

Official Document

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP)



# 15<sup>th</sup> JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS



## *Call Guidelines*

Field of Cooperation in

## **Agriculture**

On the Call Topics of

**Post-Harvest and Agro-Industrial Innovation, and  
Smart and Climate-Resilient Farming**

*Closing date for the 15<sup>th</sup> Joint Call for Proposals: 31 March 2026*

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# 1. Introduction

The e-ASIA Joint Research Program (hereinafter referred to as the “e-ASIA JRP”) aims to foster a dynamic and collaborative research community in Science and Technology, promote regional innovation, and contribute to the sustainable economic development of the East Asian region.

As part of the program, the Member Organizations of the e-ASIA JRP, listed below, have agreed to endorse a joint call for proposals to facilitate multilateral cooperative research activities.

## 1.1 Participating Member Organizations

*(Listed by country in alphabetical order)*

- 1) China: National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
- 2) Indonesia: National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
- 3) Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- 4) Malaysia: Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
- 5) Philippines: Department of Science and Technology, The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD)

The table below outlines the specific eligibility requirements applicable to the following Member Organizations:

Member Organizations	Specific Eligibility Requirements
<p>1. National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Chinese applicants are required to complete application submission via the NSFC Grants System: <a href="http://grants.nsfc.gov.cn/">http://grants.nsfc.gov.cn/</a> . The Lead oversea PI should be listed first in the “Overseas Cooperative Researcher” column of the NSFC application.</li> <li>(2) The Lead PI of each project must also submit the Common Application to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat.</li> <li>(3) A copy of the research consortium’s e-ASIA Common Application must be attached to the application to NSFC Grants System.</li> <li>(4) Deadline of submission to NSFC Grant System: <u>16:00 (China Standard Time, UTC+8) on April 2, 2026.</u></li> <li>(5) Chinese applicants must be researchers affiliated with a higher education or research institution 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.</li> <li>(6) Please refer to the Chinese guidelines for details on the eligibility for Chinese applicants (<a href="https://www.nsfc.gov.cn/">https://www.nsfc.gov.cn/</a>) .</li> </ul>
<p>2. National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) BRIN requires that collaborations must include a Lead PI or PI from the countries of the participating Member Organizations.</li> <li>(2) Indonesian applicants whether serving as Lead PIs or National PIs 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>. However, only the Lead PI of each project must also submit the common application to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat via email.</li> <li>(3) Deadline of submission to BRIN Pendanaan System by <u>17:00 (Western Indonesian Time, UTC+7) on 31 March 2026</u></li> </ul>

Member Organizations	Specific Eligibility Requirements
	<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> <p><b>Specific Eligibility Criteria – Indonesia (BRIN)</b></p> <p>i) <b>Eligible Institutions:</b> Research institutions, universities, and R&amp;D units in Indonesia that are officially registered under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Technology, or the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN).</p> <p>ii) <b>Eligible Applicants (PI):</b> The Indonesian Principal Investigator (PI) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hold a doctoral degree (PhD);</li> <li>○ Affiliated with an eligible institution in Indonesia;</li> <li>○ Have a track record of research relevant to the proposed project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Team Composition:</b> Each Indonesian team may include researchers, engineers, technical staff, and students. Participation of early-career researchers and female researchers is strongly encouraged.</p>
<p>3. Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)</p>	<p>(1) Any independent researcher personally affiliated with and actively conducting research at a domestic Japanese research institution, regardless of nationality, is eligible to apply as a Principal Investigator.</p> <p>(2) In addition to the Common Application Forms in English, Japan based applicants are required to complete and submit the National Application Forms in Japanese to JST by “e-Rad” (<a href="https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html">https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html</a>).</p> <p>(3) In case Japanese PI is the Lead PI of each project, then the Japanese PI must also submit the Common Application Forms to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat via email.</p> <p>(4) Deadline of submission to e-Rad System before <b>14:00 (JST, UTC+9) on 31 March 2026</b></p>

Member Organizations	Specific Eligibility Requirements
<p>4. Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)</p>	<p><b>Project Eligibility Criteria:</b></p> <ul 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> </ul> <p><b>Malaysia Project Applicant Eligibility Criteria:</b> Researchers from the institutions of higher learning or Government Research Institution (GRI)</p> <p><b>Submission:</b> Submit a copy of the proposal (Form 1E–9E) and full application at: <a href="https://forms.akademisains.gov.my/easiajrp15thcall">https://forms.akademisains.gov.my/easiajrp15thcall</a>, latest by 18:00 Malaysia Time (UTC+8) on 31 March 2026.</p>
<p>5. Department of Science and Technology, The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Filipinos with at least a master’s degree in a relevant field</li> <li>(2) Have proven research competence/track record</li> <li>(3) Employed in universities or research agencies/ institutes that are members of the DOST-PCAARRD National Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Network (NAARRDN) or Regional R&amp;D Consortia are eligible to apply for the research grant.</li> </ul>

### IMPORTANT NOTE

*Applicants are strongly advised to read the call guidelines thoroughly, as they directly affect the eligibility of the entire research team. For detailed information on eligibility criteria and additional requirements, please refer to the National Annex.*

## 2. Aim of Joint Call and Research Area

The aim of the e-ASIA JRP 15<sup>th</sup> Call in the field of cooperation in ‘Agriculture’ is to invite applications that will address agricultural issues in East Asia and neighboring and contribute to enhancing regional research capacity through multilateral collaboration, encourage sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources. The topics identified for the e-ASIA JRP 15<sup>th</sup> Call aim to respond to agriculture priorities and challenges in the region and are broadly considered global issues.

The Agriculture Research stream of the e-ASIA JRP will have two topics for the 15<sup>th</sup> Call:

- Topic 1: Post-harvest and Agro-industrial Innovation
- Topic 2: Smart and Climate-Resilient Farming

Projects can be submitted under either topic from the full spectrum of agriculture research from basic science to applied research that directly relate to agriculture. Please refer to each Member Organization’s research qualifications, some of which fund specific types of research.

Member Organizations (MOs) are participating in the topics as follows:

Participating Member Organization	Topic 1	Topic 2
National Science Foundation of China (NFSC)	✓	✓
National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	✓	✓
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	✓	✓
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)	✓	✓
Department of Science and Technology, The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD)	x	✓

### 2.1 Call Topic 1: Post-harvest and Agro-industrial Innovation

International collaborative research in agriculture, especially post-harvest innovation is critical to address global food demands and promote food security.

In the fields of agricultural product distribution and food processing, a substantial amount of waste is generated due to quality deterioration and unused portions of produce. In recent years, technologies for quality management utilizing metabolomics and artificial intelligence, as well as low-temperature transportation systems, have advanced to address quality deterioration. Meanwhile, upcycling technologies and methods for extracting high-value-added materials from unused portions have also been developed.

However, despite progress in technological development, the implementation and standardization of these technologies in practical settings remain limited. The social implementation of such innovations would lead to increased profitability for agricultural producers, distributors, and processors. Moreover, it would contribute not only to improved food safety and sustainability but also to the advancement of the Circular Bioeconomy.

