

# **2024 GRC Asia Pacific Regional Meeting**

**October 29-November 1**

## **About the Conference**

**Date:** October 29-November 1, 2024

**Location:** Meeting Room 5(2nd Floor), Friendship Palace, Beijing Friendship Hotel

**Online platforms:** Zoom

### **Zoom Meeting link:**

Day 1, October 30:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJw/cuqsrD0rGNBaAdOZAZC09Zwau5bbGe\\_v](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJw/cuqsrD0rGNBaAdOZAZC09Zwau5bbGe_v)

Day 2, October 31:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpceihqTkoHdTjJQ7XPjmsNtANCXWCKRe](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJEpceihqTkoHdTjJQ7XPjmsNtANCXWCKRe)

### **Organizers (Co-Hosts):**

National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka (NSF Sri Lanka)

**Website:** <https://www.nsf.gov.lk/index.php/login>

## **Introduction to the meeting**

The 2024 Global Research Council (GRC) Asia Pacific Regional Meeting is one of five parallel regional meetings that will contribute insights and input to the 13th Annual GRC Meeting in 2025. The GRC is a virtual organization that promotes collaboration and the sharing of data and best practices among funding agencies worldwide. The 2024 Asia Pacific Regional Meeting's main topics for discussion are:

- 1. Research Management in the Era of AI**
- 2. Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges**
3. Discussion on Gender and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
4. Responsible Research Assessment
5. Multilateral Engagement

## Agenda

### October 29, 2024 (Tuesday)

Time (UTC+8)	Items
12:00-18:30	Registration and hotel check-in
18:30-20:00	Reception dinner (First floor, Friendship Palace)

### Day 1: October 30, 2024 (Wednesday)

Time (UTC+8)	Items	Speakers
8:00-8:30	Registration and coffee	
<b>Opening Ceremony</b> Moderator: Zhang Yongtao, Acting Director General, Bureau of International Cooperation, NSFC [8:30-9:30] 60 min		
8:30-8:40	Welcome speech	Lan Yujie Vice President of NSFC, China
8:40-8:50	Welcome speech	Sepalika Sudasinghe Director General of NSF Sri Lanka
8:50-9:10	Welcome and Introduction to GRC	Michael Bright GRC Acting Secretariat UK Research and Innovation
9:10-9:30	Introduction of Participants by agencies	
9:30-10:00	Group photo and Tea break	
<b>Topic 1: Research Management in the Era of AI</b> Moderator: Inoka Sandanayake, Scientific Officer, Research Division, National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka. [10:00-11:30] 90 min		
10:00-10:05	Introduction to the session	Moderator: Inoka Sandanayake, Scientific Officer, Research Division, National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka

<b>10:05-10:15</b>	Background Paper introduction	Maha Almozaini, General Manager of the Grants Planning and Design, Research development and innovation authority (RDIA), Saudi Arabia
<b>10:15-10:30</b>	Keynote speech	Xiong hui, Vice president and Chair Professor, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
<b>10:30-11:30</b>	<p>Panel discussion (5 minutes each including Q&amp;A)</p> <p>Moderated discussion among all meeting delegates of Topic 1(40min)</p>	<p>Chair: Mohammed Alshareef, General Manager of the National RDI Observatory, Research development and innovation authority (RDIA), Saudi Arabia</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sunyoung Yoo, Senior researcher, National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)</li> <li>2. Ajeng Arum Sari, Director of Research and Innovation Funding, Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)</li> <li>3. Pongpan Kaewtatip, Vice President, Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI)</li> <li>4. Nguyen Dinh Pham, Chief Executive Officer, National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NFSTD), Vietnam</li> </ol> <p>Support: Wang Yue, Division of Foreign affairs Planning, Bureau of International Cooperation, NSFC</p>
<b>11:30-14:00</b>	Lunch break (First floor, Friendship Palace)	
<p><b>WG Meeting 1: Responsible Research Assessment</b>  Moderator: Zhang Yiwei, Division of Asia, Africa and International Organization, Bureau of International Cooperation, NSFC  [14:00-15:00] 60 min</p>		
<b>14:00-14:05</b>	Introduction	Zhang Yiwei, Program officer, NSFC
<b>14:05-14:20</b>	Highlight recent publication 11 <i>Dimensions of RRA</i> . (15 minutes)	Mohammed Ahmad S. Al-Shamsi (Co-Chair), Research, Development and Innovation Authority (RDIA), Saudi Arabia

