

**e-ASIA Joint Research Program (the e-ASIA JRP)  
Research Cooperation on the topics of  
“Countermeasures for COVID-19 in Medical and Non-medical Research”  
Urgent Joint Call for Proposals to be submitted by 22 October 2020**

**Background:**

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 Member Organizations of the e-ASIA JRP listed below have agreed to implement a joint call for proposals of multilateral cooperative research activities focused on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19.

This collaborative research initiative seeks to foster COVID-19-focused biomedical and non-medical research cooperation among researchers and institutions located in countries listed below where there are sponsoring e-ASIA JRP Member Organizations. In January 2020, a novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, was identified as the cause of an outbreak of viral pneumonia in Wuhan, China. The disease caused by this virus, named Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), subsequently spread globally. In the first three months after COVID-19 emerged nearly 1 million people were infected and 50,000 died.

The e-ASIA JRP presents an unusual research collaboration opportunity for researchers, as it offers access to funding to support multi-investigator research engaging scientists in five countries: Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

Participating Member Organizations (listed in alphabetical order):

- 1) Japan: Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)
- 2) Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- 3) Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHRD)
- 4) Thailand: National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)
- 5) Thailand: National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
- 6) Thailand: Agricultural Research Development Agency (ARDA)
- 7) United States of America: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIH/NIAID)

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

### **I. Aim of urgent Joint Call and Research Area**

The aim of the urgent Joint Call is to strengthen multilateral collaboration among researchers of the countries participating in the call and to together create both medical and non-medical countermeasures against the current **COVID-19 pandemic**.

Aims Specific to Non-medical Research:

Collaboration between e-ASIA member organizations' countries will help us understand how to better balance pandemic prevention and response with economic growth, develop new technologies or approaches through our joint research program, and re-establish the R&D enterprise on the world stage.

A pandemic with the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 requires a new style approach. Meritorious research teams may include members from a wide range of fields and disciplines.

Under the thematic area of "**Countermeasures for COVID-19 in Non-medical Research**", researchers are encouraged to submit international collaborative research projects contributing to the prevention and mitigation of effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Non-medical Research Area:

Non-medical researches such as mathematical and behavioral science and ICT can contribute to minimize the negative impact of COVID-19. For example, it has been known that behavioral modeling in city area is important and indispensable to mitigate the spread of SARS-CoV-2. Thus, non-medical researches is also needed to create measures to prevent COVID-19 expansion and make new societal and economic behavior in the era of "with corona, post corona" Through this e-ASIA Urgent Call for COVID-19 proposals, the aims are to foster and support collaborative non-medical research in the region and to utilize this program to exchange and share findings quickly and broadly

Possible research fields include but are not limited to:

1. Mathematical and physical science
2. Social, behavioral and economic science
3. Computer and information science and engineering
4. Geosciences
5. Engineering
6. Biological sciences
7. Education
8. Social sciences
9. Host Animals and Environmental Research

Aims Specific to Medical Research:

Under the thematic area of "**Countermeasures for COVID-19 in Medical Research**", researchers are encouraged to submit international collaborative research projects contributing to expand the knowledge and to prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19 around the world.

This urgent research initiative aims to identify opportunities, establish and maintain open communication, encourage sharing of information and resources, and expand the global base of knowledge about SARS-CoV-2, as well as to foster the development of diagnostics, therapeutics, medical and public health preventive strategies and safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19.

Specifically, this request for proposals invites investigators from countries of participating e-ASIA Member Organizations to jointly apply for funding for collaborative research projects that address questions which will add to the global knowledge and the effective response to regarding COVID-19.

Medical Research Area:

Biomedical and public health research is a critical component of public health emergency and pandemic response. There continues to be an urgent need to better understand SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent of COVID-19, including transmission characteristics, associated morbidity and mortality, viral pathogenesis, host immunity, natural history, and host range. Further research is needed to improve understanding of fundamental virology and immunology, as

well as the development of safe and effective medical countermeasures, including diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines. Through this e-ASIA Urgent Call for COVID-19 proposals, the aims are to foster and support collaborative biomedical research in the region and to utilize this program to exchange and share findings quickly and broadly.

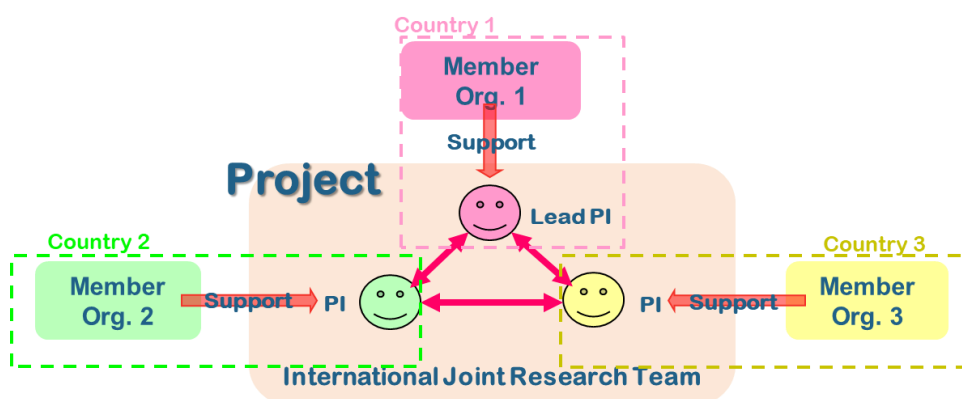
Possible research fields include but are not limited to:

