10 February 2017

TO : Deans/Directors/Department Chairs/Faculty/REPS

FROM : Eva Maria Cutiongco – Dela Paz, MD, FPPS
       Vice Chancellor for Research, UPM and
       Executive Director, NIH

SUBJECT : e-ASIA Joint Research Program in the field of Health Research

We are pleased to announce that the e-ASIA Joint Research Program is now accepting research proposals focusing on the following research areas:

1. Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, causing serious impediments to the development of ASEAN countries and require urgent attention.
2. Cancer research – focused on the burden of cancer in ASEAN countries.

Attached is the Call for Proposals guidelines for more details or you can visit the following link http://www.the-easia.org/jrp/.

The deadline for submission of proposals is at 5:00 p.m. (Thai Standard Time, UTC +7) on 28 February 2017. For inquiries, kindly coordinate with the Research Grants Administration Office (rgao@post.upm.edu.ph, 567-2054)

Thank you for your continued interest in health research and development.
e-ASIA Joint Research Program (the e-ASIA JRP)
Research Cooperation in the field of
"Health Research"
Joint Call for Proposals to be submitted by 28th February 2017

I. General Description

I-1. Joint Funding of Multilateral Research Cooperation

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

As part of the program, the following current Member organizations of the e-ASIA JRP hereinafter singularly referred to as a “Party” and plurally as “Parties”, have agreed to establish a new scheme for joint funding of multilateral cooperative activities. After consultations among the Parties, “Health Research” has been selected as one of the specific research areas for the call in 2016.

Participating Parties (listed in alphabetical order):
1) Cambodia: Ministry of Health (MOH)
2) Japan: Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development(AMED)
3) New Zealand: Health Research Council (HRC)
4) Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
5) Russia: Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)
6) USA: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
7) USA: National Cancer Institute (NCI)
8) Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

I-2. Aim of Joint Call and Research Area

Through multilateral collaboration for medical research and development in the field of “Health Research”, the aim of the joint call is not only to contribute to the development of regional science but also to overcome public health and medical
problems in East Asia in the near future. The field of “Health Research” in the e-ASIA JRP, therefore, invites research proposals focuses on the following research area:
※Applications must choose the research area i) or ii).

i) Infectious Diseases
The first focused area of the field of “Health Research” under the e-ASIA JRP is “Infectious Diseases” including cholera, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) such as dengue fever, Chikungunya fever, zika virus and bird flu, as well as basic and applied research on immunology related to ‘infectious diseases’. Though these are common issues shared by the East Asian countries, in recent decades the increase of travel throughout the region and with Asian countries’ economic growth have contributed to the complexity of preventing and controlling the outbreak of infectious diseases.

The e-ASIA JRP has previously approved eleven collaborative research projects which cover influenza, dengue fever, H5N1 avian influenza, emerging vector-borne viral diseases, liver fluke infection, malaria, tuberculosis and drug resistance, dengue viral genetic diversity, multidrug resistance Gram-negative bacteria, Opisthorchiasis infection and fever etiology. However, there is a continuing need for further biomedical research and development of different approaches to lessen the impact and suffering caused by these diseases in the region and contribute to global understanding of infectious diseases and the human immune system.

The area of Infectious Diseases in the e-ASIA JRP therefore supports research projects focused on, but not limited to, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, which are serious impediments to the development of ASEAN countries and require urgent attention.

ii) Cancer Research
The second focused area is “Cancer Research”. According to the report¹ of Merel Kimman et al, it was estimated that there were over 700,000 new cases of cancer and 500,000 cancer deaths in ASEAN in the year 2008. The most commonly diagnosed cancers were lung (98,143), breast (86,842) and liver
cancers (74,777). The most common causes of cancer death were lung cancer (85,772), liver cancer (69,115) and colorectal cancer (44,280). The report suggested the burden of cancer was significant in ASEAN and each country was strongly encouraged to put in place cancer-control health care policies.

The area of Cancer Research in the e-ASIA JRP therefore supports research focused on the burden of cancer in ASEAN countries.


I-3. Invitation of Proposals and Prospective Applicants

Scientists from the countries listed above in Section I-1 are invited to identify potential research partners in at least two other countries of the e-ASIA JRP Member organizations which participate in this Call (i.e. partners from the countries listed in Section I-1, above) and to jointly prepare a collaborative research proposal in the area of Health Research.

