e-ASIA Joint Research Program (the e-ASIA JRP)
Research Cooperation in the field of
“Bioenergy”
Joint Call for Proposals to be submitted by 13th October 2015

I. General Description

I-1. Joint Funding of Multilateral Research Cooperation

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

As part of the program, the following current Member organizations of the e-ASIA JRP hereinafter singularly referred to as a “Party” and plurally as “Parties”, have agreed to establish a new scheme for joint funding of multilateral cooperative activities. After consultations among the Parties, “Bioenergy” has been selected as one of the specific research areas for the call in 2015.

Participating Parties (listed in alphabetical order by country):
1) Indonesia: Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (RISTEK)
2) Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
3) Lao PDR: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
4) Myanmar: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
5) Thailand: Agricultural Research Development Agency (ARDA)
6) Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

I-2. Aim of Joint Call and Research Area

By strengthening multilateral collaboration among researchers in the field of “Biomass Utilization”, the aim of the Joint Call is to pursue state-of-the-art technologies and solutions to common issues across the region, towards realization of an innovative, robust, and sustainable economy and society in East Asia.
Our society depends on a large amount of energy resources to conduct economic activities including daily life. As a result of explosive growth of global economy, climate change as represented by global warming, and environmental problems, are clearly recognized as shared problems for all human beings.

As the region of East Asia becomes an engine to drive the global economy growing rapidly, East Asian countries also share many common issues such as shortage of energy and environmental problems. It is absolutely essential to develop a novel solution to conquer these problems in order to establish sustainable future development in Asian countries.

“Renewable Energy” is considered to be a vital area of technological development for the achievement of sustainable society. Because East Asia region is rich in biomass resources, “Bioenergy” is one of the most feasible approaches toward sustainable development of the region. Biomass can be converted to fuels and thus can significantly reduce carbon emissions by closing the carbon cycle --- the carbon released by the consumption of biomass fuels is reused to grow new biomass.

The field of Biomass and Plant Science in the e-ASIA JRP therefore supports researches focused on advanced technologies aiming effective utilization of biomass for energy. We will invite research proposals for “Bioenergy” focused on, but not limited to:

(1) Biomass Production (breeding, cultivation)
(2) Bio-refinery and Biofuels (gas, liquid and solid),
(3) On-site Power and Heat Generation,
(4) Harmonized LCA methodology for sustainable development, and etc.

I-3. Invitation of Proposals and Prospective Applicants

The Parties shall invite researchers from their countries to identify potential partners in at least two other countries of the e-ASIA JRP Member organizations which participate in this Call (i.e. Parties) and to jointly prepare proposals for cooperative research projects in the area of Bioenergy.
“Lead PI” should be assigned among research leaders of the research team. Lead PI should be responsible for submitting an application form, contacting with the Secretariat, and etc.

All applicants must fulfill their respective national eligibility rules for research grant application. Researchers from industry are encouraged to participate in the joint collaboration in accordance with national eligibility rules.

Researchers may participate in joint research projects by utilizing funding already received from the Parties (“re-budgeting”) or "in-kind" support they may have available, meaning that the Party of the researcher's country does not necessarily have to find additional funds to allow scientists to participate in a collaborative project.

The following is the list of acceptable type of participation by each Party. (✓ means "accept")

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Re-budgeting</th>
<th>In-kind</th>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesia(*) (RISTEK)</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Japan (JST)</td>
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**New:** New budget is requested for a project (either new or additional)

**Re-budgeting:** Funds from the Party are reallocated from one spending category to a project approved under the e-ASIA JRP, or are combined with goods, commodities, or services instead of money (i.e. material compensation)

**In-kind:** A principle investigator participates in a project using funds that are already available, which are not provided by the Parties of his/her country
(*) Indonesian researchers who seek new funds from RISTEK need to apply for “Insentif Sinas”, RISTEK’s competitive fund. It is required to clearly state on “Insentif Sinas” application that the proposal is for the e-ASIA JRP project. If the proposal is selected, Indonesian researchers will receive funds from RISTEK. If Indonesian researchers would like to participate in a project on “in-kind” basis even though the application for “Insentif Sinas” is not selected, it should be stipulated in the common application form of the e-ASIAJRP.