1. Public health and epidemiology
2. Drug discovery
3. Vaccines
4. Inspection and diagnostic technology
5. Fundamental technology of inspection, prevention and medical treatment
  - Bionanotechnology
  - Chemical biology
  - Biomaterial sensor
  - Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
  - Model organisms
6. Immunology (Immunology of coronavirus infection)  
Characterize:
  - Disease Immunopathogenesis
  - Immunological Predictors of Disease Severity
  - Immunological Host Response to InfectionDevelop and/or Improve:
  - Diagnostic + Immunological Assays
  - Immunotherapies for Prevention and Early Treatment
7. Evolutionary biology of SARS-CoV2, including phylogenetics and mechanisms of emergence (e.g., animal-human interface)
8. Clinical Characterization / Management of Disease Caused by the Virus

## **II. Support Funding Modality**

In principle, each Member Organization will support its own country's researchers in research projects selected for funding through this joint call with the type of support available as defined under "Funding Modality" in the table below. The duration of a selected research project will be one year (12 months), in total, from

the start date. However, based on the availability of funding and research progress made during the first year, the duration of the selected research project may be extended through a competitive application process for up to two additional years with additional funding or through a no-cost extension. Additionally, Principal Investigators (PIs) will not be excluded from future e-ASIA calls (with longer-term project duration) as long as it is not a duplication of their current project. Details of conditions of support will vary by Member Organization. Applicants should carefully consider information included in the Appendix for each Member Organization's rules and regulations.



### Participating Member Organizations and Funding Modality

Participating Member Organizations	Research Area	Funding Modality
(1) AMED (Japan)	Medical	New
(2) JST (Japan)	Non-medical	New
(3) DOST (Philippines)	Medical/Non-medical	In-kind, new
(4) NRCT (Thailand)	Non-medical	New
(5) NSTDA (Thailand)	Medical	New , In-kind
(6) ARDA (Thailand)	Non-medical	In-kind
(7) NIAID (USA)	Medical	New, Re-budget, In-kind
(8) MOST (Vietnam)	Medical/Non-medical	In-kind

New: Each Member Organization will support a selected project by new funding

Re-budgeting: Funds already allocated to an existing project by each Member Organization will be reallocated to the e-ASIA JRP

In-kind: Each Member Organization does not provide budget for a selected project. A researcher participating in a selected project will use funds that are already available, but no additional fund will be provided by each Member Organization. Conditions regarding the number of countries that can participate on an “in-kind” basis in one research project will vary by country. In principle, at least one country must participate via “new” or “re-budgeting” funding modality. In other words, proposals cannot be accepted if all the applicants intend to participate through an “in-kind” basis.

### **III. Application**

In addition to the following common requirements, there are specific rules clarified by each Member Organization. For specific rules by each Member Organization, please refer to the Appendix or consult the person noted in Section VI.

#### **III-1. Applicant/Project Consortium**

A project consortium must consist of at least three eligible research teams from at least three different participating countries listed above.

*Due to the urgency of this call to address the COVID-19 pandemic, a project consortium with only two countries could be considered if the project is scientifically well-justified and is aligned with the e-ASIA JRP objectives of promoting innovation and development in the East Asia region.*

Each research team shall be led by a Principal Investigator (PI), and a consortium shall be led by a Lead Principal Investigator (Lead PI) specified among the PIs. The Lead PI will be responsible for running and managing the project. The Lead PI will be the contact point with the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat on behalf of the whole consortium and is responsible for the administrative management of the complete project, should it be awarded supporting. In addition, the Lead PI is responsible for leading the project activities at his/her own institution. The Lead PI must be affiliated with an institution situated in the home country of one of the Member

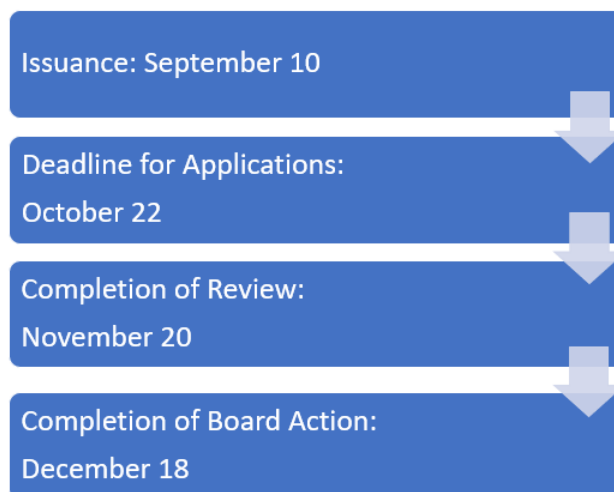
Organizations participating in this call.

All PIs must fulfil their respective domestic eligibility rules for research application. Researchers from industry are encouraged to participate in the collaboration in accordance with domestic eligibility rules. PIs should contact the person noted in Section VI for information on their respective domestic eligibility rules.

### III-2. Proposal Submission

Proposals must be submitted from the Lead PI by e-mail to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat at the e-mail address specified below. Applications shall be written in English.

### III-3. General Timeline



Upon announcement of award selection, finalists may not begin any project activities or incur any project expenses until an agreement has been signed. This process can take X days from the time of award announcement and should be taken into consideration when preparing the proposal. Additionally, projects involving human subjects/animal subjects may not begin until all required bioethics documentation is approved and received by the MO/funding agency. This should be taken into consideration when preparing the proposal and the timeline with implementing the research project.

