



ASEAN-India Science & Technology Development Fund (AISTDF)

ASEAN-India collaborative R&D program

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

General Description

India has been the dialogue partner for ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) since 1992. In 2012, on the occasion of 20th anniversary as dialogue partner, India-ASEAN celebrated commemorative Summit and declared enhancement of its relations to strategic level. The ASEAN Member States are as below-

- i. Brunei
- ii. Cambodia
- iii. Indonesia
- iv. Lao PDR
- v. Malaysia
- vi. Myanmar
- vii. Philippines
- viii. Singapore
- ix. Thailand
- x. Vietnam

India S&T Collaboration started formally in 1996 with establishment of ASEAN India S&T working Group (AIWGST). Initially, the collaborative ASEAN-India S&T activities were supported through ASEAN India Fund (AIF). In 2008, Government of India established a dedicated fund viz ASEAN India S&T Development Fund (AISTDF) to support R&D projects and associated project development activities. The total budget of AISTDF is an equivalent amount of 5 Million USD in INR. This amount of 5 Million USD is jointly shared by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Department of Science & Technology (DST). The Department of Science & Technology is the nodal Department for execution and implementation of ASEAN-India S&T Cooperation program from Indian side.

The Plan of Action of the ASEAN-INDIA PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE, PROGRESS AND SHARED PROSPERITY (2016-2020), implements the goals and objectives of the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity on 30 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, and the Vision Statement of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, adopted by the Leaders of ASEAN and India on 20 December 2012 in New Delhi, India. Through the implementation of this Plan of Action, ASEAN and India will work towards supporting the ASEAN Community building and integration process, including the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, for a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible and a truly people-oriented, people-centered and rules-based ASEAN,

narrowing the development gap and enhancing ASEAN Connectivity. Both sides will also further promote cooperation in addressing common and emerging challenges and enhance coordination in other international fora on issues of common concern to contribute to overall peace, stability and prosperity.

The main objectives of ASEAN-India Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation are based on following principles-

- Encourage and promote cooperation in science, technology and innovation, including through joint research activity, and development on cross-sectoral areas such as health, communicable and emerging infectious diseases, environmental management, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, agricultural technologies, alternative energy, biodiversity, food processing, advanced materials for development of value-added products, and space technology and applications;
- Encourage and promote cooperation in biotechnology including through capacity building and joint research and development for mutual benefit;
- Undertake activities and develop program / projects under the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund;

In order to support collaborative Research & Development (R&D) and to facilitate sharing of advance research facilities among researchers of ASEAN MS and India, India and ASEAN agrees to institute the scheme “ASEAN-India Collaborative R&D Program.

The following types of proposals **shall not** be considered:

- Applicants who have an existing collaborative project which already covers travel and living expenses;
- Purely individual visits / training programme;
- Organisation of Seminars / Workshops or participation in a Conference / Congress.

Priority research areas	All disciplines of natural sciences, medicine, health, Mathematics, electronics & IT, science & technology (social sciences & humanities are not covered). The research areas should be ASEAN centric and be aligned with the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation 2016-2025 (copy attached at Appendix-I)
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To intensify interaction and scientific cooperation between Indian and ASEAN scientists / institutions • To connect existing but separately funded research projects in India and ASEAN MS • To enhance academic training and development of young scholars
Project duration	24-36 months (No extension with or without additional cost beyond 3 years duration of the project)
Eligibility	Scientists with an appointment as a faculty member at an eligible Indian/ASEAN MS institution can apply as Principal Investigator (PI). The appointment of the PI must last at least until the end of the project. Additionally to project may include at least one PhD student or postdoctoral scientist on each side. The total number of participants on each side should not exceed two.

