (e.g. malaria, pneumonia, antimicrobial resistance)
  - b) Discovery, development, and application of drugs for infectious diseases, including drugs derived from natural sources. Research may include the development of extraction and purification methods, and the evaluation of therapeutic efficacy and safety.

## **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 at least 3 countries in this call. To effectively utilize and maximize the unique opportunities provided through the e-ASIA JRP and to synergistically address infectious disease and immunology in East Asia, proposals that include the following integrated research approaches are strongly encouraged:

- (1) Interdisciplinary research
- (2) Training, mentorship, and career development of early-career (early-stage) investigators
- (3) Communication, information, and data exchange
- (4) Sample/data sharing and analysis
- (5) Capacity building

- (6) Community and stakeholders' engagement, including people with lived/living experience of disease or chronic conditions
- (7) Commitment to long-term sustainability
- (8) Establishment and maintenance of networks of collaborating institutions

Collaborative research projects, supported through this program, should be pursued through mutually beneficial partnerships and shared leadership that contribute to scientific innovation, research capacity and social applicability 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 environmental practice in East Asia and in other parts of the world.

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## II. Support/ Funding Modality

In principle, each Member Organization will provide support for its own country's researchers involved in projects selected for funding through this joint call, in accordance with the support types defined under "Funding Modality" in the table below.

The duration of each selected research project will be three years (36 months) from the start date. The specific conditions of support may vary by Member Organizations. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to review the information in the Appendix for the rules and regulations applicable to each Member Organization.

### II-1 Participating Member Organizations and Funding Modality

Participating Member Organizations	Funding Modality
1. National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)	New
2. National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)	New
3. National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	New and In-Kind
4. Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)	New
5. Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)	New
6. Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHR)	New
7. Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)	In-Kind

Participating Member Organizations	Funding Modality
8. Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)	New
9. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	New, Re-Budgeting, and In-Kind
10. Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)	New and In-Kind

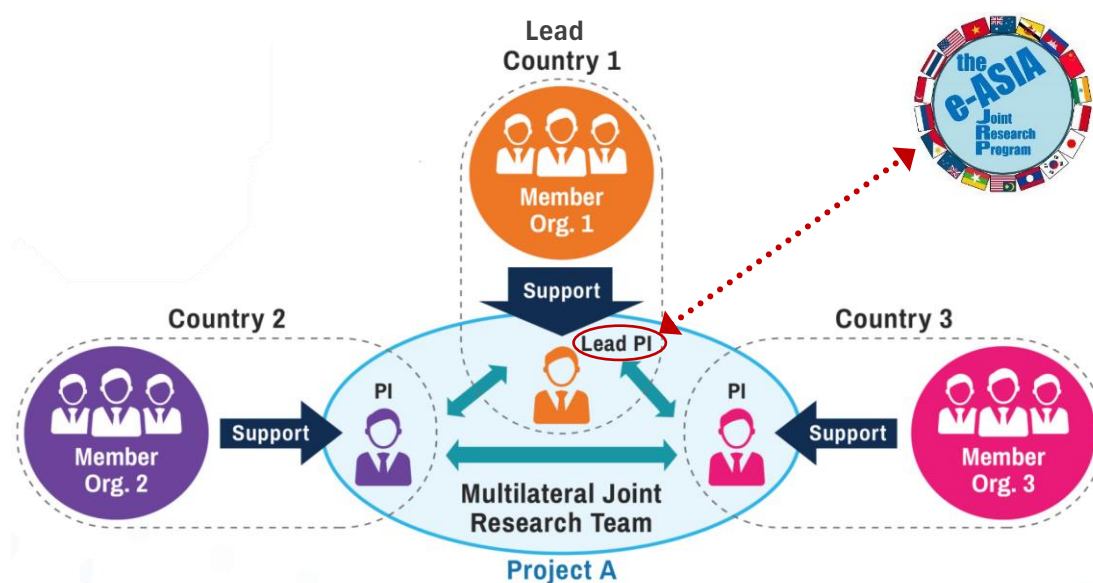
### Descriptions:

- **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 of his/her country 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 from his/her country. 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.

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### III. Application

The application must consist of a minimum of three countries forming a consortium. Within this consortium, each research team in a country shall be led by a Principal Investigator (PI), also referred to as a national PI, and a consortium of a minimum of three countries shall be led by a Lead PI specified among the PIs who is tasked to oversee the entire project.



### Roles and Responsibilities of Lead Principal Investigator (Lead PI)

- (1) Responsible for the overall management of the project.
- (2) Serves as the primary contact with the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat on behalf of the entire consortium.
- (3) Manages the administrative aspects of the project if funding is granted.
- (4) Leads project activities at their own institution.
- (5) Must be affiliated with an institution located in the home country of one of the Member Organizations participating in this call.

### Roles and Responsibilities of national Principal Investigators (PIs)

- (1) Lead their respective research teams within their countries.
- (2) Collaborate with the Lead PI in project activities.
- (3) Should demonstrate progress and/or accomplishments from previous research projects, including those related to previous e-ASIA projects, relevant to the current application.

#### **III-1. Applicant/ Project Consortium**

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

Fostering communication among researchers throughout the application process is encouraged to support the Lead PI in proposal preparation. Effective coordination

between the Lead PI and the national PIs(co-PIs) will strengthen the proposal and ensure a smoother handling of eligibility requirements and technical evaluations.

All PIs must comply with their respective national eligibility rules for research applications. Researchers from industry are encouraged to participate in the collaboration, in accordance with these national eligibility rules. Accordingly, PIs should contact the individual noted in Section VI for more information on their specific national eligibility requirements.

### **III-2. Common Application Submission**

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

#### **Deadline for Submission:**

**17:00 (Indochina Time, UTC+7) 31 March 2025**

Please submit the common application to



**YUKIO KEMMOCHI, PhD (Mr.)**

**e-ASIA JRP Secretariat**

**E-mail: [easia-opencall@jst.go.jp](mailto:easia-opencall@jst.go.jp)**

**NOTE 1:** The e-ASIA JRP Secretariat will send a confirmation email to the Lead PI to acknowledge receipt of their proposal. If the Lead PI does not receive a confirmation email from the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat within one week, they contact the Secretariat using the contact information provided above. The e-ASIA JRP Secretariat does not assume responsibility for any delays or errors in email delivery.

**NOTE 2:** Application forms submitted by any method other than email will be rejected.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PROJECT INVESTIGATORS (PIs):**

Apart from the application submitted to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat by the Lead PI, national PIs must ensure that all required application documents requested by their respective Member Organization are also submitted. Each Member Organization may require applicants from its country to submit a different application form with a separate deadline. Applications must meet both the common requirements outlined in this call guideline and the specific requirements set by each Member Organization. Therefore, it is crucial to follow their specific guidelines to maintain eligibility. Member Organizations possess complete discretion to determine whether an application meets their eligibility criteria, and their decisions will be considered final.

