e-ASIA Joint Research Program (the e-ASIA JRP)
Research Cooperation in the field of 'Health Research'
on the topics of
'Infectious Diseases (including Antimicrobial Resistance)' and 'Cancer'

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 Member Organizations of the e-ASIA JRP have agreed to implement a joint call for proposals of multilateral cooperative research activities.

Participating Member Organizations (listed in alphabetical order):

1) Australia: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
2) Japan: Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)
3) The Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHRD)
4) Thailand: National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
5) Thailand: Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)
6) United States of America: National Cancer Institute (NCI)
7) United States of America: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

I. Aim of Joint Call and Research Area

The aim of the e-ASIA JRP 11th Call in the field of Health Research is to invite applications that will address health and medical issues in East Asia and neighboring regions and contribute to enhancing regional research capacity through multilateral collaboration. The topics identified for the e-ASIA JRP 11th Health Research Call pose a considerable health threat to East Asian countries and are more broadly considered global health issues.

The focus of this joint call, within the "Health Research" program of the e-ASIA JRP, is on Infectious Diseases (including Antimicrobial Resistance) and Cancer. Applicants must choose one of the research topics below. Only in the case that your project is of an interdisciplinary nature and corresponds to more than one topic, it is allowed to mark two or more of the research topics.

1) Infectious Diseases (including Antimicrobial Resistance)

<u>Infectious Diseases</u>

International collaborative research is critical to address infectious diseases that have global health impact, particularly emerging disease threats with pandemic potential. This Health Research Call aims to identify biomedical and public health research opportunities, facilitate research collaborations, encourage sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources, and expand the global base of knowledge to respond to infectious disease priorities and challenges in the region.

Projects can be submitted from the full spectrum of health research including, for example, basic science, clinical studies (if they can be completed within the allowed budget limits), and applied public health or implementation research. (Please refer to the appendix for qualifying research by funding agencies, some of which can fund specific types of research ONLY, e.g., basic research). Applications may utilize an array of mechanisms such as sharing of data and research materials, use of biorepositories and other research support entities and collaboration with other research partners with other sources of support. In all cases applications should clearly specify how all relevant regulations and legal requirements will be met by the participating scientists or their institutions.

Possible research topics in infectious diseases include the following, but are not limited to:

- Antimicrobial resistance (see below for more information)
- Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (e.g., SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19, influenza, and other viral and zoonotic diseases of pandemic potential)
- Infectious diseases that are predominant in or specific to the East Asian region
- Pandemic preparedness and response (e.g., surveillance research, studies on medical countermeasures such as vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, studies of public awareness and behavioral factors that influence prevention and response)
- Public health measures and effectiveness, including communication strategies
- Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on endemic health problems in the region
- Interventions and countermeasures tailored toward regional context
- Infectious disease interactions and co-morbidities
    - factors that may enhance acquisition or increase infectious disease severity (e.g., tobacco, obesity, autoimmune disease, immunocompromised, co-infection)
    - immune response, inflammation, metabolism, and microbiome
    - impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on screening and other interventions for non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention/early detection
- Advanced technology (e.g., e-health, telemedicine, novel surveillance strategies, mapping tools, etc.)

<u>Antimicrobial Resistance</u>

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a serious global issue in need of urgent attention. Antimicrobials are some of the most widely used therapeutic drugs worldwide in humans, animals and plants. Antimicrobials include antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitics. Overuse of these highly effective agents has led to a growing problem of antimicrobial resistance in pathogens that pose severe risks to humans and animals. The more antimicrobials we use, and misuse, the faster highly-resistant variants emerge among bacteria and other microbes/pathogens. As such resistant variants emerge antimicrobial drugs and interventions become less effective or ineffective at controlling disease.

The impacts of AMR are not exclusive to human health, and have implications for animal health, agriculture, food production and the environment. The One Health approach to AMR recognises the interconnection between people, animals, plants and their shared environment.

AMR poses a major and rapidly growing threat to public health globally. Available evidence suggests there is a disproportionate burden of multi-drug resistant AMR pathogens in low to

middle-income countries, primarily due to under-resourced health systems and inadequate regulatory control of antimicrobial drugs.