All applicants must fulfil their respective national eligibility rules for research grant application. Researchers from industry are encouraged to participate in the joint collaboration in accordance with national eligibility rules. Applicants should contact the person noted in Section VI for information on each Party's national eligibility rules.

In each application, the “Lead PI” should be identified from among the named scientists engaged in “multi-country” research team. The Lead PI is responsible for submitting an application form, liaising with the Secretariat, and other interactions to facilitate application completion, receipt and review.

Researchers may participate in joint research projects by utilizing funding already received from the Parties (“re-budgeting”) or “in-kind” support they may have available from other funding sources, meaning that the Party of the researcher's country will not necessarily be making available additional funds to allow scientists from their country to participate in a collaborative project.
The following is the list of acceptable type of participation by each Party. ("✓" means "accept")

i) Infectious Diseases

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Re-budgeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia (MOH)</td>
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<td>Japan (AMED)</td>
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<td>Philippines (DOST)</td>
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<td>Russia (RFBR)</td>
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<td>USA (NIAID)</td>
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<td>Vietnam (MOST)</td>
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ii) Cancer Research

<table>
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New: New budget is requested for a project (either to support a new scope of work or to supplement an on-going project that is eligible to receive supplemental funding)
Re-budgeting: Funds from the Party may be reallocated (with the Party’s permission) from one spending category to a project approved under the e-ASIA JRP, or are combined with goods, commodities, or services instead of money (i.e. material compensation).

In-kind: A principle investigator participates in a project using funds that are available from another funding source other than the Party from his/her country

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

Eligible Filipino researchers seeking new funding should apply for Grants-in-Aid (GIA) from DOST through the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD). Filipino researcher applicants are advised to download all applicable DOST-PCHRD GIA Forms from the PCHRD website, completely accomplish these forms, and send these through the PCHRD online submission system (http://www.projects.pchrd.dost.gov.ph/). The DOST-PCHRD also requires submission of a formal letter of intent from the applicant with a statement that the proposal is for e-ASIA JRP and an endorsement from the authorized head of organization.

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

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

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

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

I-4. Financial Support

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

II. Support

The duration of a cooperative research project will be three years (36 months), in total, from the start date.
Details of conditions of support will vary by country. Applicants shall refer to the Appendix for each Party’s conditions.

<Support Overview>
- Budget for Cooperative Research Projects
- Details of Support
- Funded Expenses
  Funding provided within this call is intended to enhance the capacity of the applicants to collaborate. Funding will therefore be provided mainly in support of collaborative activities but may also cover some of the local research costs that are necessary for the collaboration.
- Contract between Applicant and Each Party
- Contract among Researchers

III. Application

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

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

The proposal shall include:

a) Project description including how collaboration will be carried out, with clear statements of what roles each country's researchers will play respectively in the project;

b) Description of the expected outcomes of the proposed project, scientifically as well as in terms of relevance for industry and society;

c) Description of the ongoing activities and specific advantages of each group respectively, which form the basis for the proposed joint project;

d) Description of the expected value added from the proposed joint project, including how the competence, technology and other resources in each group complement each other;

e) Description of how the project is expected to help strengthen multilateral research collaboration over the longer term;

f) Description of the expected value added from the multidisciplinary approach in the proposed joint project; and

g) Description of how the proposed joint project interacts with or impacts on other comparable activities worldwide.

III -1. Application Forms

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

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

Form 1E Application outline (title of cooperative research project, names of PIs, cooperative research period)

Form 2E Summary of the Project

Form 3E Information on the PIs (their CVs*)

Form 4E List of individuals committed to the cooperative research project in each country
Form 5E Description of the cooperative research project including the points stated above.
Form 6E Research Networking Plan
Form 7E Budget plan for the project
Form 8E Research Infrastructures and funds from other sources
Form 1J/2J Japanese applicants only

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

In addition to the documents above, all projects must comply with ethical review and requirements of each country/member organization, especially for research activities related to human and animal subjects. Applicants shall refer to the Appendix for each Party’s ethical requirement.

III-2. Preparation of Application Forms

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

III-3. Submission of Application Forms by Lead PI

Lead PI should submit proposals to the e-ASIA JRP Secretariat at the e-mail address (easia_secretariat@jst.go.jp) by 17:00 (Thai Standard Time, UTC+7) on 28th February 2017.

