



5TH ASEAN-JAPAN WORKSHOP

Executive Summary



The 5th ASEAN-Japan Workshop was organized by the Philippines' Department of Science and Technology and Japan's Science and Technology in Society *forum* (STS *forum*), co-organized by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), and supported by the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines. It gathered 125 senior government officials, academic professionals, and industry leaders from eight ASEAN Member States (Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and Japan.

The Workshop built on the proceedings of the 14th Annual Meeting of STS *forum* held on October 7-9, 2017 in Kyoto, Japan, which was attended by around 1,400 guests—world leaders from the government, business, academia, and international organizations. With two sessions, this year's Workshop explored the opportunities to strengthen science and technology

coordination and technology transfer within ASEAN and Japan in the first session, and advancing our way to a super smart society through AI innovations in the second session.

On April 25, 2018, a Reception Dinner was hosted by H.E. Mr. Koji Haneda, Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines, to welcome the delegates to the event. A Farewell Dinner after the Workshop on April 26 was arranged by DOST and PCCI.

OPENING PROGRAM

During the opening program, Chairman and Founder of *STS forum* Mr. Koji Omi mentioned that *STS forum* has grown from a conference to a gathering of global leaders advancing science and technology for societal benefit. He further urged the audience to consider a longer-term perspective and the sustainability of the future as guiding principles in thinking about the global challenges that confront us.

Then, the Chairman of PCCI, Mr. George Barcelon, emphasized on the works of his organization to encourage and promote research and development (R&D) to attain the “4H’s vision”—alleviating Hunger, providing affordable Health, securing Higher education, and attaining Happiness in life.

Likewise, the Executive Vice President of JETRO, Mr. Yasukazu Irino and Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Mr. Koji Haneda, shared Japan’s initiatives to boost regional cooperation and support inclusive development.

Finally, Sec. Fortunato De La Peña, in his keynote address, acknowledged the key role of science, technology, and innovation in achieving a collective prosperity while also recognizing the need to prepare for the possible impacts of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence in the future of our society, thus underscoring the value of the Workshop.

The Workshop consisted of two sessions; Session 1 focused on technology transfer and science collaboration within ASEAN and Japan. Session 2 focused on artificial intelligence (AI)

and Society 5.0. Eight experts provided their views on each of the topic, which was followed by a table discussion amongst participants, presentation, and synthesis.

SESSION 1: Science and Technology Cooperation between ASEAN and Japan: Facilitating Technology Transfer

Dr. Fidel Nemenzo (UP- Diliman, Philippines) opened the discussion by asking how we can strengthen our cooperation in science and technology and what obstacles must be overcome to facilitate smoother technology transfer in the region. Eight speakers presented their views and their country's best practices on the topic; they were: Mr. Kazuaki Kawabata (MEXT, Japan), Dr. Luis Sison (UP-Diliman, Philippines), Dr. Raj Thampuran (A*STAR, Singapore), Prof. Wimpie Agoeng Noegroho (BPPT, Indonesia), Mr. Yasuhiro Mashiko (Panasonic, Japan), Dr. Maria Cynthia Rose Bautista (UP-Diliman, Philippines), Dr. Kayo Inaba (Kyoto University, Japan) and Mr. Tran Tri Dung (Swiss Entrepreneurship Program, Vietnam). Dr. Chularat Tanprasert (NSTDA, Thailand) and Prof. Zakri Abdul Hamid (Malaysian Government, Malaysia) wrapped up the session.



Mr. de la Peña and Mr. Omi (5th and 6th from the right) join the speakers and commentators of Session 1.

Some insights came up from the followed discussion for the improvement of technology transfer referred to:

- a. Co-creation and co-development of Intellectual Property (IP)
- b. Establishment of open innovation centers such as incubation facilities that support starters and ease the process of technology transfer including research collaboration, patenting and commercialization of research outputs
- c. Offering joint graduate programs, satellite campuses, sandwich graduate programs and research fellowships to boost the quality of academic exchange networks, provide higher-level skills training among ASEAN students and upgrade our human resources
- d. Strengthening public-private, academic-private, government-to-government partnership research and development for scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs to work together and bring sustainable solutions to the market

SESSION 2: Artificial Intelligence and Society 5.0



Prof. Kazuhito Hashimoto (NIMS, Japan), chairman of Session 2, introduced the concept of Society 5.0 and the role of AI in achieving its goals. He called on the eight speakers: Mr. Takatsune Ito (METI, Japan), Dr. Danilo Lachica (SEIPI, Philippines), Dr. Mohd Yussof Sulaiman (MIGHT, Malaysia), Dr. Limin Hee (CLC, Singapore), Dr. Yuichiro Anzai (JSPS, Japan), Atty. Juan Paolo Villonco (Ignition Innovations, Inc., Philippines), Dr. Katsumi Emura (NEC Corporation, Japan) and Dr. Wilaiporn Chetanachan (SCG, Thailand). After those eight speakers spoke on how AI can better be utilized, managed and supervised for humanity and society, Dr. Yan Riyanto (LIPI, Indonesia) and H.E. Mr. Houmphanh Intharath (MOST, Laos) wrapped up the session.

Ideas generated from the followed discussion include;

- a. AI has a great potential to aid the humanity in solving more complex social issues.

- b. AI should not be feared but rather be seen as an opportunity to improve our quality of life. We should take advantage of the opportunities brought by it.
- c. The role of government and policy makers are crucial to make AI-driven society work. (i.e. crafting policies that will aid startups and MSMEs by maximizing AI while ensuring AI applications and systems are well-regulated and following ethical standards).
- d. Technology should not be pursued only for technology's sake but ultimately to unlock and dedicate human resource to higher pursuit and social good.
- e. AI should not be confined to domestic level. The importance of public-private partnerships, country-to-country and regional collaborations should be highlighted to learn from each other's successes and failures.

The next workshop will be held in Singapore in 2019 and all other participants are welcome to attend.