The South-East Asian region, as reported by the World Health Organization, is particularly affected[1]. AMR not only affects the health and well-being of people in South-East Asia, but also places a significant burden on public health and well-being more broadly.

International collaborative AMR research is vital for a greater understanding of how to reduce or improve antimicrobial use, investigate alternatives to antimicrobials, and develop new antimicrobial drugs and diagnostic technologies.

Within the Infectious Diseases topic area, e-ASIA also invites research proposals that relate to AMR. Possible research topics in AMR include the following, but are not limited to:

- Development of new innovative classes of antimicrobials that are efficacious, rapid-acting, and cost effective
- Studying the re-purposing of older, but potentially clinically useful antimicrobials (i.e., no longer manufactured or marketed)
- Understanding the molecular basis of resistance in infectious organisms
- Therapeutic alternatives to antimicrobials (such as bacteria phages)
- Identification of effective sanitation, hygiene, infection control and prevention methods
- Rapid diagnostic technologies
- Enhanced AMR surveillance techniques and methods.

Projects can be submitted from the full spectrum of health research from basic science, clinical, to applied public health research, that directly relate to human health. Where possible, research should be complementary and considerate of the One Health AMR approach.

Note: For Thai PI, please see an appendix page 22-24 for specific funding area.

2) Cancer

Collaborative work on high-burden and regionally prevalent cancers as well as associated risk factors is critical to cancer control. Commonly occurring cancers in the ASEAN region, such as lung, breast, and liver cancer as well as those associated with the highest mortality (i.e., lung, liver, and colorectal) deserve particular attention.

Projects proposed may be focused on any of the listed areas or their combination as appropriate:

- Basic research in cancer biology;
- Research in cancer surveillance, epidemiology, health services, behavioral science, and cancer survivorship;
- Research to assess a person's risk of developing cancer and to find ways to reduce that risk;
- Initial small-scale testing of new anticancer agents and biomarkers;

[1] Antimicrobial resistance in South-East Asia

- Research to identify new and innovative scientific opportunities to improve cancer outcomes in communities experiencing an excess burden of cancer;

Tobacco is an important risk factor associated with several prevalent cancers. Possible research topics in this area include the following, but are not limited to:

- Advertising and marketing of tobacco products
- Epidemiology and surveillance of tobacco knowledge, attitudes, and behavior
- Etiology, predictors, correlates, and determinants of tobacco use, nicotine dependence, and cessation
- Other tobacco products, e.g., smokeless tobacco, cigars, roll-your-own, hookah, bidis, etc.
- Tobacco prevention and cessation interventions at the individual, system, and population levels
- Tobacco use and cessation in cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship
- Tobacco regulatory science, such as laboratory studies of characteristics of tobacco and tobacco products, including novel nicotine delivery devices.
- Studies of biomarkers of exposure and/or harm associated with nicotine and tobacco product constituents

Approximately one quarter of all cancer cases and deaths in the ASEAN region are infection-associated. In particular, hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), human papillomavirus (HPV), and *Helicobacter pylori* (HP) make up some of the principal infectious agents associated with cancers in the region. Additionally, given these infectious etiologies, it is important to consider combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) coverage for HIV/AIDS. Even with widespread coverage in high-resource settings, cART has not eliminated virally induced tumors such as Kaposi Sarcoma, Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (Burkitt), HPV tumors (cervix and anus) and to the contrary, as the HIV population ages (as is being seen in the United States) the issues of cancer in the context of HIV is actually on the rise.

The area of Cancer Research in the e-ASIA JRP therefore supports research focused on the burden of cancer in ASEAN countries and associated risk factors, with additional emphasis on tobacco control, infectious etiologies, and HIV/AIDS-associated malignancies.

