

ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology (S&T) Fellows Pilot Program

Applications Due: January 6, 2014
Program Start Date: March 31, 2014

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Section 1. ASEAN-U.S. S&T Fellows Pilot Program Description

The ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology (S&T) Fellows Pilot Program aims to strengthen science and technical input to ASEAN strategic S&T priorities by increasing science capacity and the capacity for science-based policymaking. Through the U.S. Mission to ASEAN (USASEAN), up to 8 S&T Fellows from ASEAN member countries will be supported to work **full-time for one year** in their home country ministries to promote the use of the best available science to inform the national and ASEAN regional policy process; advance ASEAN regional cooperation on science and technology; build institutional capacity within ASEAN and between ASEAN and the United States to study regional and transboundary issues; and, deepen people-to-people interaction between ASEAN and U.S. scientists. The Pilot Program will be coordinated with the prestigious [U.S. American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\) Science & Technology Policy Fellowship Program](#), which has brought science expertise into the U.S. government over forty years through the engagement of more than 2600 Fellows.

The science and technology challenges that society faces today- locally, nationally and internationally- are far more complex than were those of 40 to 50 years ago. The best available scientific, technical and economic information is required to establish priorities, make decisions, and develop best policies and practices. Yet, scientists often lack the skills and opportunity to apply their science successfully to support policy or to communicate effectively with the public and other non-academic audiences.

The ASEAN-U.S. S&T Fellows Pilot Program will provide the opportunity for Ph.D. scientists who are citizens and residents of ASEAN member states to learn about policy-making while contributing their knowledge and analytical skills to their national governments in support of ASEAN S&T priorities. ASEAN and ASEAN member states' government ministries will gain increased science capacity as well as capacity to use the best science to inform regional science-based policymaking. The Fellows will be based at their home countries' Science and Technology Ministries **or** in other home agencies with a focus on science and technology related issues.

Fellows may apply to work on one of the following ASEAN-U.S. S&T priority issues for the Fellowship year: **Health, Climate Change, Food Security, Early warning systems for disaster risk reduction (EWS for DRR), Water Management, and Biodiversity** (these are the common S&T priority areas for ASEAN COST and for the U.S. government). Fellows' work will focus on bridging the science to policy gap, and will consist of synthesizing scientific information for use in policy-making processes, interfacing between government and the scientific community, and undertaking other steps to advance the best use of science in addressing priorities of their country and of ASEAN. Fellows will help inform their home countries' science and policy cooperation with ASEAN and at the same time, help meet their society's needs for the most credible and objective scientific information.

Outputs at the end of the 1-year Fellowship include:

- science-based analysis, papers, and presentations on S&T priority issues and related policies and programs

- public communications, including science blogs on ASEAN and USASEAN websites; social media outreach events (e.g. Twitter Q&A on S&T)
- participation in Orientation and training programs in the region
- participation in ASEAN COST-U.S. Consultations
- active engagement with assigned mentors and established S&T networks in the region

In addition to the primary work ASEAN S&T Fellows will carry out in their home countries, the year-long schedule, **beginning March 31, 2014**, will include a number of milestone events to build the capacity of the Fellows to be effective. The career development, science policy, and regional science and technology experiences of the Fellows will help them to shape future careers in this area. The schedule includes:

- Paid participation in a week-long science policy networking, training, and orientation including:
 - Introduction to ASEAN, ASEC, and ASEAN-U.S. S&T priority areas
 - Guidance on Fellowship expectations, roles and responsibilities, and final work outcomes
 - Identifying draft objectives and activities for the Fellowship year, to be refined into a Plan of Action (POA) with the Fellow's home office
- Attendance at twice-yearly meetings of the ASEAN COST to network, inform and consult committee staff on S&T projects and to get first-hand experience on regional policy process
 - At the May 2014 COST Meeting, a side event will be convened for the Fellows to present their work, exchange information, and reinforce the network to be developed over the term of the Fellowship.

Roles & Responsibilities

Financial Support

A stipend of \$1,500 per month for 12 months of the Fellowship period will be provided. This stipend is intended to cover all relevant costs for full-time participation in the program, e.g. salary, room, board, insurance (if applicable), etc. In addition, travel costs will be covered for Fellows' participation in the week-long orientation, and attendance at the ASEAN COST meetings in 2014.

Fellows Selection and Promotion

The selection process will be managed by the U.S. Mission to ASEAN (USASEAN) in coordination with the USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA), the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST).