	<p>Eligible institutions in India: Universities/ Academic Institutions, Publicly Funded Research Institutes/Labs and educational /Academic Research Institutes.</p> <p>Eligible institutions in ASEAN MS: All Academic/ Research Institutions, Universities and other Research and Academic Institutions which are eligible to receive funding from ASEAN.</p>
<p>Grant information</p>	<p>The funds under AISTDF are available only in INR. Therefore budget / funds must be projected only in Indian rupee in accordance with following guidelines-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The total grant as recommended by the Evaluation Committee and approved by the Governing Council of the AISTDF shall be released and placed at the disposal of lead Indian Institute in INR. (2) Generally, the funds shall be provided to support mobility of researchers from India to partnering ASEAN MS and vice versa. However, some incremental funding ie salary for scientific manpower (One JRF/SRF/RA/Post-doc etc), accessories and minor component, add-ons to existing equipment (up to Rs. 0.5 Million); chemicals and consumables (up to Rs 0.3 Million per year) is also available and shall be supported to Indian lead project Investigator. (3) General norms to support mobility of project participants shall be support as per following financial norms- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International airfare by lowest economy class from place of work in sending country to the place of work in receiving country including visa fees, overseas medical insurance, domestic travel related to international travel etc • The living expenses (local hospitality) for staying in respective visiting country (India to partnering ASEAN MS and vice versa) shall be supported as below- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rs. 6,000/- per day (all inclusive) for senior researcher (ph.d degree holders and in regular positions at respective Institute/University etc) - Rs. 5,000/- per day (all inclusive) for junior researcher (ph.d students and post docs)
<p>Number & duration of visits under the project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Travel related expenses and living costs (loading, boarding, airport transfers etc for up to 3 visits from each partner country researchers spread over the project duration of up to 3 years can be requested. • Visits of up to 21 days for senior scientists and visits of up to 60 days for young scientists (PhD, post-doctoral students) will be supported. • A participant from either side will be allowed only one visit per year of the project.
<p>Submission</p>	<p>Applications must be prepared <u>jointly</u> by the Indian and ASEAN MS partner scientists and <u>must be submitted in India and ASEAN Secretariat simultaneously.</u></p> <p>Submission at ASEAN Secretariat: An electronic copy of the completed joint application form be submitted to:</p>

Dr (Ms) Cheong Lee Sing, Senior Officer, Science and Technology Division
 Sectoral Development Directorate, ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Department
 ASEAN Secretariat | 70 A Jalan Sisingamangaraja | Jakarta 12110 Indonesia
 Tel. (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991 Ext. 210 | Fax (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504
leesing.cheong@asean.org

Submission in India:

Indian applicants to submit only ONE original copy of the completed joint application form, along with an electronic copy in a single soft file in ms-word or pdf format as an email attachment, to:

Mr. R.K. Sharma
 Scientist-E (Director Grade)
 International Multilateral & Regional Cooperation Division
 R.No-18 D, Technology Bhavan,
 Dept. of Science and Technology
 New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi - 110 016
 Email: sharma_rk@nic.in

The original copy must be signed by the Indian PI and Head of the Institute/University (written signature) and the ASEAN applicants (electronic signature).

Application deadline

There is no specific deadline for submitting the project proposals and therefore The complete applications / proposals can be submitted to DST and ASEAN Secretariat during any time of the year. However, the technical evaluation and other formal processing of the proposals shall start wef 1st January for proposals received till 31st December and 1st July for the proposals received till 30th June each year.
 Incomplete and proposals not formulated as per guidelines of the announcement shall not be considered.

Evaluation and selection

The project proposals / applications will be evaluated independently by ASEAN COST and DST India. From ASEAN Side, applications will be considered and recommended by ASEAN-COST. In India, applications will be considered by DST.

Evaluation criteria: (not listed in the order of priority)

- Added value of the visits for ongoing research on both sides
- Scientific and technological merit of the proposed exchange activities and of the anticipated outcomes
- Feasibility of proposed approach
- Expertise and complementarities of the two laboratories/institutes
- Qualifications and experience of applicants
- Opportunities for training and development of young researchers
- Benefits of the proposed activities for the establishment of research partnerships and institutional links between ASEAN MS and India
- Potential for follow-on collaborative activities

The final results shall be notified by DST to the Indian applicants as and when it is jointly taken by DST and ASEAN COST.

Reporting	Grant recipients will have to submit a scientific and financial report after each financial year of the project to DST.
Contact	<p>For any further information and/or questions, please contact:</p> <p>In ASEAN Dr (Ms) Cheong Lee Sing, Senior Officer, Science and Technology Division ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Department ASEAN Secretariat 70 A Jalan Sisingamangaraja Jakarta 12110 Indonesia Tel. (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991 Ext. 210 Fax (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504 email: leesing.cheong@asean.org</p> <p>In India Mr. R.K. Sharma, Scientist-E (Director Grade) International Multilateral & Regional Cooperation Division, R.No-18 D, Technology Bhavan, Departemnt of Science & Technology (Govt of India) Technology Bhavan, New Meharuli Road, NEW DELHI-110022 Tel: 011-26590244; 011-26597976, email: sharma_rk@nic.in)</p>