

The 4th Asian Innovation Forum

Science, technology and innovation (STI) have served as an immense force that drives Asia's development and progress. New knowledge and technology not only are deployed to contribute to the advance of our economic and material well-being, but are also expected to be critical for us to confront such common challenges as climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, environment protection and resource conservation, epidemic disease control, and the mitigation of the impacts of demographic ageing. There are high hopes for STI to address these issues domestically and internationally. As the activities of scientific research and technological innovation are costly and the results uncertain, however, states usually find themselves difficult to act alone and international cooperation becomes a necessity. Consequently, the making of STI policy, the process in which states determine what, where, and how scarce national resources are allocated, also involves an international dimension.

The 4th Asian Innovation Forum (AIF) will be held on July 10th in Taipei, Taiwan. The aim in this year is to facilitate constructive dialogues among participating members with respect to the making of STI policy. International cooperation here involves at least three dimensions. At the state level, states may exchange their ideas on distinct national STI strategy to learn how a common issue may be tackled and locate possible issue areas for future cooperation. At the domestic level there is a need for collaboration between state and society, as the allocation of national resources requires justification and support from the general public. It hence becomes imperative for states to seek ways in which public awareness of STI is raised and public engagement with STI encouraged. Last but not least, successful STI policy requires not only careful planning and implementation on the part of state agencies, but also a sound system of policy and project management with which the effective and efficient use of resources is ensured. As this is a relatively new area of policy intervention, practices and experiences of fellow countries are of high reference value.

The 4th AIF will be held jointly by Science and Technology Policy Research and Information Center (STPI) and Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP). We cordially invite you to share insights and engage in lively discussion. Please join us in shaping the dialogue to explore, discuss and find collaborative solutions for better Asia.

4th AIF Agenda (Tuesday, July 10)

9:00-9:30	Opening Ceremony
9:30-10:15	Keynote Speech (I)
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-12:00	I. National Strategy for STI: Visions, Roadmaps & Action Plans
12:00-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:10	Keynote Speech (II)
14:10-15:40	II. Emerging Technologies & Public Engagement
15:40-16:00	Break
16:00-17:30	III. S&T Policy Implementation: Approaches and Practices
17:30-17:45	Closing Remarks

× *Please refer to the next page for details on the sessions*

× Participants to the 4th AIF are invited to attend the joint-conference,

International Conference on S&T Program Management and Evaluation on July 11

Introduction to the Sessions

Session I. National Strategy for STI: Visions, Roadmaps & Action Plans

This panel aims to provide Asian think tanks with a platform to exchange their ideas about national science, technology, and innovation (STI) strategy. Nowadays STI plays an important role in national development, as it is thought to contribute to revitalize the economy, enhance national competitiveness, and meet several societal challenges. While the goals of development may be common, the visions and paths taken by Asian countries may vary significantly, reflecting distinct social, political and economic contexts and needs. It is this interplay of identity/difference that creates ample space for intellectual exchange and dialogue. This panel sets out to discuss issues such as the framework and content of a national STI strategy (e.g. white paper or similar official documents), the process leading to the making of such a strategy (including how to design a framework, the research process, etc.), various institutional, organizational and technical obstacles to be addressed, and so on.

Session II. Emerging Technologies & Public Engagement: Lessons, Obstacles & Innovative Approaches

Emerging technologies are generally expected to bring benefits and welfare to the economy and society, but are also characterized with uncertainty and risk. Given that the public may not understand the knowledge and mechanisms of modern technologies, let alone their social-economic impacts on the daily lives, there has been a trend in which states develop models of participatory technology assessment to facilitate the democratic governance of science and technology. It then becomes a crucial question as to how stakeholders and citizens are brought together to foster consensus on and formulate strategy of the development of science and technology in a given country. The purposes of this panel therefore include: to explore the ways in which Asian countries practice public engagement in science and technology, to identify key issues and challenges, and for the participants to collaborate on innovative mechanisms of public engagement as well as their localization. Proposed topics are as follows:

1. National approaches to the mechanism of stakeholder and public participation in S&T policy, the resources being invested, and the infrastructure being built.
2. Case studies of stakeholder and public participation in the planning and implementation of S&T policy, including but not limited to the formulation of a common vision, the exploration of social demands, the setting of research issues, and the determination of alternatives/solutions.
3. Innovative methods and tools to facilitate stakeholder and public participation in the planning and implementation of S&T policy, in both physical and virtual forms.

Session III. S&T Policy Implementation: Approaches and Practices

This panel seeks to discuss the implementation of science and technology (S&T) policy, which includes feasibility study, resource allocation, R&D management and R&D evaluation. The promotion of S&T is key to enhancing national competitiveness, and requires an appropriate practice of process to guide the direction of research and development. In this regard, all parts of national R&D system must be operated intricately to meet the goals of S&T policy, where each player in the system is orchestrated to achieve the national vision. An integrated cycle of R&D system that aligns with mid- and long-term national strategies will enable effective and efficient use of scarce resources. This panel aims to bring together interested participants to engage in lively and creative discussions of the approaches and practices undertaken by Asian countries and the lessons learnt.