**Deadline for Submission:**  
**17:00 (Thai Standard Time, UTC+7) 22 October 2020**

Please submit the proposal to:



**Yoshihide Kobayashi (Mr.)**  
**e-ASIA JRP Secretariat**  
**E-mail: [easia\\_secretariat@jst.go.jp](mailto:easia_secretariat@jst.go.jp)**

**Note1:** The e-ASIA JRP Secretariat will send a confirmation email to the Lead PI to confirm receipt of his/her proposal. In case the Lead PI does not receive a confirmation e-mail from the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat within one week, they should contact the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat at the address above. The e-ASIA JRP Secretariat does not assume any responsibility for delay or error in e-mail delivery.

**Note2:** Application forms sent by any method other than e-mail, such as post, fax or telex will be rejected.



**< Important Notice to ALL PIs >**

Make sure to submit all necessary application documents requested by each Member Organization of your country, in addition to the application to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat (submitted by Lead PI only), because each Member Organization may request applicants of its country to submit another form of proposals with another deadline date. Proposals shall satisfy both common requirements written in this call guideline and individual requirements requested by each Member Organization. A research team that does not satisfy individual requirements of the Member Organization of your country will not be deemed as eligible research team.

For individual requirements by each Member Organization, please refer to the Appendix or consult the person noted in Section VI.

The proposal shall include:

- a) Project description including how the 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 other comparable activities worldwide.

**III.3. Application Forms**

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

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

- Form 1E Application outline (title, acronym, general description and proposed period of cooperative research project)
- Form 2E Summary of the project
- Form 3E Research leaders' information (their CVs\*)
- Form 4E Research team (list of individuals committed to the cooperative research project in each country)
- Form 5E Description of the cooperative research project
- Form 6E Research networking plan
- Form 7E Plan to nurture early career researchers
- Form 8E Budget plan for the project
- Form 9E Research infrastructures and funds from other sources

*\* 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.*

In addition to the documents above, all projects must comply with ethical review and requirements of each Member Organization, especially for research activities related to human and animal subjects. PIs shall refer to the Appendix for each Member Organization's ethical requirement

#### **IV. Evaluation**

##### **IV-1. Evaluation Process**

A proposal will be evaluated at each relevant Member Organization of the project consortium, according to the evaluation criteria clarified in the following subsection.

Based on the results of the evaluation conducted at each Member Organization, a final decision will be made at the joint panel meeting among the participating Member Organizations, followed by approval at the e-ASIA JRP Board Meeting.

##### **IV-2. Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following common e-ASIA JRP evaluation criteria, incorporated with evaluation criteria clarified by each Member Organization. For the evaluation criteria clarified by each Member Organization, please refer to the respective Appendix or consult each respective Member Organization.

#### 1) Regional Relevance of the Research

The research activity should contribute to:

- The advancement of scientific discovery;
- The development of science and technology in the region; and
- The resolution of significant relevant issues across the region.

#### 2) Mutual Benefits of the Joint Research

Activities of mutual benefit to the collaborators and their institutions are desirable. Mutually beneficial in the sense that the projects utilize unique opportunities the e-ASIA JRP will provide 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;
- Contain activities to engage female researchers where strengthening capacity is needed; and
- Enhance research capacity in the region.

#### IV-3. Notification of the Final Decision

The Lead PI will be notified the final decision by the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat as soon as the final decision is taken and approved by all Member Organizations in the e-ASIA JRP. (Approximate implementation of the notification: End of December 2020)

#### **V. Project Implementation**

Project reporting will be in accordance with the respective Member Organization's rules. Please contact respective Member Organizations for more details.

In addition to the Member Organization's requirements, the consortia are expected to deliver Final Reports to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat, in English, including a description of their collaboration and a publishable summary of the project status. The Final Reports will be reviewed by the Board. It is also encouraged that the project proactively disseminates its achievements to the public.

**V-1. Final Report**

A final report shall be developed and submitted by the Lead PI to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat within two months after the completion of the joint research period.

**V-2. Others**

All the researchers/research institutions organizing a consortium are strongly recommended to conclude a Collaborative Research Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “CRA”) to assure optimal understanding and coordination among the collaborating scientists working on each project before project starts. CRA should, with due respect to the researchers' institutions and the Member Organization' intellectual property and data handling policy, include the treatment of intellectual property rights, handling of confidential information, publication of research results, warranty and indemnification, and access to and transfer of the relevant materials. Applicants shall refer to the Appendix for each Member Organization's requirement.

**VI. Contact information**

Applicants should contact the following for information on each Member Organization's eligibility rules or support conditions:

Also please refer to the Appendix for information of each Member Organization.

<b>Country: Member Organization</b>	<b>Contact Point</b>
(1) Japan: Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)	Ms. Miwa Sonoda, Mr. Shuhei Furukawa, TEL: +81 (0)3-6870-2216 E-mail: nichibei@amed.go.jp
(2) Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	Mr. Masayoshi Higuchi, Mr. Hideaki Kodani

