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MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
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GLOBAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Report of the 2023 Global Research Council Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting

18-20 October 2023 | Sheraton Manila Hotel, Pasay City, Philippines

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Report of the 2023 Global Research Council Asia Pacific Regional Meeting

Overview

The Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC) was held on October 18–20, 2023, in Manila, Philippines, co-hosted by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippines, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), New Zealand. With 139 participants from 25 research funding organizations, the meeting provided a platform for discussing regional research priorities and shaping recommendations for the upcoming 12th GRC Annual Meeting in Switzerland (2024) under the main theme of Sustainable Research.

Ten (10) topics were discussed at the meeting including:

1. Pillar 1: Research on Sustainability (research for sustainable development)
2. Pillar 2: Sustainability of Research (making research more sustainable)
3. Pillar 3: Use of Sustainability of Science in Society (making sure sustainability science matters)
4. Research Ethics and Ethical Considerations in Technology Transfer and Commercialization: Addressing Funding and Collaboration Challenges
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Plenary Sessions

The activity was opened by Dr. Leah Buendia, Dr. Prue Williams, and Prof. Euclides De Mesquita Neto.

Dr. Leah J. Buendia, Undersecretary for Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) of the Philippines, emphasized the importance of funding research for creating a sustainable and transformational society. She also highlighted the importance of collaboration with the Global Research Council, which allows cooperation across borders and helps to address and provide solutions to key challenges in various sectors.

Dr. Prue Williams from the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment, as the co-host of the Global Research Council Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, underscored the vision of the event to foster stronger cooperation and collaborations across the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting shall open opportunities to learn from each funding agency, especially in sustainable research area.

Prof. Euclides De Mesquita Neto, Executive Secretary of the Global Research Council (GRC), expressed that Sustainability is a worldwide challenge that will affect humanity. Almost all the GRC participating agencies have concerns about sustainability. Thus, the regional meeting is an appropriate avenue to have a common understanding of sustainability in the perspective of funding agencies.

Dr. Renato U. Solidum Jr., Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and a key leader of the country's funding body for science research and development shared the importance of the DOST's continued collaboration with the Global Research Council. He sees this as essential for advancing science, technology, and innovation for the betterment of societies and a sustainable future for all. He added that Sustainable research is the key to addressing the most pressing global challenges of our time like climate change, social inequality, and the degradation of landscapes and ecosystems. Sustainable research acts as our guiding compass towards a

world where human well-being is equitably promoted, leaving no one behind while preserving our natural systems. In the case of DOST, Sustainability through means of ensuring the protection and conservation of natural resources is one of the four strategic pillars of DOST for 2023-2028.

Session 1: Overview of Sustainable Research and Pillar 1: Research on Sustainability (research for sustainable development)

This session aims to strengthen the contribution of research to sustainable development. The research funding organizations can stimulate, enable, and support the development of diverse basic and use-oriented knowledge on sustainable development in and between all disciplines and in collaboration with non-academic stakeholders:
1. Solution-oriented: Support societal problem solving, societal change and transformation;
2. Prioritized: Align research topics and questions to the most urgent and important societal needs; and
3. Inclusive: Involve societal actors and stakeholders in joint problem-framing.

Sir Peter Gluckman

Sir Peter Gluckman highlighted ISC's 2019 initiative to investigate why science has not advanced sufficiently towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In response, ISC proposed actionable solutions through three key publications:

- Unleashing Science – focus on making science funding more accessible and available.
- Looking at the Future of Transdisciplinary Research – explore how transdisciplinary research integrates different knowledge systems.
- Flipping the Science Model – suggest the transformation of research models into transdisciplinary approaches.

Sir Gluckman noted that these concepts had been presented at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (UN HLPF) and underlined the importance of launching pilot projects to demonstrate the real-world applicability of transdisciplinary research in sustainability.

Dr. Maribel Nonato

Dr. Nonato introduced the DOST Harmonized National R&D Agenda (HNRDA) and its connection to the core functions of the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP), which include blue skies research, oriented basic research, and policy research. She presented key sustainable research programs under the National Integrated Basic Research Agenda (NIBRA):

- Tubig Program – Aims to mitigate water shortages through research initiatives such as Project Danum.
- Sapat Program – Focuses on ensuring food and nutrition security.
- Alert Program – Investigates alternative energy sources, including renewable energy assessments in remote regions.
- Saklaw Program – Promotes sustainable communities through studies on biodiversity, disaster risk management, and environmental conservation.

Ms. Diane Gail Maharjan

Ms. Maharjan outlined the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 that aims to bolster job creation, accelerate poverty reduction, and build a resilient society. The PDP focuses on:

- Strengthening individual and family capabilities.
- Transforming production sectors to create high-quality jobs.
- Ensuring good governance and macroeconomic stability.
- Promoting peace and inclusivity.

She also discussed the Philippine Innovation Act, which seeks to:

- Accelerate the commercialization of research outputs in science, technology, and innovation.
- Provide incentives for Intellectual Property (IP) management.
- Establish the National Innovation Council to improve innovation governance and foster an inclusive research ecosystem.

Ms. Maharjan stressed the importance of innovation governance for fostering a dynamic innovation ecosystem—aiming to move the country away from undesirable futures characterized by distress, slow change, and wide inequalities towards a better and secure life for all Filipinos.

Dr. Li Wencong

As the moderator of the session, Dr. Li Wencong introduced the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) being China's primary supporter of fundamental research. He highlighted how NSFC has moved beyond the traditional linear innovation model to meet evolving research demands and societal needs. Key initiatives include:

- Prioritization of Key Research Areas – Focusing on issues such as climate change, carbon neutrality, and sustainable development.
- Encouragement of Collaboration – Partnering with non-academic stakeholders to enhance the societal impact of research.
- International Cooperation – Engaging in global research initiatives to address shared sustainability challenges.

NSFC has also taken proactive steps to balance curiosity-driven and mission-oriented research allocating 60% of its funding for free exploration projects while guiding researchers to address pressing societal challenges. Notably, NSFC has developed funding structures such as Basic Research on Carbon Peak and Carbon Neutrality and established the Department of Interdisciplinary Sciences to enhance support for transdisciplinary research.

Furthermore, NSFC has prioritized talent development and regional research equity funding over 3,500 researchers in 19 remote regions of China to mitigate brain drain and promote inclusive research growth. Specific programs namely the Youth Special Project for Biological Breeding Research focus on key economic sectors like agriculture and aquaculture, ensuring research aligns with industry and societal needs.

Open Forum Discussions

During the open forum, Dr. Paringit inquired about indicators used to assess research sustainability beyond its initial scope. Dr. Nonato emphasized the importance of local government partnerships in ensuring that research outputs are utilized at the community level. She also highlighted efforts to establish formal collaborations with local governments to sustain research applications.

Ms. Maharjan elaborated on the technical merit criteria for research funding which incorporate social, economic, and environmental aspects. She underscored the shift towards funding research projects that are ready for commercialization rather than purely basic research, ensuring that funded initiatives have long-term impact and sustainability.

The session emphasized the critical role of research in driving sustainable development. Through transdisciplinary approaches, prioritization of pressing societal challenges and active collaboration with stakeholders, research funding organizations can enable impactful and long-lasting contributions to sustainability. In addition, the session highlighted the importance of governance, policy alignment, and fostering an inclusive research ecosystem to ensure that research efforts translate into tangible societal benefits.

Session 2: Sustainable Research – Pillar 2: Sustainability of Research (making research more sustainable)

The objective: To contribute in sustainable development as research itself must be an expression of ecological and social responsibility. Together with its strategic partners, national research funding organizations can create driving structures and incentives for more sustainable research practices.

1. Scope: Go beyond the environmental footprint of research; Address wider challenges of making research socially, economically and personally sustainable.
2. Levels: Consider systemic, institutional, individual and funding ecosystem perspectives.
3. Incentives and policies: Analyse what can make our research environments unsustainable.

Dr. Shaun Hendy: Reducing Carbon Footprint in Research

Dr. Hendy shared a personal reflection on sustainability emphasizing the carbon footprint generated by his travel activities last 2017. Having flown 84,700 km, he contributed approximately 19 tones of CO_2 emissions. Realizing the impact, he made a significant shift in 2018 by opting for more sustainable modes of travel, including trains, buses, and electric vehicles. This transition resulted in a drastic reduction of his carbon footprint to ~~just~~ 1 tone of CO_2.

Highlighting the rising global CO_2 levels from 406.55 ppm in 2017 to 417.06 ppm in 2022, Dr. Hendy stressed the urgency to adopt sustainable practices. He introduced the #NoFly movement, an advocacy for reduced air travel among researchers. He argued that this approach is particularly feasible for senior researchers who have well-established networks and can plan schedules effectively. Through proper planning and digital tools, significant reductions in the research community's carbon footprint can be achieved, demonstrating adaptability, and commitment to environmental conservation.

Dr. Sal Lampkin: A Holistic View on Sustainability in Research

Dr. Lampkin addressed sustainability from a comprehensive perspective, considering researchers, government, and private institutions. She highlighted a key challenge in the Asia-Pacific region, where many island nations struggle with effective dissemination of research outputs. In a 2019 report revealed that nearly two-thirds of travel expenditures were specified for conferences and forums, underscoring the need for a global online platform.

However, she acknowledged the ongoing debate regarding virtual platforms given their advantages and limitations. Dr. Lampkin emphasized various approaches to sustainability, including budget reductions, incentivized awards for sustainable practices, and decision-making frameworks that allow research teams to choose solutions that best suit their needs. She stressed the importance of understanding both the tangible and intangible impacts of sustainability efforts and encouraged researchers to integrate sustainability into their networks and methodologies.

Dr. Ajeng Arum Sari: BRIN's Role in Sustainable Research

Dr. Ajeng Arum Sari outlined the agency's structure, and its three (3) key funding schemes aimed for promoting sustainable research:

- **Open Research Infrastructure** - Designed to address low critical mass in research efforts by providing an open, collaborative platform. This scheme enables researchers and industries to collaborate without cash transactions, fostering innovation and economic scalability.
- **Researcher Mobility** – Aims to enhance National Talent Management in Research & Innovation (R&I). By facilitating researcher exchange, this initiative promotes capacity building and skill development within the national research landscape.
- **R&I Facilitation** - A digital crowdfunding system that ensures transparency by evaluating proposals based on track records. Funds are allocated exclusively for direct research costs, enhancing efficiency and accessibility.

Dr. Sari highlighted the challenges in transitioning from invention to innovation, emphasizing that research and development require substantial resources. The discussion posed an essential question: who bears the responsibility for supporting innovation processes? The session called for collaborative solutions to share the burdens and ensure the sustainability of research and innovation.

Dr. Yoshio Otani: Japan's Science and Technology Policy for Sustainability
Dr. Otani, Director of the Bangkok Office of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), presented Japan's approach to sustainable research within the framework of the country's Science and Technology Policy System.