This will be achieved through multilateral collaboration among researchers from participating Member Organizations.

Possible research topics in post-harvest and agro-industrial innovation include the following, **but are not limited to:**

- 1) Post-harvest handling and loss reduction: Advanced processing techniques to extend shelf life, reduce food loss, and preserve the quality of agricultural products
- 2) Value added processing: Creating new or improved food products and processing methods to enhance food safety, quality, and nutrient retention
- 3) Agro-industrial waste management and circular economy: Transforming food and agro-industrial waste into high-value or nutritious products (e.g., bioenergy/biofuels, animal feed for livestock and aquaculture, fertilizers for soil improvement), promoting circular economy.
- 4) Sustainable agro-industries: Integration of environmental protection, social equity, and economic viability (e.g. development of carbon footprint reduction strategies in agro-industrial processing plants).

## 2.2 Call Topic 2: Smart and Climate-Resilient Farming

International collaboration in the field of smart and climate-resilient farming is critical to adapt climate change, increase efficiency, and ensure food security through digital



advancements of smart farming and cutting-edge technology with the long-term strategies of climate-resilient agriculture.

The aim of the Joint Call in the topic of Smart and Climate-Resilient Farming is to invite applications that address common agricultural challenges under changing climate conditions and support sustainable food production in the region. This will be achieved through multilateral collaboration among researchers from participating Member Organizations. It aims to promote usage of technology and sustainable practices to increase productivity, enhance resilience to climate change, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

With increasing climate variability, extreme weather events, and resource constraints, agricultural systems face significant risks to productivity and stability. Innovative, science-based approaches are needed to build resilience while improving efficiency and reducing environmental impacts. Advances in digital technologies, precision farming, and climate-smart practices present promising pathways to secure future food systems.

By combining expertise and resources across borders, joint research can accelerate the development of scalable solutions that strengthen the resilience of farmers, drive economic growth, create a high production output with quality harvest, enhance productivity, improve food safety and nutritional well-being, adopt sustainable consumption and production, most importantly to safeguard agrofood supply chains.

This collaborative effort aims to contribute to regional and global priorities in food security, climate adaptation, and sustainable development.

Possible research topics include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Climate-Resilient Crops for National Food Security (e.g., rice, maize, diversified protein sources and reduce import dependency)
- 2) Smart irrigation and water-saving technologies supported by IoT and AI.
- 3) Digital and Precision Farming (e.g., AI-based yield prediction, pest/disease early warning systems, pesticide and fertilizer optimization, drones, sensors, etc.)
- 4) Controlled-Environment & Urban Agriculture (e.g., protected cultivation, vertical farming).
- 5) Low-Carbon & Regenerative Farming Practices (e.g., palm oil sector, soil health, carbon sequestration and livestock management).

Proposals are encouraged to contribute to the development of a comprehensive and integrated agriculture data platform that will serve as a central repository for agricultural information, knowledge products, and digital services. This platform will be designed to ensure accessibility and usability for a wide range of key players and stakeholders across the entire value and supply chain, including farmers, researchers, policymakers, agribusinesses, and extension workers. While not mandatory for all proposals, projects that demonstrate interoperability, data-sharing frameworks, or align with the transition toward Agriculture 4.0 will be particularly welcomed.

## 2.3 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 three countries in this call. To effectively utilize and maximize the unique opportunities provided through the e-ASIA JRP and to synergistically address health challenges 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, including sample/data sharing and a data management plan, if applicable
- 4) Consideration of equity and diversity factors
- 5) Capacity building
- 6) Community and stakeholder 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 research 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.

### 3. Support/Funding Modality

In principle, each Member Organization will provide support exclusively to researchers from its own country who are involved in projects selected for funding through this joint call, in accordance with the support types outlined under “Funding Modality” in the table below.

The duration of each selected research project shall be three years (36 months) from the official starting date. Specific conditions of support may vary between Member Organizations. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully review the National Annex for detailed rules and regulations applicable to each Member Organization.

#### 3.1 Participating Member Organizations and Funding Modality

Call Topic 1: Post-harvest and Agro-industrial Innovation

Participating Member Organizations	Funding Modality
National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)	New
National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	New and in-kind (Please refer to the National Annex)
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	New
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)	New

Call Topic 2: Smart and Climate-Resilient Farming

Participating Member Organizations	Funding Modality
National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)	New
National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	New and in-kind (Please refer to the National Annex)
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	New

Participating Member Organizations	Funding Modality
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)	New
Department of Science and Technology, The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD)	<p>New</p> <p><b>Budget Limit:</b> Maximum of Php15,000,000 for two (2) projects</p> <p><b>Project Duration:</b> Maximum of three (3) years (36 months)</p> <p>The DOST-Grants-in-Aid Guidelines (<a href="https://tinyurl.com/48852kyb">https://tinyurl.com/48852kyb</a>) shall be applied.</p>

### DESCRIPTIONS:

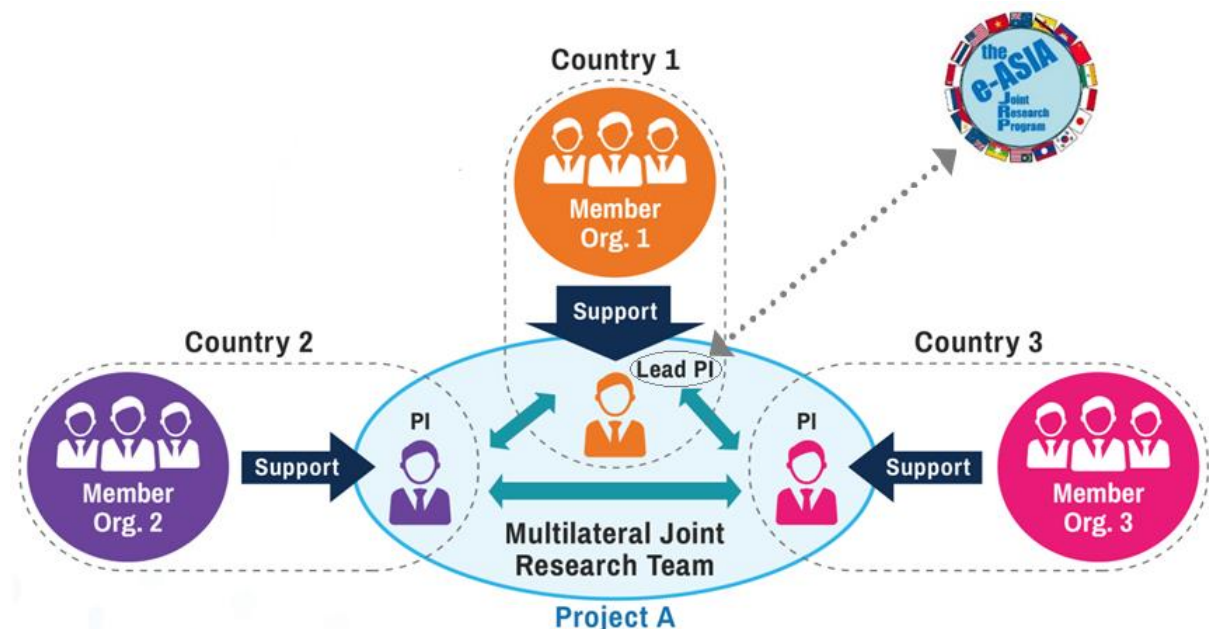
- (1) **New:** Member Organizations will provide new funding to support the selected project.
- (2) **Re-budgeting:** Funds previously allocated by each Member Organization to an existing project will be reallocated to support the e-ASIA JRP.
- (3) **In-kind:** Member Organization from the researcher's country does not provide additional budget for the selected project. Instead, the researcher will utilize existing funds without any new financial contribution from their Member Organization.