Yoshihide Kobayashi (Mr.)
e-ASIA JRP Secretariat
E-mail: easia_secretariat@jst.go.jp

Applicants should refer to the Appendix for his/her Party’s requirement.
Application forms sent by any method other than e-mail, such as post, fax or telex will be rejected. The e-ASIA JRP Secretariat does not assume any responsibility for delay or error in e-mail delivery.

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

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

IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals

IV-1. Evaluation Procedure

Each Party evaluates all proposals submitted by their local researchers from their respective country. Based on the results of the evaluation, a final decision on which projects to be selected for funding will be made at the Board Meeting of the e-ASIA JRP.

IV-2. Evaluation Criteria

The following general evaluation criteria will apply to each application:

1) 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 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.

Evaluation criteria are not limited to the above three. Each Party who participates in this Call has its own additional criteria. These criteria may be applied to each application. Therefore, researchers should familiarize themselves with the evaluation criteria in their respective country they are applying from.

IV-3. Announcement of Decision

Applicants will be notified of the final decision by July 2017 regarding which projects will be funded.

V. Responsibilities of PIs After Proposals are Approved

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

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

V-1. Progress Report

V-1.1 Progress Report to the Board and Scientific Advisory Council
In the middle of research period (i.e. after one and a half year), the lead PI shall promptly develop and submit an integrated progress report to the Secretariat on the status of joint research. The report will be reviewed by the Board and Scientific Advisory Council

V-1.2 Progress Report to each Party

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

V-2. Final Report

V-2.1 Final Report to the Board and Scientific Advisory Council

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

V-2.2 Final Report to each Party

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

V-3. Others

It is strongly recommended that a Collaborative Research Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "CRA") among PIs/PI's research institutions should be concluded to assure optimal understanding and coordination among the collaborating scientists working on each project before project starts. CRA should 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 bio-resources. Some Parties require to have a CRA. Applicants shall refer to the Appendix for each Party's requirement.

VI. Contact information
Applicants should contact the following for information on each Party's national eligibility rules or support conditions:

1) **Cambodia**: Ministry of Health (MOH)

![Cambodia logo]

Dr. Sreng Bun  
Chief of Bureau, Deputy-Director  
Department of Communicable Disease Control  
Ministry of Health, Cambodia  
Tel: (+855)12-852824  
E-mail: bun_sreng72@yahoo.com, bunsreng88@gmail.com

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

![Japan AMED logo]

Mr. Shuhei Furukawa  
Department of International Affairs  
Division of International Collaboration  
Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development  
TEL: +81 (0)3-6870-2215  
FAX: +81 (0)3-6870-2240  
E-mail: e-asia@amed.go.jp

3) **New Zealand**: Health Research Council (HRC)

![New Zealand HRC logo]

Fiona Kenning  
Project Manager, Research Partnerships  
Health Research Council of New Zealand  
DDI: 64 9 303 5224
E-mail: fkenning@hrc.govt.nz

4) **Philippines**: Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

Ms. Carina L. Rebulanan  
Chief  
Institution Development Division  
Department of Science and Technology (DOST)  
Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)  
Tel: +632-837-7537 E-mail: crebulanan@pchrddost.gov.ph (cc: ncparungao@pchrddost.gov.ph)

5) **Russia**: Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)

Mr. Yaroslav Sorokotyaga  
Division Director  
International Relations Department  
Russian Foundation for Basic Research  
Tel: +7 499 941 0196  
E-mail: ysorokot@rfbr.ru

6) **USA**: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Ms. Gayle Bernabe, MPH  
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
4) Philippines: Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

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 by external consultants based on the following criteria:
   - Technical merit
   - Data management
   - Relevance/significance
   - Marketability potential (for product-based proposals)
   - Feasibility (practicality, cost, time)
   - Proponent's/Institution's capacity
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 75 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 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
- 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)
- 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

IV. Funding Support Available

DOST-PCHRD will allocate up to 350,000USD for each research project for a duration of three years. DOST Grants in Aid guidelines shall be applied.

V. Contact Information

Ms. Carina L. Rebulanan
Chief
Institution Development Division
Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)
Tel: +632-837-7537  E-mail: clrebulanan@pchrd.dost.gov.ph (cc: ncparungao@pchrd.dost.gov.ph)