



Japan – Indonesia
Joint Call for Proposals:
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and
The National Research and Innovation Agency
of The Republic of Indonesia (BRIN)
2025

Summary:

Call announcement:	March 14, 2025 at 2PM (JST) at Noon (Indonesia Time)
Deadline for submission:	May 15, 2025 at 2PM (JST) at Noon (Indonesia Time)
Selection results announcement:	August 2025 (tentative)
Start of projects:	October 2025 (tentative)
Funding per project:	(Japan-side) Direct Expenses: 24 million yen Indirect Expenses: 30% of Direct Expenses (Indonesia-side: per project/year) Direct Expenses: up to 1 billion Indonesian Rupiah (including researcher Mobility and infrastructure sharing)
Maximum duration of the projects:	36 months
The number of the projects:	Up to five
Research Fields:	Bioproduction
Eligibility:	Researchers who belong to the Japanese research institution and researchers who belong to the Indonesian research institution
Submission:	To JST via e-Rad; To BRIN via https://pendanaan-risnov.brin.go.id
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1. Introduction

JST and BRIN signed in 2024, a Memorandum of Cooperation aiming to promote and strengthen collaboration between researchers from Indonesia and Japan. Under the scope of this framework, BRIN and JST launch this Call for Proposals for research, jointly conceived and to be jointly implemented by researchers in Indonesia and Japan.

The two agencies will jointly fund up to five research projects in this call.

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the National Research and Innovation Agency of the Republic of Indonesia (BRIN) are supporting joint projects through strategic project support measures to promote cooperation between Japan and Indonesia. On the Japan-side, this funding measure is carried out under the Networked Exchange, United Strength for Stronger Partnerships between Japan and ASEAN (NEXUS). On Indonesia-side, this funding measure is carried out under Research and Innovation for Advanced Indonesia (RIIM) Kolaborasi. The measure is aimed at promoting joint research projects of mutual interest and thus contributing to intensified scientific and technological cooperation (STC) with each country.

At Japan-side, the aim of this program is to build a “Complementary and Sustainable Research Ecosystem”, facilitating mutual growth as co-creating partners by enhancing sustainable research cooperation, grounded in longstanding initiatives such as international collaborative research and the exchange of research personnel.

At Indonesia-side, the aim of this program is to establish strong collaboration through joint call; fostering research and innovation by creating broad partnership through enhanced collaboration among Indonesian researchers and international collaborations with researchers from other countries. This program 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.

Japan established the Bioeconomy strategy which laid out a goal of “realizing the world’s most advanced bioeconomy society by 2030.” Indonesia launched the Blue Economy Roadmap in 2023, in which Bioeconomy stands out as a key area of focus within the Blue Economy strategy. This research collaboration aims to foster synergies between Japanese and Indonesian science and technology, promoting mutual growth and contributing to Bioeconomy. Bioproduction is a research field that can pursue both social issues and economic growth on a global scale to implement Bioeconomy. In this joint research call, JST and BRIN are looking to support research within the following subtopics within the fields of ‘Bioproduction’.

2. Research Fields

2.1 Research Fields: Bioproduction

Bioproduction is the comprehensive process of translating the fundamental research, such as insights from studies of 3D structural and biomolecular interactions, into efficient

development and manufacturing of innovative biological products. This includes leveraging advanced knowledge in structural biology, genetic engineering, and bioprocess to accelerate the innovation of high value bioproducts for industrial, medical, bioenergy, environmental and various applications.

2.2 Scope

The scope of activities in bioproduction encompasses a very wide array of processes that integrate fundamental research with applied biomanufacturing. It begins with the characterization of biological systems, such as proteins, enzymes, metabolites, and/or cells. These insights guide us to the engineering process of biological components to enhance its functionality, stability, and efficiency. The activities extend to optimizing the production systems, including recombinant expression in microbial or cell-based platforms, scaling up bioprocesses, and developing downstream processing techniques.