In principle, at least one participating country must contribute through either the “New” or “Re-budgeting” funding modality. Proposals will not be accepted if all applicants intend to participate solely on an “In-kind” basis.

## 4. Project Consortium and Application Requirements

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.



## 4.1 Roles and Responsibilities

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

- Responsible for the overall management of the project, including ensuring that all eligibility and national submission requirements are met for all countries involved.
- Serves as the primary contact with the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat on behalf of the entire consortium.
- Manages the administrative aspects of the project if funding is granted.
- Leads project activities at their own institution.
- Must be affiliated with an institution located in the home country of one of the Member Organizations participating in this call.

### 4.1.2 Roles and Responsibilities of National Principal Investigators (National PIs)

- Lead their respective research teams within their countries.
- Collaborate with the Lead PI in project activities.
- National PIs must ensure that all required application documents requested by their respective Member Organization are submitted.

- d) Should demonstrate progress and/or accomplishments from previous research projects, including those related to prior e-ASIA projects, relevant to the current application.

## 4.2 Common Eligibility Criteria

This section describes common e-ASIA eligibility criteria; however, applicants should be aware that some Member Organizations have additional requirements as outlined in the National Annex.

- Only collaborative projects will be funded. A project consortium must consist of at least three eligible research teams from a minimum of three different participating countries specified in Section 1.1.
- All PIs must meet their respective national eligibility and application rules for research applications. If Lead PIs do not meet eligibility criteria, the application will be considered ineligible and will not be supported.
- Applications must be submitted using the e-ASIA Common Application Form template as stipulated in Section 4.3 and adhere to the formatting and content requirements. Some Member Organizations may have additional application requirements. Please refer to the National Annex for more information.

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.

Researchers from industry are encouraged to participate in the collaboration, in accordance with national eligibility rules. Accordingly, PIs should contact the individual noted in Section 7 for more information on their specific national eligibility requirements.

## 4.3 Common Application Form

The Common Application (proposal) Form consists of nine sections and must be completed in English only. For additional requirements specific to each Member Organization, Principal Investigators (PIs) are advised to refer to the National Annex or consult their respective Member Organization within their country.

Section 1	Overview of the Cooperative Research Project
Section 2	Cooperative Research Project Summary
Section 3	Curriculum Vitae of Principal Investigators
Section 4	Research Teams
Section 5	Cooperative Research Project Description
Section 6	Research Networking Plan
Section 7	Development Plan for Early Career Researchers
Section 8	Project Budget Overview
Section 9	Research Infrastructures and funds from Other Sources

The contents in Common Application Form must 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 interdisciplinary approach in the proposed joint project, if applicable.
- 7) Description of how the proposed joint project interacts with or impacts other comparable activities worldwide.

#### IMPORTANT NOTES

- (1) **Curriculum Vitae (CV) Requirements:** In Section 3, the Curriculum Vitae of Principal Investigators must include basic information such as education, past and current positions, membership in relevant organizations or associations, and a list of publications from the past five years related to the proposed project. \*No

additional CVs are required or should be attached to the Common Application Form.

- (2) **Ethical Review Compliance:** *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. Pls should verify from the National Annex for the specific ethical requirements of each Member Organization.*
- (3) **Use of the Application Form:** *The Common Application Form must be used exactly as provided and completed solely within the designated sections intended for applicant input. Any alterations, additions, attachments, or other modifications outside these specified sections are strictly prohibited and may result in the application being rejected.*
- (4) **Standardized Formatting Requirements:** *The text within the Common Application Form must adhere to the following formatting guidelines:*
- a. *One-inch margins (2.54 cm) on all sides.*
  - b. *Line spacing of 1.15.*
  - c. *Use Aptos, 12 pt as the standard font type and size; however, Calibri 12 pt is acceptable for Microsoft Word versions 2013, 2016, and 2019.*
  - d. *Exceptions to the font type and size are allowed only for formulas, figure and table captions, and symbols, provided that the text remains readable.*

#### 4.4 Common Application Form Submission

Applications must be submitted using the e-ASIA Common Application Form template, available for download from the e-ASIA website at <https://www.the-easia.org/jrp/>. The Common Application Form must be written in English and submitted to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat at the e-mail address specified below by Lead Pls.

Apart from submitting the Common Application Form, each national applicant may also be required to submit an additional application form to their respective Member Organization by a separate deadline. Therefore, it is essential to comply with both the common requirements outlined in this call guideline and the specific requirements established by each Member Organization to maintain eligibility. Member Organizations have full discretion to determine whether the additional applications meet their specific eligibility criteria, and their decisions regarding these criteria will be considered final.



## Submission Deadlines

2025	2026			
December	January	February	March	April
Opening of the 15 <sup>th</sup> Call from 17 December – 31 March				
			<b>31 March</b> Submission Deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>e-ASIA JRP Secretariat (Common Application Form)</i></li> <li>• <b>Indonesia:</b> <i>National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)</i></li> <li>• <b>Japan:</b> <i>Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)</i></li> <li>• <b>Malaysia:</b> <i>4. Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)</i></li> <li>• <b>Philippines:</b> <i>Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD)</i></li> </ul>	<b>2 April</b> Submission Deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>China:</b> <i>National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)</i></li> </ul>

**Deadline for Submission:**

17:00 (Thailand Standard Time, ICT, UTC+7) 31 March 2026

Please submit the Common Application Form to:

**Hideyuki Asano (Mr.)**

e-ASIA JRP Secretariat

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

**IMPORTANT NOTES ON SUBMISSION**

- (1) **Submission Scope:** *The Secretariat will accept only the Common Application Forms. Any supporting documents beyond these forms, even if specifically required by individual Member Organizations, will not be collected or forwarded to the respective MOs. Additionally, submissions made by national PIs will also not be considered or accepted by the Secretariat.*
- (2) **Submission Method:** *Applications must be submitted exclusively via email to [easia-opencall@jst.go.jp](mailto:easia-opencall@jst.go.jp). Submissions sent through any other email address will not be considered.*
- (3) **Confirmation of Receipt:** *Upon receipt of the application, the Secretariat will send a confirmation email to the Lead PI to acknowledge submission, based on the date and timestamp of the received email (ICT, UTC+7). 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 that may result in a late submission.*

## 5. Evaluation

### 5.1 Evaluation Process

A proposal will be evaluated at each relevant Member Organization of the project consortium, according to the evaluation criteria clarified in the following subsection. Based on the results of the evaluation conducted at each Member Organization, a final decision will be made at the joint panel meeting among the participating Member Organizations, followed by approval at the e-ASIA JRP Board Meeting.

