**Application Guidelines for the ASEAN-ROK Award for Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation 2021 - *Next ASEAN Innovator***

**I. Purpose and Outline of the Award**

The Government of Republic of Korea (ROK), in support of Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) recognize the importance of science, technology and innovation in promoting the economic development of nations. To this effect, an annual award is established to encourage young scientists and engineers to take on research in science, technology and innovation. The ASEAN-ROK Award for Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation recognizes the academic and professional achievements of promising, early-career scientists and engineers of ASEAN nationality. The Award is open to professionals pursuing careers in any field of natural sciences or engineering. Especially the *Next ASEAN Innovator* distinction reaches out to scientists and engineers of ASEAN nationality who aim to establish joint research partnerships with the scientific community in the Republic of Korea.

**II. Eligibility**

In order to participate in the award in pursuance of the *Next ASEAN Innovator* distinction, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

* Citizen of an ASEAN member state\*; and
* A professional with less than 5 years of working experience after earning a Ph.D.\*\*;
* Has no record in the past two years of receiving an award organized or supported by ASEAN, in the field of science and engineering

\* ASEAN member states include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam (in alphabetical order)

\*\* Major field of a Ph.D. degree or a doctoral program should be in natural sciences (including physics, mathematical sciences, chemistry, nanoscience, biological science, medical science, etc.) or engineering (including mechanical, aerospace, electronics, environmental engineering and computer science, etc.)

**III. Award**

The winner will receive USD 12,000 by the Minister of Ministry of Science, Technology and ICT (MSIT) of ROK. The award money will be wire transferred to the winner within a month after the award ceremony. MSIT will also sponsor the travel expenses, lodging expenses as well as meal provisions for the winners to attend the one-week ASEAN-ROK STI Training Programme and the awarding ceremony.

**IV. Commitment from Winners**

The winner will be invited to attend the by-nomination annual one-week ASEAN-ROK STI Training Programme held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, to present and share his/her work. During the closing ceremony of the Programme, the Minister of MSIT will present the winners of the ASEAN-ROK Award for Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation with their Award. The award ceremony is expected to be attended by distinguished guests from the respective embassies of ASEAN Member States in Korea and invited stakeholders.

**V. Application Requirements**

In order to be considered for the award under the *Next ASEAN Innovator* distinction, applicants should submit the following online **to STEPI** aseanrokaward@stepi.re.kr **with copy to** ASEAN Secretariat,STI\_Division@asean.org :

1. Application form
* Supporting documents within the application form: (*note: include only achievements over the last 5 years*)
* Applicant’s key research paper (preferably a published research paper)
* Appendix 1 – List of journal articles
* Appendix 2 – List of patents
* Appendix 3 – List of conference presentations
* Appendix 4 – List of fellowships, honors and awards
1. A Personal Statement
2. Recommendation Letter by a professor or advisor or research collaborator who had worked with the applicant before on the applicant’s research area. (A recommender cannot provide a letter for more than one applicant for consideration of the award.)

Required documents, completed in every respect, must be submitted and received **by 11:59 PM GMT+9 on 31 July 2021** for an application to be considered for *Next ASEAN Innovator* distinction of the award.

**VI. Judging**

1. **Judging Process**

Complete submissions will be judged based on the evidence of expertise and leadership gathered from the documents submitted (Phase 1). Thereafter, an online interview (Phase 2) will be conducted for selected candidates.

* Top 3 candidates with the highest points (up to 100 pts) in Phase 1 will be eligible to proceed to Phase 2 evaluation.
* The candidate with the highest points (up to 100 pts) received in Phase 2 will be the final winner.
1. **Judging Criteria**

**Phase 1 (100 pts)**

***Expertise* (40 pts):** evaluated based on information submitted as part of the complete application package

1. Applicant shows notable determination and commitment in academic achievements. Higher points will be reserved for those with more volume and better quality in their list of journal article publications. (20 pts)
2. Applicant’s professional achievements seem highly esteemed. Higher points will be given to applicants with more volume and better quality in their list of :
3. patents (5 pts)
4. conference presentations (10 pts)
5. fellowships, honors and awards (5 pts)

***Leadership* (60 pts):** mainly evaluated based on personal statement

1. Applicant outlines clear areas for growth potential in his/her career. Applicant demonstrates excitement, passion and motivation for his/her field of work. (10 pts)
2. Applicant demonstrates an active role in scientific collaboration with diverse scientific communities. Higher points will be given to applicants who provide concrete examples of collaboration. (10 pts)
3. Applicant shows willingness to expand his/her research network within the ASEAN region and with Korea in the future. Higher points will be given to applicants who provide concrete plans including:
4. research topic (10 pts)
5. collaboration plan (10 pts)
6. feasibility of research (10 pts)
7. expected results and implications (10 pts)

**Phase 2 (100 pts)**

1. Applicant is able to articulate originality or contribution of his/her research to existing literature. (10 pts)
2. Applicant shows due diligence in identifying how his/her research addresses the unmet needs of society. (10 pts)
3. The unmet needs of society are clearly identified. (10 pts)
4. Feasibility of applicant’s research to meet the needs of the society. (20 pts)
5. Applicant is able to provide rationale for the intended partnerships (potential collaborators or collaborating organizations) within and outside of Korea. (10 pts)
6. Applicant shows potential to pull together collaborators from diverse disciplines (such as social sciences, humanities, arts) for his/her research. (10 pts)
7. Applicant is able to articulate plans to bring his/her research to the masses. (10 pts)
8. Applicant demonstrates the desire to commercialize his/her research for the benefit of mankind. (10 pts)
9. Applicant is able to demonstrate the direction or plans for his/her future career. (10 pts)

**VII. Important Dates**

* Deadline of submission: **31 July 2021**
* Phase 1 evaluation**: Mid-August 2021**
* Announcement of candidates eligible for Phase 2 evaluation: **Early** **September 2021**
* Phase 2 evaluation**: Mid-September 2021**
* Announcement of winner: **Early** **October 2021**

**For further inquiry:**

Please contact Science and Technology Institute (STEPI), aseanrokaward@stepi.re.kr