



Towards a Global Consensus on Open Science

Inputs from Asia-Pacific region to the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science

Asia-Pacific Online Regional Consultation

Tuesday 15 September 2020, 12:00-15:00 GMT+7

Background

Open Science is a global movement aiming to make science more accessible, democratic, transparent and beneficial for all. Driven by unprecedented advances in our digital world, the transition to Open Science allows scientific information, data and outputs to be more widely accessible and more readily shared with the active engagement of all relevant stakeholders.

By encouraging science to be more connected to societal needs and by promoting equal opportunities for all, Open Science can be a true game-changer in pressing planetary and socio-economic challenges and bridging the science, technology and innovation (STI) gaps between and within countries.

The recent response of the scientific community to the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how open science can accelerate scientific solutions for a global challenge. The genetic sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus was posted in an open access repository and made freely available for all researchers. To accelerate our common understanding of the global threat and finding the treatment, scientists are sharing their protocols and results of their research in open access journals and open data repositories. Many international publishers have made COVID-19 research content freely accessible and technology leaders have joined in creating the needed infrastructure for open access databases, containing valuable information on scientific and technological advancements.

In spite of the encouraging open science actions in response to COVID-19, and the growing number of national and regional initiatives, there is currently no international framework nor common policy guidance for Open Science globally. UNESCO, as the United Nations Agency with a mandate for Science, is the legitimate global organization enabled to build a coherent vision of Open Science and a shared set of overarching principles and shared values. That is why, at the 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference, 193 Member States tasked the Organization with

the development of an international standard-setting instrument on Open Science in the form of a UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

UNESCO Recommendations are legal instruments in which “the General Conference formulates principles and norms for the international regulation of any particular question and invites Member States to take whatever legislative or other steps may be required in conformity with the constitutional practice of each State and the nature of the question under consideration to apply the principles and norms aforesaid within their respective territories”. Emanating from the Organization’s supreme governing body, recommendations are intended to influence the development of national laws and practices.

The Recommendation on Open Science is expected to define shared values and principles for Open Science, and identify concrete measures on Open Access and Open Data, with proposals to bring citizens closer to science and commitments facilitating the production and dissemination of scientific knowledge around the world.

Co-Organizers

UNESCO Jakarta, the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific is organizing this online meeting in collaboration with the UNESCO category 2 centre, the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC).

Objectives of the Online Asia Pacific Regional Consultation

To advance the Open Science discussion in the global context, it is important to take stock of the different regional perspectives. The online regional consultation for Asia and the Pacific is part of a series of regional consultations aimed at building a global consensus on open science. It will provide a platform to provide inputs from Asia and Pacific scientists, science funders, policy makers, innovators, publishers and other concerned stakeholders to the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

The specific objectives of this online regional consultation are to:

- Bring together the scientists, policy makers and the main stakeholders of Open Science in Asia and the Pacific region.
- Advance the discussion from the Asia and the Pacific perspective on the meaning, scope and opportunities of Open Science between policy makers, experts from academia, private sector and citizens
- Identify the key aspects of Open Science that are most relevant in the global context and should be addressed by the UNESCO Recommendation
- Share lessons learned from development and implementation of the Asia and Pacific Open Science strategies, policies and other initiatives.
- Identify the key challenges and necessary infrastructures for Open Science with suggestions on how to overcome them.

- Identify areas for international collaboration and networking to advance Open Science globally

This online meeting is envisaged to bring together some hundred multi stakeholders participants and will be held in English on the Microsoft Teams online platform based on the draft structure and draft agenda below.

Expected Outcome

Lessons learnt and experiences of Asia and the Pacific stakeholders on the development and implementation of Open Science strategies, policies and other initiatives will be shared taking cognizance of the key challenges and required infrastructures for Open Science with suggestions on how to overcome them, as well as areas for international collaboration and networking to advance Open Science globally. Key inputs derived from this regional consultation will inform the overall UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

Draft Structure and Programme

Online session tentative agenda

Time	Topic
12:00 – 12:10	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Shahbaz Khan, Director of Office & UNESCO Representative, UNESCO Office in Jakarta and Regional Bureau for Science (5 min) • Prof Datuk Dr Halimatun Hamdan, Chairperson of ISTIC Governing Board (5 min)
12:10 – 12:20	<p>Summary of regional inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Shahbaz Khan, Director of Office & UNESCO Representative, UNESCO Office in Jakarta and Regional Bureau for Science (10 min)
12:20 – 12:30	<p>Update on the draft recommendation and key elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Peggy Oti-Boateng, Director, Division of Science Policy and Capacity-Building, Natural Sciences Sector (10 min)
12:30 – 12:50	<p>Moderated by Prof Shahbaz Khan, Director of Office & UNESCO Representative, UNESCO Office in Jakarta and Regional Bureau for Science</p> <p>Stakeholders perspectives and existing initiatives (20 min)</p> <p>Advisory committee perspectives (national regional and global)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Juncai Ma, Direct, National Microbiology Data Center, Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

<p>12:50 – 13:00</p> <p>13:00 – 13:10</p> <p>13:10 – 13:20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Kazuhiro Hayashi, Senior Research Fellow, National Institute of Science and Technology Policy • Prof Noorsaadah Abd. Rahman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), University Malaya • Dr Eun Jung Shin, Research Fellow, Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI) <p>Other regional initiatives and existing platforms on Open Science (20 min)</p> <p>IKCEST on their OS platform (10min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Chang Liu, Director of Division of International Cooperation, International Knowledge Centre for Engineering Sciences and Technology <p>ISC_ROAP on the regional initiatives (10min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mazlan Othman, Director of the International Science Council (ISC) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) <p>Integration of Social science with the natural science in Open Science (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari, Vice-Chair, World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), Pakistan Academy of Science
<p>13:20 – 14:40</p>	<p>Open discussion / Q&A session</p> <p>Moderated by Prof Shahbaz Khan, Director of Office & UNESCO Representative, UNESCO Office in Jakarta and Regional Bureau for Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions from the panelists, and from the audience • Feedback on elements of the recommendation the draft outline and key elements of the Open Science. • Responding to the regional needs / integrating the regional considerations into the draft outline
<p>14:40 – 14:50</p> <p>14:50 – 15:00</p>	<p>Conclusion and way forward for AP region</p> <p>Final comments from the region and experts</p> <p>Moderated by Prof Shahbaz Khan, Director of Office & UNESCO Representative, UNESCO Office in Jakarta and Regional Bureau for Science</p> <p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISTIC: Prof Datuk Dr Halimatun Hamdan, Chairperson of ISTIC Governing Board (5 min) • UNESCO: Dr Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences of UNESCO (5 min)

- **Working documents for the consultation**

Prior to the consultation, two documents will be shared with participants:

- Summary of global and regional results of the global survey on Open Science conducted from March-June 2020.
- A draft Table of Content and key messages of the Recommendation on Open Science developed by the Global Advisory Committee (meeting on 16-17 July 2020)

- **Consolidation of inputs after the online session**

The draft report of the meeting will be shared with the participants after the online discussion. Participants will be invited to provide further written inputs on the draft report within a one week. The final report will be posted on UNESCO Open Science website. The inputs from the meeting will subsequently be incorporated in the draft text of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

- **Register to online session**

Participants are invited to register through the link below by 13 September 2020.

<https://bit.ly/AP-OSCM-RegForm>