The **6th Basic Plan** tackled global challenges such as AI-driven talent competition and climate change while addressing Japan's domestic concerns including an aging population and declining birthrate. COVID-19 further highlighted the necessity of structural reforms in Japan's economy and research landscape.
The **Society 5.0** initiative was introduced as Japan's vision for a sustainable and resilient future. This model emphasized:

- **Fusion of cyber and physical space**
- **Creation of new knowledge**
- **Human resource development**

Under Society 5.0, AI plays a pivotal role in analyzing vast datasets, optimizing societal systems, and driving economic development while addressing sustainability challenges. Initiatives under this vision include online voting systems, autonomous transportation projects, and the upcoming showcase of "flying cars" for the Osaka Expo 2025.

JSPS is committed to ensure research sustainability by supporting young researchers through: Fellowships covering research and living expenses, international research exchange programs, and Grants and funding for early-career researchers and international collaborative projects. These initiatives foster a globally interconnected research community and cultivate future leaders in sustainable research.

Open Forum Discussion:
During the open forum, key questions emerged are related to:

- **JSPS Initiatives for Research Sustainability** - JSPS reaffirmed its commitment to sustainability through collaborative programs with MEXT by establishing research centers focused on sustainability.
- **Private Sector Mechanisms Beyond CO2** - Dr. Lampkin stressed the importance of finding innovative solutions and noted that BRIN allows private sector entities to apply for research funding from the government.
- **Nurturing Young Researchers** - JSPS elaborated on its programs designed to support young researchers by fostering future scientific leaders comparable to Nobel Prize winners.

Moreover, the discussion touched upon the cultural and qualitative aspects of researcher's mobility remained generally unexplored.

This session underscored the importance of integrating sustainability into research at multiple levels—environmental, social, and economic. From reducing travel emissions to fostering international collaboration and supporting young researchers, the session also highlighted various pathways to sustainable research. Institutions like BRIN and JSPS are pioneering new funding models, open research platforms, and researcher mobility programs to ensure that research remains viable and impactful in the long term.

As the global research community navigates challenges such as climate change, technological disruptions, and resource limitations, a collective commitment to sustainable practices is essential. This session reinforced the need for systemic changes, interdisciplinary collaboration, and policy-driven incentives to ensure that research contributes meaningfully to sustainable development worldwide.

Session 3: Sustainable Research – Pillar 3: Use of Sustainability of Science in Society (making sure sustainability science matters)

The session aims to support scientific knowledge's benefits to policymakers and people:

1. Dialogue: Importance of communicating science and understanding societies' needs by building trust;
2. Responsibilities of research performers, policy makers, and society to advance knowledge and action

Dr. Rico C. Ancog (University of the Philippines Los Baños, SESAM-UPLB)

- Stressed the urgency of sustainability of research and funding and warning of potential consequences if sustainable solutions are not prioritized.
- Critiqued traditional research methodologies for their economic biases and advocate for a paradigm shift that prioritizes social and environmental factors.
- Proposed an action-research approach that directly engages with sustainability dilemmas and resists undue influence from powerful stakeholders.
- Highlighted the importance of transdisciplinary collaboration to drive meaningful sustainability outcomes.

Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebora (DOST-PCAARRD)

- Addressed the global challenge of achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, emphasizing the need for accelerated collective action.
- Cited the COVID-19 pandemic as a catalyst for collaborative efforts and community engagement in sustainability science.
- Highlighted the GALING PCAARRD Kontra CoViD-19 Program as an example of inclusive stakeholder-driven research applications.
- Emphasized the need for continuous dialogue between researchers, policymakers, and society to align research priorities with societal needs.
- Stressed the role of research in driving sustainable development by highlighting the importance of open data sharing, stakeholder engagement, and trust-building.

Dr. Saeid Maddah (Iran National Science Foundation - INSF)

- Explained the role of INSF in funding research across various fields including basic and applied sciences, technology, and humanities.
- Highlighted the Science Diplomacy Program which focuses on setting research priorities, knowledge production, and capacity building.
- Shared insights on INSF's collaboration with industries and public organizations through co-funding models.
- Discussed challenges in popularizing science in Iran including the absence of a national agenda for sustainability and limited researcher motivation.

Ms. Sukanya A-meen (National Research Council of Thailand - NRCT)

- Highlighted Thailand's Sustainable Development Pathways (SEP) in alignment with the SDGs that focuses on policy integration, partnerships, pilot projects, and awareness-raising.
- Discussed NRCT's role in research knowledge transfer through open calls, commissioned projects, and co-funding initiatives.
- Outlined four key dimensions of research utilization:

1. **Economic:** Fostering economic growth through technical consultancy and cost-effective solutions.
2. **Policy:** Supporting evidence-based policy formulation and legal frameworks.
3. **Academic:** Enhancing research funding and practical experience.
4. **Social & Environmental:** Addressing societal challenges through accessible and affordable expertise.

Professor Ranjith Senaratne (National Science Foundation - NSF Sri Lanka)

- Highlighted Sri Lanka's sustainability challenges and the need to strengthen institutions to provide science-based policy advice.
- Proposed initiatives such as:
    - Increasing public awareness of critical national findings.
    - Streamlining patent application processes.
    - Establishing mechanisms for unbiased dissemination of research findings.
    - Encouraging public-private partnerships for research implementation.

Key Takeaways from the Open Forum

- Broadening Stakeholder Engagement: Effective science communication extends beyond researchers, requiring engagement with policymakers, industry leaders, and the public.
- Utilizing Social Network: Platforms like social media play a crucial role in increasing awareness and disseminating research findings.
- Stakeholder-Led Initiatives: Funding agencies and technology transfer offices can facilitate research consultations and project implementations to engage broader participation and impact.
- Role of Research Councils: Organizations like DOST-PCAARRD can lead stakeholder consultations and guide sustainability research efforts.

The session reinforced that science sustainability must be actively communicated and integrated into policy and practice. Effective dialogue, inclusive research methodologies, and strategic collaborations are essential to ensure science sustainability contributes meaningfully to societal transformation.

Session 4: Research Ethics and Ethical Considerations in Technology Transfer and Commercialization: Addressing Funding and Collaboration Challenges

This session aims to delve into the ethical implications of two (2) key aspects: 1) funding spin-offs formed by Project Leaders (PLs) or Principal Investigators (PIs) to commercialize their own research products; and 2) complicity of researchers in offenses committed by industry/research partners/collaborators. Additionally, the session seeks to explore policies, practices, and experiences of other research councils in addressing these issues.

Atty. Christopher E. Cruz

Atty. Cruz defined conflict of interest (COI) as circumstance where professional judgment on research integrity is influenced by secondary interests, such as financial gain. To manage COI effectively, he recommended:

- Transparent Invention Disclosure to identify potential conflicts early.
- Establishing COI Policies within universities and research institutions.
- Independent Evaluation and Monitoring to ensure ethical compliance.

Ethical Considerations in Research Commercialization as discussed are:

- Access and Affordability: Ensuring technology remains accessible.
- Beneficial Utility: Prioritizing public benefit over financial returns.
- Responsible Licensing: Ethical agreements that maintain integrity.
- Transparency: Disclosure of funding sources, research partnerships, and findings.
- Informed Consent and Royalty Sharing: Fair distribution of benefits.
- Legal Compliance: Adhering to national and international regulations.

In conclusions, it was emphasized that University Researchers must always uphold research ethics especially in technology transfer where temptation is greater; establish a clear border between universities and spinoffs as it is considered as separate entities; and Support spinoffs (financial, training, networking) emphasizing the need to be sustainable.

Speaker: Dr. Raul V. Destura (Founder & CEO, Manila Healthtek Inc.)

Dr. Destura highlighted key ethical concerns in health technology such as

- Patient Safety & Well-being: Ensuring accuracy, reliability, effectiveness, and risk mitigation in health technologies.
- Privacy & Data Protection: Safeguarding patient data through informed consent, secure storage, and transparency.
- Equity & Accessibility: Preventing barriers to disadvantaged populations and addressing health disparities.
- Informed Consent & Autonomy: Patients must make voluntary, informed decisions about participation.
- Accountability & Responsibility: Adhering to ethical research standards, regulatory compliance, and transparency.

Managing Academic and Funding Conflicts of Interest:

- Conflicts arise when funders prioritize financial returns over research integrity.
- Protecting academic independence requires transparency and strong COI policies.
- Researchers must balance funding with ethical autonomy to maintain objectivity.
- Equitable benefit-sharing ensures fairness among stakeholders.

Recommended Strategies to address the pressing challenges:

- Transparency & Disclosure: Full disclosure of financial interests.
- Ethics Training: Educating researchers and administrators on ethical challenges.
- Clear Agreements & Contracts: Addressing COI and undue influence.
- Ethics Committees: Institutional oversight for ethical decision-making.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Open discussions among researchers, funders, and industry partners.

Dr. Emily Parker

Dr. Parker shared her experience in translating publicly funded research into commercial solutions, particularly in chemical and synthetic biology. Key ethical considerations included:

- Ensuring Research Outcomes Align with Public Good: Technologies developed using public funds should benefit society.
- Role of Private Sector Investment: Private companies play a critical role in scaling innovations although ethical challenges arise in balancing profit motives with societal impact.
- Intellectual Property Ownership Challenges: IP rights can delay technology transfer and impact accessibility.
- Transparent Contracting & Research Expectations: Clear agreements help mitigate ethical dilemmas.
- Peer Learning & Ethical Commercialization: Sharing best practices across disciplines fosters responsible research commercialization.

Dr. Kazuhito Hashimoto

Dr. Hashimoto discussed JST's role in bridging academia and industry to secure fairness in technology transfer through:

- Identifying transformative research opportunities that provide societal value.
- Securing fairness and transparency in evaluations ensuring external evaluators have relevant expertise.

- Encouraging open dialogues on ethical challenges in technology transfer.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pongpan Kaewtatip
Dr. Kaewtatip highlighted key policy initiatives ensuring ethical technology transfer, including:

- Thailand Research and Innovation Utilization and Promotion Act 2021 (TRIUP Act) – Establishes national guidelines similar to the Bayh-Dole Act.
- Alliance of Innovation Managers (AIMs) – A professional network to support best practices.
- National Accreditation System – Standardizing IP and technology transfer professionals.

Dir. Noel A. Catibog
Dir. Catibog shared the Philippines' policies and programs on technology transfer, including:

- Conflict of Interest Policies – Clear guidelines for researchers and institutions.
- Transparent Evaluation Processes – Ensuring fairness in funding and commercialization.
- Accountability Mechanisms – Holding stakeholders responsible for ethical compliance.
- Community Engagement – Supporting marginalized groups through government-backed technology transfer initiatives.

Sustainability Challenges: Government support is critical, but long-term sustainability requires strategic industry partnerships.

This session underscored the importance of national policies as essential tools for guiding sustainable research and development. However, merely having policies in place is not enough; effective communication of these policies is crucial to ensure its successful implementation and impact. Moreover, discussion highlighted the need for capacity-building among research councils. Strengthening these institutions equips them with the necessary expertise, resources, and networks to support impactful research initiatives. Another key takeaway was the value of cross-disciplinary peer learning in improving ethical commercialization practices. By fostering dialogue and knowledge-sharing across different fields, researchers and industry professionals can develop more responsible and sustainable approaches to bringing scientific innovations to market.