### 5.2 Evaluation Criteria

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

### 5.2.1 Regional Relevance of Joint Research

The research activity should contribute to:

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

### 5.2.2 Mutual Benefits of Joint Research

- a) Activities that provide mutual benefits to all collaborators and their institutions are highly encouraged. The projects should capitalize on the unique opportunities offered by the e-ASIA JRP, which cannot be realized through bilateral or individual research efforts but only through multilateral cooperation.

### 5.2.3 Effectiveness of Exchange

The project should:

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

## 5.3 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 2026.

## 6. 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 related experts. Furthermore, it is encouraged that the project actively disseminates its achievements to the public.

## 6.1 Progress Report

At the midpoint of the research period (i.e., after one and a half years), the Lead PI shall prepare and submit an integrated progress report to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat detailing the status of the joint research. The report template will be made available at:

<https://www.the-easia.org/jrp/documents.html>

## 6.2 Final Report

A final report shall be prepared and submitted by the Lead PI to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat within two months following the completion of the joint research period. The report template will be made available at: <https://www.the-easia.org/jrp/documents.html>

## 6.3 Other Reports

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 the 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 Annex for each Member Organization’s requirement.

## 7. Contact information

To ensure clarity and accuracy in all communications, we strongly encourage national PIs to be the primary points of contact with their respective national Member Organizations regarding eligibility rules and support conditions.

Country: Member Organization	Contact Information
China: National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)	<b>Division of Asia, Africa and International Organization, Bureau of International Cooperation</b> Phone: +86-10-62327368 E-mail: zhangyw@nsfc.gov.cn
Indonesia: National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	<b>Dr. Raden Arthur Ario Lelono</b> <i>Director of Research and Innovation Funding Directorate for Research and Innovation Funding, BRIN</i>  Address: Jl. M.H. Thamrin No. 8, Jakarta 10340, Indonesia Email: <a href="mailto:dana-risnov@brin.go.id">dana-risnov@brin.go.id</a> Phone: +62 811-1064-6771
Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	<b>e-ASIA JRP Team</b> Department of International Affairs, JST E-mail: <a href="mailto:easiajrp@jst.go.jp">easiajrp@jst.go.jp</a>
Malaysia: Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)	<b>Malaysia Science Endowment Unit</b> Phone: +603-6203 0633 extension 207 or 234 Email: <a href="mailto:mse@akademisains.gov.my">mse@akademisains.gov.my</a>
The Philippines: Department of Science and Technology, The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD)	<b>Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebor</b> <i>Executive Director, DOST-PCAARRD</i> Tel: +6349-536-4990; +6349-554-9670 Email: <a href="mailto:r.ebora@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph">r.ebora@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph</a>  <b>Dr. Juanito T. Batalon</b> <i>Deputy Executive Director for Research and Development, DOST-PCAARRD</i> Tel: +6349-536-1582; +6349-554-9670 loc. 228 Email: <a href="mailto:j.batalon@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph">j.batalon@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph</a> ; <a href="mailto:oed-rd@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph">oed-rd@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph</a>

For General Inquiries:



**HIDEYUKI ASANO (Mr.)**

*Program Coordinator*

**Address:** e-ASIA JRP Secretariat  
111 Thailand Science Park,  
Innovation Cluster1 Building (INC1), Room 218  
Phahonyothin Road, Khlong Nueng, Khlong Luang,  
Pathum Thani 12120, Thailand

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



# NATIONAL ANNEX

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Field of Cooperation in

## Agriculture

On the Call Topics of

### **Post-Harvest and Agro-Industrial Innovation, and Smart and Climate-Resilient Farming**

*Closing date for the 15th Joint Call for Proposals: 31 March 2026*

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#### **Information about each Participating Member Organization**

*(Alphabetical order by country)*

- 1) China: National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
- 2) Indonesia: National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
- 3) Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- 4) Malaysia: Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
- 5) Philippines: Department of Science and Technology, The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD)

## China: National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

- 1) NSFC can support three (3) applications.
  - 2) Funding modality: New
  - 3) Chinese applicants must read and accept the following conditions for this program.
  - 4) Please refer to the Chinese guidelines for further details at:  
<https://www.nsfc.gov.cn/>.
- 

### 1. Eligibility

- The Chinese Principal Investigator (PI) must be researchers affiliated with a higher education or research institution which registers in NSFC.
  - The Chinese 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.
  - Projects require support from a minimum of three (3) e-ASIA member organizations including NSFC.
  - A Common Application must be submitted to the e-ASIA Secretariat (as described in Section 4. Project Consortium and Application Requirements above).
  - Chinese PIs must submit a completed online application to the NSFC's Grants System (<http://grants.nsfc.gov.cn>) and submit the final version of Common Application proposal submitted to e-ASIA as attachments to the NSFC Grant system. The Lead oversea PI should be listed first in the "Overseas Cooperative Researcher" column of the NSFC application.
- 

### 2. Support

NSFC will support three (3) 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.

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### 3. How to apply

- 1) All Chinese applicants must apply to NSFC through NSFC's Grants System (<http://grants.nsfc.gov.cn>), AND the Lead PI of each project must also submit the common application to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat.
  - 2) A copy of the research consortium's e-ASIA Common Application must be attached to the application when submit to the NSFC Grants System.
  - 3) Deadline of submission to NSFC's Grants System: 16:00 (China Standard Time, UTC+8) on 2 April 2026.
- 

### 4. 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 5. 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.
- 

### 5. 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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## 6. 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**

Phone: +86-10-62327368

E-mail: [zhangyw@nsfc.gov.cn](mailto:zhangyw@nsfc.gov.cn)

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

### 1. Eligibility

- 1) The Principal Investigator (PI) submitting proposal to BRIN must be an Indonesian citizen and must hold a doctoral degree (S3).
- 2) 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;
- 3) Other research institutions legally registered in Indonesia, excluding BRIN, are encourage to register to 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;
- 4) The Principal Investigator and team members must have a research track record and expertise relevant to the proposed research or clearly defined roles in the research project where their skill sets provide added value as stated in their Curriculum Vitae, with their research track record detailed in the research experience section.
- 5) 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 Indonesian applicants shall comply with the research ethical clearance from the Ethics Committee before the research commences. This application is done through the Research Ethical Clearance Information System:

<https://klirensetik.brin.go.id/>.

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### 2. Support

This funding 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. 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 duration of the project shall be no longer than 3 (three) years in total from the start date. The amounts will be adjusted according to the evaluations and budgetary limitations. Funding might be allocated based on Standard Costs of Research and Innovation Outputs.