	<p>TEL:+81 (0)3-5214-7375 E-mail: <a href="mailto:easiajrp@jst.go.jp">easiajrp@jst.go.jp</a></p>
<p>(3) Philippines: Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST -PCHRD)</p>	<p>Mr. Vincent Tumlos, MPM International Collaboration Coordinator <a href="mailto:vhtumlos@pchrd.dost.gov.ph">vhtumlos@pchrd.dost.gov.ph</a></p> <p>Cc: Paul Ernest de Leon, MDM Chief, R&amp;D Management Division <a href="mailto:pndeleon@pchrd.dost.gov.ph">pndeleon@pchrd.dost.gov.ph</a></p>
<p>(4) Thailand: National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)</p>	<p>Ms. Arpar Nateprapai Tel: +66 2 579 2285, +66 2 561 2445 ext. 207 E-mail: <a href="mailto:arpar.n@nrct.go.th">arpar.n@nrct.go.th</a></p>
<p>(5) Thailand: National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)</p>	<p>Ms. Mullika Kulsiripruck Tel: +66 2 564 7000 Ext. 71486 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mullika.kul@nstda.or.th">mullika.kul@nstda.or.th</a></p>
<p>(6) Thailand: Agricultural Research Development Agency (ARDA)</p>	<p>Ms. Somying Theeradech/ Mr. Torlarb Thanvareerat Tel: 0-2579-7435 Ext. 3604,3602 Mobile 0613235194 (Torlarb) E-mail: <a href="mailto:somying@arda.or.th">somying@arda.or.th</a> <a href="mailto:Torlarb@arda.or.th">Torlarb@arda.or.th</a></p>
<p>(7) USA: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)</p>	<p>Ms. Gayle Bernabe Tel: +1 (301) 451-1018 Email: <a href="mailto:gbernabe@niaid.nih.gov">gbernabe@niaid.nih.gov</a></p>
<p>(8) Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)</p>	<p>Ms. Bui Thi Thu Lan Tel: (+84 4) 3943 9192 Email: <a href="mailto:btlan@most.gov.vn">btlan@most.gov.vn</a></p>

Applicants should contact the following for general inquiries:



Yoshihide Kobayashi (Mr.)

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

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E-mail: [easia\\_secretariat@jst.go.jp](mailto:easia_secretariat@jst.go.jp)

**e-ASIA Joint Research Program (the e-ASIA JRP)  
Research Cooperation in the field of  
“Countermeasures for COVID-19 in Medical and Non-medical Research”  
Urgent Joint Call for Proposals to be submitted by 22 October 2020**

Information about each Member Organization (alphabetical order by country)

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6) Thailand: Agricultural Research Development Agency (ARDA).....	33
7) United States of America: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).....	35
8) Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST).....	38

## 1) Japan: Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

Japan based applicants must read and understand the following AMED-specific conditions for this program. Please refer to the information on the following websites: [https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/03/01/0301B\\_00073.html](https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/03/01/0301B_00073.html)

### I. Objectives

This call is funded by the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Sciences Program (USJCMSP), one of the oldest bilateral programs to strengthen research capacity and address issues of public health importance in the Asian and Pacific region in collaboration between Japan and U.S. The particular purpose of this funding call is to support COVID-19 research performed by early stage investigator<sup>1</sup> or female investigator.

The goals of this support are to

- Foster new or expanded collaborations between researchers, investigators and institutions in Japan, ASEAN countries, and the U.S. against the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provide start-up or supplemental funding to facilitate the early development or expansion of collaborative research programs.
- Encourage mentoring and training through collaborations with mid-career and senior investigators.

### II. Eligibility for Japan-based applicants

- 1) The Principal Investigator (PI) must be an early-stage or female investigator who takes responsibility for formulating a research plan and conducting the project.
- 2) The PI must possess Ph.D. or M.D. qualifications, or the equivalent research experience.
- 3) A project team must consist of members from at least three countries including Japan, the U.S. and an ASEAN country. The PI must jointly apply with a U.S. -based PI (who must meet the eligibility requirements of NIAID), and another PI from an eligible e-ASIA ASEAN country listed in this call,

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<sup>1</sup> Those males who are under 40 years old as of April 1, 2020 (i.e. who were born on or after April 2, 1980); or those who acquired their doctorate less than 10 years ago. However, those who have taken pre- or post-natal leave or child-rearing leave may add the said amount of days to the respective ages of 40.



forming a multilateral collaboration. However, due to the urgency of this call to address the COVID-19 pandemic, a project team with only two countries, Japan and the U.S., could be considered if the project is scientifically well-justified and is aligned with the objectives the call.

- 4) The PI must be personally affiliated with a domestic research institution in Japan that fulfils the conditions provided in AMED's application guidelines.

### **III. Support**

#### **III-1. Funding modality and anticipated amount of funding (approx.)**

AMED will support each Japan-based team, with “new funding”, up to 4.5 million Japanese Yen per fiscal year, for a duration up to two fiscal years (9.0 million Yen over JFY 2020 and JFY 2021, including indirect costs).

The duration of a co-operative research project shall be no longer than two fiscal years in total from the start date. (Project will be terminated on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022).

#### **III- 2. Eligible costs**

Research grants will be awarded in line with standard AMED policy. Details of eligible costs and further information can be found on the AMED web site.

	Major Category	Definition
Direct Costs	Goods	Costs for purchasing new equipment, supplies, software, books, reagents, materials and consumables.
	Travel	Expenses for travel by the PI or research unit members and by invited persons.
	Personnel and Services	Annual salaries for research staff etc. employed for R&D objectives and honorariums, etc. for speakers, etc.
	Other	Examples: Costs related to the presentation of research results (research paper submission fees, printing costs, HP-producing costs etc.), meeting expenses, transportation costs, equipment lease expenses, equipment repair costs, software subcontract production costs, equivalent expenses to consumption tax regarding non-taxed transactions etc.
Indirect Costs *1	Allocated in specified proportion to direct costs (30%), paid by AMED as required funds for the managing research institution to implement the contracted R&D project and used by the research institution.	

Note:

- AMED grants allow advance payment.
- AMED will support expenses for Japan based applicants with the exception of large-scale equipment purchases.

- \*1 National institutes are not permitted to allocate indirect costs.