Session 5: Multilateral Engagement Working Group (MLE WG)

The group was established due to the GRC participants' desire for more robust multilateral engagement. The mandates of the group are as follows:

1. Mapping the landscape of available multilateral; funding mechanisms/programs globally;
2. Defining potential roles for the GRC in facilitating multilateral engagement; and
3. Crafting options for respective implementation and creating a roadmap for multilateral collaboration.

Mr. Kobayashi outlined the MLE WG objectives and reported on an online study conducted from August 3 to September 30 to analyze current multilateral funding initiatives. The study aimed to gather insights on funding mechanisms utilized by public funders across different regions.

Key Findings from the Survey:

- 49 survey responses received from 20 participating organizations, detailing 41 funding mechanisms:
  - 4 bilateral mechanisms
  - 37 multilateral mechanisms
  - Some mechanisms were submitted multiple times, indicating their prominence. Bilateral Mechanisms were assessed to explore ways to scale them up into multilateral engagements.

Regional Analysis of Multilateral Collaborations:

- European Union (EU): Strong and well-balanced collaborations across all regions.
- North America: Strongest connections with EU and Asia-Pacific (AP) regions.
- Asia-Pacific (AP): Well-balanced collaborations having EU being its strongest partner.
- Middle East and North Africa (MENA): Least number of collaborations; identified as an area needing more engagement.
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Well-connected with most regions.

Funding Flexibility & Budget Allocation:

- Funding varies based on specific calls and is flexible among funding organizations.
- The most common funding duration for multilateral projects is three (3) years.

Primary Reasons for Initiating Funding Mechanisms:

- Addressing global challenges (e.g., climate change, SDGs, sustainability).
- Facilitating entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and commercialization.
- Strengthening regional R&D capabilities and fostering international collaboration.

How Funding Mechanisms Operate:

- Calls for proposals
- Peer review and merit-based evaluation
- Selection by expert committees or program secretariats
- Final selection based on available budgets

Key R&D Priority Areas Identified in the survey are: Energy**,** Oceans and Water**,** and Agriculture and Food Security

Principles & Criteria Prioritized for Funding: Multistakeholder engagement emerged as the top priority.

Challenges in Multilateral Engagement: Lack of funding for industry partners—a major reason for missed opportunities.

Benefits & Challenges of Partnering within the EU Framework Programme:

- Benefit: Additional funding for research and administrative costs.
- Challenge: EU program agendas may not always align with national research priorities.

The initial assessment conducted by the co-chairs will be further analyzed by MLE WG members and a full report will be presented at the 2024 GRC Annual Meeting in Switzerland.

Session 6: Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) Working Group

The four main objectives of the working group are as follows:

1. Use the GRC's position to globally advance the importance of RRA for improving the quality of research assessments.
2. Work towards a shared understanding and goal for RRA within GRC participants and their funded organizations based on existing definitions of RRA;
3. Share practices and guidance in implementing and embedding RRA in GRC participant organizations and in those that they fund and support;

4. Use the collective understanding gathered through the activities under Objective 2 to galvanize support and enable coordinated action in the GRC participant organizations to make progress towards implementing common RRA principles and frameworks across the global research system; and
5. Extend the knowledge base where gaps and barriers in funders' RRA persist or emerge, building on existing work where possible.

Ms. Joanne Looyen, Director of Science System Performance and Investment at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) in New Zealand, provided an update on the GRC RRA Working Group's next steps.

The vision and objectives of the working group were formulated based on insights from the conference report and consensus among GRC participanting organizations. Recognizing the vital role of funders in the research system, the working group aims to capitalize the global convening power of the GRC. Their vision is to encourage GRC participanting organizations and its funding entities to incorporate assessment approaches that incentivize diverse attributes of research excellence— fostering a healthier research culture focused on rigorous research conducted to the highest standards.

The objective is to position the GRC as a leading advocate for promoting and implementing responsible research assessment (RRA) within the international research and innovation system, with the goal of cultivating a diverse and inclusive research culture. Through the GRC, they plan to support the global adoption of RRA by collectively understanding it, learning collaboratively, and sharing guidance and best practices.

The working group identified four closely connected objectives: fostering a shared understanding, promoting common practices, facilitating coordinated action, and providing ongoing support. These objectives are intertwined and activities may overlap across them. Non-sequential, it represent a move towards collective and coordinated efforts. The GRC's global representation stands through its unique contribution, complementing other stakeholder groups, and initiatives in this area. The emphasis is hrough building existing efforts and avoiding duplication of work to ensure strategic and efficient approach in promoting globally responsible research assessment.
The draft dimensions of RRA which will be disseminated to other Regional Meetings were discussed.

1. Guiding principles
    a. Responsible commitment to and promotion of research integrity and the responsible conduct of research
    b. Responsible approaches to incentivizing open research
    c. Responsible commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in research
    d. Responsible responses to the effects of global challenges and emergencies on research

2. Governance and strategy
    a. Responsible administration and monitoring of research assessment processes
    b. Responsible approaches to research assessment reform
    c. Responsible use of influence on institutional policies and practices

3. Models and methodology
    a. Responsible use and dissemination of research assessment criteria (diversity of knowledge and ways of knowing)
    b. Responsible assessment of research contributions and achievements
    c. Responsible approaches to impact assessment (environment and economical)
    d. Responsible approaches to reviewer and panel recruitment and training (best practices and training)

The dimensions of responsible conduct of research were discussed by Dr. Shawn McGuirk, Deputy Director of NSERC and RRA WG co-chair, and Ms. Nosisa Dube, Director of NRF South Africa and RRA WG member. Points in discussion mainly highlights the objectives of the working group, concept of responsible research assessment, guiding principles, governance and strategy, and process and methodology.

Dr. Li Wencong of NSFC facilitated the open forum and shared that her group is interested specifically in Dimensions 2 – Responsible approaches to incentivizing open research and 4 – Responsible responses to the effects of global challenges and emergencies on research. She explained that these dimensions will help integrate the reseach outputs of the different funding organizations to address the global challenges and development for the benefit of the research community. In the case of NSFC, discussions have focused on advancing from the process and methodology to the governance level, particularly by encouraging to establish their own RA policies. Dr. Wencong also welcomed individuals who are interested to be part of the RRA Working Group.

Mr. Ni De'En of NRF Singapore presented a discussion by this group. The group highlighted that their team will focus more on case studies under the pressure of impact assessments, particularly when projects are time-sensitive and impacts evolve over time. To address these challenges, it is essential to establish standardized processes for impact assessment. Additionally, he noted that different cultures employ varying practices to manage conflicts of interest. Another common challenge shared by the group members was the high volume of proposals received by the organization, which can compromise the quality of evaluations. Therefore it is crucial to implemenet criteria that address this issue without sacrificing the quality of assessment.

Dr. Wencong presented the proposed timeline for the RRA WG. By the end of 2023, RRA WG will provide a copy of the RRA dimensions and request feedback from the funding agencies. After the dimension list is provided, the 2nd phase will be organizing a webinar series of the best practices among the funding agencies. In 2024, the WG will be having an RRA survey in collaboration with the Research-on-Research Institute (RoRI) and the AGORRA project, and by mid-2024, the WG will also be initiating a self-assessment tool and roadmap. Dr. Wencong enjoins the delegates to share and distribute the RRA dimensions to the respective organizations/funding communities and participate in the upcoming webinars. Suggestions are welcome and can be coordinated through the RRA WG email address: GRC-RRA@ukri.org.

During the table discussion, one of the groups shared that all dimensions are important as each points have different focused priority and area of interest in line with responsible research assessment. The group agreed that all the dimensions correspond to their understanding of the RRA most especially the dimensions falling under the governance and strategy measure. The group also tried to prioritize the 11 dimensions and results showed that Dimensions 9 – Responsible assessment of research contributions and achievements must be translated for the community as not all outputs are quantitative; Dimension 1 – responsible commitment to and promotion of research integrity an responsible conduct of research as this is also significant with ethical research considerations; and Dimension 7 – responsible use of influence on institutional policies and practices as every policy should be supported by a stronger research. These are vital in establishing responsible research assessment. The group also suggested to look for possible ways on how to train the reviewers and panel recruiters, especially on global challenges and emergencies (i.e., COVID 19).

Another group also raised that most of the assessments are focused on the economic impact hence highlights the importance to include the social impact in the assessment realm to better grasp the application of a particular program. Moreover, in the case of JST, the assessment will depend on the type of program it will be presented. In the case of the Philippines, a member shared that there have been difficulties in quantifying the impact of basic research due to long process. Thus, there is a need to look for some measures on how to quantify such type of research.

Session 7: Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group

The group is mandated in advancing the following initiatives:

1. Promote the integration of an equity, diversity, and inclusion lens into the design of the GRC's vision for the next ten years, strategic planning, road map, and annual themes;
2. Strive to integrate relevant EDI considerations in GRC-developed programs, resources, and future work streams; and
3. Work to build knowledge and provide strategic and transformative analysis and advice to the GRC and the member organizations on an ongoing basis.

Ms. Nicola Helen Jenkin
Manager of Service Design and Performance, MBIE

Ms. Jenkin provided an overview of the GRC EDI Working Group's initiatives and progress.

Key Initiatives (2019-2022)

- Publication of a booklet highlighting policies and programs supporting women in research.
- Survey on gender-disaggregated data across GRC member organizations.
- Report on survey findings presented at the May 2021 GRC Annual Meeting.
- EDI-focused analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on researchers.
- Launch of the GRC EDI Workshop Series in 2022.

Future Vision (2021-2026): A More Inclusive Research Ecosystem

- Championing equity, diversity, and inclusion as fundamental to global research and innovation.
- Harnessing diverse talent and perspectives to drive research excellence.
- Expanding EDI focus beyond gender to include other underrepresented and equity-seeking groups.
- Enhancing regional and local relevance by strengthening diverse representation.
- Integrating EDI discussions within GRC's annual themes and strategies.

To align with GRC's broader goals, the EDI Working Group is exploring topics for future workshops such as violence in research including gender-based violence, bullying, and harassment, and integrating EDI dimensions into research priorities and content. These initiatives reflect GRC's commitment to fostering a more inclusive, diverse, and equitable global research landscape.

Dr. Aldrin Darilag
Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Philippines

Dr. Darilag emphasized that research should be driven by ecological, economic, and social responsibility.

Key Points discussed are:

- Sustainability science must foster dialogue between research and society with a focus on marginalized communities.
- Research should drive community empowerment not just generate academic outputs.
- Action research is an inclusive process where all stakeholders contribute to shaping research.
- University research ecosystems must be strengthened to support inclusive innovation.

CHED relevant Initiatives Promoting EDI in Research:

1. CHED Memo No. 52 – Pathways to equity, relevance, and advancement in research, innovation, and extension in the Philippines.

2. CHED Memo 13 (2019) – Guidelines for CHED-initiated projects under institutional development and innovation grants.
3. CHED Memo 6 (2020) – Guidelines for the SIKAP Grant, supporting faculty development and research.