In addition to the common requirements outlined below, each Member Organization has specific rules that are clarified in the Appendix. For detailed information regarding these specific rules, please refer to the Appendix or consult the individual noted in Section VI.

The common application shall include:

- 1) 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;
- 2) Description of the expected outcomes of the proposed project, scientifically as well as in terms of relevance for industry and society;
- 3) Description of the ongoing activities and specific advantages of each group respectively, which form the basis for the proposed joint project;
- 4) 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;
- 5) Description of how the project is expected to help strengthen multilateral research collaboration over the longer term;
- 6) Description of the expected value added from the multidisciplinary approach in the proposed joint project; and
- 7) Description of how the proposed joint project interacts with or impacts other comparable activities worldwide.

**III-3. Common Application Forms**

The common application (proposal) forms must be prepared in English only ("E"). For national requirements specific to each Member Organization, researchers are advised to refer to the Appendix or consult their respective Member Organization in their country.

- 1) Form 1E Application Outline (title, acronym, general description and proposed period of cooperative research project)
- 2) Form 2E Summary of the Project
- 3) Form 3E Research Leaders' Information (their CVs\*)
- 4) Form 4E Research Team (list of individuals committed to the cooperative research project in each country)
- 5) Form 5E Description of the Cooperative Research Project
- 6) Form 6E Research Networking Plan
- 7) Form 7E Plan to Nurture Early Career Researchers
- 8) Form 8E Budget Plan for the Project
- 9) Form 9E Research Infrastructures and Funds from Other Sources

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

- (1) The Curriculum Vitae (CV) for each Principal Investigator (PI) must include basic information on education, past and present positions, membership in relevant organizations or associations, and a publication list from the past five years related to the proposed project.
- (2) In addition to the documents mentioned above, all projects must adhere to the ethical review and requirements set forth by each Member Organization, particularly for research activities involving human and animal subjects. PIs should consult the Appendix for the specific ethical requirements of each Member Organization.

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**IV. Evaluation****IV-1. Evaluation Process**

An application 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**

Applications 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:

- (1) The advancement of scientific discovery;
- (2) The development of science and technology in the region; and
- (3) 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:

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

### **IV-3. Notification of the Final Decision**

The Lead PI will be notified of the final decision by the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat as soon as it has been made and approved by all Member Organizations involved in the e-ASIA JRP. The estimated timeframe for this notification is between November and December 2025.

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### **V. Project Implementation**

Project reporting will adhere to the rules established by each respective Member Organization. For more details, please contact the relevant Member Organizations directly.

In addition to the requirements of the Member Organizations, consortia are expected to submit Progress Reports and Final Reports to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat in English. These reports should include a description of their collaboration and a publishable summary of the project's status. The Progress and Final Reports will be reviewed by the Board and the



Scientific Advisory Council. Furthermore, it is encouraged that the project actively 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.

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**VI. Contact information**

To ensure clarity and accuracy in all communications, we strongly encourage national PIs to be the primary points of contact with their national Member Organizations, respectively, regarding eligibility rules and 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)	<b>NHMRC RESEARCH HELP CENTRE</b> Phone: +61 1800 500 983 (+61 2 6217 9451 for international callers) E-mail: <a href="mailto:help@nhmrc.gov.au">help@nhmrc.gov.au</a>

Country: Member Organization	Contact Point
2. China: National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)	<b>DIVISION OF ASIA, AFRICA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION,</b> Bureau of International Cooperation ZHANG Yiwei (Ms.) Program Officer Phone: 86-10-62327368 Email: <a href="mailto:zhangyw@nsfc.gov.cn">zhangyw@nsfc.gov.cn</a>
3. Indonesia: National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	<b>DIRECTORATE FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUNDING</b> Phone: +62 811-1064-6771 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dana-risnov@brin.go.id">dana-risnov@brin.go.id</a>
4. Japan: Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)	<b>DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS</b> Department of International Strategy, AMED Phone: +81 3 6870 2216 E-mail: <a href="mailto:e-asia@amed.go.jp">e-asia@amed.go.jp</a>
5. Malaysia: Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)	<b>MALAYSIA SCIENCE ENDOWMENT UNIT</b> Academy of Sciences Malaysia Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation Phone: +603-6203 0633 extension 207 or 234 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mse@akademisains.gov.my">mse@akademisains.gov.my</a>
6. Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHRD)	<b>MR. VINCENT JOHN H. TUMLOS</b> Phone: +632-837-7537 local 102 E-mail: <a href="mailto:vhtumlos@pchrd.dost.gov.ph">vhtumlos@pchrd.dost.gov.ph</a>
7. Singapore: Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)	<b>MR. OEIJ EK SIANG</b> Deputy Director, International Partnerships Office Email: <a href="mailto:OEIJ_Ek_Siang@a-star.gov.sg">OEIJ_Ek_Siang@a-star.gov.sg</a>
8. Thailand: Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)	<b>DR. SONTAYA CHAIARWUT (Mr.)</b> Senior Project Analyst Phone: +66 2109 5432 or +66 8 5826 5693 E-mail: <a href="mailto:sonthaya.cha@nxpo.or.th">sonthaya.cha@nxpo.or.th</a>

Country: Member Organization	Contact Point
9. USA: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	<p><b>AMERICAS, CARIBBEAN, ASIA, AND PACIFIC (ACAP) TEAM</b></p> <p>Office of Global Research (OGR), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health and Human Services 5601 Fishers Ln MSC 9802 Bethesda, MD 20892-9802 [For courier deliveries: 20852] Email: <a href="mailto:NIAIDOGACAP@mail.nih.gov">NIAIDOGACAP@mail.nih.gov</a></p>
10. Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)	<p><b>MS. TRINH QUYNH TRANG</b></p> <p>Official, Department of International Cooperation Phone: (+84 )985896385 Email: <a href="mailto:tqtrang@most.gov.vn">tqtrang@most.gov.vn</a></p>

**For general inquiries:**



**YUKIO KEMMOCHI, PhD (Mr.)**

**Address:** e-ASIA JRP Secretariat/Japan Science and Technology Agency

Room 218 Innovation Cluster1 Building (INC1)

111 Thailand Science Park, Phahonyothin Road

Khlong Nueng, Khlong Luang, Pathum Thani 12120 Thailand

**Tel:** +66-2-564-7713

**E-mail:** [easia\\_secretariat@jst.go.jp](mailto:easia_secretariat@jst.go.jp) (for general inquiries)

[easia-opencall@jst.go.jp](mailto:easia-opencall@jst.go.jp) (for application submission)

--Appendix--

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP)  
**Research Cooperation in the Field of**

## Health Research

On the topic of

**Infectious Diseases and Immunology  
(including Antimicrobial Resistance)**

14<sup>th</sup> Joint Call for Proposals to be submitted by 31 March 2025

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Information about each Member Organization (alphabetical order by country)

- 1) **Australia:** National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
- 2) **China:** National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
- 3) **Indonesia:** National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
- 4) **Japan:** Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)
- 5) **Malaysia:** Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
- 6) **Philippines:** Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHRD)
- 7) **Singapore:** Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR)
- 8) **Thailand:** Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)
- 9) **USA:** National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
- 10) **Vietnam:** Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

