### Joint ASEAN-Japan Online Workshop

# "The current situation and challenges concerning the development of research environments for advanced research equipment between Japan and ASEAN countries"

# **Event Report**

# 1. Background

Regarding open-innovation trends, there are high expectations for the promotion of international joint research between Japan and ASEAN countries, which share many values and principals. To this end, a joint online workshop was held with the participation from policy makers and researchers from both sides to promote understanding of the status of the environment for using advanced research equipment and to discuss issues. The workshop also introduced the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), Japan's contribution to ASEAN, as a potential tool to help improve the research environment. During the panel discussion, the moderator organized issues along the life stages of advanced research equipment, such as procurement, operation, sharing, and disposal/reuse/recycling, and exchanged opinions with researchers from each country on proposed responses to these issues.

The workshop was held as an official satellite event as part of the activities commemorating the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, as part of the activities of the International Affairs department of JST.

• Date and Time: Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023. 12:00-14:30 (JST)

Format : Zoom WebinarCo-hosting Organizations

Japan side: The Ministry of Education Culture Sports Science and

Technology (MEXT)

The Asia and Pacific Research Center, Japan Science and

Technology Agency (APRC)

ASEAN side: Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and

Innovation (MHESI)
ASEAN Secretariat

Program Outline: As listed in the attached file (Agenda)
 https://www.jst.go.jp/aprc/en/event/Japan-ASEAN2023.html

Participants: Approximately 240 participants, mostly policy makers and researchers.

#### 2. Summary of Presentations

#### I. Opening Remarks:

Dr. Mikiko Azuma, of the APRC, served as MC and opened the event. After a group photo was taken **H.E. Satvinder Singh**, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN Secretariat and **Takayuki Aso**, Deputy Director-General of the Science and Technology Bureau, MEXT welcomed the workshop participants and gave opening remarks. H.E. Singh highlighted the 50th year of cooperation between ASEAN and Japan, and the importance of strengthening scientific cooperation between the two regions. He continued by talking of how advanced research equipment is rarely used to full capacity and shared information of the ASEAN Regional Research Infrastructure (RII) initiative. Aso then gave his opening remarks, highlighting the importance of the workshop and relevant events.

#### II. Keynote Speeches

**Dr. Zurina Moktar**, Head of Science and Technology Division of the ASEAN secretariat gave the first keynote speech. She spoke about the background and current situation in research environments between Japan and ASEAN countries. She continued by speaking about ASEAN STI governance and how this is undertaken across each involved country. She also introduced examples of advanced research equipment and governance across the region: ASEAN High-performance Computing, and the RII Initiative.

**Shuhei Hayashi** of MEXT spoke about Japanese initiatives concerning the sharing of research facilities. SPring-8, JPARC and NanoTerasu were highlighted as particularly important quantum beam facilities in Japan and several information on their shared use was introduced to the audience, included application methods.

#### III. Presentation Session

Yoshihide Kobayashi, Chief at the APRC, then introduced the situation regarding ASEAN-Japan research relations, the motivation for the workshop and the survey undertaken by the APRC titled "The current situation and challenges concerning the development of research environments for advanced research equipment between Japan and ASEAN countries" and introduced its contents.

Following this, representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam presented information on the situation and initiatives being run in each country.

As examples of initiatives aimed at the management of shared use of advanced research equipment and joint research spaces at the nationwide level, KRSTE.my in Malaysia, and ELSA in Indonesia were introduced. The Institutional Development Program (IDP) for funding in the Philippines and the Supercomputer LANTA in Thailand were also introduced during this session. These were followed by a lively Q&A session

To finish the presentation session, the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) was introduced by Hisamichi Yamazaki, First Secretary, the Japanese delegation to the ASEAN secretariat. He spoke about JAIFs achievements to date, the goals of the fund and the types of projects that are able to apply for funding.

#### IV. Panel Discussion

The second half of the workshop was a discussion, moderated by Professor Masami Furuuchi of Kanazawa University. Representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam served as discussants and spoke about improving the environment for using advanced research equipment in ASEAN countries. The first round of the panel saw short presentations be given

by each of the discussants on the status and challenges of the advanced research equipment utilization environment from the perspective of researchers in the field. Based on these presentations, the moderator organized the issues based on the life stage of equipment, such as procurement, operation, sharing, and disposal/reuse/recycling. In the second round of the discussion, the panelists exchanged opinions on proposed responses to issues that they considered important. The final summary of opinions from the discussants is as follows

Summary of the discussion session

	Challenges	Possible responses	Related issues
Expectations on local governments	Human Resource costs	Increase budget and funding	Help needed to maintain equipment
	Equipment that can be used by many people	Open facilities to the public	Competition
	Increasing collaboration with public and private sectors	Increase funding for facilities	Limited budget
	R&D Funding		Governments have limited funding
	Public Communication	Link public and private sectors. Have more open days at facilities.	Difficult to get the public to understand why research is important
	National Frameworks	Copy these across other areas	
Expectations on the ASEAN Framework	Enhancing collaboration	<ul> <li>Open national frameworks for international collaboration (ELSA etc.)</li> <li>Clear framework for international usage and access</li> </ul>	Difficult to access new facilities (SPring-8) because of competition
	STI Policy are different	Develop common policies	Action plans for R&D Development
	R&D Funding	ASEAN Shared funding/ dialogue	Allocation
	Utilizing Young Researchers	Mentoring/ Training from Japan-ASEAN	
	Communication between countries		Language barriers, Country interests

# V. Closing Remarks:

The event was wrapped up by Deputy Director-General of the APRC, Shinichi Kuroki, gave thanks to the audience for their collaboration and cooperation. He shared his thoughts on the workshop and his hopes for collaboration into the future.