Research Approach

The e-ASIA JRP presents a research collaboration opportunity for researchers, as it offers access to funding and other resources to support multi-investigator research engaging scientists in 5 countries in this call. To effectively utilize and maximize the unique opportunities provided through the e-ASIA JRP and to synergistically address various public health issues/problems in the East Asian region, proposals that include the following integrated research approaches are strongly encouraged:

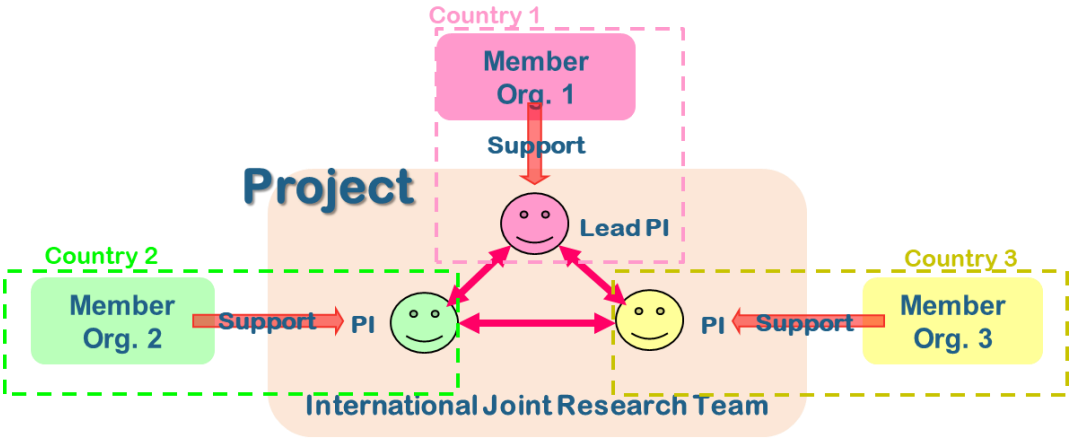
- Interdisciplinary research
- Capacity building, such as training, mentorship, and career development of early-career (early-stage) investigators
- Communication, information and data exchange, including sample/data sharing and analysis (e.g., biorepositories)
- Community engagement, as appropriate
- Commitment to long-term sustainability of research relationships
- Establishment and maintenance of networks of collaborating institutions

- How the research design will support diverse populations and social and cultural contexts, and support the development of culturally appropriate solutions
- Consideration of health equity issues and the needs of population groups at risk of adverse health outcomes
- Pathway to impact
- Given the rapidly evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers are encouraged to consider how their project may be required to adapt to potential changes in environment and/or work situations. It is recommended that the applicants describe how they will mitigate these potential changes as part of their proposals.

Collaborative research projects supported through this program should be pursued through mutually beneficial partnerships and shared leadership that contribute to scientific innovation and research capacity in the region. The study findings from the e-ASIA JRP projects should be disseminated to expand scientific knowledge and facilitate the utilization of the research results to enhance evidence-based biomedical and public health practice in East Asia and in other parts of the world.

II. Support/ Funding Modality

In principle, each Member Organization will support its own country's researchers in a selected research project in this joint call with the type of support defined as "Funding Modality" in the following table below. The duration of a selected research project will be three years (36 months), in total, from the start date. Details of conditions of support will vary by Member Organization. Applicants shall refer to the Appendix for each Member Organization's rules and regulations.



(1) Infectious Diseases (including Antimicrobial Resistance)

Participating Member Organizations	Funding Modality
(1) NHMRC (Australia)	New
(2) AMED (Japan)	New
(3) DOST-PCHRD (Philippines)	New
(4) NSTDA (Thailand)	New/ In-Kind
(5) PMU-B (Thailand)	New/ In-Kind
(6) NIAID (USA)	New, Re-budgeting, and In-Kind

(2) Cancer

Participating Member Organizations	Funding Modality
(1) NCI (USA)	Re-Budgeting or In-Kind
(2) AMED (Japan)	New
(3) DOST-PCHRD (Philippines)	New

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 of his/her country 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 funding will be provided by each Member Organization from his/her 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

Each research team shall be led by a Principal Investigator (PI), and the consortium of research teams on each application/project shall be led by a Lead PI specified in the application as determined by the PIs.

The Lead PI will be responsible for coordinating and representing 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. In addition, the Lead PI is responsible for leading the research team/project activities at his/her own institution. The Lead PI must be affiliated with an institution situated in one of the countries with a Member Organization participating in this call.

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.

In addition to the following common requirements, there are specific requirements clarified by each Member Organization which must be met by applicants seeking that Member Organization’s support. All Lead PIs must be aware of and abide by all specific rules or eligibility requirements set out by their home country Member Organization, as well as any additional requirements set out by the partnering respective PI, Member Organizations. 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 countries with participating Member Organizations as listed above.