2.3 Subtopics:

To better organize its broad scope, the bioproduction activities can be categorized into three subtopics, each focusing on a specific aspect of innovation:

1. Bioproduction of Engineered Protein or Enzyme
This subtopic focuses on the design, optimization, and production of proteins or enzymes with enhanced or novel functionalities through genetic engineering.
2. Bioproduction of Engineered Metabolites
This subtopic deals with the biosynthesis of high-value small molecules (metabolites) through the metabolic engineering of microorganisms or cell factories.
3. Bioproduction of Engineered Cell and Tissue
This subtopic explores the creation and scaling of engineered cells or tissues with tailored functionalities for various applications.

3. Researcher Eligibility

Two identical copies of a proposal must be submitted to both the JST and BRIN. Detailed information on project proposal and submission guidelines can be found in the sections below.

Please note that proposals received by BRIN and not submitted to JST (and vice versa) will automatically be considered ineligible.

When submitting your application through both the JST and BRIN online submission systems, you will also need to enter some details online. Therefore, applicants are advised to start submitting their applications at least one week before the deadline of this Joint Call for Proposals. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

3.1 Eligible researchers for JST support:

If a research proposal is selected, the research project must maintain its qualified status as per the submission requirements for the entire duration of the period of research. If

the research project fails to meet the requirements during the research period, the research project will in principle be completely or partially suspended (i.e. be terminated early).

- Any independent researcher personally affiliated with (and actively conducting research at) a 'Domestic Japanese research institution', where they will organize and pursue the proposed research, is eligible to apply. (The nationalities of research project applicants are not considered.)
- 'Domestic Japanese research institution' refers to universities, independent administrative institutions, national/public testing and Research Institutions, specially authorized corporations, public-service corporations, and enterprises, etc. that satisfy requirements predetermined by the Japanese 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
- The Japanese applicants must also complete a research ethics training program conducted by the research institute with which the Principal Investigator (PI) is affiliated, and then declare the completion of the program to JST. If it is very difficult for the Japanese PI to undertake a program provided by his or her affiliated institute, they should contact JST. Please note that unless applicants complete a research ethics program, his / her application will be deemed ineligible. For more details, please refer to call announcement page linked from the JST homepage.
- Japanese applicants will have to register their applications on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad: <https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html>).

3.2 Eligible researchers for BRIN support:

- Any Indonesian citizen researcher affiliated with BRIN or other Indonesian research institution with appropriate legal registration for example universities, industry, and/or private community/organization that satisfy requirements predetermined by BRIN is eligible to apply.
- Other Indonesian research institutions (excluding BRIN) legally registered in Indonesia, must register with the Sistem Informasi Registrasi Lembaga Riset (SEBARIS): <https://sebaris.brin.go.id/daftar>, and comply with its requirement to meet the required administrative and legal obligations.
- The Principal Investigator must hold a doctoral degree (S3).
- Indonesian PIs must engage researchers from Japan who will be asked to take part in research activities.
- Indonesian PIs (exclude BRIN Researchers) must engage researchers from BRIN who will be asked to take part in research activities.

- The Principal Investigator must have a track record statement of research and/or publications relevant to the proposed research/project. Team members must have either a relevant research track record or clearly defined roles in the research project of where their skill sets provide added value. All researchers involved must submit their Curriculum Vitae, with their research track record detailed in the research experience section.
- Research institutes in Indonesia and the countries involved in joint research must have a clear work breakdown structure
- Research activities will be conducted in Indonesia
- The proposed research or project requires a concept that will lead to the future utilization of research outcomes to the benefit of society
- The proposed document requires legal approval from an authorized official of the institution.
- Indonesian applicants will have to register their application on the BRIN - Pendanaan System (<https://pendanaan-risnov.brin.go.id>). Each researcher in the research consortium must confirm their participation in the project of the BRIN Pendanaan.
- The Principal Investigator and team members are allowed to be involved in up to 2 (two) proposals for this Joint Call for Proposals, either as a Principal Investigator on 1 (one) proposal and a team member on 1 (one) proposal, or as a team member on 2 (two) proposals.

The Indonesian applicants must also complete a research ethical clearance done through the Research Ethical Clearance information system before the project started.