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

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- NHMRC can only fund research into human health.
  - NHMRC has a provisional funding allocation to support 4 applications. NHMRC's Research Committee annually reviews and recommends indicative budget amounts to be awarded.
  - Key obligations are outlined below, but applicants should review in conjunction with the 2025 NHMRC e-ASIA Grant Opportunity Guidelines, available on GrantConnect.
- 

## I. Eligibility

Eligibility is dependent on the following:

- (1) 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.
- (2) NHMRC requires that collaborations must include a Lead PI or PI from at least one of the following participating member organisations:
  - a. Indonesia: National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
  - b. Malaysia: Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
  - c. Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHRD)
  - d. Singapore: Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR)
  - e. Thailand: Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)
  - f. Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
- (3) Applications must be submitted to the e-ASIA Secretariat (as described in Section III. Applications above) and via NHMRC's Grants Management System, Sapphire.
- (4) Applications must meet NHMRC's eligibility and Minimum Data requirements as outlined in the 2025 NHMRC e-ASIA Grant Opportunity Guidelines.
- (5) Applications will only be accepted from NHMRC-approved Administering Institutions. A list of NHMRC-approved Administering Institutions is available on [NHMRC's website](#).

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

It is the applicant's responsibility to verify the member organisation participation in respective calls, and any additional eligibility requirements specific to the member organisation. Partnering country applicants are required to submit their applications to their respective member organisation in line with the applicable funding organisation due dates.

NHMRC staff will not make eligibility rulings before an application is submitted.

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## II. Support

NHMRC will provisionally support 4 applications, with a maximum budget of \$750,000 (AUD) per grant over three years.

### **How to Apply**

All Australian applicants must apply to NHMRC's Grants Management System, Sapphire **AND** the Lead PI of each project must also submit the common application to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat to be considered for the NHMRC e-ASIA 2025 Joint Research Program. A copy of the research consortium's e-ASIA Common Application must be attached to the Sapphire application form. The application must address one (or more) of the research topics for the Health Research call.

Deadline of submission to NHMRC's Grants Management System by 17:00 (Australian Eastern Daylight Time, UTC+11) on 2 April 2025

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## III. Evaluation

Applications for NHMRC e-ASIA 2024 Joint Research Program grant opportunity are assessed by peers against the weighted assessment criteria listed below.

- Health significance (20%)
- Scientific merit (20%)

- Design and methods (25%)
- Expertise of the research team (15%)
- Quality of the research partnership (20%)

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#### IV. Reporting

Administering Institutions are required to report to NHMRC on the progress of the grant and the use of grant funds. Applicants should note that e-ASIA JRP has additional reporting requirements and conditions specific to research funded under this grant opportunity, which includes the provision of:

- Progress reports
- A final report

Further information is provided in the *2025 NHMRC e-ASIA Joint Research Program Grant Guidelines* available on [GrantConnect](#).

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#### V. Contact Information



**Australian Government**

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**National Health and Medical Research Council**

All enquiries should be directed to the **NHMRC RESEARCH HELP CENTRE**

- Phone: +61 1800 500 983
- (+61 2 6217 9451 for international callers)
- E-mail: [help@nhmrc.gov.au](mailto:help@nhmrc.gov.au)

Refer to the [Research Help Centre webpage](#) for further information and opening hours.

## 2. National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

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- NSFC can support a maximum of Four (4) applications.
  - Funding modality: New
  - Chinese applicants must read and accept the following conditions for this program. Please refer to the Chinese guidelines for further details at:  
<https://www.nsf.gov.cn/>
- 

### I. Eligibility

Eligibility for Chinese Applicants:

- (1) The Chinese applicant must be researchers affiliated with a higher education or research institution which registers in NSFC.
  - (2) The Chinese principal investigator (PI) must have a senior academic rank (title) and have/had been the PI of at least one on-going or completed NSFC research project with the duration of no less than 3 years.
  - (3) Projects require support from a minimum of three (3) e-ASIA Joint Research Program's member organisations including NSFC.
  - (4) A Common Application must be submitted to the e-ASIA Secretariat (as described in Section III. Applications above) .
  - (5) Chinese applicants must submit a completed online application to the NSFC's Grants System (<http://grants.nsf.gov.cn>) and submit the final version of Common Application proposal as attachments to the NSFC Grant system.
- 

### II. Support

NSFC will support up to four (4) applications, with a maximum budget of CNY 2,000,000 Yuan per grant over three (3) years.

The funding covers all the expense of research cost (including Equipment expenses, Purchase cost, Experimental and Operating expenses, Labor costs), seminar/workshop costs, international cooperation and exchange and others.



## **II-1 How to Apply**

All Chinese applicants must apply to NSFC's Grants System (<http://grants.nsf.gov.cn>), **AND** the Lead PI of each project must also submit the common application to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat. A copy of the research consortium's e-ASIA Common Application must be attached to the application when submit to the NSFC Grants System.

Deadline of submission to NSFC's Grants System: **16:00 (China Standard Time, UTC+8) on 2 April 2025.**

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## **III. Evaluation**

All applications that meet the eligibility requirements will be reviewed by reviewer with relevant disciplinary expertise, based on the e-ASIA JRP evaluation criteria (as described in *Section IV. Evaluation* above) and NSFC assessment criteria as listed below:

- Scientific merit.
  - Foundation of international cooperation and its complementarity.
  - Innovation aspects.
  - Social impact.
  - Feasibility of the cooperation and research plan.
  - The progress and completion status of the NSFC projects undertaken in the past.
- 

## **IV. Reporting**

At the end of each fiscal year, Chinese PIs shall submit progress report to NSFC on the status of joint research, output, research expenses, and research plan for the next year.

After completion of the period of joint research, Chinese PI shall submit a final report on the results of the joint research, which shall include a description of the research activities, outputs and outcomes, and financial report.

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## V. Contact Information



**国家自然科学基金委员会**

National Natural Science Foundation of China

**DIVISION OF ASIA, AFRICA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION,**  
Bureau of International Cooperation

**ZHANG Yiwei (Ms.)**

Program Officer

Phone: 86-10-62327368

Email: [zhangyw@nsfc.gov.cn](mailto:zhangyw@nsfc.gov.cn)

### 3. Indonesia: National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)

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BRIN can support a maximum of 5 applications.