Panel Reactions & Regional Perspectives

Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebora: The DOST considers EDI in its research programs. For example, it was observed by the DOST that the proposals being funded usually comes from universities and institutions. For inclusivity, the DOST capacitated other State Universities and Colleges in developing proposals for better facilities, infrastructure, and opportunities of the researchers. In terms of equality, the Philippines has made a series of efforts for gender equality. A specific portion of the government budget is allocated to gender and development programs. On socioeconomic research projects, it aims to address the adoption of advanced technologies hence the government prepares the communities to adopt the technology through programs such as MAGSASAKA SIYENTISTA program of the DOST-PCAARRD wherein it engages the communities to use the technologies in their community-assisted farms. Moreover, regional development should be given proper importance as well.

Ms. Sukanya A-meen from NRCT Thailand: EDI in the workplace means equal opportunity to access resources and courses as diversity allows creativity. It aims to eradicate prejudice and discrimination. EDI must be promoted at work to provide a space for personal growth and development by allowing open communication and constructive feedback

Mr. Shinsuke Okada: JST promotes S&T through the National Strategy that includes EDI. Through international collaboration, global challenges may be addressed and highlight agenda-setting to avoid biases. Through international collaborations, JST embraces EDI as it implements joint initiatives such as joint research programs with various partners. JST encourages more women to take STEM careers and partake in ODA program called SATREPS to create knowledge and technology based on other countries' local needs. To make research sustainable, JST encourages assisted countries to identify their own project agenda and involve local researchers and experts. This also promotes inclusivity.

This year's theme emphasizes the consolidated efforts toward a unified society where everyone makes use of beneficial research through its outputs and fosters development where no one is left behind. This academic convergence of academic researchers, advocates, and partners is an attestation of commitment towards.

The GRC EDI Working Group is actively shaping a more inclusive and diverse global research ecosystem. By expanding participation, addressing systemic biases, and integrating EDI into research funding and policy frameworks, the group is fostering a research landscape where all voices contribute to scientific progress

Session 8: GRC Foresight Report

The objectives of the session are as follows:

1. Assess Interconnections: This aims to identify and understand the interconnections and dependencies among various research funding agencies and organizations within the GRC network.
2. Reflect on Current Practices: This involves an introspective evaluation of the current practices and initiatives undertaken by the GRC. This reflection allows the organization to identify areas of strength and areas that require improvement, paving the way for a more efficient and impactful operation in the future.
3. Consider the Geopolitical Environment: Given the evolving geopolitical landscape, the session shall seek to analyze how global research policy is influenced by geopolitical factors.

4. Address Integrity and Security Issues: Research integrity and security are paramount concerns in the scientific community.

Dr. Marcus Wilms of the German Research Foundation, DFG presented the GRC Foresight Report summarizing the GRC's progress in the past five years (2017-2022). It highlights GRC's key role in promoting global research through a globally connected funding agencies. Moreover, GRC's engagement results greater collaboration than direct policy, indicating organization's impact in development of research partnerships. On the downside, the report also highlighted areas for improvement, such as

- Lack of continuity between regional and annual meetings
- Discussion of emerging topics related to the changes in the research funding environment such as Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), Sustainability, as well as advancements in technology like Artificial Intelligence
- The need to improve on follow-up of endorsed SoPs for effective implementation
- Request for improved external communication to promote awareness of GRC's activities to strengthen external outreach for wider audience and impact

Schedule of Activities

1. Governing Board Meeting – December 2023-The board will convene to discuss the key messages and outcomes from the Regional Meetings. This meeting is crucial for aligning the insights and findings gathered from various regions.
2. ESG Meeting – February 2024- During this meeting, a draft of recommended actions and next steps will be prepared. This stage involves synthesizing the feedback, insights, and recommendations into actionable plans.
3. Governing Board Meeting – March 2024-The board will reconvene to agree on the draft response and actions formulated during the ESG Meeting. This step ensures a consensus on the proposed strategies and initiatives.
4. Integrate Actions into ESG Workplan-Following the board's agreement, the identified actions will be integrated into the ESG (Executive Steering Group) Workplan. This integration is essential for incorporating the agreed-upon strategies into the operational framework of the GRC.

Dr. Agus Haryono, Deputy Chairman for Research and Innovation Facilitation at BRIN and President of Indonesian Research and Innovation Fund (IRIF), underscored the importance of interconnected research networks for the future of funding agencies. BRIN, established in 2022, focuses in enhancing research infrastructure, attracting young talent, and fostering global collaboration. He highlighted the role of the GRC in bridging funding agencies despite existing limitations. The Expedition Widya Nusantara (EWIN) initiative, a comprehensive marine research program, exemplifies this by encouraging university and international participation through grants and operational funding.

Dr. Pure Williams from New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) presented a case study on gender equity in research funding, building on the 2016 GRC directives. MBIE introduced policies like the Diversity in Science Statement (2018) and Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Fund to support underrepresented researchers, particularly with Māori and Pacific backgrounds. Despite progress, a global survey revealed ongoing disparities, with women receiving fewer and smaller grants than men.

Dr. Sangare Yaya from FONSTI (Ivory Coast) emphasized the impact of geopolitical factors on research policies and the success of African-European collaborations. He advocated for free GRC membership for Global South conutries to enhance participation and stressed that science should bridge nations, promoting peace and collabortion. He recommended strengthening science diplomacy and implementing inclusive research initiatives.

During the open forum, discussions centered on increasing GRC inclusivisity in te Asia-Pacific region and the impact of geopolitical tensions on research. The session reinforced GRC's critical role in facilitating collaboration and addressing emerging challenges, with insights from the Foresight Report guiding future efforts to strengthen connectivity and promote global partnerships.

The session reinforced the critical role of GRC in facilitating research collaboration and addressing emerging challenges in the global research funding landscape. The insights from the Foresight Report, along with contributions from funding agencies, will guide future efforts to strengthen connectivity, improve policy follow-through, and promote global research partnerships amid geopolitical and scientific concerns

Session 9: Open Science and Communication (Climate Change, Health and Food Security)

Open science enhances innovation and impact by fostering collaboration and accessibility. Funders can drive this movement by implementing policies that encourage or mandate open access to peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings, as well as making research data available whenever possible.

Dr. Junel Soriano from the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) emphasized the significance of open science in agricultural research, highlighting its potential for interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge sharing across institutions and government agencies. DA-BAR ensures that research outputs are accessible to intended users, such as farmers and fisherfolks, by promoting transparent and transferable research and incentivizing researchers. Moving forward, DA-BAR plans to support open science initiatives through national dialogues, roundtable discussions, public symposia, and policy interventions.

In Thailand, Prof. Dr. Sompong Klaynongsruang showcased the Open Data Platform, designed to boost economic growth, R&D, capacity building, and social and environmental impact. The platform covers research in food, health, climate, and environmental sciences, and includes initiatives like the Medical AI Consortium, which enhances healthcare research through global collaboration including Japan, USA, and Philippines.

Dr. Jaime Montoya of DOST-PCHRD stressed that open science must be accompanied by open communication to ensure that research benefits the broader scientific community. The organization implements programs accessible health research accessible through platforms like Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN) and Philippine Health Research Registry (PHRR), facilitating connections between researchers and policymakers and organizing events to promote knowledge sharing. Additionally, DOST-PCHRD has facilitated intellectual property fillings through its SciTech Superhighway Program.

Dr. Anders Karlson from Elsevier reinforced the value of open science as a more inclusive, transparent, and collaborative approach to research. He introduced Elsevier's STM Open Access Dashboard, which tracks the growth of open-access publications worldwide. While open access is expanding, subscription-based models still dominate scientific publishing. He emphasized that AI is now the biggest consumer of research data, highlighting the need for publications to be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR). The goal is to ensure trusted science accelerates innovation for sustainability, particularly in food security (SDG 2), health (SDG 3), and climate action (SDG 13).

Dr. Brian Park Leung of the Belmont Forum introduced the Collaborative Research Actions initiative which seeks to address addresses global challenges through transdisciplinary, international research partnerships. Belmont Forum focuses on science-to-action, ensuring research is not just theoretical but actively contributes to solving real-world problems. He stressed that open science should be multilingual and inclusive, ensuring knowledge is

accessible across diverse communities. The CRA process includes skill-building workshops, networking opportunities, and multilingual peer reviews, making scientific research more transparent and equitable. Moreover, Belmont Forum's Data Management Plan provides a structured approach for researchers to standardize and share data effectively.

The open forum centered on data accessibility for different stakeholders. It agreed that while most data should be open, sensitive health data must be handled with caution, ensuring that communities are the first to access and benefit from research outcomes. The session concluded with a consensus on the need for continued collaboration, stronger policy frameworks, and enhanced communication strategies to maximize the potential of open science in addressing climate change, health, and food security. Ultimately, open science is shaping the future where research is more inclusive and aligned with the SDGs.

Session 10: Global Research Council Vision, Roadmap, and Way Forward

Prof. Euclides mentioned one of the challenges identified moving forward from a conceptual perspective is to consolidate the discussion and inputs for the sustainable research SoP and its implementation.

The challenges towards the 2024 Annual Meeting to be held in Interlaken, Switzerland also include:

- Increase Input from participating agencies
- Increase Regional participation – autonomy
- Keep the networking forum
- Continue evaluation of the 1st GRC decade – (Foresight Report)
- Increase Multilateral Engagement within the GRC participants (MLE WG)
- Support and advance the Responsible Research Assessment WG (RRA)
- Further develop an engagement strategy to engage with other international stakeholders (UN, ISC)

The GRC will be having five regional meetings, and its annual meeting will be conducted in Switzerland to be hosted by SNSF and FONSTI. He added that the GRC SE has launched a call inviting the GRC participating organizations to submit proposals to host the 2025/26 GRC Annual Meetings. Likewise, the Secretariat is inviting the member organizations to submit proposals for the side events during the annual meeting until 31 October 2023.

Call Topics: suggestions for the call topics can be course through the program committee until 02 February 2024.

Side Events

R&D Management Innovation Conference

The R&D Management Innovation Conference was a side-event to the 2023 Asia-Pacific Regional Global Research Council Meeting, designed to bring together research councils and funding organizations to exchange best practices in managing research and development (R&D) projects. The conference aimed to enhance knowledge transfer, foster innovation, strengthen collaboration among R&D practitioners, and promote the adoption of innovative approaches in research funding and implementation.

A key focus of the conference was on the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, covering crucial stages such as prioritizing research calls, evaluating proposals (Ex-Ante assessment), managing project implementation, and ensuring that R&D outputs reach end users. The discussions were aligned with the main sessions of the 2023 Asia-Pacific Regional GRC Meeting, emphasizing strategies that funding agencies can adopt to support international research collaborations.