## 2-1. Eligible Costs

- Purchase/procurement of chemicals/consumables or materials essentials for research or production components;
- Honorarium is available to compensate field workers for their contributions (max IDR 80,000 per day per person);
- Meals for meetings that are directly related to the research, held within the office of the respective institution and in compliance with its policy;
- Capital expenditure may not exceed 10% of the entire amount funded or 50 (fifty) million Indonesian Rupiahs, whichever is reached first;
- Domestic travel that directly related to the research activities;
- International travel in the form of joint collaboration meeting (terms and conditions applied); and
- International travel in the form of Visiting Professor or joint research visits will be covered only if researcher applies for the researcher mobility scheme managed by the Directorate of Talent Management.

Please note that 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 for land purchase, building purchase, or asset acquisition;
- Indirect/overhead expenses including but not limited to communication costs; and
- Other expenses that are not approved.

## 2-2. Fund Disbursement

- 1) Research funding is disbursed through a transfer from the LPDP operational account to the grantee institution's account;
- 2) The disbursement of research funding as mentioned in point 1) is done per

proposal title;

- 3) The disbursement of research funding is carried out under the following conditions:
  - 1 (one) stage per period with the funding amount for the first period not exceeding or equal to IDR 250,000,000 (two hundred fifty million Indonesian Rupiahs) after the Pls meets the requirement for fund disbursement.
  - 2 (two) stages per period with the funding amount for the first period exceeding IDR 250,000,000 (two hundred fifty million Indonesian Rupiahs) after the Pls meets the requirement for fund disbursement.
- 4) The disbursement stages in subsequent periods follow the disbursement stages of the first period as mentioned in point 3);
- 5) If there is a remaining balance of research funding at the end of the period, the disbursement of research funding in the following period can only be done after the grantee institution returns the entire remaining balance;
- 6) The requirements for disbursing 1 (one) stage research funding after meeting the disbursement conditions are as follows:

No	Application Requirements	First Year	Advanced years
1	Letter of request for disbursement of funds from funding recipient	✓	✓
2	Agreements/other similar documents	✓	x
3	Research proposal from the funding recipient	✓	x
4	Planned use of funds from funding recipients	✓	✓
5	Tax Invoice specifically for funding recipients with taxable for VAT purposes (PKP) status	✓	✓
6	Absolute Accountability Letter (SPTJM) from funding recipients	✓	x
7	Evaluation results of funding recipients	x	✓
8	Report on realization of use of funding from the previous year	x	✓
9	Report on the performance achievements of funding recipients from the previous year	x	✓

**Description:** ✓: Required; x : Not required

- 7) The distribution of research funds in 2 (two) stages of disbursement with the following requirements:

*a. First Stage Fund Distribution*

- (1) The first stage of fund disbursement is 50% (fifty percent) of the total amount.
- (2) The distribution of the first stage of funds is based on the compliance with the requirements for the distribution of the first stage of funds as follows:
  - a) letter of request for disbursement of first stage funds;
  - b) agreements/other similar documents;
  - c) research proposal;
  - d) plan for use of first stage funds from funding recipients;
  - e) tax invoices specifically for funding recipients who have taxable for VAT purposes (PKP) status; and
  - f) letter of absolute responsibility (SPTJM) from the funding recipient.

*b. Second Phase Fund Distribution*

- 1) The second stage of fund disbursement is a maximum of 50% (fifty percent) of the funding amount.
  - 2) The distribution of the second stage of funds is based on the completeness and compliance with the requirements for the distribution of the second stage of funds as follows:
    - a) letter of request for disbursement of second phase funds;
    - b) a financial report showing at least 80% (eighty percent) of the first stage funding amount has been used;
    - c) monitoring report on progress towards achievement of research activity performance indicators;
    - d) statement of responsibility for purchases (SPTJB);
    - e) plan for use of second phase funds from funding recipients; and
    - f) tax invoices are specifically for funding recipients who have taxable for VAT purposes (PKP) status.
- 8) Disbursement requirement documents are uploaded through Rispro application system (<https://risprolpdp.kemenkeu.go.id/>);
  - 9) For researcher mobility activities, proposals should be submitted and follow the procedures of the BRIN Talent Management Directorate.

### 2-3. Return of Remaining Funds and Misused Funds

- 1) During each evaluation, the Directorate for Research and Innovation Funding, under the Deputy for Facilitation of Research and Innovation (hereinafter refer to as DFRI BRIN) verifies the remaining unused funds and/or funds that have been used for unintended purposes;
  - 2) If there are remaining funds and/or funds used for unintended purposes, they must be returned by the grantee to LPDP;
  - 3) If there are remaining funds and/or funds used for unintended purposes that must be returned by the grantee, DFRI BRIN will request the return of funds from the beneficiary;
  - 4) DFRI BRIN ensures that the return of funds is made by the grantee to LPDP no later than 60 (sixty) calendar days after the notification letter is received by the grantee; and
  - 5) The return of funds by the grantee is done through a transfer via the account or virtual account specified by LPDP.
- 

### 3. 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 4. Project Consortium and Application Requirements 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: <https://pendanaan-risnov.brin.go.id/>.
- 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 4. Project Consortium and Application Requirements 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. Submission will be considered ineligible if the proposal documents are not submitted by the deadline through both submission systems.

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## 4. 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 5. Evaluation above) and BRIN assessment criteria listed below:

### 4-1 Significance and Advantage

- Roadmap and strategic value
- Relevant track record/expertise of the research team
- Collaboration network
- Budget
- Research methods
- Expected output:

#### *a. Publications:*

- For funding with a duration of 1-2 years: the PI must have at least 1 (one) publication in an international journal with a medium or high reputation that is currently being reviewed.
- For funding with a duration of 3 years: the PI must have at least 2 (two) publications accepted in international journals with medium or high reputation



*b. Joint Publications with Partners:*

- For 1 year funding: the PI must have 1 (one) co-authored publication in an international journal with medium or high reputation.
- For 2-3 years funding: the PI must have co-authored 2 (two) papers/publications with research partners and submitted to an international journal with medium or high reputation.

*c. Intellectual Property:*

- Minimum registered intellectual property status, with a principle of equity noted as a collaborative agreement
- Grantees must comply with intellectual property rules

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

#### 4-2. Conclusion of Contracted R&D Agreement

For each funded R&D project, a R&D agreement shall be concluded between the research institution implementing the R&D project and the Directorate for Research and Innovation Funding BRIN, in accordance with the principle of the accounting period of the national government, Contracting R&D agreement might be based on Standard Costs of Research and Innovation Outputs. Successful applicants shall receive detailed information from BRIN following project selection.

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## 5. Reporting

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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 general summary of the activities both the consortium and the Indonesian research teams, a description of the research activities, outputs and outcomes, and financial report to BRIN;

- 3) 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.
- 4) The final report shall be submitted within one month after the project finished, through Rispro application system (<https://risprolpdp.kemenkeu.go.id>)
- 5) Each report must include an acknowledgement narrative that clearly recognizes the contributions of those who supported the research project, such as BRIN, LPDP, and e-ASIA JRP.

