DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (DST)  
(Government of India)  

Announcement for inviting applications for participation in 1st SCO- Young Scientist Conclave  
Hyderabad, India  

24-28 November 2020  
Virtual conference  

Theme: Shaping SCO-STI Partnership: Young Scientists Perspectives  

DEADLINE for submitting the applications: 2 November, 2020  

PRELUDE  

As a follow of the fifth session of Heads of Ministries and Departments of Science and Technology of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States, at which the huge talent pool of young scientists has been recognized as a potential tool to foster innovative research among the SCO nations, the first SCO-Young Scientists Conclave is being held in India in 2020, as an integral part of SCO Young Scientists Forum (SCO YSF).  

The SCO YSF with the objective of providing a unique opportunity to the youth in their Member States to interact, network and collaborate with their counterparts to address pertinent challenges in emerging areas of science and technology has accepted the proposal of India to host and organize the 1st SCO-Young Scientists Conclave in India during 24-28 November 2020. Apart from establishing a sustainable cooperation including access to the state of the art R&D and analytical facilities, it also aims at harnessing the intrinsic ability of unconventional and lateral thinking, ideology and innovative caliber of the young minds and make their scientific and technological presence felt in today’s world.  

SCOPE  

The conclave facilitates  

- creation of connectivity and networking among the SCO youth to harness their knowledge for addressing common societal challenges through research and innovation and strengthen advancement of complementary skills and research competencies of youth drawn from science, engineering and allied disciplines.  
- creation of consortia of young scientists, professionals, innovators and entrepreneurs to conduct joint R&D activities.  
- preparation of next generation scientific leadership in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and future readiness among Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Professionals.  
- building SCO scientific identity in STI through creative youth.  
- provide access to large scale research infrastructure and unique analytical facilities.  
- create internship and training opportunities for young researchers.
This Conclave proposes to bring together the innovative young minds from SCO Member States on to a common platform in virtual mode to discuss issues like, ‘ways and means to bring in transformative changes to address the societal challenges through scientific and technological interventions. This will also facilitate confluence of ideas to resolve specific problems of Member States. Thus, the Conclave aims to seed a SCO scientific identity through the establishment of a network of young talents across these Member States.

THEMATIC AREAS

Out of many challenges pervading the SCO Member States that deserve S&T interventions, the following thematic areas are chosen to promote collaborative work in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) among Member States:

1. Agriculture and food processing
2. Sustainable energy and energy storage
3. Biotechnology and bio-engineering
4. Combating COVID-19 and emerging pandemics through research and innovation
5. Environmental protection and natural resource management

PARTICIPANTS & ELIGIBILITY

Participants
From each SCO Nation, 22 participants are expected to participate.

• 15 young scientists - three for each thematic area
• Five Mentors - one for each thematic area
• one Head of Delegation-representative of the STI Ministry
• One liaison officer from each SCO nation

Eligibility

Young bright academicians/ scientists/ engineers/ technologists/ innovators/ techno-entrepreneurial start-up professionals working in the above mentioned thematic areas with age not exceeding 35 years as on 1st November 2020.

OPPORTUNITIES

The selected candidates will be given an opportunity to present their scientific research in the related thematic session highlighting the scientific and technical work, novel ideas/prototypes developed by them. In addition, they will have ample opportunities to interact among themselves which may allow formulation of collaborative projects(s) in future to address contemporary challenges in science & technology in SCO nations.

APPLICATIONS & TIMELINE

Candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria are required to send their applications in the prescribed proforma given at Annexure-I along with their Curriculum Vitae/Bio-data and a digital photo on or before 2nd November, 2020 through e-mail to arvind.kumar71@nic.in. The application should be endorsed by the Head of Institution. No hard copies of applications are required to be sent. In case of any queries, please contact Dr. Arvind Kumar whose contact details are given below.
PROGRAMME

The 1st SCO-YSC programme will include the following activities:

- Presentations by experts on each thematic area highlighting the challenges and the way forward.

- Presentations by young scientists highlighting their work and innovations.

VENUE

Assuming that the current pandemic situation eases facilitating constraint free travel, all the participants from India will assemble at the venue i.e. CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad to participate in the conclave. However, in case of extraordinarily inevitable conditions COVID-19 pandemic or any such other situations, the participants will join the conclave using remote login facility i.e. from their own place.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

Expenses towards travel, accommodation and local hospitality including local transport will be provided by the organizers.

SELECTION

The selection of Indian young scientists for participation in the 1st SCO-YSC shall be made by an Expert Selection Committee to be constituted by DST. The selection shall be based on the assessment of the novelty of research work carried out, its contemporary relevance for SCO and global context, innovation and; the academic credentials of the candidate. Candidates selected for participation in the conclave will be informed through email most likely in the first week of November 2020.
SCO – 1st YOUNG SCIENTISTS CONCLAVE  
Shaping SCO-STI Partnership: Young Scientists Perspectives

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**ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION: degree and discipline** (please indicate where appropriate)

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Details of research work carried out in the field of S&T and Innovation including Entrepreneurs/Startup demonstrating innovation excellence. (up to 300 words):

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Annexure-I
**Statement of Innovation (up to 150 words):** Please provide brief information on the new innovative ideas.

**Participation in Innovation Competitions/Awards/Achievements:** Please list previous participation in innovation competitions and awards/achievements, if any.
DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE
I hereby declare that all the information given above is true to the best of my knowledge. I accept to participate in the virtual conference of 1st SCO -Young Scientists Conclave in India, and will attend the entire programme of five days.

Place: ------------------------
Date: ------------------------ Signature of the candidate

Endorsement from the Head of Institution
(To be given on letter head)

Certified that the Institute endorsed participation of Mr/Ms./Mrs./Dr. ________________ (name), _____________ (designation) ________________ (affiliations/institute name and address) in the virtual conference of 1st SCO -Young Scientists Conclave in India (24-28 November 2020) organized by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. He/She will attend the entire programme of five days and present his/her research work. His/her participation will be treated as official/academic work.

Date: 
Place: 
Name and Signature of Head of Institution

Note: The candidate must include the Curriculum Vitae/Biography at the end of application form.