

BRIDGING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

STRENGTHENING ASEAN-JAPAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS
FOR REGIONAL GROWTH AND GLOBAL IMPACT

Summary



The 9th STS forum ASEAN-JAPAN Conference

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



THURSDAY, 24 JULY 2025

TIME	AGENDA
08.30 – 09.30	REGISTRATION
09.30 - 09.35	SAFETY INDUCTION VIDEO
09.35 - 09.40	INDONESIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM
09.40 – 09.45	REPORT FROM THE ORGANIZER: Edy Giri Rachman Putra , Deputy Chairman for Human Resources of Science and Technology, BRIN
09.45 – 09.55	CULTURAL PERFORMANCE
09.55 – 10.05	WELCOMING REMARKS: H.E. Kao Kim Hourn , General Secretary of ASEAN Kazuo Chujo , Charge d'Affaires ad interim, Mission of Japan to ASEAN
10.05 – 10.15	OPENING ADDRESS: Hiroshi Komiyama , Chairman, <i>STS forum</i> Laksana Tri Handoko , Chairman, BRIN
10.15 – 10.45	KEYNOTE SPEECH: Masato Kanda , President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Chairperson of ADB's Board of Directors
10.45 – 11.00	PHOTO SESSION & COFFEE BREAK
11.00 – 11.10	PLENARY SPEAKER Wiparat De-ong , Executive Director, National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), Thailand



TIME

AGENDA

11.10 – 12.10

SESSION 1:

Strengthening Research Funding, Infrastructure, and Innovation Ecosystems for Sustainable Innovation

Chairperson:

R. Arthur Ario Lelono, Director of Research and Innovation Funding, BRIN

Speakers:

Agus Haryono, Deputy Chairman of Research and Innovation Facilitation, BRIN

Toshihide Fukui, Deputy Director-General, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT)

Enrico C. Paringit, Executive Director, Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development, Department of Science and Technology

Vissanu Meeyoo, Vice President of Thailand Science, Research and Innovation

Sirinporn Deawtrakool, Deputy Executive Director of National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)

Atsushi Arakawa, Director, Office of ASPIRE, Department of International Affairs, JST

12.10 – 13.30

LUNCH BREAK

13.30 – 14.30

SESSION 2:

Advancing Strategic Collaboration in Interdisciplinary Research Areas for Regional Development

Chairperson:

Joannes Ekaprasetya Tandjung, Director of Strengthening and Partnership of Research and Innovation Infrastructure, BRIN

Speakers:

Herry Jogaswara, Chairman of the Archaeology, Language and Literature Research Organization, BRIN

Budi Prawara, Chairman of the Electronics and Informatics Research Organization, BRIN

Uracha Ruktanonchai, Executive Director of National Nanotechnology Center

Natsuko Uehara, Executive Officer at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan

Makiko Naka, Special Adviser to the President of RIKEN, Japan

THURSDAY, 24 JULY 2025

TIME	AGENDA
14.30 – 14.45	COFFEE BREAK
14.45 – 15.45	SESSION 3: Urban Innovation and Start-up Ecosystems Chairperson: Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Senior Research Fellow for Innovation, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) Speakers: Vivi Yulaswati, Deputy for Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation, Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia Tomonari Yashiro, President of Tokyo City University Rushdi Abdul Rahim, President & Chief Executive Officer, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) Chairul Hudaya, Director of High-Impact Research and Innovation, University of Indonesia Muhamad Fajrin Rasyid, Commissioner for Edelweiss Healthcare Group
15.45 – 16.00	CONCLUDING AND CLOSING REMARK: Edy Giri Rachman Putra, Deputy Chairman for Human Resources of Science and Technology , BRIN Sadayuki Tsuchiya, Executive Director, STS <i>forum</i> Kazuya Nakajo, Executive Vice President of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
16.00 – 16.05	GREETING REMARK FROM THE NEXT HOST COUNTRY Enrico C. Paringit, Executive Director, Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development, Department of Science and Technology
16.05 – 18.00	NETWORKING RECEPTION

Welcoming Remarks



Prof. Dr. Edy Giri Rachman Putra

The STS *forum* ASEAN–Japan Conference has brought together over 200 practitioners including researchers, policymakers, academics, digital experts, and entrepreneurs from many countries. The event serves as a platform for ideas and collaboration, paving the way for shared progress across ASEAN and Japan through learning and growing together.



H.E. Kao Kim Hourn

The newly adopted ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for 2026–2035 aims to build a vibrant STI ecosystem that is inclusive, collaborative, and resilient. Key areas for ASEAN–Japan collaboration include research and development (R&D), technology transfer, and people exchanges. Japan is a steadfast partner, delivering tangible outcomes through capacity building programs and effective technology transfer initiatives, including the launch of the 100-million-dollar NEXUS Program.