Evaluation will be performed based on the final reports by the program evaluation committees in BRIN.

#### 5-1. Mandatory Submission

##### 1) Data Management:

- Grantees are required to provide a data management plan for handling primary data and research outputs.
- Data and information resulting from the joint research activities shall be reported and preserved at the Indonesian National Scientific Repository (Repositori Ilmiah Nasional) through the website <https://rin.brin.go.id> / in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

##### 2) Submission of Physical Data:

- Material or specimen resulting from the joint research activities shall be submitted and stored at the Indonesia National Scientific Collection managed by the Directorate for Scientific Collection Management BRIN.

#### 5-2. Acknowledgement

All publication resulting from the research activities under the RIIM Kolaborasi funded by the investment gains of the Research Endowment Fund managed by the Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education Agency (LPDP), must include formal acknowledgement of both BRIN and LPDP as funding institutions and e-ASIA Joint Research Program.

Here is an example of how to write.

##### ***Acknowledgements.***

*This research was supported by the RIIM BRIN and LPDP Grants, grant number ..... (please fill in with contract number). We also express our gratitude to e-ASIA Joint Research Program ..... (please fill in with Organization/Work Unit) and .....*

*(please mention the research partner institutions).*

---

## 6. Contact Information



### **RADEN ARTHUR ARIO LELONO, PhD**

Director of Research and Innovation Funding

National Research and Innovation Agency

Phone: +62 811-1064-6771

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

website: <https://pendanaan-risnov.brin.go.id>

## Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

### **IMPORTANT**

- 1) Japan-based applicants must complete all the requirements designated by JST.
  - 2) JST can support the following topics:
    - Call Topic 1: Post-harvest and Agro-industrial Innovation
    - Call Topic 2: Smart and Climate-Resilient Farming
  - 3) JST can support a maximum of six (6) applications.
  - 4) The following funding modalities will be supported: New.
- 

### 1. Eligibility

- 1) Any independent researcher personally affiliated with and actively conducting research at a domestic Japanese research institution (or who will fulfil this requirement by the start of the research project), regardless of nationality, is eligible to apply as a Principal Investigator.

**Note:** “Domestic Japanese research institution” in Japan refers to universities, independent administrative institutions, national/public testing and research institutions, specially authorized corporations, public service corporations and enterprises, etc. that must satisfy predetermined requirements designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Please refer to the MEXT homepage for more information:

[https://www.mext.go.jp/a\\_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm](https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm) (in Japanese only).

- 2) Japan-based researchers from industry are also eligible to apply as a Principal Investigator in the joint research project in the Japan-based team.
- 3) Early career researchers who completed his/her doctorate in the last 10 years are strongly encouraged to apply.
- 4) On condition that the counterpart research institution is listed in the End User List, which the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has been issuing, the exporters are required to submit an application for an export license except in the case where it is evident that the cargo or missiles will not be used for such activities as the development of WMDs (weapons of mass destruction) and missiles. Please refer to the METI homepage for more information:

[https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2025/0131\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2025/0131_001.html)

- 5) A "Letter of Confirmation" (the National Application Forms in Japanese) by the head of the research institution requires the official seal or equivalent from the institution. In the case of a university or college, the top person is typically the president, not the faculty dean. If you are unable to meet the deadline, please inform JST by email in advance.
  - 6) Japan-side applicants must complete a research ethics training program conducted by the research institute with which they are affiliated and then declare the completion of the program to JST by the deadline of the call for proposals. Unless applicants complete a research ethics program, their application will be deemed ineligible for funding.
  - 7) Japan-side applicants who have not registered information related to research integrity with e-Rad after the e-Rad upgrade on March 15, 2022, they should register the information. This is not required if the information has already been registered.
  - 8) When research institutions are national or municipal organizations, such institutions concluding research contracts are obliged to implement necessary budgetary measures before entering research contracts for which they are responsible. Please confirm with your institution and contact JST before submitting.
- 

## 2. Support

### 2-1. Funding Modality

JST will support each Japan-based team with a “new fund” up to 27 million Japanese Yen as direct cost for 36 months. The overhead cost of 30% of direct cost will be added separately. The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities. The amounts will be adjusted each year due to the budgetary limitations for this program.

### 2-2. Expenditure/costs eligible for funding

This program is designed to support expenses related to cooperation by a Japan based researcher with their counterparts, such as expenses for travel and/or conducting seminars/symposia. Funding provided within this call is intended to enhance the capacity of the applicants to collaborate. Funding will therefore be provided mainly in support of collaborative activities but may also cover some of the local research costs that are necessary for the collaboration. In principle, eligible

direct costs are those costs directly necessary for accomplishing the research, indicated below. Please refer to the guidance documents available at the following link for further details of eligible direct costs:

<https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/research/contract/contract.html> (in Japanese only).

I. Eligible Direct Costs:

- (1) Facilities, Equipment and Consumables: costs of research equipment, spare parts, prototypes.
- (2) Travel Costs: travel costs and associated living expenses of the project members registered in the project plan, and travel costs of inviting external experts.
- (3) Salaries and Honoraria: salaries of the researchers, temporary staff, PhD students, post-docs, etc., who are hired for the research, and other costs such as honoraria for invited lecturers.
- (4) Others: costs for organizing meetings in Japan including rental costs for the venue, food & beverage (excluding alcohol) costs and other costs which are deemed to be necessary for organizing the event. Expenses for creating software, renting or leasing equipment, transporting equipment, etc.

II. Overhead cost shall be 30% of direct costs.

**Note:** Please refer to the following link for the provisions regarding indirect costs:

[https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/kansetsu\\_sikkou.pdf](https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/kansetsu_sikkou.pdf)

(in Japanese only).

2-3. Payments

Payments will be made according to a contract for commissioned research entered into between JST and a “Domestic Japanese Research Institution”. The contract for commissioned research will be renewed each year over the cooperative research period. Since the contract is agreed on condition that all administrative procedures related to this project will be handled within the institution, the PI should consult with the department in charge at his/her institution.

### 3. How to Apply

Applicants of each Japan-based team are required to complete necessary submission as specified below.

#### 3-1. Submission of the Common Application Forms in English (from the Lead PI)

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

#### 3-2. Additional Application Forms (For Japan-based applicants only)

- (1) In addition to the Common Application Forms in English, Japan based applicants are required to complete and submit the National Application Forms in Japanese to JST by “e-Rad” (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html>).
  - (2) Forms are available from the JST website:
    - a. [https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/program/announce/announce\\_easia\\_jrp\\_15th.html](https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/program/announce/announce_easia_jrp_15th.html) (in Japanese only)
  - (3) The deadline for the “e-Rad” submission is **before 14:00 (Japan Standard Time, UTC+9) on 31 March 2026.**
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### 4. Evaluation

Independent Committees consisting of experts will evaluate all proposals. Based on the results of the evaluation, a common decision will be decided jointly among Member Organizations participating in the call regarding funding of the selected proposals.