The following funding modalities will be supported:

- New
- In-kind

Applicants must read and accept the following specific conditions for this program. Please refer to the information on the following website: <https://pendanaan-risnov.brin.go.id>

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#### I. Eligibility for Indonesian Applicants

- The Principal Investigator (PI) submitting proposal to BRIN must be an Indonesian citizen and must hold a doctoral degree (S3).
- The Principal Investigator (PI) and team members are researcher from BRIN or other Indonesian research entity with appropriate legal registration for example, university, civil society organizations, and industry/company/business entity;
- Other research institutions legally registered in Indonesia, excluding BRIN, must register with the Sistem Informasi Registrasi Lembaga Riset (SEBARIS): <https://sebaris.brin.go.id/daftar>, and comply with its requirement to meet the required administrative and legal obligations;
- The Principal Investigator must have a research track record and expertise relevant to the proposed research. Team members must have either a relevant track record or clearly defined roles in the research project where their skill sets provide added value.
- All researchers (Principal Investigator and team members) involved must submit their Curriculum Vitae, with their research track record detailed in the research experience section.
- The Principal Investigator and team members are allowed to be involved in up to 2 (two) proposals for the RIIM Kolaborasi Internasional e-ASIA JRP funding, either as Principal Investigator on 1 (one) proposal and a team member on 1 (one) proposal, or as a team member on 2 (two) proposals.

Please note that the Indonesia applicants must also complete a research ethical clearance done through the Research Ethical Clearance Information System before the project started (<https://klirensetik.brin.go.id>).

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## II. Support

BRIN will support up to 5 applications with a maximum amount of IDR 1,000,000,000 per project/year (including researcher mobility and infrastructure sharing). The amounts will be adjusted each year according to the evaluations and budgetary limitations. The duration of the project shall be no longer than 3 (three) years in total from the start date. This support is under the RIIM Kolaborasi Scheme, funded by the investment gains of the Research Endowment Fund managed by the Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education Agency (LPDP) under the Ministry of Finance.

### **II-1 Eligible Costs:**

- Purchase/procurement of chemicals/consumables or materials essentials for research or production components;
- Honorarium is available only to compensate field workers for their contributions (funding cannot cover personnel expenses for PI, team members, and administrative staff);
- Meals for meeting that directly related to the research, takes place within the office of the respective institution; and
- Domestic travel that directly related to the research activities, as well as facilitating the mobility of Indonesian researchers through BRIN's researcher mobility scheme managed by the Directorate of Talent Management. The researcher mobility scheme is exclusively for BRIN researchers only. However, Indonesian researchers from other institutions may apply for researcher mobility funding only if they collaborate with BRIN research group. Further information about the researcher mobility scheme, including its provisions and access to the BRIN research group database, can be found at: <https://manajementalenta.brin.go.id>.

In addition to the above, please note that Indonesian grants cannot cover these following:

- Equipment/software purchases;
- Capital expenditure;
- Personnel expenses for PI, team members, and administrative staff;

- Expenses for organizing and hosting events (such as workshop, focus group discussion) outside the office of the respective institution; and
- Expenses for publication and international conference (including registration and attending the international conference)

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### III. How to Apply

Please note that applicants are required to complete both email submission to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat (only if the Indonesian applicant is the Lead PI) and submission via the BRIN Pendanaan System. Applications will be considered ineligible if the proposal documents are not submitted by the deadline through both submission systems.

- Applications must be written in English and must comply with the Call Guideline and instruction in the form (as described in *Section III. Applications above*)
- The Indonesian PI must register the email addresses of all Indonesian researchers in the research consortium. Each member must confirm their participation in the project on the BRIN Pendanaan System
- Applications (identical copies of the proposal of the consortium) must be submitted to the BRIN Pendanaan System: <https://pendanaan-risnov.brin.go.id>
- Applications submitted to the BRIN Pendanaan System must be accompanied by additional documents such as: a signed approval sheet from an authorized official of the institution, the Curriculum Vitae of the Indonesian PI and all team members, and the proposed budget details (RAB)
- Indonesian PI who becomes Lead PI of the consortium of three countries must submit the applications of the consortium to the e-ASIA Secretariat (as described in *Section III. Applications above*)

It is the Lead PI's responsibility to verify the member organization participation in respective calls, and any additional eligibility requirement specific to the member organization. Partnering country applicants are required to submit their applications to their respective member organization in line with the applicable funding organization due dates.

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## IV. Evaluation

The Secretariat of the Directorate for Research and Innovation Funding will ensure that applications meet all eligibility requirements outlined in the Call Guideline, at the time of submission. Applications that do not meet eligibility requirements may be ineligible and may be excluded from further review.

All applications that meet the eligibility requirements will be reviewed by reviewer with relevant disciplinary expertise, based on the e-ASIA JRP evaluation criteria (as described in *Section IV. Evaluation* above) and BRIN assessment criteria listed below:

- Significance and advantage
- Roadmap and strategic value
- Relevant track record/expertise of the research team
- Collaboration network
- Budget
- Research methods
- Expected output:
  - a. Two journal articles (Submitted to Q1 or Q2 international journal) where the Indonesian PI is first author or co-author and/or corresponding author; and/or
  - b. Intellectual Property with minimum registered status, with a principle of equity noted as a collaborative agreement.

After completing the projects, final evaluation will be performed based on the final reports by the program evaluation committees in BRIN.

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## V. Reporting

- At the end of each fiscal year, the Indonesian PI shall promptly submit to BRIN an annual progress report on the status of joint research activities, output achievements, financial report on research expenses, and a research plan for the year ahead. A financial report showing that at least 80% of the grant has been used is required for requesting a second term disbursement.
- At the end of the period of funding and after completion of the joint research, the Indonesian PI shall submit a final report on the results of the joint

research which shall include a description of the research activities, outputs and outcomes, and financial report to BRIN within one month.

- The report shall include a general summary of the activities both the consortium and the Indonesian research teams. If papers describing results of the research activities are presented to academic journals, societies, etc., a list of those papers and other related information should be attached to the final report. All outputs produced by the project must include the logo of BRIN and LPDP.

Refer to the RIIM Kolaborasi Internasional e-ASIA JRP Guidelines, available on BRIN Pendanaan System: <https://pendanaan-risnov.brin.go.id> for further information and detailed.

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## VI. Contact Information



### **DR. AJENG ARUM SARI**

*Director of Research and Innovation Funding*

*National Research and Innovation Agency*

Phone: +62 811-1064-6771

E-mail: [dana-risnov@brin.go.id](mailto:dana-risnov@brin.go.id)

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

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AMED can support a maximum of three (3) applications.

The following funding modalities will be supported:

- New

Japan-based applicants must read and accept the following AMED-specific conditions for this program. Please refer to the information on the following website:

- [https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/20/01/2001B\\_00101.html](https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/20/01/2001B_00101.html)

For project proposals in which Japan-based applicants hope to receive funding from AMED, it is encouraged that more than two countries participating in the project do so using either the “New” or “Re-budgeting” funding modality.

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### I. Eligibility for Japan-based applicants

The Japan-based PI must be personally affiliated with a domestic research institution and conduct research there. Domestic research institutions on the Japanese side are 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 a Japan-based PI.

- i) Researchers holding citizenship other than Japanese, who belong to a Japanese domestic research institution.
- ii) Researchers who are 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 a Japan-based PI.



- 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 a Japan-based PI.

Japan-based PIs 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.