4. Characteristics of Proposals under this call

4.1. Proposal for JST

A joint proposal must be written in English and must comply with instructions in the Joint Application Form. Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to BRIN and JST, respectively. In addition, Japan-based PIs must also submit the application form for Japan-side in Japanese.

4.2. Proposal for BRIN

- A joint proposal must be written in English and must comply with the Call Guideline and instruction in the Joint Application Form. Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to BRIN and JST, respectively.
- Supporting document required by BRIN, 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), must be written in English and must comply with the Call Guideline and instruction in the Joint Application Form, and submitted along with the proposal to BRIN.

5. Amount of Funding

5.1. Amount of Funding by JST:

JST will support each Japan-based team up to 24 million Japanese Yen as direct expenses for 36 months.

In addition to direct expenses, the overhead cost of 30% of direct expenses will be added as indirect expenses 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.

5.2. Amount of Funding by BRIN:

BRIN will support up to 1 billion Indonesian Rupiah (including researcher mobility and infrastructure sharing) per project/year. Based on the results of annual reviews, research funding can be implemented for a maximum of three years.

The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities and the results of annual reviews.

The amount will be adjusted each year due to the budgetary limitation for this program.

No cross-border funding will be allowed in the implementation of the joint research projects.

Please refer to Annex 1 regarding the detail Fund disbursement for the Indonesia PIs.

6. Eligible costs

6.1. Eligible costs for JST:

(1) Direct expenses

Direct expenses are expenses directly used for research purposes at the awarded research institution, and can be used for the following:

- Equipment costs (equipment and consumables)
- Travel costs
In principle, travel costs are incurred in accordance with the guidelines of the awarded research institution. Travel expenses are applicable to travel directly related to the execution of the research, dissemination activities, etc.
- Personnel costs (PI and Co-PI personnel costs and buyout policy may apply)
- Miscellaneous
- In addition to the above, research expenses may include, for example:
 - Expenses for organizing and hosting events for research result dissemination
 - Outsourcing costs (excluding subcontracting)
 - Equipment leasing costs, transportation costs, for equipment used for the research project
 - personnel expenses for administrative staff that coordinate the travel of outgoing researchers, and their personnel-related procedures can be recorded as direct expenses.

(Points of Caution)

Participants are to allocate around 30% of the total direct expenses to exchange activities of young researchers including graduate and undergraduate students who can play an important role in the joint research and who are expected to be internationally active in the future, e.g., by promoting their international mobility and circulation, such as dispatching them to the partner country or holding workshops, or by providing international research opportunities such as presenting at international conference..

(2) Indirect expenses

- Indirect expenses go directly to the awarded research institution for the purposes of administrative purposes and must constitute 30% of the direct cost.

6.2. Eligible costs for BRIN:

Direct expenses are expenses directly used for research purposes at the awarded research institution, and can be used for the following:

- Consumables: This includes acquiring chemicals or materials essential for research or production components;
- Personnel Costs: Funding is available only to compensate field workers for their contributions (funding cannot cover personnel expenses for administrative staff);
- Travel costs: Travel expenses are applicable for domestic travel that directly related to research activities, as well as facilitating the mobility of Indonesian and foreign researchers through BRIN's researcher mobility scheme managed by the Directorate of Talent Management. The Researcher Mobility Scheme is exclusively for BRIN researchers. 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/>
- Meals for meeting that directly related to the research, takes place within the office of the respective institution.

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

- Equipment/software purchases
- Capital expenditure;
- Personnel expenses for PI, Co-PI, research assistant, and administrative staff;
- Expenses for organizing and hosting events (such as workshop, focus group discussion) outside the office of the respective institution;
- Expenses for publication and international conference (including registration and attending the international conference).

7. Submission

The Principal Investigator from Japan must submit the collaborative proposal to JST and

the Principal Investigator from Indonesia must submit the joint proposal to BRIN. **Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to JST and BRIN, respectively.**

7.1. Submission procedure for JST:

Application documents by the Japan-based researcher should be submitted through the online e-Rad platform (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/>).

