

Dr. Arthur Ario Lelono
Director of Talent Management, BRIN
(2026.4.23 Online Interview)



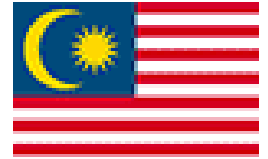
1. Strengthening Indonesia's Scientific and Technological Capacity through Partnership with Japan

- Under the leadership of new Chairman, Dr. Arif Satria, BRIN promotes **international engagement and research networking** beyond researchers' comfort zones, recognizing their **positive impact on research quality**. To unlock Indonesia's research potential, BRIN places strong emphasis on both **bilateral and multilateral collaboration**.
- With BRIN now providing travel support for international collaboration, Indonesian researchers are increasingly motivated to engage globally. Japan, supported by **long-standing trust and strong institutional frameworks**, remains a **key partner**, and BRIN is grateful for the high level of cooperation achieved. Programs such as NEXUS, e-ASIA, and SATREPS have contributed to improving **research quality, increasing publications, and strengthening researcher networks**.
- Through programs like NEXUS, international joint research **strengthens trust and promotes researcher mobility**, further **deepening cooperation with Japan**. Continued and expanded NEXUS cooperation is expected to foster research that addresses **social challenges across ASEAN** and generate **broader regional impact**.

2. Expectations for Joint Research with a Focus on Social Implementation

- President Prabowo has set a policy direction to shift research **toward implementation-oriented approaches** aimed at **addressing social challenges**. There are expectations for introducing a **"2+2 model"** (researchers plus industry) in selected fields in cooperation with Japan.
- In international joint research, cooperation is pursued in **non-overlapping fields** that reflect the **respective strengths of each partner country**. With Japan, there is interest in conducting joint research in areas such as advanced materials, advanced energy, and satellite operations.
- There are also expectations for Japan to **expand researcher exchange programs**. In particular, **flexible joint degree and research schemes**—such as short-term exchanges and hybrid co-supervision models that do not require long-term stays at Japanese universities—would be welcomed to enable the joint development of doctoral-level human resources.

Mr. Loh Chia Hur
Senior Analyst, Academy of Sciences Malaysia
(2026.4.16 Online Interview)



1. Achieving “Deeper” International Joint Research through NEXUS

- Aim to conduct **high-impact international joint research** with Japan, especially in fields such as advanced materials, biotechnology, and hydrogen. NEXUS is one of the few frameworks that can realize **“deeper” international collaborative research**.
- In the NEXUS “Green Technology” call, there were **128 applications**, which was surprising. It had been expected that the number of applications from Japan would be limited due to language barriers. Existing relationships likely developed into formal collaborations. It became clear that **researcher demand is extremely high**. For the second call, there were plans to **double the number of selected projects (from 5 to 10)**.
- International joint research is not just funding, but also a **foundation for building long-term researcher networks**. Japan-led programs such as NEXUS and e-ASIA function as platforms and hubs for this purpose.

2. Japan as a Trusted Partner

- Compared to other countries, Japan stands out in terms of **trust, consistency, and long-term commitment**. Japan’s presence in the region is very strong. While Japan provides a basic framework, it also **designs programs in a way that accommodates partner countries**.
- There has been a **long history of collaboration with Japan**, along with strong **consistency**, enabling effective communication. If calls for proposals are held annually, it becomes easier to **secure budget allocations in advance**. There is a strong desire to **build long-term relationships**.
- There is much to learn from **Japan’s research ecosystem and structural approaches**. Intend to establish a **continuous and long-term relationship with Japan**, beyond the duration of individual joint research projects.

Engr. Niñaliza H. Escorial
Deputy Executive Director, PCIEERD, DOST
(2026.4.20 Online Interview)



1. Japan as a Mutually Complementary Partner Built on Long-standing Trust

- For the Philippines, Japan is not just a provider of advanced technology, but a **long-standing partner with deep-rooted ties**. This relationship enables researchers to understand **each other's strengths and challenges and collaborate effectively**.
- Under the Philippines' R&D program "ELEV8PH," priority areas have been defined to drive social transformation. However, many of these areas are still in the stages of talent development and research infrastructure building, creating a **strong demand for deeper collaboration with Japan**, which has advanced expertise and institutional frameworks.
- Building on existing trust and networks, we expect continued and strengthened initiatives such as NEXUS and e-ASIA, expanded **complementary joint research** aligned with Philippine needs, and the development of an ecosystem for talent "**circulation**" and **knowledge sharing**—not just one-way capacity building.