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## **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 up to 22.5 million Japanese Yen as direct expenses. Overhead expenses should be allocated at a fixed percentage (up to 30%) in accordance with direct costs. 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 in place for 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 expenses 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 the PI.
- v) Other: Expenses for creating software, renting or leasing equipment, transporting equipment, expenses for buyout costs, etc.

2. Overhead expenses shall be 30% of direct expenses. (Allocated separately from direct expenses.)

### 3. Expenses not covered/funded by the program:

- i) Expenses relating to the acquisition or rental of real estate or construction of 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 period.
- iv) Expenses unrelated to the implementation of this co-operative research project.

For more details about salaries for Japan-based PIs and buyout costs, please visit the following website: [https://www.amed.go.jp/keiri/youshiki\\_itaku.html](https://www.amed.go.jp/keiri/youshiki_itaku.html) (in Japanese only)

## **II-4. Conclusion of contracted R&D agreement**

For each funded 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 principles of the accounting period of the national government. Successful applicants shall receive detailed information from AMED following project selection.

## **II-5. Collaborative Research Agreement**

For each funded R&D project, a Collaborative Research Agreement (CRA) MUST be concluded among the institutions with which the collaborating researchers are affiliated. The CRA should include conclusions of discussions among Parties which are entitled to intellectual property arising as a result of the research collaboration, and Institutions

concerned, on issues regarding treatment of research information brought by researchers involved for the implementation of the research collaboration, research achievements resulting from the research collaboration, and handling of intellectual properties. The CRA so concluded shall be shared among the Parties. A sample CRA can be found on the following website: <https://www.the-easia.org/jrp/documents.html>

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### **III. How to Apply**

Please note that Japan-based applicants are required to complete both e-mail submission to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat (Only for Japan-based Lead PIs) and submission via the “**e-Rad**” system (For both Japan-based Lead PIs and PIs). Applications will be considered ineligible if the proposal documents are not submitted by the deadline through both submission systems.

#### **III-1. Application Forms**

- Form J is only for Japan-based applicants and 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\\_00101.html](https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/20/01/2001B_00101.html)

#### **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 “e-Rad” online application system (<http://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html>) by **17:00** (Japanese Standard Time, UTC+9) on **31 March 2025**.

Application to the program is not complete at the point when 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.

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## **IV. Evaluation**

The program evaluation committees consisting of relevant experts will evaluate all proposals. Following the document review of all proposals, the program evaluation committees will conduct a hearing review of selected candidate proposals. Based on the results of their evaluations, a common decision will be made jointly by the participating Member Organizations regarding selection of proposals for funding.

### **IV-1. Evaluation Criteria**

1. Compatibility with the program's purpose
  - 1.1 Is the project compatible with the program's purpose and objectives, etc.?
2. Scientific/technological significance and advantage
  - 2.1 Are the current technological level and previous performance of applicants sufficient?
  - 2.2 Does the project proposal have originality, novelty, and innovativeness?
  - 2.3 Does the project contribute to the advancement of the field of medicine?
  - 2.4 Does the project contribute to the development of new technologies?
  - 2.5 Does the project respond to a societal need?
  - 2.6 Is the project compatible with national policies regarding R&D in the field of medicine?
3. Appropriateness of the plan
  - 3.1 Are the overall content and objectives of the plan clear?
  - 3.2 Are the plans for each fiscal year detailed and feasible?
  - 3.3 Is the project plan in compliance with laws and ordinances related to bioethics and safety measures?
4. Implementation system
  - 4.1 Has an appropriate R&D system centered on each applicant been organized?
  - 4.2 Has a sufficient collaboration network been constructed?
  - 4.3 Are the comparative efforts of the applicants appropriate?
  - 4.4 Is there any unreasonable duplication/excessive concentration of effort?
5. Costs

- 5.1 Are the breakdown of costs and spending plan appropriate?
6. Items prescribed under the program and items that should be considered comprehensively
- 6.1 Does the project contribute to the development of science and technology in the ASEAN region? (Regional Relevance of the Research)
- 6.2 Does the project contribute to solving significant and relevant issues across the ASEAN region? (Regional Relevance of the Research)
- 6.3 Is there a unique opportunity for research/outcomes that could not be achieved either through bilateral or individual research but only through multilateral cooperation? (Mutual Benefits of the Joint Research)
- 6.4 Does the project contain activities to nurture early career researchers through research activities? (Effectiveness of Exchange)
- 6.5 Does the project enhance research capacities in the ASEAN region? (Effectiveness of Exchange)

After completing the projects, final evaluation will be performed based on the final reports by the program evaluation committees in AMED.

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## **V. Reporting**

### **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 activities and 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 (4) months of 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 (2) months after termination of contract.

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## VI. Contact Information



Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development

### **DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

Department of International Strategy

Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

Phone +81 (0)3-6870-2216

E-mail [e-asia@amed.go.jp](mailto:e-asia@amed.go.jp)

## 5. Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)

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 The following funding modalities will be supported:

- New
- 

### I. Eligibility

#### **I-1 Malaysian Applicants**

- Open to researchers at Public Institutions of Higher Education (IPTA), Private Institutions of Higher Education (IPTA) and Government Research Institution (GRI).
- All Project Leaders must be Malaysian citizens or permanent residents of Malaysia. For contract staff, the project duration shall be included within the employment period.
- In the case of Malaysia PI, is not a Malaysian citizen, it is allowed to apply on the condition that he/ she must have a co-researcher who must be a Malaysian citizen in the same field of expertise and from the same Institution as the Next Appointed Leader.
- Applicants are only allowed to be Project Leaders for one project only. Therefore, only one application can be submitted.

#### **I-2 Proposal for Malaysia**

- Research proposed must be Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 and/or above.
- Proposals should emphasize transdisciplinary research, with involvement from multiple disciplines being advantageous.
- Collaboration with industry, CSO or communities is mandatory, and having multiple collaborations is advantageous.
- The proposal must justify alignment with at least (1) ONE of the (10) TEN Socioeconomic Drivers of 10-10 MySTIE below:
  - (1) Energy
  - (2) Business and Financial Services
  - (3) Culture, Arts and Tourism
  - (4) Medical and Healthcare

- (5) Smart Technology and Systems (Next Generation Engineering and Manufacturing)
- (6) Smart Cities and Transportation
- (7) Water and Food
- (8) Agriculture and Forestry
- (9) Education
- (10) Environment and Biodiversity

## II. Support

The Malaysia Science Endowment (MSE) will support 1 to 3 projects under its funding scheme, with funding ranging between **RM 500,000 to RM 1,000,000 per project**. Each project must include collaboration with at least one non-Malaysian applicant, who must secure an equivalent amount of funding to match the application by the Malaysian applicant. This initiative aims to foster international collaboration and is funded by the Malaysia Science Endowment Unit under the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM).