Session 1. Prioritization and identification of Call Topics

Prioritizing S&T Programs and Projects

MR. FLORANTE GALURA
National Innovation Council (NIC)
Mr. Florante Galura provided an overview of the **Philippine Development Plan (PDP)** and discussed the role of the **National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)** in transforming Philippine society into a **prosperous, inclusive, and resilient** nation. He introduced the **National Innovation Council (NIC),** a newly established policy-making body for national innovation under NEDA, which plays a crucial role in shaping the country's innovation agenda. He elaborated on the **National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document (NIASD),** serves as NIC's **10-year vision and strategic guide** for identifying priority research call topics and innovation actions and ensures that submitted proposals align with sustainability and feasibility goals, an **evaluation rubric** that significantly influences the NIC's scoring and decision-making processes.

Prioritizing S&T Programs and Projects

ENGR. ROMELEN T. TRESVALLES
Regional Director, Department of Science and Technology – National Capital Region (DOST-NCR)
Director Romelen T. Tresvalles introduced the **four (4) DOST R&D Pillars**, which form the foundation for the department's research policies, plans, and programs: (1) **Human Well-Being**; (2) **Wealth Creation**; (3) **Wealth Protection**; and (4) **Sustainability.**

She emphasized the importance of collaboration, cooperation, and complementation (3Cs) across regional and provincial DOST offices to ensure effective program implementation.

The DOST Regional Offices (Ros) play a pivotal role in deploying technology to beneficiaries. The key programs led by the DOST Ros include:

- Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) – Assists small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in adopting technological innovations.
- Innovation, Science, and Technology for Accelerating Regional Technology-based (iSTART) Development Program – Enhances regional technology-driven growth.
- Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) – Focuses on grassroots innovation and community development.
- Innovations for Filipinos Working Distantly from the Philippines (iFWD PH) Program – Aids overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in establishing technology-based businesses.

She also introduced the Smart and Sustainable Communities (SMART) program, aimed at transforming communities into resilient, inclusive, and future-ready societies by leveraging local readiness and potential growth.

Identification of Thematic Areas and Directed Research: Open Calls

MR. PAUL ERNEST DE LEON
Chief Science Research Specialist, Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)
Mr. Paul Ernest De Leon presented an overview of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) and its role in leading health research efforts under the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS). He highlighted the importance of investment in health research to address national health challenges. The core of PCHRD's research agenda lies in the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA), a six-year plan that outlines eleven (11) priority themes guiding PCHRD's call for research proposals. The council follows a structured process of validating proposed research topics through consultations with Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) and program teams. A significant highlight was the impact of PCHRD's transition to a single open call system in 2020, which led to a 300% increase in submitted proposals compared to 2019, demonstrating a growing interest in health research initiatives.

International Collaborations: Strategic Calls

MR. OSAMU KOBAYASHI
Director, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
Mr. Osamu Kobayashi discussed the mission-oriented strategic calls utilized by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). He introduced Japan's Science and Technology Innovation Basic Plan, a five-year national guideline for setting research priorities. One of JST's key international collaboration mechanisms is the Strategic International Collaborative Research Program (SICORP), which enhances Japan's research capabilities by fostering equal partnerships with various countries. He highlighted the e-Asia Joint Research Program (JRP), a multilateral research initiative that includes participation from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). This program focuses on addressing regional challenges in Southeast Asia by strengthening collaborative research and development capabilities among partner countries.

Session 2. Proposal Evaluation

Importance of Ex-Ante Assessment in Proposal Evaluation

Dr. Ernesto O. Brown
Director, Socio-Economic Research Division, PCAARRD – Department of Science and Technology
Dr. Ernesto O. Brown emphasized the role of Ex-Ante assessment in evaluating R&D project proposals. He detailed the seven-step process of conducting an Ex-Ante evaluation, which includes:

1. Mapping the context and describing the baseline scenario
2. Reconstructing and validating the Theory of Change (ToC) and impact pathway
3. Collecting and validating relevant data and information
4. Calculating the Net Financial Impact (NFI)
5. Setting up the cash flow analysis
6. Computing and analyzing the project's economic worth
7. Translating financial values into economic values

Dr. Brown highlighted that PCAARRD developed a simplified approach in 2006 to help planning officers, project analysts, and researchers assess the economic viability of R&D proposals. He emphasized that Ex-Ante assessment is critical in ensuring that projects deliver tangible benefits to their intended end-users. Without

considering the impact on target beneficiaries, it is difficult to determine the effectiveness and sustainability of a technology or innovation.

Challenges in Implementing Projects with Multi-Sectoral Stakeholders

Ms. Raisa Neith Salvador
Project Manager, UNDP Philippines – Promotion of Low Carbon Urban Transport Systems
Ms. Salvador shared insights from the Low Carbon Urban Transport System (LCT) Project— implementation of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) in collaboration with UNDP and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). She discussed key challenges in implementing multi-stakeholder projects:

1. Policy Fragmentation – Policies related to low-carbon transport are developed separately by different government agencies and local government units (LGUs), making coordination difficult.
2. Lack of Awareness and Institutional Capacity – Many LGUs do not yet prioritize electrification and active transport solutions.
3. Limited Private Sector Investment – The local transport technology sector is underdeveloped having high costs and limited supplier availability. Transport cooperatives struggle with investment due to cost and financing constraints.

She also emphasized the bureaucratic delays in project execution, noting that securing approvals and signatures from multiple stakeholders can take several months, slowing down progress.

Proposal Evaluation: Criteria, Capability, Processes, and Other Approaches

Dr. Marcus Wilms
Internal Affairs, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) – German Research Foundation
Dr. Wilms provided an overview of the DFG proposal evaluation process, focusing on:

- The principle of competition in funding decisions
- The multi-stage review process (separate steps for review, evaluation, and decision-making)
- Differences in evaluating individual research grants versus coordinated programs

He also addressed the impact of AI and ChatGPT in research funding. While AI-generated research can be part of funding proposals (if transparently disclosed), it should not be used in the review process to maintain rigor and integrity.

Proposal Evaluation in Korea: Review Criteria and Enhancing Quality

Dr. Ho-Seok Jeon
Director, Office of International Cooperation Planning, National Research Foundation (NRF) of Korea
Dr. Jeon explained Korea's proposal review process, which follows the National R&D Act and its enforcement decrees. The criteria of proposal review are under the Article 10 of the National R&D Act, Article 12(2), (3) of the Enforcement Decree of the same Act which are divided into two categories: required and optional.

He outlined the differences in evaluation approaches for Basic Research versus National Strategic R&D Programs, with dedicated panels reviewing major project stages. NRF has implemented five key measures to improve the quality of proposal evaluation:

1. Conflict of Interest Management
2. Operation of a Reviewer Pool
3. Program Manager (PM) System
4. Objection System for Applicants

5. Reviewer Disclosure and History Management

Open Forum

- Ex-Ante assessment is useful for determining a project's economic worth and potential impact, but is challenging to apply to basic research, where impact and commercial viability are uncertain.
- The duration of proposal evaluation varies by country:
  - Germany (DFG): ~6.5 months
  - Korea (NRF): ~1 month
- For basic research proposals, NRF and DFG focus on scientific quality, methodology, and researcher competence rather than socio-economic impact.
- Multi-sectoral projects require thorough review of Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) before formalizing partnerships.

Session 3. Project Implementation and Monitoring

Project Implementation and Monitoring Practices

Ms. Sasti Orisa

Matching Fund Coordination, Directorate of Research and Innovation Technology, BRIN Indonesia

Ms. Orisa introduced BRIN (National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia) and its role in policy support, funding, and research execution. She highlighted BRIN's collaboration with LPDP (Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education) for fund disbursement in research projects.

Key Monitoring Practices at BRIN:

1. Communication – Project managers maintain direct communication with researchers and implementing organizations, offering both technical and financial assistance.
2. Two-Level Project Monitoring:
   - Field monitoring by the implementing agency
   - Output-level monitoring by project managers
   - Monitoring is conducted before releasing the second round of project funding.
3. Reporting – Regular progress reports are required for evaluation and funding continuity.

Each project manager oversees around 20 projects, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and expected outputs are delivered on time.

From Regulations to Projects to Sustainability

Dr. Raymund Paolo Abad

Sustainable Transport Lead, Clean Air Asia

Dr. Abad discussed Clean Air Asia's role in Air Quality Management and Sustainable Transport Initiatives. The program uses knowledge-based project planning to implement policies and develop sustainable clean air projects.

Case Study: Clean Air Action Plan for Cities

- Supported Pasig City's e-mobility projects to promote green and sustainable transportation.
- Implemented through EVIDA (RA 11697) – a policy framework for the development of the electric vehicle industry in the Philippines.
- CREVI (Comprehensive Roadmap for Electric Vehicle Industry) – A structured plan for commercialization and adoption of electric vehicles.

Dr. Abad emphasized that policy support and commitment from LGUs and agencies are crucial for the long-term success and sustainability of environmental projects.

Project Implementation: Comprehensive Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) with MMDA

Mr. Takeshi Matsunuma
JICA – Philippines
Mr. Matsunuma presented Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) Comprehensive Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) for Metro Manila, which addresses urban congestion through:

1. Data-driven analysis to identify major traffic bottlenecks.
2. Development of a five-year action plan for road congestion reduction.
3. Capacity building for MMDA, LGUs, and transport agencies.

Implementation and Monitoring Strategy:

- A Steering Committee composed of MMDA, DOTr, DPWH, and LGUs provides oversight.
- Emphasized the importance of stakeholder coordination and communication to develop effective solutions.

Mr. Matsunuma also discussed challenges encountered during the pandemic, including the inability to conduct in-person meetings. The team adapted by holding weekly online meetings to keep project activities on track.

How Do You Measure the Value of Research?

Ms. Joanne Looyen
Director, Science System Investment and Performance, MBIE – New Zealand
Ms. Looyen outlined New Zealand's approach to evaluating research impact, shaped by public consultation and national priorities.
Five Core Principles for Research Challenges in New Zealand:

1. Mission-Led Research – Research should address real-world national challenges.
2. Scientific Excellence – Ensuring high-quality research methodologies.
3. Collaboration – Forming the best research teams for a given challenge.
4. Stakeholder Engagement – Public input helps identify critical research areas.
5. Māori Involvement – Recognizing the role of indigenous knowledge in research design.

Rather than simply selecting projects, New Zealand shapes research proposals based on stakeholder needs and national challenges, particularly in areas such as natural hazard management.

Open Forum

- Funding agencies continue to seek innovative ways to improve project monitoring through efficient systems and standardized processes.
- BRIN Indonesia is working on a digital system for monthly monitoring and reporting. If critical issues arise, a joint meeting with stakeholders and the governing board is conducted to find solutions.
- Clean Air Asia and New Zealand are experimenting with new monitoring approaches to enhance project oversight.
- JICA's experience during the pandemic highlighted the need for alternative communication methods to maintain project momentum.