#### 4-1. Evaluation Criteria

The following evaluation criteria, incorporated with the e-ASIA JRP evaluation criteria (see 5-2. Evaluation Criteria in the Call Guideline), will apply to each application:

- (1) Conformity with Program Aims and Designated Research Fields:

The proposed activity shall conform to the aims of the program and the research fields that the program designates. In addition, the applicants shall already have a good research foundation for their proposed activity.

- (2) Capability of Principal Investigators:

The principal investigators of collaborating countries shall have the insight or experience for pursuing the activity and the ability to manage the cooperation and reach the project goals during this program's period of support. The call aims to take into account the potential of early career researchers who have completed their doctorate in the last 10 years in this role.

(3) Effectiveness and Synergy of Cooperative Research Project:

The proposed research activity shall be eminent, creative and at an internationally high level in an attempt to produce a significant impact on the development of future science and technology or to solve global and regional common issues or to create innovative technological seeds that can contribute to the creation of new industries in the future. Moreover, proposed research activities that can be expected to create synergy through collaborative research with the counterpart institution will be preferred. Such synergy could be attained through, for example, the acquisition and/or application of knowledge, skill and/or know-how of the counterpart researcher.

(4) Validity of Research Plan:

The sharing of research activities with the counterpart research institution and the planning of research expenses shall be adequate to realize the proposed research activity.

(5) Effectiveness and Continuity of Exchange:

- i. Activities characterized by the following examples shall be involved to enhance sustainable research exchange and networking.
- ii. Nurturing of researchers through human resource exchange.
- iii. Sustainable development of research exchange with the counterpart countries initiated by this activity.
- iv. Enhancing the research network between collaborating countries including researchers other than the research leader and members of this activity.
- v. Improving the presence of science and technology in Japan and the counterpart country.



(6) Validity of Exchange Plan:

The planning of exchange activities and their expenses with the counterpart research institute shall be adequate to realize the proposed research activity.

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## 5. Reporting

### 5-1. Progress report to JST

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

### 5-2. Final report to JST

After completion of the period of joint research, the Japan-based team's PI shall submit within two months a final report on the results of the joint research. The final report shall include a general summary compiled jointly by all members of the Japan-based research group. The institution with which the PI is affiliated shall submit a financial report on research expenses within the same time frame.

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## 6. Contact Information



e-ASIA JRP Team  
Department of International Affairs,  
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)  
**E-mail:** [easiajrp@jst.go.jp](mailto:easiajrp@jst.go.jp)

## Malaysia: Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)

### 1. Eligibility

#### Malaysian Applicants

- 1) Open to researchers at Public Institutions of Higher Education (IPTA), Private Institutions of Higher Education (IPTS), and Government Research Institutions (GRI).
- 2) All Project Leaders must be Malaysian citizens or permanent residents of Malaysia.
- 3) For contract staff, the employment period must cover the full duration of the project.
- 4) If the Principal Investigator (PI) is not a Malaysian citizen but holds Permanent Residency (PR), the PI must appoint a Malaysian citizen as the Next Appointed Leader, who is in the same field of expertise and from the same institution.
- 5) Each applicant may only serve as a Project Leader for one (1) project at any given time. Therefore, only one application may be submitted as a Project Leader.

#### Proposal for Malaysia

- 1) Research proposed must be Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 and/or above.
- 2) Proposals should emphasize transdisciplinary research, with involvement from multiple disciplines being advantageous.
- 3) Collaboration with industry, CSO, or communities is mandatory, and having multiple collaborations is advantageous.
















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### 2. Support

The Malaysia Science Endowment (MSE) will support **between 3 to 6 projects** under its funding scheme, with funding ranging between RM 500,000 to RM 1,000,000 per project with ceiling fund of up to RM 3 million.

This initiative, funded by the Malaysia Science Endowment Unit under the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM), operates by **matching fund concept** which requires the joint proposal to also have participating researchers from other countries collectively secured matching funds equivalent to, or greater than, the amount provided by MSE.

However, it is also acceptable for different countries to contribute collectively, provided that the overall requirement of at least 50% of the total project cost is fulfilled. *This mechanism ensures balanced partnership, shared responsibility, and maximized impact of joint research outcomes across borders.*

	AMOUNT REQUESTED BY COUNTRIES THROUGH MOs	TOTAL RESEARCH BUDGET
<b>IDEAL SCENARIO</b> 	 +  +  = ~ RM 1 mil + ~ RM 1 mil + ~ RM 1 mil	 ~ RM 3 mil
<b>ACCEPTABLE SCENARIO</b> 	 +  +  = ~ RM 1 mil + ~ RM 0.5 mil + ~ RM 0.5 mil	 ~ RM 2 mil
<b>NOT ACCEPTABLE</b> 	 +  +  = ~ RM 1 mil + ~ RM 0.25 mil + ~ RM 0.25 mil	 ~ RM 1.5 mil

Projects must be implemented in Malaysia, and MSE funds must be utilized for R&D activities within Malaysia, except for temporary overseas placements, overseas travel directly related to the project; and patent filing activities outside Malaysia.

#### Eligible and ineligible Cost Items

Code	Scope	Eligible Items	Non-eligible items
G01	<b>Equipment &amp; Accessories</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment and accessories (including upgrading the capabilities of existing equipment) that are directly related to the project.</li> <li>Rental or minor repair of equipment directly related to the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computers, printers, scanners, toners, etc.</li> <li>Equipment maintenance.</li> </ul>
G02	<b>Infrastructure / Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rental of space, buildings, transportation, computer usage, and other items directly related to the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase of capital assets such as land, buildings, vehicles, and furniture.</li> <li>Overhead costs.</li> </ul>

Code	Scope	Eligible Items	Non-eligible items
<b>G03</b>	<b>Intellectual Property (IP)</b> <i>(Limited to IP generated from the project only)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration in Malaysia and in collaborating countries (for projects under international collaborative programmes), including drafting services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IP maintenance.</li> <li>Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) agreement.</li> </ul>
<b>G04</b>	<b>Regulatory Compliance and Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certification registration.</li> <li>Compliance with local and international standards.</li> <li>Product testing for GMP, HALAL, and HACCP certification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training.</li> </ul>
<b>G05</b>	<b>Professional and Specialised Services</b>  <i>(Shall not exceed 50 per cent of the total approved project cost for the overall G05 scope)</i>  <i>(Article publication fee: Limited to RM10,000.00 per project)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation, including market studies (sample size must comply with statistical standards).</li> <li>Screening tests.</li> <li>Sample testing.</li> <li>Payment for volunteers or individuals involved in clinical testing (if applicable).</li> <li>Purchase or subscription of software or applications related to the project. For applicants/project members from universities/research institutions:</li> <li>Article publication fees covering publication charges, proofreading, translation, and editing.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>For Applicants from Higher Learning Institutions / Research Institutions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conference fees.</li> <li>Travel, accommodation, and insurance costs for attending conferences within and outside Malaysia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production outsourcing.</li> <li>Meeting arrangements.</li> <li>Journal subscriptions.</li> <li>Incentives for market survey respondents.</li> <li>Payments for rental of facilities and exhibition spaces.</li> </ul>