### **II-1 Eligible Costs Categories**

#### **A. Allowance for Research Assistant (RA)/ Research Officer (RO)/ Graduate Research Assistant (GRA)**

- Allowance to fund Research Assistants (RA)/ Research Officer (RO)/ Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) for full-time research mode only.
- The allowance ceiling shall not exceed RM3,200.00 for Ph.D. students and RM3,000.00 for master's students. Hiring of post-doc is allowed within permitted ceiling amount.
- This allowance includes deduction for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Social Security Organization (SOCSO).

#### **B. Research-Related Travel, Training, and Exchange Activities**

- The total expenditure for travel, transportation, and living expenses shall not exceed 40% of the overall project budget and it is capped at RM 200,000.
- Under exchange activities, conferences, trainings, and workshops are allowed with the condition that they must be directly related to the research project purpose and organised by a professional body or university.



- The travel destination, transportation, accommodation, and living expenses must be suitable and economical.
- Attending short-term courses, training, or programs (during the research period) to learn specific techniques related to the research project within the country and abroad is allowed with the condition that it aligns with the project purpose.

### **C. Rental**

- Rental is only allowed for buildings, equipment, transportation, computer usage, and other items directly involved in the research.

### **D. Research Supplies, Materials and Consumables**

- Only expenses related to research are allowed.
- Supplies, materials and consumables include items that are used up during the research project. These items are essential for conducting experiments, collecting data, and maintaining the smooth operation of the research activities.

### **E. Minor Repair and Modification**

- Only expenses for minor repairs and modifications to buildings, laboratories, equipment, or other related research items are allowed. Each proposal must be accompanied by relevant justification and price quotations.
- Maintenance costs for existing equipment during the project implementation are allowed. After the project is completed, these maintenance costs will no longer be covered by this grant.

### **F. Specialised Services**

- Covers costing for printing, hospitality, honorariums, professional services, consultancy, enumerators, research assistants, data processing, and other services related to the research project.
- The ceiling for payment of article publication fees in indexed journals is RM10,000.00 per research project.

### **G. Accessories and Equipment**

- Only purchases of specialized equipment and accessories (including upgrading the capabilities of existing equipment) related to the relevant research project are allowed. Each application must be accompanied by justification and relevant

price quotations. Price quotations obtained from online sellers (online) such as Shopee, Lazada, and others are not allowed; and

- The amount requested for this vote should not exceed 40% of the total project amount.

#### **H. Field test/ Pressure test/ User Test Acceptance/ Piloting**

- Includes all expenses related to conducting various tests and piloting activities necessary for the research project. These activities are crucial for validating research findings, testing prototypes, and ensuring the feasibility of the project outcomes.
- Preliminary test, Sample test and payment for volunteers/ individuals is allowed.

#### **I. Intellectual Property (IP)**

- Covered for registration at Malaysia only, including services like drafting.
- Generated IP from the project for the purpose for (i) Patent and/or (ii) Industry Design

#### **II-2 Prohibition on the Use of Allocation**

Researchers are not allowed to use grant funds for purchases unrelated to the research project. Prohibited purchases include:

- Payment of any form of membership fees to professional bodies/societies, etc.;
- Purchase of reference materials;
- Purchase of ICT equipment and communication devices (such as mobile phones/laptops/printers/cartridges, etc.);
- Payment of utility/telecommunication bills;
- Purchase of office equipment (such as stationery/paper/desk/chair, etc.);
- Purchase of storage equipment (such as external hard drives/pen drives/CDs, etc.);
- Payment for rental of space/facilities at respective institutions;
- Organising conferences, symposiums, workshops and others;
- Exhibitions or innovation competitions;
- Payment for IP maintenance and Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) agreement; and
- Other purchases not directly related to the research project.

**NOTE:** Any unspent funds must be returned to the government.

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### III. How to Apply

- All applicants from Malaysia must submit a complete proposal to the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) via email at [mse@akademisains.gov.my](mailto:mse@akademisains.gov.my) by no later than 18:00 (Malaysia Time, UTC +8) and 17:00 (Thai Standard Time, UTC+7) on 31 March 2025. An acknowledgment email will be sent as a receipt of submission, which will prompt the next steps required for further processing.
- For more information access <https://www.akademisains.gov.my/> for further announcements and updates.

Applicants must also submit a copy of the complete application to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat.

#### **III-1 Additional Submission Guidelines:**

- All applications must be written in English and adhere to the Call Guideline and instructions provided in the application form.
- Malaysian applicants must ensure all team members are registered in the proposal and confirm their participation in the research consortium.
- The submission must include supporting documents such as signed approval from authorized official of affiliated institution, Curriculum Vitae of the Malaysian PI and all team members and detailed proposed budget allocation.
- The partnering country applicants must submit their applications to their respective funding organisations in accordance with the applicable deadlines.

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### IV. Evaluation

The Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) will ensure that all applications meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the Call Guidelines at the time of submission. Applications that do not meet these requirements may be deemed ineligible and excluded from further review.

Eligible applications will undergo rigorous review by a panel of experts from ASM with relevant expertise, using the e-Asia JRP evaluation criteria (as outlined in Section IV. Evaluation above) alongside ASM’s assessment criteria, which include the following:

ITEM	WEIGHTAGE
Research Quality and Feasibility	50%
Impact	20%
Innovation	20%
Value for Money	10%

## V. Reporting

### V-1 Requirements

- The Project leader of the shortlisted proposal must enter into research agreement with their respective Research Management Centre (RMC) and the Academy of Science Malaysia (ASM). The agreement formalises collaborative research efforts, aligning parties with research objectives and expectations while ensuring they commit to regular updates on research progress by submitting detailed progress and financial reports to ensure transparency and accountability in fund utilisation.
- The Malaysian researchers and research institutions involved in the consortium are strongly recommended to conclude a Collaborative Research Agreement (CRA) before the project begins. Notify ASM promptly upon conclusion of the CRA and any associated research agreements. Ensure clarity in roles, responsibilities, and management of research outputs and intellectual property

### V-2 Scheduled Monitoring, Performance and Financial Reporting

- Every research program and project are subject to scheduled monitoring throughout the active period of the program and project. Brief financial and progress report must be submitted to ASM every six (6) months. The Financial Report must be certified by the University Treasurer.
- The Principal Investigator must submit the final research report in both hardcopy and digital (softcopy) formats within three (3) months after the program end date.