Laotian researchers can participate in research projects only on an "in-kind" basis, as there will be no new or additional support available from the Laotian MOST.

Myanmar researchers can participate in research projects only on an "in-kind" basis, as there will be no new or additional support available from the Myanmar MOST.

Vietnamese researchers can participate in research projects only on an "in-kind" basis, as there will be no new or additional support available from the Vietnamese MOST.

"In-kind" support may come from public sources, foundations or non-profit organization only.

It is advised for researchers who will participate in research project on an “in-kind” basis to notify the funding agency (i.e. his/her funding source) that he/she will reallocate their budget for the e-ASIA project, and to obtain a “Letter of Consent” from those agencies.

Conditions regarding the number of countries which can participate on an “in-kind” basis in one research project will vary by country.

In principle, at least one country should participate with “new” or “re-budgeting” fund meaning that it is not acceptable as an e-ASIA project if all the applicants participate in research project on an “in-kind” basis.
I-4. Financial Support

The Parties plan to support cooperative activities including sending and inviting researchers to the counterpart countries. In principle, each Party will support expenses for its own country’s researchers.

II. Support

Conditions of support will vary by country. Applicants shall refer to the Appendix for each Party’s condition.

- Budget for Cooperative Research Projects
- Cooperative Research Period
  The duration of a cooperative research project will be three years (36 months) in total from the start date.
- Details of Support
- Funded Expenses
  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.
- Contract between Applicant and Each Party
- Contract among Researchers

III. Application

Proposals must be submitted by e-mail to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat. Applications shall be written in English.

In addition to the common application form, each Party may require additional documents to submit. Those requirements are in the Appendix.

The proposal shall include:
  a) Project description including how collaboration will be carried out, with clear statements of what roles each country’s researchers will play respectively in the project;
b) Description of the expected outcomes of the proposed project, scientifically as well as in terms of relevance for industry and society;
c) Description of the ongoing activities and specific advantages of each group respectively, which form the basis for the proposed joint project;
d) 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;
e) Description of how the project is expected to help strengthen multilateral research collaboration over the longer term;
f) Description of the expected value added from the multidisciplinary approach in the proposed joint project; and
g) Description of how the proposed joint project interacts with or impacts on other comparable activities worldwide.

III -1. Application Forms

Researchers should prepare the following application (proposal) forms in English ("E").

For further requirements by each Party, researchers shall refer to the Appendix or shall consult each Party of his/her country.

Form 1E Application outline (title of cooperative research project, names of PIs, cooperative research period)
Form 2E Summary of the Project
Form 3E Information on the PIs (their CVs*)
Form 4E List of individuals committed to the cooperative research project in each country
Form 5E Description of the cooperative research project including the points stated above.
Form 6E Research Networking Plan
Form 7E Budget plan for the project
Form 8E Research Infrastructures and funds from other sources
Form 1J/2J Japanese applicants only

* The description of Curriculum Vitae (CV) from each PI shall include basic
information on education, past and present positions, membership of relevant organizations/associations and a publication list in the past 5 years.

III-2. Preparation of Application Forms

Applicants should fill in the particulars in all the application forms listed in III-1 above.

III-3. Submission of Application Forms by Applicants

Applicants should submit proposals to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat at the e-mail address (ekishida@jstsg.org) by 17:00 (Thai Standard Time, UTC+7) on 13th October 2015.

Eriko Kishida (Ms.)
e-ASIA JRP Secretariat
E-mail: ekishida@jstsg.org

Applicants should refer to the Appendix for his/her Party’s requirement.

Application forms sent by any method other than e-mail, such as post, fax or telex will be rejected. The e-ASIA JRP Secretariat does not assume any responsibility for delay or error in e-mail delivery.

Applicants should refer to the Appendix for his/her Party’s requirement.

Application forms sent by any method other than e-mail, such as post, fax or telex will be rejected. The e-ASIA JRP Secretariat does not assume any responsibility for delay or error in e-mail delivery.

