Launching of AP-FAST
Facility for Accelerating Science and Technology Knowledge Services for SDGs into National Development Plans in Asia and the Pacific

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

As a specialized Agency of the United Nations, UNESCO contributes to the construction of peace, human development, and intercultural dialogue in an era of globalization through education, the science, culture, communication and information.
The Knowledge Agency

UNESCO has all the qualification to bring an intellectual and humanist response to globalization and to economic crisis: we know that culture and art, the sciences, education, communication and knowledge are the real value that from the essence of humanity

Evolution of UNESCO

1945
UNESCO Constitution: Peace must be founded upon the “intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind”

2016
Tensions and conflicts in today’s globalised world can only find lasting solutions if ignorance is countered with intellectual cooperation, intercultural dialogue, access to information, independent and pluralistic media
Overarching Objectives

**PEACE** – Contributing to lasting peace;

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** – Contributing to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

**PRIORITIES**: Africa and Gender
Other Areas; SIDS, LDCs countries in transition and youth

How UNESCO Contributes

- As a Standard Setter
- As a clearing house
- Through capacity-building
- Through international Cooperation

- Headquarters in Paris, France
- A global network of field offices, regional bureaus and Institutes
- 195 countries, National Commissions
UN Agenda 2030
Three main Pillars

Towards Sustainable Development and a Green Economy

RIO+ 20

Living in Peace

The Unfinished Business

Peace & Security

MDG+

UN System Task Team:
Integrated framework for realizing the “future we want for all” in the post 2015 UN Development Agenda
Related International Developments

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030

UNITED NATIONS
PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY
22 APRIL 2016

ISLAND VOICES
GLOBAL CHOICES

UN Conference on Small Island Developing States Apia, Samoa | 2014

Recognition of Key Global Challenges

Climate Change/Global Change  
Adaptation to increased hazard, innovation, focus on natural disasters

Rapid urbanization and population growth  
Sustainable Infrastructure

Poverty  
Access to infrastructure, services, rights, and technologies

Sustainability  Innovation  Technology
Global Development Agenda

Have maintained the idea that scientific and technological innovation can help to achieve sustainable development.

Put People and Wellbeing of Human and Planet at the Centre

Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

As a Regional Bureau for Science, it covers Asia and the Pacific Region (46 countries plus 2 associate members), through its programmes in Freshwater, Ocean, Basic and Engineering Science, Earth Sciences, Coastal Zones and Small Islands
UNESCO Initiatives in S&T

Overarching Objective:
Positioning AP-FAST as a major driver for dialogue and actions aiming at putting Asia and The Pacific in a much better position to take forward science and technology knowledge and the SDGs in a region where political commitment and resource allocation is different from one country to another.
AP-FAST Strategic Objectives

1. Bring science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI) into national development plans and help countries achieve national development goals in the fastest and most efficient way possible.

2. Use UNESCO’s networks and areas of expertise to facilitate the achievement of the SDGs and its associated targets on both regional and national levels.

3. Foster global partnerships and enhance South-South cooperation to build and improve knowledge societies based on sustainable development and SETI.

4. Establish strong links with governments, regional professional bodies, industry associations, and regional communities.

5. Hold Annual AP-FAST Forums to monitor progress and enhance coherence between national and global development plans.

AP-FAST Frame of Thought

1. Identify the links between country’s NAP and SDGs, Target and Indicators and country’s SETI Capacity.
2. Identify what SETI is needed to accelerate the achievements of the target and indicators.
3. Identify how SETI in UNESCO’s programme and Centres could contribute to support countries to accelerate their S&T in achieving the SGD and NAP targets and indicators.
AP-FAST Area of Focus

#5: Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls

#6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

#11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

#13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

#14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

#15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

#17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

AP-FAST Thematic Areas

FAST-Water
FAST-DRR
FAST-DRR
FAST-Eco
FAST-Climate
FAST-Ocean
FAST-Innovation

Build around common actions on environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resource
**AP-FAST Project Overview**

1. Regional Strategic Meetings on the implementation of SDGs – also open to selected participants from other regions
   - Launching of AP-FAST initiative

2. Identifying effective and inclusive means for the use of S&T knowledge for implementing a transformational development agenda

3. Defining an AP-FAST annual meeting model as the regional forum to discuss the processes and progress on the integration of the SDGs in the region

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**AP-FAST Timor Leste Workshop Objectives**

- Bring UNESCO’s programmes experts, Asia Pacific SETI experts, and country’s NAP and S&T policy maker together to open dialogue on the role of SETI in SDG in the region.
- Identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities of SETI capacities in the region to support SDG implementation at national level as well as to support regional cooperation with focus on UNESCO programme (IHP, MAB, IOC, DRR).
- Identify initiatives to optimize the leverage of SETI for SDG implementation in the national development plan in the region with focus on UNESCO’s programme.
- To build network of Asia Pacific SETI experts for AP-FAST
AP-FAST Timor Leste Workshop
Expected Output

The workshop is expected to produce report / proceeding on:

• Perspective of SETI for SDG in the region focus on UNESCO programmes and Category 1&2 centres;
• Identification of SETI capacity in the region to support SDG;
• Recommendation on how to accelerate SETI to foster the implementation of SDG in the region in line with UNESCO programmes.

Thank you