



Diverse Approaches to Contributing to SDGs through STI Cooperation

Brief Report



Shaping New Horizons for Japan-ASEAN Science and Technology Cooperation towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

January 16, 2018
Kyoto, Japan

The SDGs have become widely recognized as common targets for international development, but there is little communication between universities, academic societies, or researchers with regards to how we can most effectively contribute to their achievement.

On January 16, 2018, Kyoto University organized a roundtable discussion on the theme of “*Shaping New Horizons for Japan-ASEAN Science and Technology Cooperation towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals*” in Kyoto, Japan. The roundtable aimed to provide an opportunity for its participants to exchange thoughts and ideas about the Japan and ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) collaboration for SDGs, and explore ways in which stakeholders can collaborate to work towards them. In addition to Kyoto University, participants were invited from the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) in Thailand, the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) in Indonesia, The Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT) in Malaysia, and Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The discussions focused on: (1) Ways in which stakeholders can effectively promote research for the SDGs, (2) Efforts that can be made to connect research outcomes to social implementation to achieve the SDGs, and (3) Should research frameworks be reorganized and research approaches be restructured to achieve these goals?

Participants:



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Mr. Mitsuyuki Ueda
(Director, International Science and Technology Affairs Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology [MEXT], Government of Japan)



Assoc. Prof. Thumrongrut Mungcharoen
(Chairman of the Energy and Environment Cluster, National Science and Technology Development Agency [NSTDA], Thailand)



Prof. Bambang Subiyanto
(Acting Chairman, Indonesian Institute of Sciences [LIPI], Indonesia)



Prof. Ezzat Chan Bin Abdullah
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD





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We recognized four common agenda in shaping new horizons for Japan-ASEAN Science and Technology Cooperation towards the SDGs, which we summarized as “The Four ‘E’s”

Ensuring the diversity of STI research activities for the SDGs, including not only the promotion of applied research toward social implementation, but also the enrichment of curiosity-driven basic research on inclusive scientific issues based on the SDGs.

Endeavoring to pursue diverse approaches to social implementation of research output through STI cooperation with various stakeholders, such as community stakeholders, the private sector, NGOs, governments, and social scientists.

(Ex. discussions included bridging the gap between STI activities and social implementation, social and economic analysis of outcomes, and one of the national R&D institutions' role as technical support provider to stakeholders.)

Expanding the promotion of region-based collaborative research towards inclusive STI for the SDGs, rather than bilateral cooperation.

Educating the next generation of leaders about STI for the SDGs to promote Japan-ASEAN science and technology cooperation towards the SDGs

Through the roundtable, we were able to develop a shared awareness of new research frontiers in the ASEAN region on which Japanese and ASEAN scientists can work together with various stakeholders to drive innovation. These research areas include curiosity-driven scientific research on local resources and materials, applied research on appropriate technologies and systems, and pilot projects to develop the implementation of research outcomes consistently and effectively towards the SDGs.

We also reaffirmed the importance of further expansion and promotion of region-based research collaboration and human capacity development through the Japan and ASEAN Science, Technology, and Innovation Platform (JASTIP) in order to increase our potential STI contributions to the SDGs.

Observers:

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SDGs