#### III.4. Conclusion of contracted R&D agreement

For each awarded R&D project, a one-fiscal-year contracted R&D agreement shall be concluded between the research institution implementing the R&D project and AMED, in accordance with the principle of the accounting period of the national government. Successful applicants shall receive detailed information from AMED following project selection.

#### III.5. Collaborative Research Agreement

A Collaborative Research Agreement (CRA) must be concluded among institutions with which collaborating researchers are affiliated. The CRA should, with due respect to the researchers' institutions and the Member Organization' intellectual property and data handling policies, include provisions for the treatment of intellectual property rights, handling of confidential information, publication of research results, warranty and indemnification, and access to and transfer of relevant materials.

### **IV. Application**

Please note that Japan based applicants are required to complete both e-mail submission to the e-ASIA Secretariat and submission via the "e-Rad" system.

Applications will be considered ineligible if the proposal documents are not submitted by the deadline through both submission systems.

The deadline for submission via the "e-Rad" system: 17:00 (Japanese Standard Time) on 22 October 2020. (<http://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html>)

### **V. Evaluation of project proposals**

The program evaluation committee consisting of relevant experts will evaluate all proposals. Based on the results of their evaluation, a common decision will be made jointly among the participating Member Organizations regarding funding of the selected proposals.

#### V-1. Evaluation criteria

- a) Compatibility with the program's purpose
  - Is the project compatible with the purpose and aims of the U.S. – Japan Cooperative Medical Sciences Program (USJCMSP), etc.?

- Can the project contribute to efforts by the Japanese Government to promote the medical cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region?
  - Can the project be expected to make proposals/recommendations to promote the resolution of health issues which USJCMSP targets for?
- b) Technological significance and predominance
- Are the current technological level and previous performance of the research institute sufficient?
  - Does the project proposal have originality and novelty?
  - Does the project respond to medical needs in the Asia -Pacific region?
  - Does the project contribute to progress in the field of health issues in the Asia-Pacific region?
  - Does the project contribute to the generation of new technologies or the utilization of new technologies in the Asia-Pacific region?
- c) Appropriateness of the plan
- Are the overall content and aims of the plan clear?
  - As the plans for each fiscal year detailed and realizable?
- d) Implementation system
- Has an R&D system centered on the applicant been organized appropriately?
  - Has a sufficient collaboration network been constructed within the framework of U.S.-Japan cooperation?
  - Has a sufficient collaboration network been constructed with overseas researchers/research organizations, supporters/support organizations, and government officials/government organizations, including persons/organizations related to the target developing country?
- e) Costs
- Are the breakdown of costs and spending plan appropriate?
- f) Items stipulated under other programs
- With regard to global-scale health issues, is the project proposal based on worldwide trends?
  - Does the project consider career path and research support for early stage investigators and/or female investigators?
  - Does the project cooperate with the Asian-Pacific region?
  - Considering the current global situation, does the project consider that researchers can conduct research and development safely?
  - Is the project appropriate for the current situation in the target developing country?
  - Does the project have appropriate strategies for publishing research achievements?
- g) Overall evaluations

Overall evaluations will be carried out in consideration of (a) – (f) above and the following items.

- Is the project plan in compliance with laws and ordinances related to bioethics or safety measures?
- Are the efforts of the applicant appropriate?

## **VI. Responsibilities of PIs after proposals are approved**

### VI-1. Progress report to AMED

At the end of each fiscal year, the Japanese PI shall promptly submit to AMED an annual progress report on the status of research exchange, and the institution with which the PI is affiliated shall promptly submit to AMED a financial report on research expenses.

### VI-2. Final report to AMED

Final reports should be submitted after completion of the research period.

### VI-3. EID conference

Successful applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in the EID (Emerging Infectious Diseases) international conference, which is annually held under the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Sciences Program (location varies among Asian countries) in order to present their work and develop their research network.

## **Contact Information**



国立研究開発法人日本医療研究開発機構  
Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development

Ms. Miwa Sonoda, Mr. Shuhei Furukawa

Department of International Strategy

Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development

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E-mail [nichibei@amed.go.jp](mailto:nichibei@amed.go.jp)

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

Japan-based applicants must complete all the requirements designated by JST. Information on additional requirements for Japan-based applicants is available at the official national call announcement page on the JST website.

JST's official national call announcement:

[https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/program/announce/announce\\_easia\\_jrp\\_8th.html](https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/program/announce/announce_easia_jrp_8th.html)

### I. Eligibility for Japan-based applicants

- Any independent researcher personally affiliated with and actively conducting research at a domestic Japanese research institution (or who will fulfil this requirement by the start of the research project), regardless of nationality, is eligible to apply as a Principal Investigator.  
Note: “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 must satisfy predetermined requirements designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MEXT).  
Japan-based researchers from industry are eligible to apply as a Principal Investigator in a joint research project of a Japan-based team.
- Early career researchers who completed their doctorate within the last 10 years are strongly encouraged to apply.

### II. Support

#### II-1. Funding Modality

JST will support each Japan-based team with a “new fund” up to 10 million Japanese yen to cover direct and overhead costs for 12 months. Overhead costs shall be no more than 30% of direct costs (Direct cost is almost up to 7.7 million yen and overhead cost is almost 2.3 million yen).

#### II-2. Expenditure/costs eligible for funding

This program is designed to support expenses related to cooperation between a Japan-based researcher and their counterparts, such as expenses for travel and/or conducting seminars/symposia.

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. 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: <https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/research/contract/contract.html> (in

Japanese only).