2. Expectation for Further Strengthening Ties with Japan as a Model Partner

- Japan stands out as a **model partner**, with strengths in integrated approaches spanning technology, institutions, best practices, and the **full pathway from research to social implementation**.
- Japan also excels in applied research addressing societal challenges, as well as in data governance, ethics, and interdisciplinary research, achieving a **strong balance between social acceptance, institutional design, and application**—highly aligned with the Philippines' priorities.
- Collaboration with Japan has evolved beyond individual research projects to include **policy dialogue** and international network building.
- Expansion of the partnership with Japan **beyond R&D into other areas** is expected to strengthen bilateral ties and generate a positive cycle that further **enhances research impact**.

Dr. Jitti Mungkalasiri
Deputy director, Program Management Unit-B
(2026.4.22 Online Interview)



1. Japan as an Important Partner and a Model of Success to Learn from

- Dr. Yotchanan, appointed in April 2026 as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, is a former researcher and has stated that “**science is the foundation of national prosperity.**” He is also **proactive in international collaboration**, positioning Japan as one of the countries with which stronger cooperation should be pursued.
- Japan’s postwar achievement of high GDP growth, driven by industry through the organic integration of science, technology, engineering, and industry, represents a **successful model** for Thailand to learn from. In addition, joint research with Japan provides valuable opportunities for young Thai researchers to learn the Japanese emphasis on **discipline** and **strong execution capabilities**.

2. Expectations for Joint Research & Talent Development

- The Japanese government’s 17 strategic fields address global challenges and align closely with Thailand’s own focus areas. There is strong interest in cooperation with Japan in materials, semiconductors, energy, and biotechnology, where **complementary strengths** on both sides enable **mutually beneficial collaboration**.
- Japan is viewed as a **long-standing and trusted partner**. Japan’s **deep understanding** of regional characteristics and cultural contexts enables **concrete and effective cooperation**.
- The NEXUS program is highly valued for its **integrated approach**. Beyond international joint research, its **combined support for researcher mobility and human resource development** is seen as unique to Japan. Even small-scale programs help **build trust** among researchers, with strong potential to **grow into larger collaborations** and future industrial applications.
- **People-to-people connections** are the foundation of sustainable collaboration. Research networks cannot be built overnight, making it essential to **maintain cooperation from a medium- to long-term perspective** with a focus on the next generation.

Ms. Le Thi Viet Lam
Deputy Director General,
Department of International Cooperation,
Ministry of Science and Technology
(2026.5.15 Online Interview)



1. Japan as a Key and Trusted Strategic Partner

- Japan, with its advanced science and technology capabilities and practical approach to human resource development, is Vietnam's one of the most **important and trusted strategic partner**.
- Programs such as NEXUS and e-ASIA provide valuable opportunities for Vietnamese researchers **to engage with advanced research environments**, significantly enhancing the **collaborative and networking capabilities** of early-career researchers. These initiatives are highly regarded by the Vietnamese research community.
- Developing **high-quality human resources** in fields such as semiconductors is one of the top national priorities for Vietnam. The NEXUS Japan–Vietnam joint research program on semiconductors, which integrates **human resource development with collaborative research**, aligns closely with **Vietnam's policy priorities**, and is greatly appreciated as a key initiative led by JST.

2. Strengthening Human Resource Development and Research Exchange through Institutional Frameworks

- Looking ahead, there is strong interest in further **deepening human resource development and researcher exchange** with Japan, including through **institutional enhancements** in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET). This would enable Vietnamese early-career researchers to more **easily access opportunities** such as doctoral programs at Japanese universities, training, research exchanges, and internships in Japanese companies.
- It is also important to **expand best practices** from Japan–Vietnam cooperation, such as NEXUS, across the ASEAN region. Strengthening multilateral networks, institutionalizing researcher mobility, and establishing mechanisms **for sharing best practices** are expected to further **promote innovation** across Japan and ASEAN as a whole.