III-4. Receipt of Application Forms by the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat

Following the submission of applications, the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat will send a
confirmation email to each applicant who has submitted an application form to confirm receipt of his/her proposal. In case an applicant does not receive a confirmation e-mail from the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat within 1 week, they should contact the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat at the address above.

**IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals**

**IV-1. Evaluation Procedure**

Each Party evaluates all proposals that researchers from its own country are involved. After evaluation by each Party, all the Parties gather and discuss on which proposals to select for funding. A final decision will be made at the Board Meeting of the e-ASIA JRP.

**IV-2. Evaluation Criteria**

The following general evaluation criteria will apply to each application:

1) **Relevance of the Research**
The research activity should contribute to:
   • The development of science and technology in the region; and
   • The resolution of significant issues across the region.

2) **Mutual Benefits of the Joint Research**
Activities mutual benefitted collaborators and institutions are desirable. Mutually-beneficial in sense of uniqueness that the projects utilize unique opportunities the e-ASIA JRP provided that could not be achieved either through bilateral or individual research but only through multilateral cooperation.

3) **Effectiveness of Exchange**
The project should:
   • Contain activities to nurture early career researchers through research activities; and
   • Enhance research capacity in the region.
Evaluation criteria are not limited to the above three. Each Party which participates in this Call has its own additional criteria. These criteria may be applied to each application.

IV-3. Announcement of Decision

Applicants will be notified of the final decision by March 2016 regarding which projects will be funded.

V. Responsibilities of PIs After Proposals are Approved

After the proposal has been approved, PIs and their affiliated institutions will observe the following when carrying out the cooperative research and utilising funding.

It is also encouraged that the project proactively disseminates its achievements to the public and release result in the Progress and Final reports as much as possible.

V-1. Progress Report

V-1.1 Progress Report to the Board and Scientific Advisory Council

In the middle of research period (i.e. after one and a half year), the leading PI shall promptly develop and submit an integrated progress report to the Secretariat on the status of joint research. The report will be reviewed by the Board and Scientific Advisory Council

V-1.2 Progress Report to each Party

All researchers must follow the own Parties’ rules as in the Appendix.

V-2. Final Report

V-2.1 Final Report to the Board and Scientific Advisory Council
After completion of the period of joint research, the lead PI shall develop and submit within one month an integrated final report to the Secretariat on the status of joint research. The report will be reviewed by the Board and Scientific Advisory Council.

**V-2.2 Final Report to each Party**

All researchers must follow the own Parties’ rules as in the Appendix.

**VI. Contact information**

Applicants should contact the following for information on each Party’s national eligibility rules or support conditions:

1) **Indonesia**: Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (RISTEK)

   ![RISTEK Logo]

   Ms. Tiomega Gulton  
   Deputy Director for Int'l S&T Network  
   State Ministry of Research and Technology  
   Tel: +62 8129383743  
   E-mail: mega@ristek.go.id

2) **Japan**: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

   ![JST Logo]

   Dr. Go Totsukawa  
   Department of International Affairs  
   Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)  
   Tel: +81(0)3-5214-7375  
   Fax: +81(0)3-5214-7379  
   E-mail: easiajrp@jst.go.jp
3) **Lao PDR**: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

   ![Lao PDR Emblem]

   Dr. Silap Boupha  
   Director  
   ASEAN and International Organization Affairs  
   Ministry of Science and Technology, Lao PDR  
   Tel: (+85621) 213470-148, 217706  
   Fax: (+856) 213472  
   E-mail: silapboupha@yahoo.com

4) **Myanmar**: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

   ![Myanmar Emblem]

   Mr. Win Khaing Moe  
   Acting Director General  
   Myanmar Scientific and Technological Research Department  
   Ministry of Science and Technology, Myanmar  
   Tel: +95-1-663024 / +95-1-664930 / +95-9-5005941  
   Fax: +95-1-668033  
   E-mail: winkmoe@gmail.com