#### 1. Eligible Direct Costs:

- i) **Facilities, Equipment and Consumables:** costs of research equipment, spare parts, prototypes.
- ii) **Travel Costs:** travel costs and associated living expenses of the project members registered in the project plan, and travel costs of inviting external experts.
- iii) **Salaries and Honoraria:** salaries of the researchers, temporary staff, PhD students, post-docs, etc., who are hired for the research, and other costs such as honoraria for invited lecturers.
- iv) **Others:** costs for organizing meetings 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.

2. Overhead costs shall be no more than 30% of direct costs.

Note: Please refer to the following link for the provisions regarding indirect costs: <https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/shishin2.pdf> (in Japanese only).

#### II-3. Payments

Payments will be made according to a contract for commissioned research entered into between JST and a “Domestic Japanese Research Institution”. The contract for commissioned research will be renewed each year over the cooperative research period. Since the contract is agreed on the 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 their institution.

#### III. Application

Japanese applicants are required to complete and submit the documents specified below.

##### III-1. Submission of Application Forms (Form E1-E9) (from the Lead PI)

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

##### III-2. Additional Application Forms (For Japan-based applicants only)

In addition to the common Application Forms in English (Form E1-E9), Japan-based applicants are required to complete and submit additional application forms in Japanese (Forms 1J and 2J) to JST by “e-Rad” (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html>).

- **Forms 1J and 2J are available from the JST website:** [https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/program/announce/announce\\_easia\\_jrp\\_8th.html](https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/program/announce/announce_easia_jrp_8th.html) (in Japanese only)

- **The deadline for the “e-Rad” submission:  
19:00 (Japan Standard Time) 22 October 2020**

#### **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 made jointly among Member Organizations participating in the call regarding funding of the selected proposals.

##### **IV-1. Evaluation Criteria**

The following evaluation criteria, incorporated within the e-ASIA JRP evaluation criteria (see IV-2. Evaluation Criteria in the Call Guideline), 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 Principal Investigators**

The principal investigators of collaborating countries shall have the required knowhow and/or experience to pursue their specified research activity and the ability to manage the cooperation and reach the project goals during this program's period of support. The call aims to take into account the potential of early career researchers who have completed their doctorate in the last 10 years in this role.

iii) **Effectiveness and Synergy of Cooperative 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 knowhow of the counterpart researcher.

iv) **Validity of Research Plan**

The sharing of research activities with the counterpart research institution and the planning of research expenses shall be adequate to realize the proposed research activity.

v) **Effectiveness and Continuity of Exchange**

The following activities are recommended to promote sustainable research exchange and networking.

- Nurturing of researchers through human resource exchange.
- Sustainable development of research exchange with the counterpart countries initiated by this activity.
- Enhancing the research network between collaborating 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. Project Implementation/Publications and Intellectual Property**

Selected collaborative research projects in this call are expected to start in December, 2020, but the schedule is subject to future adjustment due to budgetary conditions.

The PIs are obliged to publish research results obtained in the program with acknowledgement of the support received.

PIs supported in this call are required to conclude a Collaborative Research Agreement listing the rights and responsibilities of each project partner, and including regulations on the handling of Intellectual Property Rights. This Agreement shall be signed among the institutions participating in the project.

Scientific and technological outcomes and any other information derived from the collaborative activities supported in this call can be announced, published or commercially exploited with the agreement of all partners in a supported project and according to their national regulations as well as international agreements concerning intellectual property rights.

As for the contract between the “Domestic Japanese research 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 Japanese institution.

### **VI. Reporting**

#### **VI-1. Final report to JST**

After completion of the period of joint research, the Japan-based team’s PI shall submit within two months a final report on the results of the joint research. The final report shall include a general summary compiled jointly by all members of the Japan-based research group.

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



## VII. Contact Information



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### 3) Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHR)

#### I. Review Procedures

Approval of proposals for research grants will be based on a multi-level review process.

1. In-house screening and evaluation in terms of alignment to the research priorities, duplication, and completeness of requirements.
2. Technical review and scoring by external consultants (Technical Panel) based on the following criteria:

Relevance & Sensitivity	<i>Alignment to national S&amp;T priorities, strategic relevance to national development and sensitivity to Philippine political context, culture, tradition and gender and development.</i>
Technical/Scientific Merit	<i>Sound scientific basis to generate new knowledge or apply existing knowledge in an innovative manner.</i>
Financial Feasibility	<i>Financial viability of the undertaking with proponent's and institutional capacity to manage R&amp;D funds vis-à-vis the proposed workplan and budget</i>
Proponent's / Institutional Capacity	<i>Good track record or CV with proven competence to implement and complete the R&amp;D program / project within the approved duration and budget.</i>
Program Contribution	<i>How much the proposal will contribute to the overall achievement of the program? Other potential socio-economic, environmental, and health impact.</i>

3. Final approval by the PCHR Governing Council or the PCHR Executive Director depending on the recommended total budgetary requirement of the proposal.
4. In each stage of the review process, the proponent may need to revise the proposal on the basis of the recommendations of the reviewers. The review process will take 40 working days or less provided that all the requirements had been submitted.

## II. Who may apply

Filipinos with at least a Master's Degree in a relevant field, have proven research competence / track record, and employed in universities/colleges, research agencies/institutes, hospitals, and other health related agencies are eligible to apply for the research grant.