As key takeaways, strong Communication and coordination among stakeholders are essential for a smooth project execution; Policy-driven projects (e.g., sustainable transport) require long-term government commitment for sustainability; and Research impact measurement should include stakeholder engagement and national priorities

Session 4. Commercialization / Technology Transfer

Dr. Lourdes Marie S. Tejero
Director, UP Manila Technology Transfer and Business Development Office (UPM-TTBDO)
Dr. Tejero introduced UPM-TTBDO's mandate, which focuses on:

- Proactive disclosure of research outputs
- Effective technology assessment
- Catalyzing technology deployment for public benefit

Key Achievements are:

- 12 services offered to local and international partners
- 11 patents granted
- Two successful commercialized products: Lagundi (PhP70M in sales) and Sambong (PhP1B in sales)
- Multiple active licensees for patented technologies
- IPO Philippines Platinum Awardee (2020-2022)

Dr. Tejero highlighted the importance of strong IP management, strategic partnerships, and commercialization models to translate research into market-ready products.

Mr. Patrick Cabrera
Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR)
Mr. Cabrera discussed the R4DE Program, which focuses on:

- Institutional development and policy support
- Strengthening agri-fishery enterprises
- Enhancing stakeholder capacity for technology adoption

Key Program discussed is the DA-BAR ATBI (Agri-Tech Business Incubation) that support research-based incubators to assist agriculture and fisheries technology-based enterprises and encourage entrepreneurial development among researchers.

Challenges identified in Agricultural Technology Transfer are:

- Sustainability of technology business incubators (TBIs)
- Limited infrastructure and funding
- Need for stronger private sector engagement
- Short-term, periodic project implementation

DA-BAR emphasized the need for continuous funding, long-term policy support, and stronger linkages with agribusiness players to ensure the sustainability of innovations in the agricultural sector.

Dr. Enrico C. Paringit
Executive Director, Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD)
Dr. Paringit introduced PCIEERD's initiatives in technology transfer and commercialization. These programs help researchers transform prototypes into commercially viable products using structured technology assessment protocols.
Key Commercialization Programs are:

- FASTRAC (Fund Assistance for Spin-off and Translation of Research in Advancing Commercialization) – Provides financial support for technology spinoffs

- IMPACT (IP Management Program for Academic Institutions Commercializing Technologies) – Strengthens IP protection strategies
- SPRINT (Short-term Program for Researchers on Innovation and Technopreneurship) – Prepares researchers for market-driven innovation
- HEIRIT (Higher Education Institution Readiness for Innovation and Technopreneurship) – Supports universities in building entrepreneurial ecosystems
- ReSEED (Regional Startup Enabler for Ecosystem Development) – Facilitates regional startup development
- WHWISE (Women Helping Women: Innovating Social Enterprises) – Supports women-led enterprises
- TBIs (Technology Business Incubators) – Enables technology-based startups

Some key takeaways from PCIEERD's Commercialization Strategy are:

- Bridge the gap between research and commercialization through structured programs
- Encourage university-industry collaboration to strengthen research impact
- Provide financial and technical support to researchers transitioning into entrepreneurs
- Highlight successful spin-offs as role models for future innovations

Open Forum

The financial returns of the technology transfer and commercialization to the implementing agency are the support on the program, contribution to the investment, resources used, and job creation which also contributes to its sustainability. Furthermore, challenges encountered such as providing the correct message on what kind of program will be responsible for the need of the organization, sustainability of the system to continue the support, and lack of start-ups or spin offs.

It was also noted that TBIs are being encouraged to collaborate with international funding organization. Funding is provided for their benchmarking and there is also discussion on how to deal with the business if there is potential for a global market

Synthesis and Closing Remarks

Through the R&D Management Innovation Conference, it was highlighted how the interconnectivity of the several stages and processes for R&D proposals were integral. From choosing the topics that would address specific scientific gaps and determining how much funding to allocate to each topic, this will in turn affect the financial returns and sustainability of each proposal submitted for R&D funding. The readiness and eligibility of the submitted proposals are also affected by the guidelines and systems set in place by the evaluating bodies.

Promoting the Use of Sustainability Science for Society through the Transdisciplinary Research: Lessons Learned and Ways Forward

This side event featured presentations from New Zealand, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Experts shared their experiences, challenges, and best practices in integrating science, policy, and community engagement to address sustainability issues.

New Zealand

Presentation Title: Living with volcanoes

Dr. Sally Potter, Senior Hazard and Risk Management Researcher from GNS Science, presented the ECLIPSE (Eruption or Catastrophe: Learning to Implement Preparedness for future Supervolcano Eruptions) research programme from 2017-2024 which enhances volcanic risk management through collaboration with local communities, emergency responders, and scientists. The program highlights the importance of public engagement, using crowdsourced observations and digital tool to improve early warning systems. However, challenges persist in maintaining funding and communicating scientific uncertainties to decision-makers.

Thailand

Presentation Title: Transdisciplinary Research for Community Impact: Community-based Research

Dr. Patamawadee Pochanukul, President of Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), discussed the Mechanisms and Funding Process to support the engagement of non-academic actors in research and specifically linked to transdisciplinary approaches to research such as area-based collaborative research which engages key stakeholders across a value chain to jointly identify research framework and develop collaborative mechanism for implementation. This approach is categorized into two namely,

- Community, Industry, Government, University, Civil Society (CIGUS) model – promotes collaboration between the community and government by having universities and research teams as intermediaries.
- Community-Based Research (CBR) – strengthen the local community by supporting villagers to be owners of the projects, analyze the situation, and find solutions collectively.

TSRI funds over 4,500 CBR Projects. This includes the Man River basin system management project in Dansai, Leoi Province. Evident problems in the area are deforestation, water pollution and chemical contamination which leads to health problems. Researchers from the Universities entered the area and involved the villagers to take part in discussing the problems and developing solutions. It is indeed important to consider participatory approach

to ensure knowledge transfer across generations, fostering long term sustainability and integrating traditional knowledge with scientific research, allowing the community to partake an active role in problem solving.

Indonesia

Presentation Title: TDR in Indonesia: Experiences and Practices "promoting the use of sustainability science for society through the transdisciplinary research: Lessons learned and ways forward"

Dr. Lindawati Wardani, Deputy Secretary for Research and Innovation Utilization, Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), shared case studies on transdisciplinary research, including early human dispersals and local water resource management in Bali. These studies integrate local wisdom with scientific methods to inform sustainable development policies. Key lessons included the need for continuous improvement, knowledge sharing, and coordination and collaboration across sectors.

The Philippines

Presentation Title: Transdisciplinarity in Philippine Textile Knowledge Generation and Innovation
Dr. Julius Leaño, Director of the Philippine Textile Reseach Institute (DOST-PTRI), discussed textile knowledge generation and innovation, focusing on inclusivity, competitiveness, and sustainability. The institute incorporates traditional practices and indigenous materials into mainstream textile production through programs like Regional Handloom Weaving Innovation Centers, The Philippine NatDyes (Natural Dyes) Hub, and Neoethnic Philippine Textiles. Upcoming initiatives for March 2024 will include a women and textile program aimed at addressing gender dimensions and geographic divides in technology transfer.

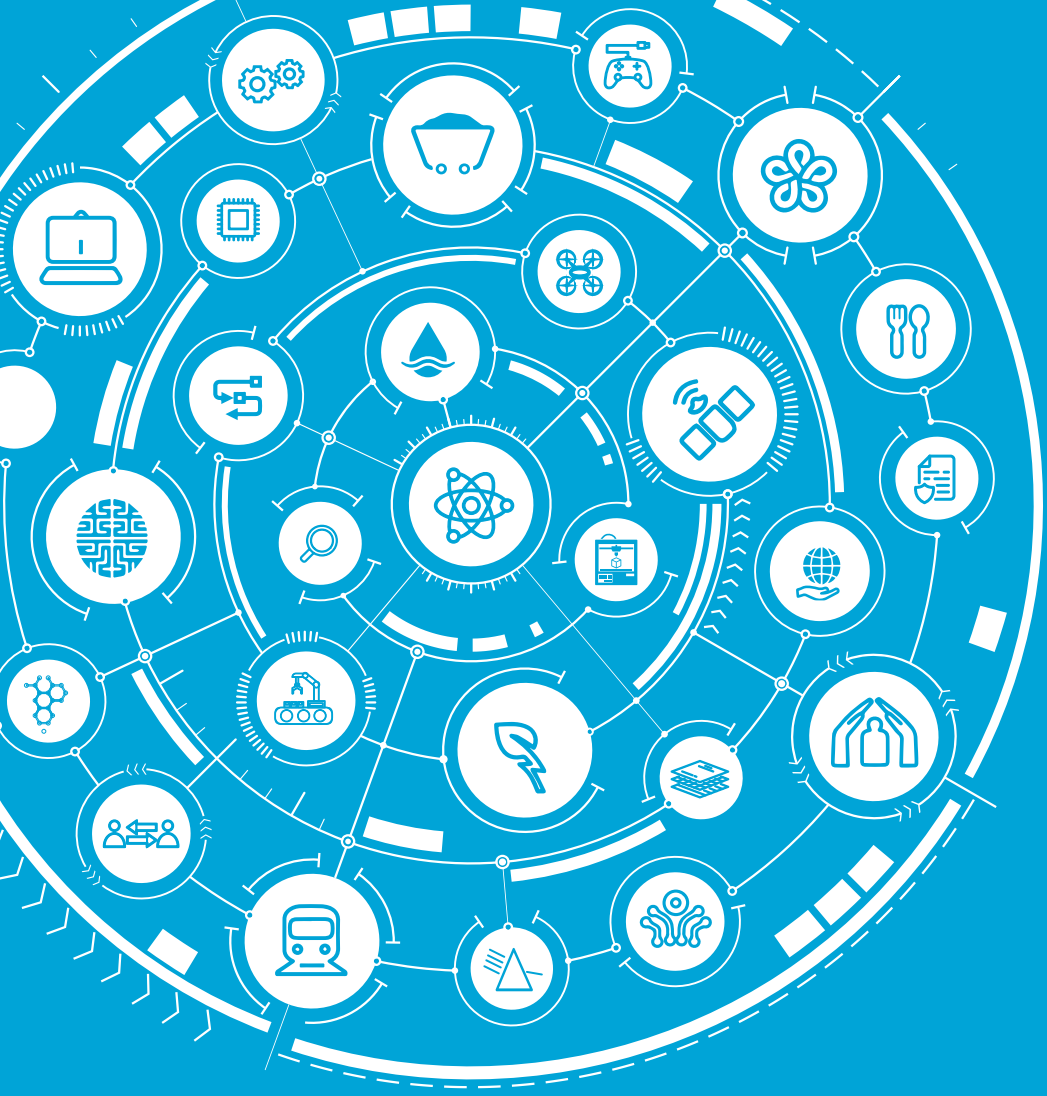
BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Group 1: Philippines, Japan, Thailand, and Germany
Dr. Orakanoke Phanraksa underscored the value of qualitative and quantitative research contribution for question one. The key takeaway is the need for an inclusive research mindset that encourages a culture of learning and active stakeholder participation. For the Philippines, a critical success indicator is the project's enduring impact though successive generation beyond project timeline. On question two, the group emphasized the learning process' ole in impact assessment, which can vary by focus such as economic, social, and/or technical; or period/ project stage. To ensure project longevity, it is advocated for securing long-term funding, refining project management-skills, and implementing capacity-building initiatives.