7.2. Submission procedure for BRIN:

Applicant documents by the Indonesian researcher should be submitted through BRIN – Pendanaan System (<https://pendanaan-risnov.brin.go.id/>)

8. Timeline

Call announcement: March 14, 2025 at 2PM (JST)
at Noon (Indonesia Time)

Deadline of submission: May 15, 2025 at 2PM (JST)
at Noon (Indonesia Time)

Expected selection results announcement: August 2025 (tentative)

Expected start of granted projects: October 2025 (tentative)

9. Assessment and Selection

9.1. Evaluation Procedure

Committees consisting of experts selected by JST and BRIN respectively will evaluate all proposals. Based on the results of the evaluation, JST and BRIN will make a common decision regarding funding of selected proposals.

9.2 Criteria for evaluating proposals

The following general evaluation criteria will apply to each proposed proposal:

- Consistency with the research field of the call
- Capability of Research Leaders
- Expected scientific results of the joint research
- Synergy effects of international collaboration
- Validity of research plan
- Validity of exchange plan
- Expected economic and social impact of the joint research
- Feasibility of implementation (given proposed plan, participants, budget, facilities, means of cooperation, etc.)

10. Contract between Researchers

10.1. the Japan-based PIs

A contract for cooperative research **MUST** be entered into among institutions with which

collaborating researchers are affiliated for implementing actual research collaboration. The contract for cooperative research shall include conclusions of discussions among the institutions which are entitled to intellectual property arising as a result of research collaboration, and the institutions concerned on issues regarding treatment of research information brought by researchers involved for the implementation of research collaboration, of research achievements as a result of research collaboration and of intellectual properties among the concerned institutions. Before the conclusion of the contract, the Japan-based principal investigator must submit the check-list in specified form to JST and then undergo a check by JST. When concluded, JST needs to be promptly notified of the contract. If there is any difficulty in concluding the contract, please consult JST in advance.

10.2. the Indonesian PIs

A contract for cooperative research MUST be entered into among institutions with which collaborating researchers are affiliated for implementing actual research collaboration. The contract for cooperative research shall include conclusions of discussions among the institutions which are entitled to intellectual property arising as a result of research collaboration, and the institutions concerned on issues regarding treatment of research information brought by researchers involved for the implementation of research collaboration, of research achievements as a result of research collaboration and of intellectual properties among the concerned institutions.

10.3. Ethical Clearance and Foreign Research Permit

Ethical clearance from Ethics Committee must be obtained before the research commences. Foreign parties involved in the joint research activities who will conduct research activities in Indonesia have to obtain a research permit. To obtain a research permit, foreign parties must apply for Research Ethical Clearance and foreign research permit request. This application is done through the Research Ethical Clearance information system (<https://klirensetik.brin.go.id>)

10.4. Material Transfer Agreement

Awardee agree that any tangible research materials required to be taken from the Republic of Indonesia for research purposes of the approved collaborative project shall be transferred through a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) between concerned research organizations in strict compliance with the legislation of the Republic of Indonesia. In addition, Awardee also agree to strictly comply with the rules of the Security Export Control in Japan based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act under international export control regimes when taking advanced goods and technologies from Japan overseas.

10.5. Intellectual Property

In the event of joint research cooperation, it is the responsibility of the respective member of the collaborating project partners to determine in advance how any exploited IP will be divided amongst the partners in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations of the respective countries of the institutions Participants and the institutions' policies

and procedures. Details of this agreement shall be included in the collaborative agreement.

10.6. Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge

10.6.1 The Parties recognize the importance of the protection of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources (hereinafter referred to as the “GRTK”). Awardee to carry out any research activities in accordance with the provisions of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) FAO, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Nagoya Protocol, and other related international agreements, particularly taking into account the principle of prior informed consent and of fair and equitable benefit sharing.

10.6.2 Details regarding the management of GRTK shall be included in the Collaborative Agreement of any collaborative projects.