## III. How to apply

The proponent should submit the following requirements online through the PCHRD Project Management System (<http://www.projects.pchrd.dost.gov.ph/>):

- Project Proposal following the PCHRD Detailed Proposal Form (downloadable from the DOST-PCHRD website)
- Work plan Schedule (Gantt Chart of Activities)
- Proposed Line-Item Budget (LIB) (DOST-GIA LIB Form)
- Counterpart Funding of Implementing Agency
- Informed Consent Form
- Case Report Form, if applicable
- Endorsement of Agency Head
- Curriculum Vitae of Proponent(s)
- Duties and Responsibilities of each Project Personnel
- letter of request addressed to:
  - The Executive Director
  - Philippine Council for Health Research and Development
  - Department of Science and Technology
  - 3/F DOST Main Bldg. Gen. Santos Avenue
  - Bicutan, Taguig City, Metro Manila

DOST-PCHRD will also require the proponent to submit the following documents before the start of project implementation:

- Biosafety Clearance, if applicable
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Clearance, if applicable
- Bureau of Animal Industry Clearance, if applicable
- Ethics Clearance (for studies involving human subjects)

Deadline for online submission will be **on or before 22 October 2020** (Philippine Standard Time). **Note:** *Application with incomplete documents will not be accepted.*

#### **IV. Funding Support Available**

DOST-PCHRD will allocate up to **200,000 USD** for each research project for a duration of three years or less. DOST Grants in Aid guidelines shall be applied. In-kind modality will be an option.

#### **V. Contact Information**



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Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)  
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Cc: Paul Ernest de Leon, MDM  
Chief, R&D Management Division  
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#### **4) Thailand: National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)**

##### **I. Eligibility for Thai applicants**

The applicants must be researchers and/or university professors/instructors who work in public research institute or university in Thailand, and are competent in conducting a research with international partners.

"NRCT will provide support only for the topic of Countermeasures for COVID-19 in Non-medical Research."

##### **II. Support**

The total budget for the Thai researcher team over a full year period (12 months) is up to 3,000,000 THB. The budget for projects may differ, depending on the content of activities. However, based on the availability of funding and research progress made during the first year, the duration of the selected research project may be extended up to two additional years of funding or through a no-cost extension.

##### **III. Application**

1. Thai applicants should submit a national proposal to NRCT through NRCT system (NRIIS: <http://nriis.nrct.go.th>) no later than 23:59 (Thai time) 19 October 2020.
2. Lead PI must also submit proposal to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat's e-mail no later than 17:00 (Thai Standard Time, UTC+7) 22 October 2020

##### **IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals**

Proposals will be peer-reviewed, and evaluated by a committee according to NRCT internal rules and procedures. The final selection will be done by the international selection committee of e-ASIA.

###### **IV.I Evaluation Criteria**

To be funded, proposals must be internationally competitive. It should lead to the advancement of the research field, or novel applications or increase of research capacity.

Key evaluation criteria are:

- Significance and impact of the research
- Scientific Rationale: novelty, importance and timeliness of the research
- Design and feasibility of the project plan

- Partnership: including strength and clarity of collaborations and opportunities provided, quality of the project management structure proposed;
- Quality and suitability of the research environment and of the facilities;
- Ethical considerations and governance arrangements

## **V. Reporting**

- Thailand PI should submit a progress report on the status of joint research according to NRCT's funding procedures.
- After completion of the period of joint research, the Thailand PI shall submit within two months a final report on the results of the joint research to NRCT.

## **Contact Information**



Ms. Arpar Nateprapai

Foreign Relations Officer

Division of International Affairs

National Research Council of Thailand

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E-mail: [arpar.n@nrct.go.th](mailto:arpar.n@nrct.go.th)

## **5) Thailand: National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)**

### **I. Eligibility for Thai applicants**

The applicants must be researchers and/or university professors/instructors who work in public research institute or university in Thailand, and are competent in conducting a research with international partners.

“NSTDA will provide support only for the thematic area of “Countermeasures for COVID-19 in Medical Research” for 2 projects on the topic as below.

1. Public health and epidemiology
2. Drug discovery
3. Vaccines
4. Immunology of coronavirus infection
  - Disease Immunopathogenesis
  - Immunological Predictors of Disease Severity
5. Evolutionary biology of SARS- CoV2, including phylogenetics and mechanisms of emergence (e.g., animal-human interface)
6. Clinical Characterization / Management of Disease Caused by the Virus

Apart from these topics as above mentioned, NSTDA could support in the form of In-kind funding modality,

### **II. Support**

The total budget for the Thai researcher over a full 1-year period is up to 3,000,000 THB. The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities.

### **III. Evaluation of Project Proposals**

Proposals will be peer-reviewed, and evaluated by a committee. The final selection will be done by the international selection committee of e-ASIA.

#### **III.I Evaluation Criteria**

To be funded, proposals must be internationally competitive. It should lead to the advancement of the research field, or novel applications or increase of research capacity.

Key evaluation criteria are:

- Significance and impact of the research
- Scientific Rationale: novelty, importance and timeliness of the research

- Design and feasibility of the project plan
- Partnership: including strength and clarity of collaborations and opportunities provided, quality of the project management structure proposed;
- Quality and suitability of the research environment and of the facilities;

Ethical considerations and governance arrangements

## V. Grant Manual

More details on NSTDA funding procedures at

<https://www.nstda.or.th/th/industrial-research>

### Note:

1. Awardee (Thai PI) need to prepare proposal in Thai language due to the internal process of NSTDA to register the project. Download the form in the link

<https://www.nstda.or.th/th/industrial-research>

2. For any research project which NSTDA researcher as a Co-PI, it would be considered as a joint research project. Specific format of such project can be download from the link

<https://www.nstda.or.th/th/industrial-research>

## V. Reporting

- Every six months, the Thailand PI shall promptly submit a progress report on the status of joint research to NSTDA.
- After completion of the period of joint research, the Thailand PI shall submit within two months a final report on the results of the joint research to NSTDA.

