



# Draft Agenda

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## ASEAN – India Women Scientists Conclave

24-26 April 2024, in Singapore

### **PURPOSE:**

Enhancing mobility of women scientists and researchers, women to women connectivity and engagement of women in Science and Technology through ASEAN – India Women Scientists Conclave

### **OBJECTIVE:**

- ✓ Sharing of scientific knowledge, best research practices and experiences among women researchers through interactions on international platform
- ✓ Strengthen cooperation in science, technology and innovation and create a networking international platform for women scientists.
- ✓ Broaden scientific horizon of women researchers and entrepreneur, help them grow their skills and networking, promote exchanges and friendship, and expand channels of cooperation.
- ✓ Enhance collaborative scientific and innovative activities of India-ASEAN women scientists

### **FUNDING SOURCE:**

ASEAN-India Science & Technology Development fund (AISTDF)

### **THEMATIC AREAS:**

Artificial Intelligence, Healthcare and Sustainability (Energy Solutions)

### **PARTICIPATION AND SPEAKERS:**

A total of up to about 50 participants are proposed to attend the annual conclave. Out of which about 30 participants will be from ASEAN (3 from each ASEAN country as nominated by respective AMS COSTI Secretariats) and 20 from India. Indian participants will be selected and nominated by SERB. Up to 3 participants from Timor Leste will also be invited. Participants can range from early career researchers to mid-career and senior researchers.

## TENTATIVE PROGRAM

It will be a 3-day program. First 2 days will be presentations, breakout sessions and an innovation competition, and a site visit will be held on the third day as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Tentative Program**

### Day 1 Schedule

8.45 – 9.00 am	<b>Arrival</b>
9.00 – 9.25 am	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASEC Representative (5 mins)</li> <li>• A*STAR Representative (5 mins)</li> <li>• India Representative (5 mins)</li> </ul> <p><b>Keynote Speech</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• POH, Ministry of Trade &amp; Industry (TBC) (10 mins)</li> </ul>
9.25 – 9.30 am	<b>Group Photo</b>
9.30 – 10.45 am	<p><b>Keynote Speech</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top Woman Scientist (ASEC &amp; India to nominate) (15 mins)</li> </ul> <p><b>Celebration of Outstanding Scientists in STEM (Part I)</b></p> <p>Presentations on scientific achievements/excellence by scientists in any of the following three research areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Artificial Intelligence</li> <li>✓ Healthcare</li> <li>✓ Sustainability/Energy Solution</li> </ul> <p><b>Format:</b> Each presentation will be limited to 10 mins, and 5 mins Q&amp;A (15 mins). There will be a total of 4 presentations for Part I.</p>
10.45 – 11.00 am	<b>Morning Tea Break / Networking</b>
11.00 – 12.30 pm	<p><b>Celebration of Outstanding Scientists in STEM (Part II)</b></p> <p>Presentations to continue.</p> <p><b>Format:</b> Each presentation will be limited to 10 mins, and 5 mins Q&amp;A (15 mins). There will be a total of 6 presentations for Part II.</p>
12.30 – 2.00 pm	<b>Catered Lunch for all Participants. A*STAR Representative to host</b>

2.00 – 3.15 pm	<p><b>Overcoming Societal Expectations on Women in STEM (Part I)</b></p> <p>Societal and family expectations on motherhood and caring for young children have predominantly fallen on the shoulders of women. Time off careers for women may mean accruing lesser experience than male counterparts in a same time period, and this could result in delayed promotion or salary raises. Through group discussions, this session explores these systemic issues on STEM, i.e. how deeply engrained such mindsets are in ASEAN and India, as well as ways in which government policies (current or future) can help encourage women to pursue a STEM career in a predominantly male environment.</p> <p><b>Format:</b> Presentations by 5 groups of 10 (15 mins each – 10 mins presentation, 5 mins Q&amp;A)</p>
3.15 – 3.40 pm	<b>Tea Break</b>
3.40 – 5.00 pm	<p><b>Overcoming Societal Expectations on Women in STEM (Part II)</b></p> <p>Share and discuss on ideas/ways to overcome societal barriers that motherhood and child rearing have on women in STEM</p> <p><b>Format:</b> Breakout Session - 5 groups of 10 (30 mins for group discussion, and 10 mins presentation for each group)</p>

## Day 2 Schedule

8.45 – 9.00 am	<b>Arrival</b>
9.00 – 9.10 am	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rep from ASEC</li> </ul>
9.10 – 10.20 am	<p><b>Panel Discussion I: How to overcome systemic barriers that hinder Women participation in STEM globally (45 mins)</b></p> <p>A report for the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2019) found women comprised only 29.3 per cent of scientific researchers in the world. Rates are even lower in the Asia-Pacific region where women hold 18.5 per cent of research positions in South and West Asia; 23.9 per cent in East Asia and the Pacific; and 48.2 per cent in Central Asia. Further, women and girls who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or minority groups may experience multiple, overlapping barriers that further hinder their participation in STEM. Such exclusion of female professionals signifies a loss of ideas, perspectives and talent, and more must be done to overcome these systemic barriers that hinder women participation in STEM globally.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Rep from Singapore</p>

	<p><b><u>Panelists:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 scientists (from AMS and India)</li> </ul> <p><i>Question and Answer (25 mins)</i></p>
10.20 – 10.50 am	<b>Morning Tea Break / Networking II</b>
10.50 – 12.00 pm	<p><b>Panel Discussion II: The critical role of national policies in encouraging Women participation in STEM in ASEAN and India (45 mins)</b></p> <p>According to a UNESCO study, following an analysis of primary and secondary education in 120 countries, the gender gap in terms of performance in science and math begin to disappear by secondary education. However, this does not necessarily translate into undertaking further STEM education or ultimately careers. This panel discussion does a stocktake of the current situation of female participation in STEM in respective countries, and discusses ways in which national policies can help to steer more women to pursue a career in STEM.</p> <p><b><u>Moderator:</u> India to nominate</b></p> <p><b><u>Panelists:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 scientists (from AMS and India)</li> </ul> <p><i>Question and Answer (25 mins)</i></p>
12.00 – 2.00 pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>
2.00 – 3.00 pm	<p><b>Innovation Competition (Part I)</b></p> <p>This competition gives participants the opportunity to make a pitch on a project which demonstrates innovation (i.e. how it can contribute positively to society or the potential for commercialisation)</p> <p><b><u>Format:</u></b> 5 mins presentation time (+5 mins Q&amp;A). Up to 6 pitches for Part I (T.B.C.)</p> <p><b><u>Panelists:</u></b> A judging panel from 10 AMS + India will decide on the top two winners</p>
3.00 – 3.30 pm	<b>Tea Break</b>
3.30 – 4.20 pm	<p><b>Innovation Competition (Part II)</b></p> <p>Pitches to continue.</p> <p><b><u>Format:</u></b> 5 mins presentation time (+5 mins Q&amp;A). Up to 5 pitches for Part II (T.B.C.)</p>

4.20 – 4.50 pm	<b>Break/Time Out for Judges to Tally Scores</b>
4.50 – 5.05 pm	<b>Announcement of Winners (Award Ceremony)</b>
5.05 – 5.15 pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>By ASEC and India Representative</b></li> </ul>
5.15 – 6.30 pm	<b>Cocktail Networking Event</b>

### **Day 3 Schedule**

8.15am	<b>Meet at Hotel Lobby</b>
8.15 – 9.00 am	<b>Travelling time to site visit location</b>
9.00 – 11.00 am	<b>Site visit (venues t.b.c.)</b>
11.00 am	<b>Back to Hotel</b>
<b>End of Conclave</b>	