STAND

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UKRI-JST-DOST call for development research collaborations

Call for Proposals Framework

'Science, Technology and Action' Nexus for Development

("STAND")

Launch | Friday, 27 November 2020

Deadline | Wednesday, 10 February 2021

UK Research and Innovation

JST Japan Science and Technology Agency

DOST

UKRI-JST-DOST call

for development research collaborations (STAND)

Content

1. Introduction

Researchers funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines (DOST) with projects focused on sustainable development in South East Asia are invited to apply for funding designed to enable connections between relevant projects to increase impact and develop new collaborations and synergies towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Proposals should focus on networking and partnership, building outreach and dissemination, and demonstration and pilot activities.

This initiative is in line with the "Decade of Global Sustainability Science Action" in order to enhance strategic collaboration and to accelerate the impact of science and science funding on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that has been initiated by science funders and the research community in 2019.

1.1 Background

'Science, Technology and Action' Nexus for Development (STAND) attempts to harmonize development research efforts which were previously carried out separately by different funding agencies. Through STAND, multilateral joint calls are launched for collaborative development research which contribute to solving societal challenges in focus regions/countries.

A mapping exercise, started in 2018 by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) to explore alignment of their respective programmes for addressing cross-cutting global challenges, highlighted several projects funded through the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) and e-ASIA Joint Research Program (e-ASIA JRP), both run by JST, and the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and Newton Fund, both run by UKRI.

South East Asia was selected as a core region of mutual interest for both JST and UKRI, suggesting ample opportunity for cooperation. One result of the mapping exercise was that the Philippines emerged as having the highest number of overlapping projects, and so the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines (DOST) also joined the initiative.

In order to develop effective research partnerships that can deliver impact, a joint workshop on "Working together for sustainable coastal communities: a multi-funder approach to maximise development impact" was organised by DOST-PCIEERD, UKRI and JST in December 2019. As part of this workshop group discussion sessions were conducted to set out the characteristics, needs and mechanisms for cooperation.

Takeaway points from the discussions included that new cooperation would ideally be interdisciplinary and flexible to diverse stakeholder demands, and that conventional research partnerships were not fit for the task. It was suggested that mobility could be a practical first step in order to bring together a

portfolio of different funding approaches and serve as a pilot to verify how further cooperation could be implemented.

The intention of this pilot call is to encourage projects to come together to create synergies, develop new collaborations and increase the impact of outputs from previous funding.

1.2 Budget information

Total amount (indicative)	UKRI - £500,000 JST - JPY25,000,000 DOST – PhP15,000,000
Maximum amount per application	UKRI - £100,000 JST - JPY5,000,000 DOST - PhP5,000,000

See **_section 2.2_** for guidelines on budget allocation against eligible research activities.

2. Eligibility criteria and funding regulations

2.1 Who can apply?

Proposals should include at least one project funded by UKRI and one project funded by JST and include partners in South East Asia.

Proposals should be led by at least one project leader based in a UK Research Organisation (RO) eligible to receive funding from UKRI and one project leader based in a Japanese RO eligible to receive funding from JST. Proposals should also include partners from countries in South East Asia. Where relevant, proposals may also include a project leader based in the Philippines and eligible to receive funding from DOST.

Proposals should connect currently or recently (within the last 3 years) active projects focused on South East Asia funded under the following schemes:
- Newton Fund (UKRI)
- Global Challenges Research Fund: GCRF (UKRI)
- Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development: SATREPS (JST)
- e-ASIA Joint Research Program: e-ASIA JRP (JST)
- Accelerating Social Implementation for SDGs achievement: aXis (JST)
- For the Philippines, projects currently funded in any of the funding schemes of DOST, UKRI and/or JST.

UK-based project leaders should be a Principle or Co-Investigator for the participating GCRF or Newton Fund projects.

Japan-based project leaders should be a Principle or Co-Investigator for the participating SATREPS, e-ASIA or aXis.

2.2 What can I apply for? (Eligible activities)

It is expected that up to **five (5)** individual 12-month projects will be funded, each with costs up to £100,000 from UKRI, JPY 5,000,000 from JST. Additionally, PhP5,000,000 is available from DOST to support involvement of researchers in the Philippines for up to three of the projects.