Hosting Fellows: Institution & Country Responsibilities

Institutions hosting ASEAN Fellows are responsible for providing workspace, equipped with computer hardware and software and telephone service; and, to make available general work-related office supplies (please see hosting agreements from Ministries of participating countries). The COST-designated supervisor of each Fellow will be responsible for working with the Fellow to develop their Plan of Action (POA), and to secure approval of the POA from the National COST representative. While the supervisor will not receive additional payment for his/her role in the Fellows Pilot Program, he/she is expected to be the first-line manager of the Fellows' work

and to facilitate the Fellow's work in the ministry. The supervisor will also be invited and encouraged to attend the ASEAN Fellows orientation. The supervisor will have external support from the National COST Representatives and assigned mentors.

Mentoring

Mentoring support will be provided to the ASEAN Fellows. Mentors will be resource persons with whom Fellows can informally discuss how to be more effective working in the Ministries to achieve the goals of the program. ASEAN Fellows could be paired with a scientist in the U.S. government who is working on similar S&T priority issues (this U.S. scientist could be based in the Southeast Asia region or in the U.S.).

ASEC and USASEAN will additionally provide guidance to the Fellows, for instance in regard to coordinating work with relevant ASEAN working groups and sectoral bodies to help advance regional cooperation on specific S&T priority issues.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Pilot Program

Surveys and/or interviews of Fellows, Supervisors, and Mentors will be conducted once every 4 months (3 times total) over the Fellowship year to inquire about progress towards the expected outputs.

An evaluation will be designed to assess the success of this activity in addressing national and regional interests, and in promoting the use of the best available science to inform the national and ASEAN regional policy process; advancing ASEAN regional cooperation on science and technology; building institutional capacity within ASEAN and between ASEAN and the United States to study regional and transboundary issues; and, deepening people-to-people interaction between ASEAN and U.S. scientists. The results of this evaluation will be used to inform follow-on activities to this pilot. The evaluation will be conducted in late 2014.

Section 2. Application Package

Application Package

1. Applicant profile: full name, contact information, S&T priority areas of interest (*Health, Climate Change, Early warning systems for disaster risk reduction and Biodiversity*), and Curriculum vitae (not to exceed 5 single-spaced, single-sided pages)
2. Three letters of recommendation. (It is encouraged that at least one of the recommendations comes from a person working in government or civil society organization focused on the application of science. Please note that applicant is responsible for ensuring that all three letters are submitted to the National COST Chair by the January 6, 2014 deadline)
3. Statement of purpose (not to exceed 3 single-spaced, single-sided pages) which should:
 - a. Describe your scientific background and the significance of your chosen S&T priority area for the region
 - b. Describe in detail how the ASEAN Fellowship will help your career goals
 - c. Provide examples of potential activities to advance your chosen S&T priority area which you would be interested in working on as an ASEAN S&T Fellow, for the benefit of ASEAN (note that actual fellowship activities will be developed in conjunction with your host office).

Please submit applications to Dr. Jaime Montoya at jcmontoya@pchrd.dost.gov.ph or aseanndi@gmail.com

Eligibility

Applicants must have a Ph.D. degree and at least three years of post-degree professional experience. Applicants should be less than 45 years of age as of January 6, 2014. The Pilot Program is aimed at early career scientists who will use the Fellowship experience to enhance his/her career.

We strongly encourage applicants who are non-government scientists, not already employed in their home government ministries, to apply as this Pilot Program is intended to bring outside knowledge on the latest scientific developments and discussions into the government setting. Government scientists applying to this program should clearly articulate in their statement of purpose how this experience will provide them with new opportunities and further their career development. Government scientists can not seek a Fellowship to continue their position within their current ministry.

We strongly encourage all eligible applicants, including women and ethnic minorities, to apply to the Pilot Program.

Countries and Ministries Participating in the Fellowship Program

Country	Ministry/Institution	S&T Area of Interest	Notes
Thailand	National Science and Technology Development Agency	Biodiversity	
	Geospatial Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency	EWS for DRR	Open to Fellow from another Country
	Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences	Health	
Indonesia	Ministry of Research and Technology	<i>Not specified</i> – all areas open (Biodiversity, Health, Climate Change, EWR for DRR, Water Management, Food Security)	
Malaysia	Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation - Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia)	EWS for DRR	Open to Fellow from another Country
Myanmar	Ministry of Health	Health	
	Ministry of Transport - Department of Meteorology and Hydrology	Climate or EWS for DRR	
Vietnam	Ministry of Science and Technology	Climate or EWS for DRR	
Philippines	Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Health Research & Development	Health	

Please note that **two** Ministries are open to hosting Fellows from other countries participating in the Fellows Program: Thailand's Geospatial Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency is able to host a Fellow from any of the participating countries who wishes to concentrate on early warning systems for disaster risk reduction. The Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) is able to host a Fellow from any of the participating countries who wishes to concentrate on early warning systems for disaster risk reduction.