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.

Deadline for Submission:
17:00 (Thai Standard Time, UTC+7) 30 March 2022

Please submit the proposal to:

Ken Kawabata (Mr.)
e-ASIA JRP Secretariat
E-mail: 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 for review or responsive to this call.

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/or 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 by 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 by 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: November to December 2022)

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 Progress Reports and 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 Progress and Final Reports will be reviewed by the Board and Scientific Advisory Council. It is also encouraged that the project proactively disseminates its achievements to the public.

V-1. Progress Report
In the middle of the research period (i.e., after one and a half years of research funding), the lead PI shall promptly develop and submit an integrated progress report to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat on the status of the joint research.

V-2. 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-3. Others

All the researchers/research institutions organizing a consortium are strongly recommended to include 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 Organizations’ 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, special review criteria, or funding support conditions:
Also please refer to the Appendix for information of each Member Organization.

Country: Member Organization	Contact Point
(1) Australia: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)	NHMRC Research Help Centre Tel: +61 1800 500 983 (+61 2 6217 9451 for international callers) E-mail: help@nhmrc.gov.au
(2) Japan: Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)	Naoko Kojima, Yukiko Watanabe, Department of International Strategy Tel: +81 (0)3 6870 2216 E-mail: e-asia@amed.go.jp
(3) The Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHRD)	Mr. Vincent John H. Tumlos, DOST - PCHRD Tel: +632-837-7537 local 102 E-mail: vhtumlos@pchrd.dost.gov.ph Mr. Paul Ernest N. De Leon, DOST - PCHRD Tel: +632-837-7535 E-mail: pndeleon@pchrd.dost.gov.ph
(4) Thailand: Thailand National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)	Ms. Mullika Kulsiripruck Tel: +66 2 564 7000 ext. 71486 E-mail: mullika.kul@nstda.or.th
(5) Thailand: Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)	Dr. Doungkamon Phihusut Tel: +66 2470 7961-4 E-mail: pmu.b@nxpo.or.th
(6) United States of America: National Cancer Institute (NCI)	Paul C. Pearlman, Center for Global Health Tel: +1 240 276 5354 E-mail: paul.pearlman@nih.gov
(7) United States of America: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	Gayle Bernabe, Office of Global Research Tel: +1 301 451 1018 E-mail: gbernabe@niaid.nih.gov

Applicants should contact the following for general inquiries:

Ken Kawabata (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
Tel: +66-2-564-7713 H/P: +66-61-421-0316
E-mail: easia_secretariat@jst.go.jp

<APPENDIX>

e-ASIA Joint Research Program (the e-ASIA JRP)
Research Cooperation in the field of 'Health Research'
on the topics of
'Infectious Diseases (including Antimicrobial Resistance)' and 'Cancer'

11th Call for Proposals to be submitted by 30 March 2022

Information about each Member Organization (alphabetical order by country)

1) Australia: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
2) Japan: Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)
3) The Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHRD)
4) Thailand: National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
5) Thailand: Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)
6) United States of America: National Cancer Institute (NCI)
7) United States of America: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

<APPENDIX>

1) Australia: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

This call will support partnerships between Australia and member organisations from countries of the e-ASIA Joint Research Program participating in the 11th Health Research Call. NHMRC is supporting only the Infectious Diseases (including Antimicrobial Resistance) topic for the 11th Health Research Call.

Eligibility

Eligibility is dependent on the following:

1. Projects require support from a minimum of three (3) e-ASIA member organisations including NHMRC, i.e. a research project must consist of an Australian research team collaborating with research teams seeking support from a minimum of two (2) e-ASIA participating member organisations in the relevant call.
2. NHMRC requires that collaborations must include a Lead PI or PI from at least one of the following participating member organisations:
    - Philippines
    - Thailand
3. Australian researchers must submit an application to NHMRC (through the Sapphire online grant management system) to be considered for the 2022 NHMRC e-ASIA Joint Research Program. A copy of the research consortium's e-ASIA Common Application must be attached to the Sapphire application form. The application must address one (or more) of the research topics for the Health Research call.
4. Applications will only be accepted from NHMRC-approved Administering Institutions. A list of NHMRC-approved Administering Institutions is available on NHMRC's website.
5. Member organisations from other e-ASIA countries must be supporting the relevant Health Research topic in the call for applications. It is the applicant's responsibility to verify the member organisation participation in respective calls, and any additional eligibility requirements specific to the member organisation. Partnering country applicants are required to submit their applications to their respective member organisation in line with the applicable funding organisation due dates.
6. The Chief Investigator A (CIA) and Administering Institution must ensure applications meet all eligibility requirements, as set out in these guidelines, at the time of submission and for the duration of peer review. Applications that do not meet these eligibility requirements may be ineligible and may be excluded from further consideration.

