



**Press Release**  
**Regional Workshop on**  
**Accelerating Science and Technology to Foster the Implementation of**  
**Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific**  
**and**  
**Launching of AP-FAST**

UNESCO Office Jakarta as the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and Cluster Office of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Timor Leste is implementing a project to Facilitate in Accelerating Science and Technology (AP-FAST) in the region to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Funded by the Malaysian Funds in Trust, the aim of this project is to position AP-FAST as a major tool to address Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) challenges that governments of Asia and the Pacific region may face in implementing the 17 goals and related targets as defined in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Built on the development expectations of the region, the project will bring together high level experts to discuss and develop tools and policies on scientific knowledge-sharing to guide governments of the region in incorporating and implementing the SDGs into their national development plans.

The AP-FAST is being launched on 7 June 2017 in Timor Leste in conjunction with the regional workshop on Accelerating Science and Technology to Foster the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific. The regional workshop will be held in Hotel Timor over two and a half days from 7-9 June 2017 in partnership with the Instituto Nacional de Ciências e Tecnologia under the Ministry of Education, Government of Timor Leste.

His Excellency Prime Minister, Dr Rui Maria de Araújo will officially open the workshop and give a keynote address on Timor Leste Roadmap for SDGs and the example of SETI in supporting the achievement of SDG 3 on health title: Timor Leste programme on Health in the Era of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development "Programa Saúde na Família. Welcoming remarks will be delivery by UNESCO Director and Representative, Professor Shahbaz Khan.

Over 60 participants are expected to attend the workshop, including representatives from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Pakistan, and the Philippines. The workshop aims to analyse the incorporation of the SDGs into national development plans and to identify effective and inclusive means of the use of SETI for implementing the SDGs. The workshop will also focus on UNESCO programmes including, the International Hydrology Programme, Man and Biosphere, Disaster Risk Reduction and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.