10.7. Data and Material Management

Data and information resulting from the research activities shall be submitted and stored at the National Scientific Repository of BRIN through the page <https://rin.brin.go.id/> in accordance with applicable laws and regulations;

Material or specimens resulted from the research activities must be lodged with the BRIN cq. Directorate of Scientific Collection Management.

In the case of data and information resulting from the research activities, such submission and storage shall be carried out in a manner that respects, to the greatest extent possible, “JST’s Basic Policy on the handling of research results to promote open science” separately presented by JST.

https://www.jst.go.jp/EN/about/openscience/policy_openscience_en_r4.pdf

11. Reporting

11.1. the Japan-based PIs

Japan-based PIs shall submit to JST annual research plans for the year ahead and reports on the progress in the past year, and the institution with which the PI is affiliated shall submit an annual financial report.

At the end of the period of support and after completion of the joint research activities, the Japan-based PI shall promptly submit to JST a final report which shall include a financial report and a description of the research activities and outcomes. The report shall include a general summary of the activities of both the Japanese and the Indonesian research teams. If papers describing results of the research activities are presented to academic journals, societies etc., a list of those papers and other related information should be attached to the final report. Detailed instructions for preparation of the final report will be provided to the Japan-based PI during the final year of the project.

Completed projects will be duly evaluated and excellent outcomes may be made public.

11.2. the Indonesian PIs

The Indonesian PIs shall submit to BRIN a progress of research activities, output achievements, financial report, 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 payment instalment.

At the end of the period of funding and after completion of the joint research, the Indonesian PIs shall submit a final report which shall include a description of the research activities, outputs and outcomes, and financial report to BRIN within one month.

The expected output for Indonesian applicant includes:

1. Two journal articles (submitted to Q1 or Q2 international journal) where the Indonesian lead is first author or co-author and/or corresponding author; and/or
2. Intellectual Property with minimum registered status, with a principle of equity noted as a collaborative agreement.

The report shall include a general summary of the activities of both the Japanese and the Indonesian research teams. If papers describing results of the research activities are presented to academic journals, societies etc., a list of those papers and other related information should be attached to the final report. Detailed instructions for preparation of the final report will be provided to the Indonesian Principal Investigator during the final year of the project. Completed projects will be duly evaluated and excellent outcomes may be made public. All outputs produced by the project must include the logo of BRIN and LPDP

12. Contact information

Japan-based applicants: inquiries to JST regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to joint-call-ja@jst.go.jp

Indonesia-based applicants: inquiries to BRIN regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to dana-risnov@brin.go.id.

Annex 1.

Fund Disbursement for the Indonesian PIs.

1. Research funding is disbursed through a transfer from the LPDP operational account to the recipient 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;
 - a. 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 Rupiah) after the PIs meets the requirements for fund disbursement.
 - b. 2 (two) stages per period with the funding amount for the first period exceeding IDR 250,000,000 (two hundred fifty million Rupiah) after the PIs meets the requirements 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 recipient institution returns the entire remaining balance;
6. The requirements for disbursing research funding after meeting the disbursement conditions are as follows:
 - a. A cooperation Agreement between BRIN and the recipient institution, signed by both parties;
 - b. The proposal along with the budget details (RAB) according to the approved funding amount;
 - c. Revised research activity plan documents according to reviewer feedback and board meeting results;
 - d. Other required documents.
7. Disbursement requirement documents are uploaded through eRispro <https://risprolpdp.kemenkeu.go.id>;
8. For researcher mobility activities, proposals should be submitted and follow the procedures of the BRIN Talent Management Directorate.

Return of Remaining Funds and Misused Funds:

1. During each Evaluation, the Directorate of 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 beneficiary to LPDP;
3. If there are remaining funds and/or funds used for unintended purposes that must be returned by the beneficiary, DFRI BRIN will request the return of funds from the beneficiary;
4. DFRI BRIN ensures that the return of funds is made by the beneficiary to LPDP no later than 60 calendar days after the notification letter is received by the beneficiary; and
5. The return of funds by the beneficiary is done through a transfer via the account or virtual account specified by LPDP.