An eligibility ruling may be made by NHMRC at any stage following the close of applications, including during peer review. Where an eligibility ruling is being considered, NHMRC may request further information in order to assess whether the eligibility requirement has been met.

Decisions are made based on current policies and considerations specific to this grant opportunity. Decisions made in relation to previous grant opportunities or other NHMRC funding

schemes will not be regarded as precedents and will not be considered when assessing compliance with the requirements of this grant opportunity.

Administering Institutions will be notified in writing of ineligible applications and are responsible for advising applicants.

Grant offers maybe withdrawn if eligibility criteria to accept a grant are not met. Action may also be taken over the life of a grant if eligibility criteria to continue holding a grant are not met.

NHMRC staff will not make eligibility rulings before an application is submitted.

Budgetary requests

Applicants should note that NHMRC is only offering the funding modality of New funding for this call. Funding for the Australian research component of collaborative projects will be capped. Applicants are advised to refer to the *NHMRC e-ASIA 2022 Joint Research Program Guidelines* when available, for final guidance on the capped budget allowance.

General information

Applicants should refer to the full 2022 NHMRC e-ASIA Joint Research Program Guidelines via the NHMRC and the GrantConnect websites.

All enquiries should be directed to the NHMRC Research Help Centre

- Tel: +61 1800 500 983
- (+61 2 6217 9451 for international callers)
- E-mail: help@nhmrc.gov.au

Refer to the Research Help Centre webpage for further information and opening hours

2) Japan: Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

Japan-based applicants must read and accept the following AMED-specific conditions for this program. Please refer to the information on the following websites:
https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/20/01/2001B_00034.html

For project proposals which Japan-based applicants intend to be funded by AMED, it is encouraged that more than two countries participating in a project either by “New” or “Re-budgeting” funding modality.

I. Eligibility for Japan-based applicants

The Japan-based PI 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 (MEXT) in Japan.

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

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 PI.
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 PI.

Japan-based PI 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 24 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 Japan-based 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. Eligible costs

Research grants will be awarded in line with standard AMED policy. 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 or Japan-based researchers including PI.
   - v) Others: Expenses for creating software, renting or leasing equipment, transporting equipment, expenses of buyout cost, 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.

For more details about salary for Japan-based PI and buyout cost, please visit the following website: https://www.amed.go.jp/keiri/youshiki_itaku.html
(in Japanese only)

II-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.

II-5. Collaborative Research Agreement

A Collaborative Research Agreement (CRA) MUST be concluded among institutions with which collaborating researchers are affiliated. 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. A sample form can be found in the following websites:
https://www.the-easia.org/jrp/documents.html

III. 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 ways of submission.

III-1. Application Forms

Only for Japan-based applicants, Form J should be prepared in Japanese ("J") in addition to the common application form in English.

Form J is available from the AMED website:
https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/20/01/2001B_00034.html
(in Japanese only)

III-2 Submission of Application Forms by Applicants

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

Japan-based applicants must also 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 (Japanese Standard Time) on 30th March 2022.

Application to the program is not complete at the point that the PI submits the application to their affiliated research institute via e-Rad. Be sure to undergo procedures to obtain approval of the submission of the application from your affiliated research institute.

IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals

The program evaluation committees 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.

IV-1. Evaluation Criteria

1. Compatibility with the program's purpose
- Is the project compatible with the program's purpose and objectives, etc.?

2. Scientific/technological significance and advantage
- Are the current technological level and previous performance sufficient?
- Does the project proposal have originality, novelty, and innovativeness?
- Does the project contribute to the advancement of the field of medicine?
- Does the project contribute to the generation of new technologies?
- Does the project respond to social needs?
- Is the project compatible with national policies regarding R&D in the field of medicine?