## VI. Contact Information



### **MALAYSIA SCIENCE ENDOWMENT UNIT**

Academy of Sciences Malaysia

Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation

Phone: +603-6203 0633 extension 207 or 234

E-mail: [mse@akademisains.gov.my](mailto:mse@akademisains.gov.my)

## 6. Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHR)D)

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### 14<sup>th</sup> Call for Proposal Topic

For this 14<sup>th</sup> Call, DOST-PCHR)D will only fund proposals that will fall under this research topic:

4. Health threats and emergencies
    - a) Identifying and targeting emerging health threats and emergencies, including working with partners towards a One Health research approach to climate change, health and the environment, biodiversity, and antimicrobial resistance.
    - b) Climate change-related diseases, (e.g. diseases of interest may include vector-borne diseases, water and food-borne diseases, respiratory infectious diseases, zoonotic diseases, fungal infections.
- 

### 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 impacts.

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 are 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) (<https://dpmis.dost.gov.ph/>):

- Project Proposal following the DOST Detailed Proposal Form (downloadable from the DOST DPMIS website).
- Work plan Schedule (Gantt Chart of Activities)
- Proposed Line-Item Budget (DOST-GIA LIB Form)
- Counterpart Funding of Implementing Agency

- Endorsement of Agency Head
- Curriculum Vitae of Proponent(s)
- Duties and Responsibilities of each Project Personnel
- For proposals with human subjects:
  - ✓ Informed Consent Form
  - ✓ Case Report Form, if applicable
- Endorsement Letter from Agency Ahead addressed to:

*The Executive Director  
Philippine Council for Health Research and Development  
Department of Science and Technology  
Bicutan, Taguig City*

DOST-PCHRDR 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)

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#### **IV. Funding Support**

DOST-PCHRDR will support 1 project under this Call and allocate up to **PhP 10,000 (approx. USD 170,300)** for a **maximum duration of three (3) years**.

Deadline for online submission will be on or before **31 March 2025, 5:00 PM** (Philippine Standard Time).

#### **Important Notes:**

1. Application and funding will be governed by the DOST Grants-in-Aid Guidelines and its amendments for Filipino researchers.
2. Additional and specific requirements may be required on a **separate local call** to be issued and published by the DOST-PCHRDR. Filipino researchers are advised to anticipate this local call for their guidance.



3. Online submission will be through the DOST DPMIS website only. Submissions through emails or hardcopy will not be accepted.

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## 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

## 7. Singapore: Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR)

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### I. Funding Modality

Singapore-based applicants will be participating via an in-kind modality only.

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### II. Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility conditions for Singapore-based applicants are described as follows:

- (1) Lead PI/PI must be an independent researcher from public sector research performers, namely the Institutes of Higher Learning (universities and polytechnics), A\*STAR Research Institutes, as well as other non-defence-related public sector agencies (e.g., Ministries, Statutory Boards).
  - (2) Lead PI/PI must hold a primary appointment of at least 75% in a local publicly funded institution and salaried by the institution.
  - (3) Lead PI/PI must first obtain endorsement from their respective Host Institutions in support of the project through written approval. The approval has to be submitted to A\*STAR (as e-Asia's Singapore representative) together with the application form.
- 

### III. How to apply

Singapore-based applicants must first obtain a written endorsement from their respective Singapore Host Institutions to support the project. This endorsement must take the form of a written approval.

The project's Lead PI, whether based in Singapore or elsewhere, is responsible for submitting this written endorsement along with the application form to A\*STAR (as the Singapore representative for e-ASIA) and the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat by the stipulate deadline.

Therefore, Singapore-based PIs are required to forward the written endorsement from their Host Institutions to their respective Lead PIs. This endorsement should be submitted as a supporting document to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat, and a copy should be sent to A\*STAR.

Applications will be considered ineligible if the proposal documents and endorsement by the Host Institution are not submitted as required by the deadline.

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#### IV. Contact Information



#### MR. OEIJ EK SIANG

Deputy Director,  
International Partnerships Office, A\*STAR  
Email: [OEIJ\\_Ek\\_Siang@a-star.gov.sg](mailto:OEIJ_Ek_Siang@a-star.gov.sg)

## 8. Thailand: Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)

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PMU-B is supporting the following topic: Health Research

- Health threats and emergencies related to climate change-induced diseases or the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Personalized Medicine.
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### I. Eligibility for Thai Applicants

- 1) The applicants must be researchers and/or university professors/instructors who work in public/non-profit organization research institute or university in Thailand and are competent in conducting research with international partners.
- 2) The proposal must have the researchers from Thailand at least 2 institutes/universities to cooperate with.

**Note:** For more information on qualified researchers, please visit the PMU-B website and download [the manual](#).

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### II. Support

The total budget for the Thai researcher over a **full 3-year period** is up to **5,000,000 THB** per project. The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities and compliance with PMU-B financial guideline ( please find details via PMU- B website: [www.pmu-hr.or.th](http://www.pmu-hr.or.th))

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### III. How to Apply

- 1) Thai applicants must submit the proposal to PMU-B through NRIIS: <https://nriis.go.th> and;

- 2) Lead PI must also submit proposal to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat's E-mail:  
[easia\\_secretariat@jst.go.jp](mailto:easia_secretariat@jst.go.jp).
- 

#### **IV. Evaluation**

Proposals will be peer-reviewed and evaluated by Thai external experts. The final selection will be done by the international selection committee of e-ASIA. 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
  - Capabilities of the research team
  - 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**

- Every six months, the Thailand PI shall promptly submit a progress report on the status of joint research to PMU-B
  - 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 PMU-B.
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## VI. Contact Information



### **DR. SONTHAYA CHAIARWUT (Mr.)**

Senior Project Analyst, Global Partnership for Sustainability & Society  
Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development,  
Research and Innovation (PMU-B), Thailand

Tel: +66 2109 5432 or +66 8 5826 5693

E-mail: [sonthaya.cha@nxpo.or.th](mailto:sonthaya.cha@nxpo.or.th)

## 9. USA: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

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The NIAID mission is to conduct and support basic and applied research to better understand, treat, and ultimately prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases, including the research response to emerging public health threats.

For the e-ASIA JRP 14th Call on Infectious Diseases and Immunology, NIAID funding may be requested to support basic, clinical, and applied biomedical research focused on infectious diseases and immunology. Requests can be within a broad scope of biomedical/behavioral health research including emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, as well as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and research collaborations aimed towards pandemic preparedness and research response. Projects may consider multiple approaches to pandemic preparedness, including pathogen-specific work (particularly those in the region), platform-based technologies, and prototype-pathogen efforts (working on solutions within viral families and genera); as well as inter-disciplinary approaches to address infectious disease, (including vector-borne, waterborne, foodborne, zoonotic, respiratory, fungi, and antimicrobial resistance) allergic and immunologic diseases.

Applications requesting NIAID funding to support research that falls outside these areas will not be considered eligible for NIAID funding. For example, applications focused on health care quality assurance or similar issues would not be eligible for NIAID funding.

### **NIAID has limitations on support of research in the areas listed below:**

- a. Intersections between chronic and infectious disease, including co- and multi-morbidities (in-kind only)
- b. common risk factors that aggravate the condition (e.g. tobacco, obesity) (not eligible)
- c. identifying, preventing and managing multiple chronic conditions and greater integration of living with multiple long-term conditions into research. (if chronic disease is not an infectious disease or immune-mediated disease, in-kind only)

- d. Integration of artificial intelligence into research and its safe, equitable, ethical and effective application in health care, particularly with a focus on the ethical implications and regulation of rapidly emerging technologies in research and health care. (Applicants should reach out to NIAID POC to determine if eligible for funding)
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## I. Application Materials

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 and evaluated according to the common e-ASIA JRP evaluation criteria (refer to Section IV-2) and the additional evaluation criteria listed below. Please see below for more information.