The intention of this call is to encourage projects to come together to create synergies, develop new collaborations and increase the impact of outputs from previous funding. Each project is expected to undertake the following kind of activities:
- Network building among project partners to exchange and deepen their knowledge and activities.
- Small scale demonstration activity with involvement of new stakeholders (small to medium size).
- Pilot research activities designed to build on previous findings and support new collaborations
- Multi-stakeholder events (in person or virtual) focusing on impact, outreach and dissemination of existing research outputs.

The research area related to the proposal can be any field of research in connection with sustainable development, for example marine science, water related issues or urban environment.

The funders recommend that projects take into account the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact this has on global mobility and develop plans and contingencies accordingly.

It is imperative that applicants take notice of the rules of the national funding organisations concerning the costs they are able to fund prior to proposal preparation. The national contact should be consulted well before the submission deadline. *See Annex for individual national funding regulations*.

2.3 Published information on granted projects

A list of the funded projects will be published after granting and updated during the execution of the projects. Therefore, applicants should be aware that the following information from the proposals will be published by UKRI, JST and DOST:

- Project title;
- Duration of the project;
- Total funding of the project;
- Name of the project PIs;
- Country, organisation and name of each partner;
- A short publishable summary of the project.

3. Application Procedure

Applications should be submitted to JST through the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad, https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html) at 12:00 hours (JST) on the 10th of February 2021.

Applications to UKRI should be submitted through the Joint Electronic Submission system (Je-S, https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/) by 16:00 hours (GMT) on the 10th of February 2021.

If applicable, a counterpart application should be submitted through the DOST Project Management Information system (DPMIS, http://dpmis.dost.gov.ph) application system at 16:00 hours (PST) by the 10th of February 2021.

It will not be possible to submit an application to the call after the time mentioned above. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

UK applicants must ensure they leave enough time for their proposal to pass through their organisation's Je-S submission route before this date.

Philippine applicants applying through the DPMIS must list the UK/Japanese research collaborators using the DPMIS Proposal Template. The value of UKRI/JST funding contributions should also be included in the DOST application and submitted as part of the proposal's line-item budget as UKRI/JST counterpart.

3.1 Structure of the Proposal

Applicants are required to follow the structure as outlined in the UKRI, JST and DOST Online Submission Systems. Only applications submitted with the correct structure will be allowed into the procedure. Please note that the **same project title** should be used when applying to each funder to ensure that it is clear which applications are linked.

Required parts of the application (for JST):

- Application form and Legal compliance checklist (Japanese)
- Case for Support (English, 5 pages limit)
- Justification of Resources (English, 2 pages limit)
- CVs for project leaders (English, 2 pages per CV, including publications)

The Japanese application form and Legal compliance checklist must be submitted only to JST.

The same Case for Support, Justification of Resources and CVs for project leaders should be submitted to each funder.

As a minimum, font size 11 in Arial must be used for the entire Case for Support and CVs.

Please note that on submission **all** non PDF documents are converted to PDF. The use of non-standard fonts may result in errors or font conversion, which could affect the overall length of the document.

UKRI requires additional documents to be submitted, such as Gender Equality Statement and Data Management Plan. DOST requires supplementary files such as workplan, endorsement of the Head of the Agency, gender and development scoresheet, scientific basis/theoretical framework, among others shall form part of the submission. Proposals and supplementary files must be written in English.

3.1.1   Case for Support

The same case for support should be submitted to each funder. The case for support should be a maximum of **5 sides of A4** and comprise the following sections:

Vision and Objectives

The overall vision and objectives of the project, setting out the proposal's relevance to the call and contribution to SDGs.

This should include a brief overview of the previously funded projects (including any key outcomes) and how this project will enable new perspectives and collaborations between these projects. You should describe the major sustainable development challenge(s) being addressed, the expected outcomes of the project and how it will build on and add value to the previously funded projects.

Capability of the Team

Plans for the overall management of the project including how funds will be used to achieve the programme's objectives. Details of the project leaders, including their proposed contribution to the programme and evidence they have the necessary diverse set of skills to deliver the vision and objectives.