Code	Scope	Eligible Items	Non-eligible items
<b>G06</b>	<b>Raw Materials / Consumables Directly Related to the Project</b>  <i>(Shall not exceed 40% of the total approved project cost)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raw materials.</li> <li>• Consumables.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Product design and packaging.</li> <li>• Brochures.</li> <li>• Advertisements.</li> <li>• Website design and development.</li> <li>• Product launching.</li> <li>• Stationery such as paper, notebooks, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>G07</b>	<b>Administrative and Project-Related Expenditure</b>  <i>(Travel and transportation related to the project shall not exceed 40% of the total approved project cost and a maximum of RM200,000.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of Postdoctoral Researchers, Research Officers (RO), Research Assistants (RA), and Graduate Research Assistants (GRA) who are directly involved in the project.</li> <li>• The allowance rate for RA, GRA, and RO is based on academic qualification, namely RM3,200 for GRA–PhD and RM3,000 for GRA–Master’s; allowance rate for Postdoctoral Researchers follows the rate set by their respective institutions. This allowance includes statutory deductions for EPF and SOCSO.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Project-Related Travel and Transportation Expenditure</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes domestic and international travel directly related to the project.</li> <li>• Travel is limited to economy class using the most direct route offered by the service provider, except under urgent circumstances.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management fees.</li> <li>• Allowances or bonuses for management and technical staff.</li> <li>• Office rental.</li> <li>• Utilities such as telephone, broadband, water, and electricity bills.</li> </ul>

Code	Scope	Eligible Items	Non-eligible items
<b>G08</b>	<b>Technology / IP Acquisition</b>  <i>(Shall not exceed 50% of the total approved project cost)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within and outside Malaysia.</li> <li>• Must have potential for upgrading.</li> <li>• Acquisition must be supported with an agreement and detailed description of the technology/IP obtained.</li> <li>• Training related to technology transfer shall be conducted within Malaysia.</li> </ul>	

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

### 3. How to Apply

- 1) All applicants from Malaysia must submit a complete proposal to the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) via:  
<https://forms.akademisains.gov.my/easiajrp15thcall> by no later than 18:00 Malaysia Time (UTC +8) (17:00 (Thai Standard Time, UTC+7) on 31 March 2026. An acknowledgment email will be sent as a receipt of submission, which will prompt the next steps required for further processing.
- 2) For more information access <https://www.akademisains.gov.my/> for further announcements and updates.
- 3) Applicants must make sure to submit a copy of the complete application to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat **through their lead PI**.

#### Additional Submission Guidelines:

- 1) All applications must be written in English and adhere to the Call Guideline and instructions provided in the application form.
- 2) Malaysian applicants must ensure all team members are registered in the proposal and confirm their participation in the research consortium.
- 3) 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.

- 4) The partnering country applicants must submit their applications to their respective funding organisations in accordance with the applicable deadlines.

#### 4. 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 element below, along with ASM's assessment criteria, which will be assessed based on Innovation Readiness Level (IRL) prepared by ASM. Technology Readiness Level (TRL) must be at least Level 3. While there are no minimum requirements for the other readiness dimensions, proposals with higher readiness levels will be prioritised during shortlisting.

For more information, please visit <https://www.akademisains.gov.my/>.

Evaluation Element	IRL Assessed
A. Research Quality & Feasibility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Technology Readiness Level (TRL)</li> <li>2. Team Readiness Level (TeRL)</li> <li>3. Intellectual Property Readiness Level (IPRL)</li> <li>4. Planetary Readiness Level (PRL)</li> <li>5. Funding Readiness Level (FRL)</li> <li>6. Storytelling Readiness Level (SRL)</li> <li>7. Mission-Oriented Readiness Level (MRL)</li> <li>8. Integration Readiness Level (InRL)</li> <li>9. Disruption Readiness Level (DRL)</li> <li>10. Customer Readiness Level (CRL)</li> <li>11. Business Readiness Level (BRL)</li> </ol>
B. Impact	
C. Innovation	
D. Value for Money	

## 5. Reporting

### Requirement

- 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

### 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.

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## 6. 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)



## Philippines: Department of Science and Technology, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD)

DOST-PCAARRD is supporting the topic on Smart Agriculture, specifically the development of integrated agriculture data platform that will serve as repository of agricultural data and services. This strategic initiative positions PCAARRD at the forefront of digital transformation in the Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources (AANR) sectors, in line with the 2022–2028 Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda (HNRDA). Anchored on a whole-of-government approach, it accelerates the transition toward Agriculture 4.0, smart, green, and powered by science, technology, and innovation.

DOST-PCAARRD can support a maximum of two (2) applications. The following funding modalities will be supported:

- New

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### 1. Eligibility

Filipinos with at least a Master's Degree in a relevant field, have proven research competence/track record, and employed in universities or research agencies/institutes that are members of the DOST-PCAARRD National Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Network (NAARRDN) or Regional R&D Consortia are eligible to apply for the research grant.

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### 2. Support (including funding support amount if applicable)

DOST-PCAARRD will support up to two (2) applications, with a maximum budget of P15,000,000 each for three (3) years. The DOST-Grants-in-Aid Guidelines shall be applied (<https://tinyurl.com/5ae7cjm3>)

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### 3. How to Apply

Interested parties should submit their proposals, using the DOST-GIA-prescribed proposal templates, through the DOST e-Proposal Portal (<http://dpmis.dost.gov.ph>)

**on or before 31 March 2026; 17:00** (Philippine Standard Time).

**Note:** *Applications with incomplete documents will not be accepted.*

#### 4. Evaluation

Approval of proposals for research grants will be based on the following multi-level review process:

- 1) In-house screening in terms of alignment to the research priorities, duplication, and completeness of requirements;
- 2) Technical review by Experts' Pool based on the following criteria:
  - Technical merit;
  - Data management;
  - Relevance/significance;
  - Marketability potential (for product-based proposals);
  - Feasibility (practicality, cost, time); and
  - Proponent's/Institution's capacity;
- 3) Final approval by the DOST-Executive Committee (EXECOM); and
- 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/evaluators. The review process will take 40 working days provided that all the requirements had been submitted.

#### Timeline

Deadline of Proposal Submission: (Both to e-ASIA and DOST/PCAARRD)	March 31, 2026
DOST-PCAARRD's Technical Review of Proposals (Directors' Council (DC), Governing Council (GC), and DOST EXECOM)	April 29 to July 29, 2026
Start of Implementation	January to March 2027

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## 5. Reporting

Semi-annual and annual technical and financial reports will be required in compliance with DOST-GIA guidelines. The final reports must be submitted within 90 calendar days after the completion of the period of performance. Required forms are downloadable from the DOST-PCAARRD website and may be provided by the DOST-PCAARRD to accepted applications.

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## 6. Contact Information

**Dr. Reynaldo V. Eborá**

Executive Director

Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD)

Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

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Email: [r.eborá@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph](mailto:r.eborá@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph)

**Dr. Juanito T. Batalon**

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