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## II. 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 United States for at least 50% of the award period. This residency requirement does not apply to U.S. government employees. U.S. government employees must apply as the U.S. PI. 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, and other personnel working in U.S. federal government facilities, whose salaries are paid using direct U.S. federal funding, or personnel working under a contract supported by the U.S. federal government, may apply for this program; however, they are **not permitted** to receive funding or other support (e.g., travel, supplies, equipment) under this program. The federally funded U.S. PI and the affiliated U.S. federal agency participation must be in-kind. U.S. PIs providing in-kind participation will be required to submit semi-annual progress and final reports.

Collaborations must include at least 3 collaborating countries from this call including a Lead PI or PI from at least one of the following participating member organizations' countries:

- Indonesia: National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)



- Malaysia: Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
- Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHRD)
- Thailand: Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)
- Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

### **II-1. Additional Evaluation Criteria**

- **Research Plan:** How well the individual elements of the project plan fit with the overall project goals.
- **Technical Merit:** The technical soundness of the proposed work, the project's management plan, and adequacy of the resources available, both technical and financial.
- **Research Impact:** The probability that the project will result in new knowledge in one or more research fields or have a positive impact on health of the population in the East Asia region or/and all over the world.

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### **III. 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 NIAID's implementing partner, pending the submission and acceptance of all necessary approvals and documentation (e.g., IRB approval, award agreement, animal subject review, etc.).

NIAID's implementing partner will communicate directly with the U.S. PIs and support expenses for the U.S. teams from universities and non-profits with the exception of large-scale equipment purchases that cost over \$10,000 USD. U.S. team applications may propose utilizing some or all of the requested funding to support foreign partners, but the allowed maximum budget still cannot exceed the amount described in the preceding paragraph. U.S. federal government agencies (including scientists and other personnel working in U.S. federal government facilities, whose salaries are paid using direct U.S. federal funding, or personnel working under a contract supported by the U.S. federal government) and U.S. applicants 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.

Funding may be requested for the following expenses:

- (1) Labor
- (2) Equipment, Supplies and Services
- (3) Travel
- (4) Indirect Costs (IDC) 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<sup>[1]</sup> and sub-awardees expenses (after the first \$25,000). Total direct costs minus these items are 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.

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<sup>[1]</sup> 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.

Recognizing the limited funding available for these small projects and the goal to achieve maximum scientific outcomes, applicants are encouraged to provide cost shares. Awardees with a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) from a U.S. federal cognizant agency may claim their NICRA, however, they 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. Eligible cost shares must be verifiable through appropriate documentation provided by the awardee and should be described within the budget narrative. Cost shares should be:

- Verifiable through appropriate documentation provided by the awardee
- Necessary and reasonable for the accomplishment of project objectives

Allowable costs under this program not paid by the U.S. government under another award, except where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such a program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other U.S. government-funded programs.

Examples of cost shares that may be included in the proposal:

- **Salary:** (including fringe benefits) of any team member essential to the project. Salary and fringe rates should be listed separately for each team member in the cost share budget.
- **Consultant services:** Labor and fringe rates for third parties providing volunteer services towards the project may be counted as cost sharing or matching if the service is an integral and necessary part of the project. Rates for third-party volunteer services must be consistent with those paid for similar work by the non-Federal entity. In those instances, where the required skills are not found with the awardee, rates must be consistent with those paid for similar work in the labor market.
- **Equipment/Supplies:** Donated equipment, office supplies, or laboratory supplies. Value for these items must be assessed at fair market value of the property at the time of donation.
- **Travel:** For travel deemed necessary and reasonable to the project, the awardee may cost share appropriate travel expenses, including:
  - **Airfare:** Lowest cost economy airfare and compliant with the Fly American Act Guidelines.
  - **Lodging:** Not to exceed applicable domestic or international U.S. government per diem rates
  - **Meals and Incidentals:** Not to exceed applicable domestic or international U.S. government per diem rates
  - **Ground Transportation:** Necessary local travel, such as taxis, rental cars, or mileage reimbursement on use of personal vehicles in

accordance with the U.S. government allowance for Privately Owned Vehicles (POV)

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#### **IV. Contact Information**



#### **AMERICAS, CARIBBEAN, ASIA, AND PACIFIC (ACAP) TEAM**

Office of Global Research (OGR),  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID),  
National Institutes of Health (NIH),  
Department of Health and Human Services  
5601 Fishers Ln MSC 9802  
Bethesda, MD 20892-9802 [For courier deliveries: 20852]  
Email: [NIAIDOGRACAP@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NIAIDOGRACAP@mail.nih.gov)

## 10. Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

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The Vietnamese applicants must finish the application form in Vietnamese template and send to MOST for further internal procedures and notation.

Please kindly visit the website to get further information in detail relating to the internal procedures of Viet Nam as followings: <http://www.most.gov.vn> or please consult the person in charge directly.

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### V. Funding Modality

This call is designed to support cooperative research activities with e-ASIA counterparts for Vietnamese researcher, such as expenses for travel and/or conducting seminars/symposia. A preference is that the main research infrastructure is already ensured by each research group.

Funding provided within this call is intended to enhance the capacity of applicants to collaborate. Funding will therefore be provided mainly in support of collaborative activities and may include some of the local research that is necessary for the collaboration. Funded expenses include costs for research activities as well as research exchange.

The principal cost categories include labor costs for staff members and direct costs such as equipment, travel and consumables. All budget items must conform to the rules and regulations issued by of MOST.

#### **I-1. Funding amount if applicable**

Despite expenditure of a project may differ in each year, depending on the content of activities, the total budget for the Vietnamese researchers over a full 3-year period (i.e., 36 months) should not exceed 350,000 United State Dollars in principles.

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### VI. Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility conditions for MOST support are described as follows:

- (4) Science and technology organizations, researchers involved in scientific and technological activities and relevant state agencies, organizations and researchers who belong to the Vietnam research institution.
  - (5) Each country has to define a project coordinator who has the task to submit the joint application on behalf of the consortium simultaneously once on the Japanese submission system and once on the Vietnamese submission system.
  - (6) The coordinators are advised to contact their national contact persons before submitting their proposals.
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## VII. How to apply

Application submission requirements comply with the provisions of Clause 2, Article 11 and Article 12 of Circular No. 10/2019/TT-BKH-CN dated October 29, 2019 of the Minister of Science and Technology regulating task management science and technology according to the Protocol. The soft file of documents is submitted online at the address: <https://stm.most.gov.vn> and originals are submitted directly or by post to the Ministry of Science and Technology, 113 Tran Duy Hung, Cau Giay District, Hanoi.

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## VIII. Contact Information



### **MS. TRINH QUYNH TRANG**

Official, Department of International Cooperation

Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

Phone: (+84 4)985896385

Email: [tqtrang@most.gov.vn](mailto:tqtrang@most.gov.vn)