

Stakeholder Meeting between APCTT and Technology Agencies of Thailand for Promoting Regional Cooperation

Wednesday, 21 February 2024 | Time: 1400– 1600 hours (Thailand Time, GMT+7)

Bangkok, Thailand and online

Jointly organized by

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), Government of Thailand

Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research

Meeting Report

A. Overview

1. The Stakeholder Meeting brought together 21 participants including senior policymakers and experts from Thailand. They represented 7 key STI-related ministries, departments and national agencies and universities of Thailand including Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR), National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), National Innovation Agency (NIA), Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), and Kasetsart University (KU).
2. The event was jointly organized by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), Thailand, Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR), Government of Thailand, and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of ESCAP.
3. The participants shared perspectives and priorities of their respective organizations for regional technology cooperation. The meeting provided a platform to identify potential areas of collaboration with APCTT for regional cooperation.
4. The meeting began with welcome remarks by Dr. Junpen Meka-apiruk, Inspector General, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), Thailand, and Dr. Preeti Soni, Head of APCTT and a round of introduction by the participating officials and experts. The representatives presented the priorities and capacities of their agencies for potential collaboration.

B. Perspectives from institutions in Thailand

Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR)

3. TISTR briefed on the proposed 'Workshop on Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Management within the Circular Economy Concept' in 2024. The workshop was proposed by Thailand at the 19th session of the Governing Council of APCTT held on 6-7 December 2023 at Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

4. The workshop would focus on sustainable municipal solid waste management aligned with Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) economy model.
5. The workshop would showcase demonstration/pilot plants based on 'Tan Diao Model' model which integrates user-friendly technologies to transform wastes of various kinds including MSW, plastic waste, agricultural and food waste into valuable resources such as waste to energy (W2E) and waste to wealth (W2W). The approach generates employment opportunities, empowering women and the elderly, and promoting sustainable economic growth within the circular economy framework.
6. The concept note and agenda of the workshop would be shared with APCTT for review and further discussion.

National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

7. NSTDA aims at providing appropriate research-innovation responses to essential needs of society.
8. The agency focuses on community and rural areas and offers sustainable technology solutions to address their challenges in critical sectors such as agriculture, value-added agricultural products, commercialization, and market linkages.
9. NSTDA has ongoing international collaborations with partners in China, Japan, Europe, ASEAN, Americas, and international funding agencies.

National Innovation Agency (NIA)

10. NIA works towards upgrading the innovation capability of people of Thailand.
11. It provides finance/grants to different groups of people such as youth and entrepreneurs to develop and commercialize their products or services.
12. The agency supports entrepreneurs and startups to incubate, grow, access and link with the international market with focus on the food and agriculture sector.

Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA)

13. GISTDA promotes space technology value chain for relevant stakeholders in Thailand.
14. The agency promotes climate resilient agriculture through processing and utilization of satellite data for agricultural and related applications such as cropping area, crop production, climate issues, drought, and controlling forest fires.
15. Space technology data on air pollution is collected, processed and provided to people through website and mobile appliances.
16. GISTDA provides capacity building support and organizes training programmes with international partners. The support includes activities such as annual and customized courses, Master programme, training sessions, workshops, and seminars.

17. GISTDA also works with international and bilateral partners including collaboration with ESCAP.
18. GISTDA seeks collaboration with APCTT for technology transfer on space technologies, identifying potential partners and funding sources.

King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT)

19. KMUTT is engaged in academic and research activities, innovation, technology commercialization through incubators and accelerators.
20. The university focuses on technology commercialization (e.g., intellectual property protection, technology licensing and spin-offs), and the social sector. It facilitates collaboration with venture capital firms for technology commercialization.
21. KMUTT has ongoing collaborations with Thai and global partners.

Kasetsart University (KU)

22. Kasetsart University is involved in academics, research and innovation, technology transfer and business development activities.
23. The university supports researchers and students to innovate and develop startups. The university hosts an excellence center for startups.
24. The focus areas include future farming (precision farming), smart city, clean energy (e.g., battery, hydrogen), health and wellness, and space technology applications (i.e., drones).