Partnerships and Collaboration

The strategy to enhance and build meaningful and lasting partnerships between the different projects and research groups involved and with other partners (business, third sector organisations, governments). This should include how the programme will facilitate and promote collaborative and cross-disciplinary ways of working and assemble the disciplinary expertise necessary to tackle the development challenge/s in question. Part of the capacity and capability growth should be enabling groups and individuals to respond to future funding opportunities. Each proposal should describe the history of the partnerships and collaboration. If an agreement has already been signed with the

counterpart institution, it is better to give details of the agreement and current contact and interaction among the institutions.

Programme of Activities

An outline of the planned activities, who the key stakeholders will be, and what outcomes might be generated from them. Projects should also be aiming to set up a legacy of impact, for example, by working with non-academic stakeholders (practitioners, industry, governments etc.), and this section should detail how they will be engaged. This section should include how the planned activities will follow on from, build on and enhance the impact of the previously funded projects.

Details must be given in this section of what consideration has been given to under-represented groups, genders or others with protected characteristics; this includes the membership of the network, as well as the planning of events and outcomes. You should describe your strategies for maximising inclusion. You should also consider your monitoring and reporting processes to allow for differentiation by gender and other protected characteristics (for example, data on meeting participants, which should be voluntary). Applicants should also consider any possible negative impacts of the proposed project on inequalities of different genders, and how the project proposes to monitor and remove these.

You must also detail your safeguarding policy in this section. The funders condemn all forms of harm and abuse, including bullying and harassment. We take a zero-tolerance approach to harm and abuse to any individual employed through or associated with our programmes in all contexts; whether in humanitarian or fragile and conflict-affected settings, in other field contexts, or within the international research and development community which we fund. We expect organisations to promote the highest standards in organisational culture and have in place the systems and procedures required to prevent and tackle all incidents of harm and abuse. Applications should detail how they will identify and manage safeguarding risks within their projects.

3.1.2   *Justification of Resources*

The same Justification of Resources should be submitted to each funder.
All resources requested (directly incurred, directly allocated and exceptions, including PI/Project Leaders time) must be fully justified.

For items that would ordinarily be found in a department, for example non-specialist computers, a justification must be included both for why they are required for the project and why they cannot be provided from the Research Organisation's own resources (including funding from indirect costs from grants).

A clear justification must be provided for the amount of indirect costs requested from UKRI, DOST and JST and a breakdown given for how it will be spent. ***See Annex for individual national funding regulations***.

3.1.3   CVs for project leaders

CVs (two pages per applicant, including publications) should be provided for the project leaders (Principle Investigator and Co-Investigators). These should be provided to all funders.

4. Evaluation and selection procedure

Once applications have been internally assessed by the funders for eligibility, applications will be assessed by a specially convened panel of experts nominated by UKRI, JST, and DOST. The panel will be asked to assess the proposals against the assessment criteria below. The panel will make formal recommendations to the funders. The funders may wish to apply some conditions on grants, and there may be subsequent negotiations on the details of the support offered.

4.1 Evaluation process

Applications will be assessed by a specially convened panel of experts nominated by UKRI, JST and DOST. The panel will be asked to assess the proposals against the assessment criteria below. The panel will make formal recommendations to the funders. The funders may wish to apply some conditions on grants, and there may be subsequent negotiations on the details of the support offered.

4.2 Criteria for evaluating proposals

1. Relevance and fit to call:

a) the project's alignment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the theme of 'sustainable development in South East Asia'

b) identification of a relevant development challenge

c) the identification of appropriate previously funded projects to collaborate

2. Programme of activities, organisation and management:

a) how appropriate are the planned activities and how likely are they to deliver the aims of the call

b) the clarity of objectives and realistic plans to deliver these, including plans for monitoring, evaluation and legacy

c) competence and complementarity of the participants within the project

d) the extent to which the project fully justifies its costs and can demonstrate good value for money

e) the extent to which the project leaders have the appropriate skills/experience/environment

3. Capacity building, partnerships and inclusion:

a) the degree and quality of co-design and equitable partnership across the partners

b) the potential for research and innovation capacity building

c) the extent to which the project will forge new links and dialogues

d) appropriate mechanisms for promoting gender equality and inclusion in the project