H.E. KAO KIM HOURN



Mr. Kazuo Chujo

The STS *forum* has become one of the most influential international platforms for science and technology (S&T) cooperation globally. This conference will contribute significantly to strengthening S&T cooperation between ASEAN and Japan through robust discussions and networking.



Opening Address



Prof. Hiroshi Komiya

STI are integral to addressing complex challenges in health, environment, digitalization, and economic transformation. It is vital to harness mutual strength between Japan and ASEAN to create innovation, particularly as the global economic system faces serious challenges and restrictions on free research threaten progress.



Dr. Laksana Tri Handoko

Indonesia has proposed collaborative platforms for ASEAN member states and partnering countries, particularly Japan. These platforms cover expeditions to explore biodiversity, structural biology initiatives, and disaster mapping initiatives. Partnership is crucial for making these initiatives successful in the long run.

Keynote Speech



Mr. Masato Kanda

Innovative countries thrive, driving faster, more inclusive, and sustainable economic growth. The Asia-Pacific has transformed into a global innovation powerhouse, with share of global R&D investment growing to 33%. However, developing countries in the region invest only 0.74% of GDP in R&D compared to 2.92% by developed countries.

Three key transformation areas were highlighted: energy systems requiring major investment in cutting-edge capabilities; food systems using AI and precision agriculture to optimize production; and smart cities using technology to improve healthcare and create jobs. Benefits of transitioning to net zero can far outweigh costs, for instance saving 350,000 lives annually with cleaner air and improving nutrition for 200 million people.

Plenary Speech



Dr. Wiparat De-ong

Sustainable innovation requires moving research funding from competitive fragmentation to mission-driven collaboration, building inclusive infrastructure accessible across all regions, and fostering collaborative ecosystems based on trust. Thailand's policy shows a clear vision connecting to the theme of creating systems that turn innovation into shared success; emphasizing funding that supports cross-disciplinary work, shared facilities accessible to universities and startups, and innovation systems that reward teamwork.

Session 1:

Strengthening Research Funding, Infrastructure, and Innovation Ecosystems for Sustainable Innovation

Chairperson: Dr. R. Arthur Ario Lelono

Speaker 1: Prof. Agus Haryono

Indonesia has integrated all research activities under one organization since 2021, consolidating human resources, funding, research infrastructure, and regulations into four key pillars. Through collaboration with ASEAN and Japan, Indonesia aims to share resources and strengthen research across the region, pooling expertise and infrastructure.

Speaker 2: Prof. Dr. Vissanu Meeyoo

Thailand's approach combines fundamental research, strategic research in priority areas, and knowledge utilization, proposing joint ASEAN-Japan research funding to address regional priorities like climate resilience and digital transformation. The country advocates for shared research infrastructure and open data sharing to align with others.

Speaker 3: Mr. Toshihide Fukui

Japan has established large-scale funding through the NEXUS program to promote Japan-ASEAN cooperation in S&T. Japan provides access to advanced research facilities such as SPring-8 synchrotron radiation facility and J-PARC high-intensity proton accelerator. The country is committed to strengthening sustainable research collaboration.

Speaker 4: Mr. Atsushi Arakawa

JST's NEXUS program features support for international joint research with matching funds and strong emphasis on talent mobility through the Y-tec program for young researchers, with 487 participants exchanging between Japan and ASEAN in a year.

Speaker 5: Ms. Sirinporn Deawtrakool

NRCT focuses on three key areas: strategic research funding in critical areas such as natural resources development and social security; international collaboration through partnerships; and comprehensive development of research talent at all levels, emphasizing ethics and social responsibility among researchers and innovators.

Speaker 6: Dr. Enrico C. Paringit

The Philippines emphasizes the importance of building trust and empathy in research collaboration to ensure research outcomes are fully utilized by society. Effective collaboration requires stakeholders to appreciate the value and impact of research, which will encourage greater resource allocation for impactful research initiatives.

BRIAN YULIARTO*

Panel Discussion

Participants discussed topics including sustainability in research, emphasizing the need for stakeholder engagement, trust-building between institutions, and adaptation of research to market needs while maintaining social responsibility.



Session 2: Advancing Strategic Collaboration in Interdisciplinary Research Areas for Regional Development

Chairperson: Dr. Joannes Ekaprasetya Tandjung

Speaker 1: Dr. Herry Jogaswara

Cultural heritage research requires multidisciplinary collaboration incorporating historians, geologists, and biologists. Sustainable culture is effectively a pillar of sustainable development alongside environment, economy, and social aspects. Technology should be employed with human perspective, not disturbing the environment while helping understand cultural heritage.