## Contact Information



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## 6) Thailand: Agricultural Research Development Agency (ARDA)

### I. Eligibility for Thai applicants

The applicants must be researchers and/or university professors/instructors who work in public research institute or university in Thailand, and are competent in conducting a research with international partners.

ARDA will only support Non-medical research.

### II. Support

ARDA's support will be the "in-kind contribution" basis, so no new fund will be provided.

### III. Application

Thai applicants should submit a national proposal through an Email of e-ASIA JRP secretariat ([easia\\_secretariat@jst.go.jp](mailto:easia_secretariat@jst.go.jp)) **no later than 17.00 (Thai time) 22 October 2020.**

### IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals

Proposals will be peer-reviewed, and evaluated by a committee according to ARDA internal rules and procedures. The final selection will be done by the international selection committee of e-ASIA.

#### IV.I Evaluation Criteria

To be supported, proposals must be internationally competitive. It should lead to the advancement of the research field, or novel applications or increase of research capacity.

Key evaluation criteria are:

- Significance and impact of the research
- Scientific Rationale: novelty, importance and timeliness of the research
- Design and feasibility of the project plan
- Partnership: including strength and clarity of collaborations and opportunities provided, quality of the project management structure proposed;

- Quality and suitability of the research environment and of the facilities;
- Ethical considerations and governance arrangements

## **V. Reporting**

- Thailand PI should submit a progress report on the status of joint research according to ARDA's funding procedures.
- After completion of the period of joint research, the Thailand PI shall submit within two months a final report on the results of the joint research to ARDA.

## **Contact Information**



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## **7) United States of America: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)**

### Objectives and Priorities:

NIAID's objectives align with the priorities set by U.S. Government-wide task forces for the development of medical countermeasures. NIAID's four strategic research priorities include:

- (1) **Improve fundamental knowledge of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19**, including studies to characterize the virus and how it is transmitted and understand the natural history, epidemiology, host immunity, disease immunopathogenesis, and the genetic, immunologic, and clinical associations with more serious disease outcomes. This includes accelerating the development of small and large animal models that replicate human disease.
- (2) **Support the development of diagnostics and assays**, including point-of-care molecular and antigen-based diagnostics for identifying and isolating COVID-19 cases and serologic assays to better understand disease prevalence in the population. Diagnostics also will be essential for evaluating the effectiveness of candidate countermeasures.
- (3) **Characterize and test therapeutics**, including identifying and evaluating repurposed drugs and novel broad-spectrum antivirals, virus-targeted antibody-based therapies (including plasma-derived intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) and monoclonal antibodies), and host-directed strategies to combat COVID-19.
- (4) **Develop safe and effective vaccines against SARS-CoV-2**, including support of clinical trial testing.

### Details of Support:

NIAID will support applications. The maximum total award is up to \$100,000 U.S. Dollars (USD) disbursed over 3 years. CRDF Global will distribute support to the U.S. institution as a cost-reimbursable grant, pending the submission and acceptance of all necessary approvals and documentation (e.g., IRB approval, award agreement, animal subject review, etc.).

CRDF Global will support expenses for the U.S. teams from universities and non-

profits with the exception of large-scale equipment purchases. U.S. federal government agencies and U.S. teams from for-profit companies may apply in partnership with other U.S. or regional scientists, but are not permitted to receive funding under this program.

Funding may be requested for the following expenses:

- (1) Labor
- (2) Equipment, Supplies and Services
- (3) Travel
- (4) Indirect Costs

Applicants (Primary and Secondary collaborators, including those from foreign institutions) may request indirect costs/overhead expenses on all direct costs except for equipment (over \$5,000), capital expenditures, rent, student tuition, participant support costs<sup>(1)</sup> and sub-awardees expenses (after the first \$25,000). Total direct costs minus these items is considered the modified total direct cost (MTDC) amount for which the IDC rate should be applied. IDCs combined with the total direct costs cannot exceed the funding total allowed to request. Below are helpful calculations:

- $IDC \$ = IDC\% \times MTDC = \$$

- Maximum Total Sub-Team budget = total direct costs \$ (including MTDC) + IDCs \$

Foreign Institutions may not request more than 8% project modified total direct expenses in IDCs. U.S. institutions with a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rates Agreement (NICRA) may request up to their approved NICRA rate. Documentation for these rates should be provided in the budget narrative if the institution requires this payment. U.S. institutions without a NICRA may not request more than 10% in IDCs. Cost sharing is permitted and encouraged to maximize scientific achievements with the funding that is available to support this program. Awardees with a NICRA exceeding 8%, are encouraged to provide a cost share to cover the difference in cost rate, so that the applied Indirect Cost rate does not exceed 8% of the award's modified total direct costs.

#### Eligibility Requirements:

The U.S. PI and participants on the U.S. team may be foreign nationals (U.S. permanent residents or visa holders) but must reside in the U.S. for at least 50% of the award period. Graduate students on the U.S. team may be foreign nationals, but they must be enrolled in an accredited degree program at a U.S. institution

during the period of their participation in the project.

Scientists employed by the U.S. federal government may apply for this program; however, the U.S. PI and affiliated federal agency are not permitted to receive funding under this program.

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[1] Participant Support costs include stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with meetings, conferences, symposia or training projects, scholarships/fellowships.

Contact Information:



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**8) Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)**

The Vietnamese applicants must send the information on the proposal to MOST for further internal procedures and notation. Please kindly visit the website to get further information in details relating to the internal procedures of Viet Nam as followings: <http://www.most.gov.vn>.

Or please consult the person in charge directly:

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## **General inquiries**



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