4. Likelihood of impact:

a) appropriate engagement with policy/practice/user stakeholders

b) the sustainability of the project and potential to deliver impact and/or scalable solutions at the local, national and/or international level beyond the initial 12 months

4.3 Timetable

Event	Date	Time
Opening date	27 November 2020	
Closing date	10 February 2021	16:00 GMT for JeS 12:00 JST for e-Rad 16:00 DOST for DPMIS
Panel review	April 2021	
Expected date of projects to commence	May/June 2021	

*** *UKRI, DOST and JST reserve the right to change the above-mentioned dates at any stage* ***

5. UKRI, JST and DOST Contact Details for Queries

Consortium partners of proposals selected for funding will have to follow national/institutional procedures after a positive funding decision by UKRI, DOST and JST. It is also advisable to contact your funding body as soon as possible in case your proposal is granted to discuss the national requirements that have to be met before the start of the project.

For specific content related questions please contact:

UKRI Contact Person	JST Contact Person	DOST contact person
Please contact GCRF@ukri.org Enquiries relating to technical aspects of the Je-S form should be addressed to: Je-S helpdesk Email: JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org Telephone: (+44) 01793 444164 Opening hours: 8:30 – 17:00 Monday to Thursday, 8:30 – 16:30 Friday UK time	Mr. Hiroki Kabumoto, Mr. Junsuke Mikami stand@jst.go.jp Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) Department of International Affairs Tel.: +81-3-5214-7375; Fax.: +81-3-5214-7379 (Email is preferable if not urgent.)	Grace F. Estillore, DOST-PCIEERD, gfestillore@pcieerd.dost.gov.ph; Charlene U. Basig, Office of the Assistant Secretary for International Cooperation, DOST, cubasig@dost.gov.ph

Annex
Individual National Funding Regulations

UK | UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

Eligible costs

Costs incurred by UK RO's will be covered by UKRI at 80% full Economic Cost (fEC). Costs incurred by partners based in countries on the OECD DAC list of ODA recipients (DAC list), aside from the Philippines, will be covered by UKRI at 100% fEC.

Third sector organisations (e.g. NGOs, charities and other non-profit civil society organisations) are eligible to receive a contribution to their costs incurred on the project, including a contribution to staff time. Any non-staff costs must be reasonable; indirect costs and overheads are not allowed. The total costs associated with all third-sector project partners must not exceed 20% of the total award (100% fEC).

Capital or infrastructure expenditure is not an eligible cost for this call. Individual items of equipment above £10,000 are not eligible to be funded by UKRI for this call. Fees and/or stipends associated with Masters and PhD studentships are not eligible under this call. Government bodies are not eligible for funding.

The following costs may not be included as direct costs for this call and therefore must be included in the requested indirect costs:
- Charges for office or laboratory space
- Electricity, heating, lighting
- Telephone and basic communication costs (unless there is need for significant project based activities such as phone interviews)
- Routine photocopying and printing (Large print runs such as publications or workshop papers may be charged to the grant)
- Standard Office computing, including desktop and laptop computers and associated software. Individual items of computing equipment may not be charged to a grant (High performance computing facilities which are linked to a specific research task may in some circumstances be charged to the grant – for further clarification please check with UKRI)
- Office support staff (e.g. finance staff, basic secretarial support, computing support staff). Project managers can be claimed as a direct cost on the grant.

JAPAN | Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

JST will support 5 million yen per project in total. Please be noted that this 5 million yen includes overhead cost (30% of direct cost).

Eligible direct costs

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 (available in Japanese only). https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/index2.html

(a-1)   Facilities, Equipment and Consumables: costs of research equipment, spare parts, prototypes, software (in-line products) and purchase of books, reagents, materials and consumables.

(a-2)   Travel Expenses: costs and associated living expenses of the project members registered in the project plan, and costs of inviting external experts.

(a-3)   Personnel costs: costs of the researchers, temporary staff, post-docs, etc., who are hired for the research and other costs such as honoraria for invited lecturers.

(a-4)   Others: costs for the organisation of small scientific events 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.

Eligible indirect costs

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

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/shishin2.pdf (available in Japanese only)

PHILIPPINES | Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

More information: Grants-in-aid Program of the Department of Science and Technology and its Agencies (Section IX.B.Line-Item Budget).