Section 3. ASEAN-U.S. S&T Fellows Pilot Program Selection Criteria

The ASEAN-U.S. S&T Fellows Pilot Program will use the following five criteria in the selection process:

- Scientific/Technical Background & Professional Accomplishment
- Leadership & Potential
- Analytical & Problem-Solving Abilities
- Communication, Interpersonal & Outreach Skills
- Commitment to ASEAN-U.S. S&T Fellowship Goals

Candidates are evaluated and scored based on the **five criteria categories outlined below**. *Scientific/Technical Background and Professional Accomplishment* are weighted more heavily than the other four categories, as first and foremost, the ASEAN-U.S. Science & Technology Fellowships are professional development opportunities for highly-qualified scientists.

However, that alone is not sufficient for success as a Fellow. We also seek individuals who have a combination of leadership attributes, analytical and problem-solving abilities, and communication skills, who demonstrate commitment to this professional development opportunity and the Fellowship objectives, and whose experiences and interests fit with the specific S&T priority area.

The five criteria categories are presented below with descriptors of what we seek in successful Fellows, and the point ranges used by the National COST Representatives and Selection Committee members when evaluating applicants in each category. A perfect single score for a candidate would be 100 points.

Scientific/Technical Background & Professional Accomplishment (1- 40 points)

- Solid scientific/technical education and experience in area of expertise, appropriate to career stage
- Employment in relevant academic, applied scientific/technical, research, administration, outreach or policy positions appropriate to career stage and field
- Record of publications and/or presentations appropriate to career stage, field, and institutional setting
- Record of grants and/or participation in research projects or other scientific/technical initiatives appropriate to career stage, field, and institutional setting

Leadership & Potential (1 - 15 points)

- Prior leadership roles relevant to career stage (such as graduate student governance or faculty committees; advisory or editorial committees; active in professional societies, non-profit, or community initiatives)
- Skill/potential to organize, build consensus, lead projects and people toward positive outcomes
- Confidence, maturity, and self-direction with the capacity, initiative and flexibility to work well independently as well as in groups

- Potential to take initiative to make the fellowship a rich and positive experience, to disseminate the skills learned through the fellowship, and take advantage of networks developed

Analytical & Problem-Solving Abilities (1 - 15 points)

- Evidence of creative thinking and analytical skill
- Ability to translate and apply theoretical concepts into practice to solve problems

Communication, Interpersonal & Outreach Skills (1 - 15 points)

- Excellent communication skills: articulate, cohesive, concise, rational flow of information, and clear in both context and detail. Proficiency in English language to engage colleagues from ASEAN member countries and the United States.
- Ability to convey scientific knowledge in broader, non-scientific contexts

Commitment to ASEAN S&T Policy Fellowship Goals (1 - 15 points)

- Strong interest in applying his/her knowledge toward the solution of problems in areas in which the fellowship would be served
- Clarity of objectives for applying to the fellowship, and how he/she imagines using the fellowship experience in the future
- Willingness and flexibility to tackle issues beyond area of expertise, openness and capacity to expand experience in the policy realm, and to interact with policymakers and regulators
- Demonstrates/communicates commitment to apply scientific and technical expertise to serve society

Section 4. Timeline

~~Proposed~~ ****OCT 15 RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR APPLICATIONS** January 2014 Start Date

OCT 1-JAN 6 - Applicants submit application packages to USASEAN (pongsirimj@state.gov). Packages are forwarded to National COST Representatives via ASEAN Secretariat.

JAN 7-17- National COST Representatives review applications and nominate up to 4 applicants; National COST Representatives submit nominations with application packages to ASEAN Secretariat

JAN 20-24- Science & Technology Working Group convenes for peer review of applications and submits candidate recommendations to the High-Level Selection Committee

JAN 27-31- High-Level Selection Committee approves selection of ASEAN S&T Fellows

FEB 3 - USASEAN sends notifications to applicants and initiates support for Fellows Pilot Program activities

**** START DATE: MARCH 31, 2014**