   Dr. Aye Mon Win  
   E-mail: frd17309@gmail.com

   Department in charge  
   E-mail: aseanmost@gmail.com

5) **Thailand**: Agricultural Research Development Agency (ARDA)

   ![Thailand ARDA Emblem]
Ms. Mullika Kulsiripruck
Foreign Relations Officer, The Division of ARDA’s Director
Agricultural Research Development Agency (Public Organization), ARDA
Tel: (66)2 579 7435 ext 3608   Fax: (66)2 579 8413
email: mullika_arda@hotmail.com / mullika@arda.or.th

6) Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

Ms. Bui Thi Thu Lan
Head of Division
General Affairs and Multilateral Cooperation Division
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
Tel: (+84 4) 3943 9192   Fax: (+84 4) 3943 9987
Email: btlan@most.gov.vn

Applicants should contact the following for general inquiries:

Eriko Kishida (Ms.)
e-ASIA JRP Secretariat / Japan Science and Technology Agency
Room 218 Innovation Cluster1 Building
National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
111 Thailand Science Park, Phahonyothin Road
Khlong Nueng, Khlong Luang, Pathum Thani 12120 THAILAND
Tel.: +66-2-564-7713   H/P: +66-99-287-2901
E-mail: ekishida@jstsg.org
e-ASIA Joint Research Program (the e-ASIA JRP)
Research Cooperation in the field of “Bioenergy”
Joint Call for Proposals to be submitted by 13th October 2015

Information about each Party (alphabetical order by country)

1) **Indonesia**: Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (RISTEK)

2) **Japan**: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

3) **Lao PDR**: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

4) **Myanmar**: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

5) **Thailand**: Agricultural Research Development Agency (ARDA)

6) **Vietnam**: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
1) Indonesia: Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (RISTEK)

Please consult the person in charge directly.

Contact Information

Ms. Tiomega Gulton
Deputy Director for Int'l S&T Network
State Ministry of Research and Technology
Tel: +62 8129383743  E-mail: mega@ristek.go.id
2) Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Please be advised that unless the applicant completes a research ethics program, his or her application will be deemed ineligible and rejected.

For project proposals which Japanese applicants intend to be funded by JST, it is recommended that at least half of the countries participating in a project fund (either additionally or newly) their own researchers in that proposal.

I. Eligibility for Japan-based applicants

- The Japan-based Principal Investigator must be personally affiliated with a domestic research institution and conduct research there. Domestic research institutions on the Japanese side refer 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 specified by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan.

- Any individual who satisfies any of the following conditions is also eligible to apply as Japan-based Principal Investigator.

  i) Researcher holding citizenship other than Japanese who belongs to a Japanese domestic research institution.

  ii) Researcher who is not currently affiliated with a particular research institution, but who will be affiliated with a Japanese domestic research institution and able to conduct research there if selected as Japan-based Principal Investigator.

  iii) Japanese researchers currently residing overseas who will be affiliated with a Japanese domestic research institution and able to conduct research there if selected as Japan-based Principal Investigator.

- Japan-based Principal Investigator must be able to take responsibility for the duties of the entire project for the full duration of the joint research project.

- Japan-based researchers from industry are eligible to participate in the joint research project in the Japan-based Team.

II. Support
II-1. Budget for Cooperative Research Projects

The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities, but the total budget for the Japanese researcher over a full 3-year period (i.e. 36 months) should be 27 million Japanese Yen as direct expenses. 30% of direct expenses will be provided as overhead expenses. According to the budgetary limitations for this program, the amounts will be adjusted each year.

II-2. Details of Support

This program is designed to support additional expenses related to cooperation by a Japanese researcher with their counterparts, such as expenses for travel and/or conducting seminars/symposia. A precondition for applying to this Joint Call is that the main research infrastructure is already ensured by each research group. The duration of a co-operative research project shall be no longer than three (3) years (thirty-six (36) months) in total from the start date.

II-3. Funded expenses

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.

