

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**23 APRIL 2014**

## **SINGAPORE HOSTS 67TH MEETING OF THE ASEAN COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

Singapore - Singapore is hosting the 67th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST-67) from 21 to 25 April. Attended by nearly 200 prominent policy makers, scientists and academics, the Meeting, organised by Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) will see senior officials from the 10 member states discussing strategies to strengthen and enhance the capacity of ASEAN in Science & Technology (S&T). Minister (Prime Minister's Office), Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry, S. Iswaran, will be Guest-of-Honour at the ASEAN COST Opening Ceremony held on 23 April.

The 67th Meeting of the ASEAN COST will focus on reviewing the ASEAN Plan of Action for Science, Technology and Innovation 2015-2020, which will serve as the blueprint and implementation framework for the next phase of ASEAN's S&T efforts. The eight Subcommittees under the purview of ASEAN COST<sup>1</sup>, which met on 21 to 22 April, will also present their progress reports and update separately on areas such as biotechnology, sustainable energy research, microelectronics and information technology, and marine science and technology.

The Meeting will also discuss key areas, including talent mobility initiatives to encourage young talent to take up STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) careers and the harmonisation of technical standards across ASEAN.

Since it was established in 1978, ASEAN COST has provided platforms for member states to identify common challenges and forge collaborations in research and development (R&D). In recognition of its significant economic role,

---

<sup>1</sup> There are nine subcommittees that oversee key areas in S&T cooperation, but only eight subcommittees meet at COST.

the ASEAN COST will be placed under the aegis of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council from next year onwards.

“On behalf of Singapore, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all delegates of the 67th COST Meeting. The meeting is an important platform for member states to come together to promote partnerships in science, technology and innovation. A deep commitment to science and technology raises the competitiveness of companies in the region and creates quality jobs,” said Dr. Raj Thampuran, Singapore COST Chairman and Managing Director of A\*STAR.



**ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST) Chairs or Representatives and Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister (Prime Minister’s Office), Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry, Singapore, doing the traditional ASEAN Handshake at the Opening Ceremony of the 67th Meeting of the ASEAN COST.**

From left to right:

**Dato’ Paduka Awang Haji Suhaimi Haji Gafar**

Permanent Secretary (Technical & Professional), Ministry of Development, Brunei Darussalam COST Chair

**H.E. Dr. Tung Ciny**

Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Industry and Handicraft (MIH), Cambodia COST Chair

**Dr. Teguh Rahardjo**

Senior Advisor to the Minister on Security and Defense Technology, Indonesia COST Representative

**Mr. Malaithong Kommasith**

Director of the Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, Lao PDR COST Representative

**Dato’ Dr. Rosli Mohamed**

Secretary General, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), ASEAN COST Chair & Malaysia COST Chair

**Mr. S. Iswaran**

Minister (Prime Minister's Office), Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry, Singapore; Guest-of-Honour

**Mr. Kyaw Zwa Soe**

Director General, Department of Advanced Science and Technology – DAST, Ministry of Science and Technology, Myanmar COST Chair

**Dr. Amelia P. Guevara**

Undersecretary for Research and Development, Department of Science and Technology, The Philippines COST Chair

**Dr. Raj Thampuran**

Managing Director, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), Singapore COST Chair

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Weerapong Pairsuwan**

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand COST Chair

**Dr. Tran Quoc Khanh**

Vice-Minister, Science and Technology, Vietnam COST Chair

**Dr. Alexander A. Lim**

Head, Science and Technology Division, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat

---

For media queries and clarifications, please contact:

Tang Xin Ning

Senior Officer, Corporate Communications

Agency for Science, Technology and Research

Tel: +65 6826 6452

Email: tang\_xin\_ning@a-star.edu.sg

---

**About the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR)**

The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) is Singapore's lead public sector agency that fosters world-class scientific research and talent to drive economic growth and transform Singapore into a vibrant knowledge-based and innovation driven economy.

In line with its mission-oriented mandate, A\*STAR spearheads research and development in fields that are essential to growing Singapore's manufacturing sector and catalysing new growth industries. A\*STAR supports these economic clusters by providing intellectual, human and industrial capital to its partners in industry.

A\*STAR oversees 18 biomedical sciences and physical sciences and engineering research entities, located in Biopolis and Fusionopolis, as well as their vicinity. These two R&D hubs house a bustling and diverse community of local and international research scientists and engineers from A\*STAR's research entities as well as a growing number of corporate laboratories.

For more information on A\*STAR, please visit [www.a-star.edu.sg](http://www.a-star.edu.sg).