Speaker 2: Dr. Budi Prawara

Smart cities must address complex urban challenges through interdisciplinary research, bringing together experts from urban planning, engineering, and social sciences. Technology implementation must be culturally responsive and adapted to local contexts, ensuring smart city solutions incorporate social and cultural considerations

Speaker 3: Dr. Uracha Ruktanonchai

Thailand's AI digital platforms for urban management include a chatbot system that improved city complaint response times from three months to one hour. Nanotechnology applications for environmental problems require communication, transparency, and community engagement when deploying technology solutions.



Speaker 4: Dr. Natsuko Uehara

AIST has shifted from bilateral to multilateral collaboration with ASEAN countries. The Inventory Database for Environmental Analysis (IDEA) database for greenhouse gas emissions visualization is a platform customizable to each country's needs, visualizing environmental impacts throughout product lifecycles to promote environmental trading.

WIPARAT DE-ONG

Speaker 5: Dr. Makiko Naka

Japan's aging society challenges require conversation between social sciences, humanities, and technology researchers. RIKEN's cross-domain structure promotes interdisciplinary research while considering vulnerable populations in development of human-centered technology solutions.

Session 3:

Urban Innovation and Start-up Ecosystems

Chairperson: Dr. Venkatachalam Anbumozhi

Urbanization challenges in require cities to address sustainability issues including resource efficiency, inclusivity, and equity through integrated infrastructure planning, innovative financial mechanisms, and common standards for smart city development.

Speaker 1: Dr. Chairul Hudaya

University of Indonesia's startup incubation program supports 40 new startups annually with funding from 50 to 500 million rupiah. Focus areas include drugs and functional food, engineering, AI and transportation, medical devices, and social business, using the "Hipster, Hustler, Hacker" framework for matching founders.

Speaker 2: Mr. Muhamad Fajrin Rasyid

Experience from leading successful startups and Telkom's digital transformation shows the importance of collaboration between research and industry. Researchers must engage with users early. Policy gaps include insufficient communication about tax incentives for R&D and the need for dedicated ESG-focused funds.

Speaker 3: Prof. Tomonari Yashiro

Innovation districts are emerging as effective models where multiple stakeholders collaborate in specific geographic areas, such as Tokyo's Shibuya. These districts serve as platforms where universities, businesses, and communities can work together, with informal networks between ambitious startups playing a key role in fostering innovation.

Speaker 4: Mr. Rushdi Abdul Rahim

Malaysia has a FIRST framework (Funding, Incentive, Regulation, Skills, Technology) to support startups beyond just funding, through platforms for collaboration, mentorship programs, and grand challenges. The high startup failure rate underscores the importance of building support systems and trust for cross-border collaboration.

Speaker 5: Dr. Vivi Yulaswati

Indonesia is committed to digital transformation, with targets of increasing digital literacy to 75% and creating 30,000 digital talents. To be successful, innovation and startups must be integrated into regional development plans.

Panel Discussion

Participants discussed strategies for scaling successful startup models, with emphasis on demand-driven innovation, reciprocal partnerships, and removing barriers between government, industry, and academia. Key cooperation themes for Japan-ASEAN partnership included building informal networks, ensuring balanced relationships, and focusing on market-driven research and innovation.



Concluding and Closing Remark

Prof. Dr. Edy Giri Rachman Putra

The conference highlighted how research funding, human resource mobility, and research infrastructure are key to ensuring widespread use of research outcomes for society's benefit. This meeting serves as the beginning of a long journey to connect, share, learn, and support each other across ASEAN countries and Japan.

Ambassador Sadayuki Tsuchiya

The STS forum places great importance on discussions across traditional organizational boundaries, which are significant for identifying new ideas and perspectives. The productive discussions will lead to new value creation and innovative solutions to social issues, contributing to the next STS forum meeting in Kyoto in October.

Mr. Kazuya Nakajo

Japan and ASEAN are natural partners for innovation, with JETRO facilitating open innovation projects and startup collaborations. The organization continues connecting stakeholders to create social impact and strengthen ASEAN-Japan cooperation.



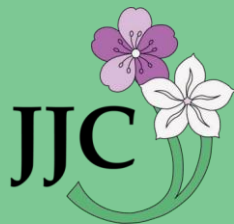
Greeting Remarks from the Next Host Country

Dr. Enrico C. Paringit

The Philippines will host the 10th STS *forum* ASEAN–Japan Conference in 2026. Discussions will continue on themes including circular economy, disasters and climate change, and smart agriculture, with invitations for suggestions on focus areas reflecting shared regional challenges and opportunities.



**THE 9TH STS FORUM ASEAN-JAPAN CONFERENCE
IS SUPPORTED BY**



The Jakarta Japan Club