3. Appropriateness of the plan
- Are the overall content and objectives of the plan clear?
- As the plans for each fiscal year detailed and realizable?
- Is the project plan in compliance with laws and ordinances related to bioethics or safety measures?

4. Implementation system
- Has an R&D system centered on the applicant been organized appropriately?
- Has a sufficient collaboration network been constructed?
- Are the efforts of the applicant appropriate?
- Is there unreasonable duplication/excessive concentration?

5. Costs
- Are the breakdown of costs and spending plan appropriate?

6. Items prescribed under the program and items that should be considered comprehensively
- Contribute to the development of science and technology in the East Asian region? [Regional Relevance of the Research]
- Contribute to solving significant relevant issues across the East Asian region? [Regional Relevance of the Research]
- Is there a unique opportunity set provide that could not be achieved either through bilateral or individual research but only through multilateral cooperation? [Mutual Benefits of the Joint Research]
- Does it contain activities to nurture early career researchers through research activities?

[Effectiveness of Exchange]

- Does it enhance research capacity in the East Asian region? [Effectiveness of Exchange]

V. Responsibilities of PIs after Proposals are Approved

V-1. Progress Report to AMED

At the end of each fiscal year, the Japan-based 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.

V-2. Final Report to AMED

Final reports should be submitted within four months (4) before completion of the research period.
The institution with which the PI is affiliated shall submit a financial report on research expenses to AMED within two months after termination of contract.

Contact Information

Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development

Dr. Naoko Kojima / Ms. Yukiko Watanabe
Office of International Collaboration, Division of International Strategy
Department of International Strategy
Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development

TEL: +81 (0)3-6870-2216 FAX: +81 (0)3-6870-2240
E-mail e-asia@amed.go.jp

3) The Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCHRD)

I. Review Procedures

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

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

3. Final approval by the PCHRD Governing Council or the PCHRD 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 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 shall submit the following requirements online through the DOST Project Management Information System (DPMIS) (http://dpmis.dost.gov.ph/):

- Project Proposal following the prescribed format in the DOST DPMIS 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 (for studies involving human participants)
- 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
  Saliksik Bldg., DOST Science Complex, Gen. Santos Avenue
  Bicutan, Taguig City, Metro Manila

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

- Biosafety Clearance, if applicable
- Animal research permit, 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 **01 April 2021, 5:00 PM** (Philippine Standard Time). *Note: Online submission will be through the DOST DPMIS website only. Submission through emails will not be accepted.*

IV. Funding Support Available

DOST-PCHRD will allocate up to **100,000 USD** for each research project for a duration of three years. DOST Grants in Aid guidelines shall be applied.

V. Contact Information

DOST - PCHRD

Mr. Vincent John H. Tumlos
Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)
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Mr. Paul Ernest N. De Leon
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Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)
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4) 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 for 1 project on the topic of "Antimicrobial Resistance" on the sub topic as following;

- Development of new innovative classes of antimicrobials that are efficacious, rapid and cost effective
- Revisiting older, but clinically useful antimicrobials (i.e. no longer manufactured or marketed)
- Enhanced therapeutic alternatives to antimicrobials

II. Support

The total budget for the Thai researcher up to a maximum of three years with a total budget of not more than 5,000,000 THB per project. The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities. The following costs are eligible:

Personnel costs

Costs for scientists can be covered for the whole period of the project if their work is clearly related to the research project. Total personnel costs should not exceed 30% of total budget.

• Mobility of scientists and experts
  - round-trip economy class tickets to the project partner countries
  - airport transfer costs upon presentation of a receipt
  - visa costs
  - accommodation costs

• Consumables: Consumable costs include laboratory chemicals and materials, but does not include office supplies such as paper, stationery, and etc. Consumable costs are to be spent in Thailand.

• Indirect costs: Total indirect costs should not exceed 10% of total budget, excluding equipment costs.

Note: NSTDA do not support equipment and instrumentation expenses.