1. Direct Expenses:
   i) Travel expenses: In principle, travel expenses should be based on the rules of the institution to which the Principal Investigator (hereinafter referred to as the PI) belongs.
   ii) Expenses for holding symposia, seminars and meetings
   iii) Expenses for facilities, equipment and consumables
   iv) Expenses for personnel: Stipend or salary for a PhD student, or salary for a post-doctoral fellow.
   v) Others: Expenses for creating software, renting or leasing equipment, transporting equipment, etc.

2. Overhead expenses shall be 30% of direct expenses.
3. Expenses not covered/funded by the program:
   i) Expenses relating to the acquisition of or rental of real estate or constructing buildings or other facilities.
   ii) Expenses related to the procurement of major equipment.
   iii) Expenses related to dealing with accidents or disasters occurring during the co-operative research periods.
   iv) Expenses unrelated to the implementation of this co-operative research project.

II-4. Contract between Applicant and JST

Support will be implemented according to a contract for commissioned research entered into between JST and a university, research institute, or similar organisation (hereinafter referred to as the “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.

As for the contract between the Japanese institution and JST, it stipulates that Article 19 of the Industrial Technology Enhancement ACT (Japanese version of the Bayh-Dole Act) and Article 25 of the ACT on Protection of the Creation, Protection and Exploitation of Content (tentative translation) will be applied to all intellectual property rights belonging to the Japanese institution generated as a result of this project, and that these can be the properties of the institution with which the PI is affiliated.

II-5. Contract among Researchers

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 Parties which are entitled to intellectual property arising as a result of research collaboration, and 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 parties. The agreement so concluded shall be reported to
the Parties.

III. Application

Please note that Japanese applicants are required to complete both e-mail submission to the e-ASIA Secretariat and “e-Rad” submission. Applications which do not include both a submission to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat by e-mail and through e-Rad will be considered ineligible.

III-1. Application Forms

Only for Japanese applicants, Forms 1J and 2J should be prepared in Japanese (“J”) in addition to the common application form in English.

III-2 Submission of Application Forms by Applicants

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

Japanese applicants also must submit a project title, a summary of the project, and detailed budget information in Japanese with their application forms through the online application system, “e-Rad” (http://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html) by 17:00 (Japan Standard Time) on 13th October 2015.

IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals

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

IV-1. Evaluation Criteria

The following general evaluation criteria will apply to each application:

i) 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.

ii) Capability of Research Leaders
The research leaders in both countries shall have the insight or experience (or potential in the case of younger researchers) necessary for pursuing the activity and the ability to manage the cooperation and reach the project goals during this program’s period of support.

iii) Effectiveness and Synergy of Co-operative 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.

iv) Validity of Research Plan
The sharing of research activities with the counterpart research institute and the planning of research expenses shall be adequate to realize the proposed research activity.

v) Effectiveness and Continuity of Exchange
Activities characterized by the following examples shall be involved to enhance sustainable research exchange and networking.

- Nurturing of researchers through human resource exchange.
- Sustainable development of research exchange with the counterpart country initiated by this activity.
- Enhancing the research network between both countries including researchers other than the research leader and members of this activity.
- Improving the presence of science and technology in Japan and the counterpart country.
vi) 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.

V. Responsibilities of PIs After Proposals are Approved

V-1. Progress Report to JST

At the end of each fiscal year, the Japanese PI 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.

V-2. Final Report to JST

After completion of the period of joint research, the Japanese PI shall submit within one month a final report on the results of the joint research. The final report shall include a general summary (maximum five A4 pages) compiled jointly by all members of the Japanese research group. If papers describing results of the research exchange are presented to academic journals, societies etc., which is expected by the Parties, copies of such papers should be attached to the final report.

The institution with which the PI is affiliated shall submit a financial report on research expenses within the same time frame.

VI. Contact Information

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3) Lao PDR: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

Please consult the person in charge directly.

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4) **Myanmar: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)**

Please consult the person in charge directly.

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E-mail: winkmoe@gmail.com

Dr. Aye Mon Win  
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Department in charge  
E-mail: aseanmost@gmail.com
5) Thailand: Agricultural Research Development Agency (ARDA)

Please consult the person in charge directly.

**Contact Information**

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6) Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

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