Group 2: Philippines, New Zealand, Thailand, Japan
Dr. Prue Williams elaborated on the feedback of the group. For question 1, the significance of building relationships among researchers and community to get a long-term trust and ensure that community is involved in and take time to understand the culture. Likewise, it is also valuable to make information accessible to all stakeholders. On the second question, eagerness to look for funding mechanisms is one way to sustain the initiative. One good practice is the creation of roadmaps showing the milestones/directions, steps of the project, and level of interventions needed. These interventions might be dependent on the location, culture and other arising circumstances. On the last question, she shared the case of Thailand incentivizing universities to work with local communities to ensure that right support needed by the community is being addressed and community engagement/involvement is evident.

Group 3: Philippines, Singapore, Brazil, Thailand, Japan

Mr. Ni De'en shared the discussion among his group. On question 1, he underlined the importance of interconnectivity, process, bottom-up approach, and close engagement with the community to correctly define and identify the deliverables. For the case of the Philippines, DOST has Community Empowerment Thru Science and Technology (CEST) program which engages the disadvantaged communities through facilitation of DOST regional offices which usually have funding. In Brazil, a Foundation promotes the concept of food security to farmers and public-school students. The economy is also being promoted through purchasing food from local markets from the farmers to provide food to public schools. It is a multistakeholder engagement (farmers-market-students). Solutions must be locally sustainable and specific to specific applications. On question 2, relative to the identified deliverables, if these deliverables are met after the end of a project that makes it easier to justify new funding opportunities. In the case of DOST, it ensures that the projects supported are successful through needs assessment with a set of indicators and list of deliverables through the 6 Ps (products, patents and IPR, publication, partners, people services, policies). Moreover, capacity building activities including the communities/beneficiaries are part of the 6Ps too. There is also an impact assessment after 3-5 years which shows improvements in process, organization, and people. On question 3, Thailand and Philippines include training activities for both the researchers and community on how to adopt the technologies. Building public trust is an essential factor that needs to be considered.



Program

Wednesday, 18 October 2023

Venue: Sheraton Ballroom A

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 am – 9:20 am	**Opening Ceremony** *Welcome Speech by:* **DR. LEAH J. BUENDIA** Undersecretary for Research & Development, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Member, GRC International Steering Committee **DR. PRUE WILLIAMS** General Manager, Future Research System, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and Member, GRC Governing Board **PROF. EUCLIDES DE MESQUITA NETO** Executive Secretary, Global Research Council (GRC)
9:20 am – 9:40 am	**Keynote Speech by:** **DR. RENATO U. SOLIDUM, JR.** Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
9:40 am – 9:45 am	Photo Session
9:45 am – 10:00 am	**Introduction of the Global Research Council (GRC) by:** **PROF. EUCLIDES DE MESQUITA NETO** Executive Secretary, GRC
10:00 am – 10:10 am	Coffee Break
10:10 am – 11:40 am 10 mins 10 mins each	**Session 1: Overview of Sustainable Research** **DR. LAURA TEJADA** Scientific Officer, International Cooperation Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) **Pillar 1: Research on Sustainability (research for sustainable development)** **SPEAKERS:** 1. **SIR PETER GLUCKMAN,** ONZ KNZM FRSNZ FRS FMedSci FTWAS FISC President, International Science Council (ISC)

	2. **DR. MARIBEL NONATO** Vice-President – Governing Board, DOST- National Research Council of the Philippines (DOST-NRCP) 3. **MS. DIANE GAIL MAHARJAN** Executive Director, National Economic and Development Agency-National Innovation Council (NEDA-NIC) 4. **DR. LI WENCONG** Head (Director), Division of Asia, Africa and International Organizations, Bureau of International Cooperation National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
10 mins	**OPEN FORUM**
15 mins	**WORKSHOP**
10 mins	**DISCUSSION OF WORKSHOP OUTPUTS**
5 mins	**SYNTHESIS BY THE CHAIR** **Chair: DR. LI WENCONG** **Support: MR. PAUL ERNEST DE LEON** Chief Science Research Specialist, DOST-PCHRD
11:40 am – 12:40 pm	Lunch Break
12:40 pm – 2:10 pm	**Session 2: Sustainable Research – Pillar 2: Sustainability of Research (making research more sustainable)**
5 mins	**OVERVIEW OF PILLAR 2 BY THE CHAIR**
10 mins each	**SPEAKERS:** 1. **DR. SHAUN HENDY** Chief Scientist and Co-Founder, Toha NZ (New Zealand) 2. **DR. SAL LAMPKIN** Founder, Australian Universities Air Travel Consortium 3. **DR. AJENG ARUM SARI** Director of Research and Innovation Funding National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) 4. **DR. YOSHIO OTANI** Director, Bangkok Office Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
10 mins	**OPEN FORUM**
15 mins	**WORKSHOP**
10 mins	**DISCUSSION OF WORKSHOP OUTPUTS**
5 mins	**SYNTHESIS BY THE CHAIR** **Chair: MS. EMI KANEKO**

	Director, Singapore Office, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) **Support:** **MS. GRACE F. ESTILLORE** Chief Science Research Specialist, DOST-PCIEERD
2:10 pm – 2:20 pm	Coffee Break
2:20 pm – 3:50 pm 5 mins 10 mins each 10 mins 10 mins 10 mins 5 mins	**Session 3: Sustainable Research – Pillar 3: Use of Sustainability of Science in Society (making sure sustainability science matters)** **OVERVIEW OF PILLAR 3 BY THE CHAIR** **SPEAKERS:** **1. DR. RICO C. ANCOG** Dean, School of Environmental Science and Management, University of the Philippines Los Baños (SESAM-UPLB) **2. DR. REYNALDO V. EBORA** Executive Director, DOST- Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) **3. DR. SAEID MADDAH** Head of International Affairs Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) **4. MS. SUKANYA A-MEEN** Director – Mission of Research-based Policy National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) **5. PROFESSOR RANJITH SENARATNE** Chairman, National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka **OPEN FORUM** **WORKSHOP** **DISCUSSION OF WORKSHOP OUTPUTS** **SYNTHESIS BY THE CHAIR** **Chair:** **DR. ORAKANOKE PHANRAKSA** Advisor for International Affairs Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI) **Support:** **DR. LILIAN BONDOC** Chief Science Research Specialist, DOST-PCAARRD

3:50 pm – 5:20 pm	**Session 4: Research Ethics and Ethical Considerations in Technology Transfer and Commercialization: Addressing Funding and Collaboration Challenges**
5 mins	**OVERVIEW OF SESSION 4 BY THE CHAIR**
7 mins each	**SPEAKERS** **1. ATTY. CHRISTOPHER E. CRUZ** Director, Intellectual Property Office (IPO) De La Salle University (DLSU)-Manila **2. DR. RAUL V. DESTURA** Chief Executive Officer, Manila HealthTek, Inc. **3. DR. EMILY PARKER** Associate Dean of Science Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand **4. DR. KAZUHITO HASHIMOTO** President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) **5. ASSOC. PROF. DR. PONGPAN KAEWTATIP** Vice-President, Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI) **6. DIR. NOEL A. CATIBOG** Director, Technology Transfer and Promotion Division (TTPD), DOST-PCAARRD
10 mins	**OPEN FORUM**
15 mins	**WORKSHOP**
10 mins	**DISCUSSION OF WORKSHOP OUTPUTS**
5 mins	**SYNTHESIS BY THE CHAIR** **Chair: DR. ENRICO C. PARINGIT** Executive Director, DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology (DOST – PCIEERD) **Support: MS. NICOLA HELEN JENKIN** Manager Service Design and Performance, MBIE
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Travel time to Reception Dinner
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Reception Dinner at Barbara's Heritage Restaurant in Intramuros

Thursday, 19 October 2023

Venue: Sheraton Ballroom A

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 am – 9:30 am	**Session 5: Multilateral Engagement Working Group** **MR. OSAMU KOBAYASHI** Director, Department of International Affairs Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
9:30 am – 10:30 am	**Session 6: Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) Working Group** **SPEAKERS:** **DR. LI WENCONG** Director, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) **MS. JOANNE LOOYEN** Director, Science System Performance and Investment, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), New Zealand
10:30 am – 10:40 am	Coffee Break
10:40 am – 12:10 pm	**Session 7: Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group** **Introduction to the GRC EDI Working Group:** **MS. NICOLA HELEN JENKIN** Manager, Service Design and Performance, MBIE **KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** **DR. ALDRIN DARILAG** Commissioner, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Philippines **PANEL OF REACTORS:** 1. **DR. REYNALDO V. EBORA** Executive Director, DOST-PCAARRD 2. **MS. SUKANYA A-MEEN** Director – Mission of Research-based Policy, National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) 3. **MR. SHINSUKE OKADA** Manager, Department of International Affairs, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

	MODERATOR: **DR. PRUE WILLIAMS** General Manager, Future Research System, MBIE and Member, GRC Governing Board **OPEN FORUM** **WORKSHOP** **DISCUSSION OF WORKSHOP OUTPUTS** **SYNTHESIS BY:** **DR. AJENG SARUM SARI** Director of Research and Innovation Funding BRIN and Member, EDI Working Group, GRC
12:10 pm – 1:10 pm	Lunch Break
1:10 pm – 2:30 pm 10 mins 10 mins each 10 mins 15 mins 10 mins 5 mins	**Session 8: GRC Foresight Report** **PRESENTATION OF FORESIGHT REPORT** **DR. MARCUS WILMS** Director for International Affairs: Africa, Near and Middle East German Research Foundation/DFG **SPEAKERS:** 1. **DR. AGUS HARYONO** Deputy Chairman for Research and Innovation Facilitation Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) 2. **DR. PRUE WILLIAMS** General Manager, Future Research System, MBIE 3. **DR. YAYA SANGARE** Executive Secretary, Fund for Science, Technology and Innovation (FONSTI) of the Ivory Coast **OPEN FORUM** **WORKSHOP** **DISCUSSION OF WORKSHOP OUTPUTS** **SYNTHESIS BY THE CHAIR** **Chair:** **DR. WORAJIT SETTHAPUN** Global Partnership Coordinator, Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B), and Asst. Professor, Chiang Mai Rajabhat University

	Support: **MS. CARLOTA P. SANCHO** Senior Science Research Specialist, DOST-PCIEERD
2:30 pm – 2:40 pm	Coffee Break
2:40 pm – 4:20 pm 10 mins 10 mins each 10 mins 15 mins 10 mins 5 mins	**Session 9: Open Science and Communication (Climate Change, Health and Food Security)** **Overview of Session 9 by the Chair** **SPEAKERS:** 1. **DR. JUNEL B. SORIANO** Director, Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) 2. **DR. JAIME C. MONTOYA** Executive Director, DOST- Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) 3. **PROF. DR. SOMPONG KLAYNONGSRUANG** Director, Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B) 4. **DR. ANDERS KARLSSON** Vice President, Global Strategic Networks, Elsevier 5. **DR. BRIAN PAK YAN LEUNG** Secretariat, Belmont Forum **OPEN FORUM** **WORKSHOP** **DISCUSSION OF WORKSHOP OUTPUTS** **SYNTHESIS BY THE CHAIR** **Chair:** **MS. JOANNE LOOYEN** Director, Science System Performance and Investment, MBIE, New Zealand **Support:** **MS. BEVERLY MAE DELA CRUZ** Supervising Science Research Specialist, DOST-NRCP
4:20 pm – 4:40 pm	**Session 10: Global Research Council Vision, Roadmap, and Way Forward** **PROF. EUCLIDES DE MESQUITA NETO** GRC Executive Secretary
4:40 pm – 4:55 pm	Closing Speech by: **DR. ENRICO C. PARINGIT** Executive Director, DOST-PCIEERD