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

IV. Grant Manual

More details on NSTDA funding procedures at
https://www.nstda.or.th/th/industrial-research

Note:

1. After the project get selected from this Joint Research Projects, Thai principal investigators must submit the proposal format in accordance with NSTDA regulation.
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 and work summary of partnering countries in your project. (if possible)

• After completion of the period of joint research, the Thailand PI shall submit within three months a final report on the results of the joint research to NSTDA.

Contact Information

Ms. Mullika Kulsiripruck
International Relations Officer
International Collaboration
National Science and Technology Development Agency
Tel: +66 2 564 7000 Ext. 71486
E-mail: mullika.kul@nstda.or.th

5) Thailand: Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)

I Eligibility for Thai applicants

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

PMU-B will provide support for 2 projects only for the area of infectious diseases on the sub topic as follows;

• Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases only viral zoonotic diseases (Focus on Infectious diseases that are predominant in or specific to the East Asian region)

II. Support

The total budget for the Thai researcher over a full 3-year period is up to 5,000,000 THB per project. The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities and compliance with PMU-B financial guideline (please find details via PMU-B website: https://www.nxpo.or.th/B/).

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 propose in viral zoonotic diseases area and 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
- Capabilities of the research team
- 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

IV. Reporting

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

Contact Information

Dr. Doungkamon Phihusut

Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)

Tel: +66 2470 7961-4 E-mail: pmu.b@nxpo.or.th

6) United States of America: National Cancer Institute (NCI)

NCI participation in this e-ASIA Joint Research Program solicitation is limited to in-kind and re-budgeting only. No additional application materials are required to be submitted directly to NCI**.** Only the e**-**ASIA JRP application submitted directly to the e**-**ASIA Secretariat is required and will be reviewed**.**
Please consult the person in charge directly.

Contact Information:

Dr. Paul C. Pearlman, Ph.D.
Program Director
Lead, Global Health Technology
Center for Global Health
National Cancer Institute
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human Services
9609 Medical Center Driver
Rockville, MD 20892
Phone: +1 (240) 276-5354
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7) United States of America: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

NIAID funding may be requested to support basic, clinical, and applied biomedical research in the areas referenced in Section I**.** Applications requesting NIAID funding to support research that falls outside these three categories and the areas referenced in Section I will not be considered eligible for NIAID funding**.** For example, applications focused on health care quality assurance or similar issues would not be eligible for NIAID funding**.** For proposals focused on pandemic preparedness and response, consideration of multiple research approaches is encouraged, including pathogen-specific work (particularly those in the region), platform-based technologies, and prototype-pathogen efforts (working on solutions within viral families and genera).

No additional application materials are required to be submitted directly to NIAID**.** Only the e**-**ASIA JRP application submitted directly to the e**-**ASIA Secretariat is required and will be reviewed and evaluated according to the common e-ASIA JRP evaluation criteria (refer to Section IV-2)**.** Please see below for more information**.**

Eligibility

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 United States 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.

Budget and Allowable Costs

The maximum total award is up to **$100,000** U.S. Dollars (USD) disbursed over three years. Utilizing funds from NIAID, the U.S. institution will receive a cost-reimbursable grant (fixed obligation award) from CRDF Global, pending the submission and acceptance of all necessary approvals and documentation (e.g., IRB approval, award agreement, animal subject review, etc.).

CRDF Global will communicate directly with the U.S. PIs and support expenses for the U.S. teams from universities and non-profits with the exception of large**-**scale equipment purchases**.** U.S. team applications may propose utilizing some of the requested funding to support foreign partners, but the allowed maximum budget still cannot exceed the amount described in the preceding paragraph. 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.

i. Funding may be requested for the following expenses:

(1) Labor

(2) Equipment, Supplies and Services

(3) Travel

(4) Indirect Costs (IDC)**.** 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[2][1] and sub-awardees expenses (after the first $25,000). Total direct costs minus these items are 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% x MTDC = $
- **Maximum Total Sub-Team budget** = total direct costs $ (including MTDC) + IDCs $

Foreign Institutions may **not request more than 8%** of the modified total direct costs 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.

Contact Information

Ms. Gayle Bernabe

Regional Program Officer-East/SE Asia and the Pacific

Office of Global Research (OGR)

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

National Institutes of Health

[2][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.

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