

Application Guidelines for the ASEAN-ROK Award for Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation 2023 - *Next ASEAN Innovator*

I. Purpose and Outline of the Award

The Government of Republic of Korea (ROK), in support of Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) recognize the importance of science, technology and innovation in promoting the economic development of nations. To this effect, an annual award is established to encourage young scientists and engineers to take on research in science, technology and innovation. The ASEAN-ROK Award for Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation recognizes the academic and professional achievements of promising, early-career scientists and engineers of ASEAN nationality. The Award is open to professionals pursuing careers in any field of natural sciences or engineering. Especially the *Next ASEAN Innovator* distinction reaches out to scientists and engineers of ASEAN nationality who aim to establish joint research partnerships with the scientific community in the Republic of Korea.

II. Eligibility

In order to participate in the award in pursuance of the *Next ASEAN Innovator* distinction, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Citizen of an ASEAN member state^{*}; and
- A professional with less than 5 years^{***} of working experience after earning a Ph.D.^{**};
- Has no record in the past two years^{****} of receiving an award organized or supported by ASEAN, in the field of science and engineering

* ASEAN member states include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam (in alphabetical order)

** Major field of a Ph.D. degree or a doctoral program should be in natural sciences (including physics, mathematical sciences, chemistry, nanoscience, biological science, medical science, etc.) or engineering (including mechanical, aerospace, electronics, environmental engineering and computer science, etc.)

*** 01 Jan 2018, **** 01 Jan 2021

III. Award

The winner will receive USD 12,000 by the Minister of Ministry of Science, Technology and ICT (MSIT) of ROK. The award money will be wire transferred to the winner within a month

after the award ceremony. MSIT will also sponsor the travel expenses, lodging expenses as well as meal provisions for the winners to attend the one-week ASEAN-ROK STI Training Programme and the awarding ceremony.

IV. Commitment from Winners

The winner will be invited to attend the by-nomination annual one-week ASEAN-ROK STI Training Programme held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, to present and share his/her work. During the closing ceremony of the Programme, the Minister of MSIT will present the winners of the ASEAN-ROK Award for Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation with their Award. The award ceremony is expected to be attended by distinguished guests from the respective embassies of ASEAN Member States in Korea and invited stakeholders.

V. Application Requirements

In order to be considered for the award under the *Next ASEAN Innovator* distinction, applicants should submit the following online to STEPI aseanrokaward@stepi.re.kr.

- 1) Application form
 - Supporting documents within the application form: (*note: include only achievements over the last 5 years**)
 - Applicant's key research paper (preferably a published research paper)
 - Appendix 1 – List of journal articles
 - Appendix 2 – List of patents
 - Appendix 3 – List of conference presentations
 - Appendix 4 – List of fellowships, honors and awards
- * 01 Jan 2018
- 2) A Personal Statement
- 3) Recommendation Letter by a professor or advisor or research collaborator who had worked with the applicant before on the applicant's research area. (A recommender cannot provide a letter for more than one applicant for consideration of the award.)

Required documents, completed in every respect, must be submitted and received **by 11:59 PM GMT+9 on 3 September 2023** for an application to be considered for *Next ASEAN Innovator* distinction of the award.

VI. Judging

A. Judging Process

Complete submissions will be judged based on the evidence of expertise and leadership gathered from the documents submitted (Phase 1). Thereafter, an online interview (Phase 2) will be conducted for selected candidates.

- Top 3 candidates with the highest points (up to 75 pts) received in Phase 1 will be eligible to proceed to Phase 2 evaluation.
- After Phase 2 evaluation (up to 25 pts), the candidate with the highest cumulative points accrued from phase 1 and 2 (total up to 100 pts) will be decided as the final winner.

B. Judging Criteria

Phase 1 (75 pts)

Expertise (45 pts): evaluated based on information submitted as part of the complete application package

1. Applicant's key research paper, submitted in full length, appears to be highly esteemed. Higher points will be reserved for applicants whose key research paper is published in a better established journal and carries significant academic implications. (10 pts)
2. Applicant shows notable determination and commitment in academic and professional achievements. (35pts) Higher points will be given to applicants with more volume and better quality in their list of:
 - A. journal articles
 - B. patents
 - C. conference presentations
 - D. fellowships, honors and awards

Leadership (30 pts): mainly evaluated based on personal statement

1. Applicant outlines clear areas for growth potential in his/her career. Applicant demonstrates excitement, passion and motivation for his/her field of work. (10 pts)
2. Applicant demonstrates an active role in scientific collaboration within the ROK STI communities. Higher points will be given to applicants who provide concrete examples of collaboration. (10 pts)
3. Applicant demonstrates concrete plans to continue and further facilitate research collaboration between the ASEAN region and ROK.(10pts) Points will be distributed based on:
 - A. research topic
 - B. collaboration plan
 - C. feasibility of research
 - D. expected results and implications

Phase 2 (25 pts)

Originality (15 pts)

1. Applicant demonstrates strong understanding of its own field. (5 pts)
2. Applicant clearly demonstrates originality or contribution to existing literature. (5 pts)
3. Applicant shows keen awareness on social implications of community impact of his/her own research. (5 pts)

Potential (10 pts)

1. Applicant shows strong commitment in research and understands significance of scientific collaboration. (10pts)

VII. Important Dates

- Deadline of submission: **3 September 2023**
- Phase 1 evaluation: **Mid-September 2023**
- Announcement of candidates eligible for Phase 2 evaluation: **Early-October 2023**
- Phase 2 evaluation : **Mid-October 2023**
- Announcement of Winners: **Late-October 2023**

For further inquiry:

Please contact Science and Technology Institute (STEPI), aseanrokaward@stepi.re.kr