# 3. Participant Information

Audience participants by country

Country	Participants
United Arab Emirates	1
Indonesia	9
Cambodia	4
Singapore	8
Thailand	25
The Philippines	69
Brunei	1
Malaysia	34
Myanmar	21
Japan	69
USA	2
Total	243



Group photo taken during the workshop

# Japan-ASEAN Joint Workshop on

# "The current situation and challenges concerning the development of research environments for advanced research equipment between Japan and ASEAN countries"

#### 1. Date & Location

Date: February 24, 2023 12:00-14:20 (JST)/ 10:00-12:20 (ICT)

Location : Zoom webinar

# 2. Co-host Organizations

(Japan Side) Japan Science and Technology Agency(JST)/Asia and Pacific Research

Center

(APRC), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

(MEXT)

(ASEAN Side) Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation of Thailand

(MHESI), ASEAN Secretariat

#### 3. Participants

Government officials, Researchers, Business sector representatives who are interested in international joint research and research environment for the use of advanced research equipment among Japan and ASEAN countries

# 4. Agenda

Total: Approx. 2.5 hours

	Totali Approxi 213 floats		
12:00	Opening Remarks (5 min each)		
JST	- <b>H.E. Satvinder Singh</b> , Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN		
	Economic Community, The ASEAN Secretariat		
	- Mr. Takayuki Aso, Deputy Director-General, Science and Technology		
	Policy Bureau, MEXT, Japan		
12:10	Keynote speeches (10min each)		
JST	- <b>Dr. Zurina Moktar</b> , Head of Science and Technology Division, The		
	ASEAN Secretariat		
	- Mr. Shuhei Hayashi, Deputy Director of Research Environment		
	Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, MEXT, Japan		
	Presentation Session		
12:30	(1) Introduction of the Report titled "Trends in the Development of		

JST	Advanced Research Equipment and Shared Research Facilities in ASEAN countries" (5 min)		
	- Mr. Yoshihide Kobayashi, Chief, Asia and Pacific Research Center, JST		
12:35 JST	(2) Introduction of case studies of initiatives in ASEAN countries (7 mi countries)  Presentation theme:		
	(i) Current situation of the research environment for the use of advanced research equipment (and large-scale facilities, if any)		
	(ii) initiatives to improve the research environments		
	<ul> <li>Dr. Tjahjo Pranoto, Director of Laboratory Management, Research Facilities, and Science and Technology Park, BRIN, Indonesia</li> <li>Ms. Suriati Mokhlis, Senior Assistant Secretary, Malaysian Science and Technology Information Centre (MASTIC), Malaysia</li> <li>Dr. Ruby Raterta, Chief Science Research Specialist, Human Resource and Institution Development Division, DOST-PCIEERD, the Philippines</li> </ul>		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Q&A time		
13:05 JST	<ul> <li>Dr. Piyawut Srichaikul, National Electronics and Computer Center (NECTEC), Thailand</li> <li>Prof. Dr. Nguyen Quang Liem, Former Director of Institute of Materials Science, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, Vietnam</li> <li>(3) Introduction of Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)</li> <li>Mr. Hisamichi Yamazaki, First Secretary, the Japanese Delegation to the ASEAN Secretariat (4 min)</li> </ul>		
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q&A time		
	Panel Discussion (Discussion Session)		
13:30	Moderator:		
JST	- Prof. Masami Furuuchi, Kanazawa University, Japan		
Appx.	Discussants:		
FO:	1		
50 min	- <b>Dr. Toto Sudiro</b> , Senior researcher in material science, BRIN, Indonesia		
50 min	<ul> <li>Dr. Toto Sudiro, Senior researcher in material science, BRIN, Indonesia</li> <li>Dr. Fairuz Suzana Mohd Chachuli, Senior Research Officer, Bilateral and Technology Planning Unit, Planning &amp; International Relations</li> </ul>		

	Division Malaysian Nuclear Agency, Malaysia		
	<ul> <li>Dr. Araceli M. Monsada, Laboratory Manager, Advanced Device Materials and Testing Laboratory, Industrial Technology Development</li> </ul>		
	Institute (ITDI), DOST, the Philippines		
	- <b>Dr. Serena Teo</b> , Director of the St John's Island Marine Laborator		
	Singapore		
	- <b>Prof. Dr. Supagorn Rugmai</b> , Assistant Director, Synchrotron Light		
	Research Institute, Thailand		
	- <b>Mr. Nguyen Van Thuong</b> , Official, Department of International		
	Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, Vietnam		
	(1) Presentation from researchers (3 min x 6 countries)		
	Discussion Theme:		
	(I) Current status and Challenges of the environment for the advanced		
	research equipment through examples of Japan-ASEAN joint		
	research projects		
	(ii) Expected measures/support measures and challenges to be solved		
	among ASEAN countries and Japan		
	(2) Discussion and Wrap-up (20 min)		
14:20	Closing Remarks		
JST	- Mr. Shin-ichi Kuroki, Deputy Director-General of the Asia and Pacific		
	Research Center, JST		
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