	DR. PRUE WILLIAMS MBIE General Manager Science System & Investment Performance and Member, GRC Governing Board
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	**R&D Management Innovation Conference** **Organizer:** Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

Friday, 20 October 2023
TDR Side event and Excursion Day

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:00 am – 12:00 nn	Continuation of the R&D Management Innovation Conference
9:00 am – 12:00 nn	**Promoting the Use of Sustainability Science for Society through the Transdisciplinary Research: Lessons Learned and Ways Forward** **Organizer:** Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI)
12:00 nn – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	**Excursion Day – Luneta Park & National Museum Tour**

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

DIRECTOR RICHARD P. BURGOS
DOST- Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII)

MR. MARFY H. LITA
Program Manager, DOST-NRCP

MR. MARK IVAN C. ROBLAS
Head, Information Group, DOST-PCIEERD

SIDE EVENT: R&D Management Innovation Conference

The **R&D Management Innovation Conference** is organized as a complementary side-event to the **2023 Asia-Pacific Regional Global Research Council Meeting.** The Conference aims to gather research councils and organizations that provide grants and implement scientific endeavors and projects through grants. It aims to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and best practices; stimulate creativity and innovation; build relationships and collaboration between R&D practitioners; and promote the adoption of innovative approaches and methodologies.

The R&D Management Innovation Conference is designed to discuss the different practices and approaches in the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework from Prioritization and Identification of Research Call Priorities; Proposal Evaluation Process including Ex-Ante assessment; Project Implementation Realities; and transferring R&D project output to the end users.

The key principles of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Protocol will be the topics of the Conference. These topics are aligned to the different sessions of the 2023 Asia-Pacific Regional Global Research Council Meeting which focuses on identifying best practices for funding agencies that can foster international collaborations among the research community.

Below are the statement problems the four sessions will address with their respective allotted time.

Session 1. Prioritization and identification of Thematic Areas for Call for Proposals

- Strategies used in prioritizing/rationalizing S&T projects
- Practices use in identification of Thematic Areas for proposal call
- Criteria and other considerations used in the identification of projects that could fall under strategic, open, or mission calls

Session 2. Proposal Evaluation (including Ex-ante assessment)

- Best Practices in conducting proposal evaluation
- Importance of ex-ante assessment
- Criteria and measures being used to assess capability and capacity versus R&D projects

Session 3. Projects Implementation (from start to closure)

- Best practices for monitoring projects – midterm/periodic review
- Challenges in project monitoring
- Parameters, measure, and tools used during project monitoring. How to identify red and green flags
- Considerations for terminating projects

Session 4. Commercialization/ Technology Transfer

- Development of clear and transparent policies
- Diverse cultures and expectations amongst the government, academe, and the industry

During each session, documenters are expected to identify topics or areas of concern which shall serve as discussion points during the open forum.

At the end of each session, it is expected to produce a list of best practices or come up with policy guidelines to address the identified topic.

In addition, selected speakers from the recently concluded 1st S&T Impact Assessment Conference will be invited to the Conference. The way forward from the Plenary Session of Day 2 of the said Conference will be the main topic of discussion during the small group workshop. This is to ensure that all the principles of the M&E Protocol from identification and prioritization of projects to outcome/impact assessment are covered.

PROGRAM

Day 1: October 19, 2023, 1:00 pm – 4:15 pm

Venue: Sheraton Ballroom B

TIME	ACTIVITY
1:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Registration and arrival of participants
1:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Welcome Remarks and Setting the Context of the Conference **MS. MARIDON O. SAHAGUN** Undersecretary for Scientific and Technical Services Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

Session 1. Prioritization and identification of Call Topics

This session will discuss the approaches and strategies used by the funding institutions in the identification and prioritization of programs and projects that would be funded in their call for proposals and how they provided resources. It also aims to provide insights on open, mission and strategic calls.

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm 15 mins each	**Prioritizing S&T Programs and Projects** **MS. DIANNE GAIL L. MAHARJAN** Executive Director National Economic and Development Agency- National Innovation Council (NEDA-NIC) **ENGR. ROMELEN T. TRESVALLES** Regional Director Department of Science and Technology – National Capital Region (DOST-NCR)

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	**Identification of Thematic Areas and Directed Research: Open Calls** **MR. PAUL ERNEST DE LEON** Chief Science Research Specialist DOST- Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD)
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	**International Collaborations: Strategic Calls** **DR. OSAMU KOBAYASHI** Director, Department of International Affairs Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Open forum

Session 2. Proposal Evaluation

This session will present and analyze the different approaches in proposal evaluation. It will also try to investigate the different criteria and procedures used in screening and identifying proposals for funding. It will discuss the importance of ex-ante evaluation especially in big programs. How are the potential socio-economic impact of the projects measured? How the capability and capacity of the proponents and implementing agencies are measured and factor in in the proposal. It will also try to establish the importance of having the potential taker of the technology part of the proposal process. By carefully considering the important factors in proposal evaluation, funding organizations can select the proposals that are most likely to achieve their goals and make a significant impact.

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	**How do you measure the value of research?** **MS. JOANNE LOOYEN** Director, Science System Investment and Performance| Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) of New Zealand
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	**Importance of Ex-Ante Assessment in Proposal Evaluation** **DR. ERNESTO O. BROWN** Director, Socio-Economic Research Division DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD)
3:15 pm – 3:45 pm 15 mins each	**Considerations in Proposal Evaluation: Criteria, Capability, Processes, and other Approaches** **DR. MARCUS WILMS** Director for International Affairs: Africa, Near and Middle East German Research Foundation/DFG

	DR. HO-SEOK JEON Director of the Office of International Cooperation Planning National Research Foundation of Korea
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	**Local challenges of Implementing projects with multi-sectoral stakeholders** **MS. RAISA NEITH SALVADOR** Project Manager, United Nations Development Programme – Philippines (UNDP) Project – Promotion of Low Carbon Urban Transport Systems in the Philippines
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Open Forum

Day 2: October 20, 2023, 9:00 am – 12:00 nn

Venue: Sheraton Ballroom B

Session 3. Project Implementation and Monitoring

Building from the different experiences of the speakers and the institutions this session will try to determine the best practices for monitoring projects. The importance of midterm/periodic review. Analyze the challenges in project monitoring and identify the different parameters, measure, and tools used during project monitoring. How to identify red and green flags in projects and projects for termination.

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Recap
9:15 am – 9:30 am	**Project Implementation and Monitoring Practices** **MS. SASTI ORISA** Matching Fund Coordination Directorate of Research and Innovation Technology Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
9:30 am – 9:45 am	**From Regulations to projects to sustainability** **DR. RAYMUND PAOLO ABAD** Sustainable Transport Lead, Clean Air Asia
9:45 am – 10:00 am	**Project Implementation: CTMP Project with MMDA**

	TAKESHI MATSUNUMA Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) – Philippines
10: 00 am – 10:15 am	Open Forum

Session 4. Commercialization / Technology Transfer

This session will focus on the programs and practices used by the different institutions to facilitate commercialization and technology transfer. It will try to discuss the considerations, including ethical issues. How clear and transparent policies facilitate technology transfer? How are the diverse cultures and expectations from the different sectors addressed?

10:15 am – 11:15 am 15 mins each	**Technology Assessment, Technology Transfer and Commercialization Approaches and Practices** **SPEAKERS:** **MS. LINDAWATI WARDANI** Deputy Secretary for Research and Innovation Utilization National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) **DR. LOURDES MARIE S. TEJERO** Director, UP Manila Technology Transfer and Business Development Office (UPM-TTBDO) **MR. PATRICK CABRERA** Head, Program Development Division, Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) **DR. ENRICO C. PARINGIT** Executive Director, Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD)
11:15 am – 11:30 am	Open Forum
11:30 am – 11:45 am	Synthesis and Way Forward
11: 45 am – 12:00 nn	Closing Remarks

Friday, 20 October 2023

Venue: Sheraton Ballroom A

SIDE EVENT: Promoting the Use of Sustainability Science for Society through the Transdisciplinary Research: Lessons Learned and Ways Forward

The 2023 Sustainable Development Goals have been delayed and far from its achievements. Among different methods and initiatives, Transdisciplinary Research (TDR) is considered one of the essential mechanisms to expedite achieving the goals and to overcome the sustainability challenges that the world is currently facing. TDR offers a research mode that integrates both academic researchers from unrelated disciplines and non-academic stakeholders to achieve a common goal. However, TDR can be difficult to undertake in practice and can consequently fail to add value. Thus, it is critical to share the lessons learned as our building blocks to design the ways forward at the regional and global levels. The discussion about the TDR was initiated at the GRC Asia-Pacific regional meeting in Bangkok in 2022, and this effort was carried out to the side event at the Annual Meeting of the Global Research Council 2023 in the Netherlands. At this GRC Asia-Pacific Regional meeting 2023 in Manila, Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) are jointly hosting a side event titled "Promoting the Use of Sustainability Science for Society through the Transdisciplinary Research: Lessons Learned and Ways Forward" on 20th October 2023. The key objectives are to explore, share experiences and profile how research councils in Asia-Pacific in particular the Global South work with the community to promote research on sustainability, sustainability of research, and use of sustainability science for society with an ultimate goal to better facilitate and support the SDGs.

Organized by: Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

TIME	ACTIVITY
09:00 am – 09:15 am	**Opening Remarks** **DR. PRUE WILLIAMS** General Manager, Science System & Investment Performance, MBIE New Zealand and Member of the GRC Governing Board
09:15 am – 10:30 am 15 mins each	**Moderator**: **DR. ORAKANOKE PHANRAKSA** Senior Advisor for International Affairs, TSRI **Panelists**: **The Philippines**: **DR. JULIUS LEANO** Director, the Philippines Textile Research Institute (DOST-PTRI) **Indonesia**: **DR. LINDAWATI WARDANI**

	Deputy Secretary for Research and Innovation Utilization, Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) **Thailand**: **DR. PATAMAWADEE POCHANUKUL** President, Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI) **New Zealand**: **DR. SALLY POTTER** Senior Hazard and Risk Management Researcher, GNS Science **Q&A 15 Minutes** **Rapporteur**: **DR. BRIAN PAK YAN LEUNG** Secretariat, Belmont Forum
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Coffee Break
10:45 am – 11:30 am	Break out group discussion on the assigned questions
11:30 am – 12:00 nn	Report to the Main group and Closing