<b>14:20-14:50</b>	RRA case studies (30 minutes)	Joanne Looyen, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE), New Zealand (Online)
<b>14:50-14:55</b>	High-level findings from ongoing survey of GRC participants on RRA. (20 minutes)	Recorded video
<b>14:55-15:00</b>	Wrap up	Grace Estillore, DOST PCIEERD Philippines (Online)
<b>15:00-15:20</b>	Tea break	
<b>WG Meeting 2: Discussion on Gender and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)</b> Moderator: Thilinakumari Kandanamulla, Asia Pacific Regional Co-representative of the GRC EDI Working Group (National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka) [15:20-16:20] 60 min		
<b>15:20-15:30</b>	An introduction to the GRC GWG and the Work streams	Thilinakumari Kandanamulla, Senior Scientific Officer, National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka
<b>15:30-15:40</b>	<b>Intervention 1:</b> EDI aspects related to Research Management in the Era of AI	Qiu Zeqi, Boya distinguished Professor, Peking University (confirmed)
<b>15:40-15:50</b>	<b>Intervention 2:</b> EDI aspects related to Working Together in Co-creation to Address Global Challenges	Sepalika Sudasinghe, Director General, National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka and Senior Consultant to Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration the Civil Service college Sri Lanka.
<b>15:50-16:05</b>	Panel Discussion	Moderated by: Ajeng Arum Sari, Director of Research and Innovation Funding, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia
<b>16:05-16:15</b>	Q & A	Panelists: 1. Christina Twomey, Chief Research Officer, Australian Research Council (ARC) 2. Akie Hoshino, Director of International Program Department, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) 3. Orakanoke Phanraksa, Senior Advisor for International Affairs, Thailand Science, Research and Innovation (TSRI)
<b>16:15-16:20</b>	Concluding Remarks (Online)	Nicola Jenkin, ASPAC Regional Chair of the GRC EDI Working Group And Manager, Service Design and Reporting,

		Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, New Zealand
<p><b>WG Meeting 3: Multilateral Engagement</b></p> <p>Moderator: Osamu Kobayashi, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Japan [16:20-17:20] 60 min</p> <p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>Multilateral Engagements (MLE) play a crucial role in advancing global research, particularly in tackling complex issues like climate change, health, and sustainability. However, differences in governance, funding processes, and administrative burdens pose major challenges. The mini-panel of this session will focus on key issues, including funding decisions and the disparities in participation between the Global North and South, with a special focus on insights from the Asia-Pacific region.</p>		
<b>16:20-16:50</b>	Multilateral Engagement Working Group Annual Progress Report 2023- 2024	Osamu KOBAYASHI, Co-Chair of MLE WG
<b>16:50-17:20</b>	<p><b>Panel Discussion:</b> Addressing Challenges in Multilateral Engagement</p>	<p>Moderator: Osamu KOBAYASHI, Co-Chair of MLE WG</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nianhe Rong, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), China</li> <li>2. Orakanoke Phanraksa, Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), Thailand</li> <li>3. Michael Bright, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), United Kingdom</li> <li>4. Enrico Paringit, Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology, Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD), Philippines (online)</li> </ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction (3 minutes)</li> <li>2. Topic 1: Funding Decisions in MLE (10 minutes) Discussion on current funding decision-making challenges. -How are funding decisions made? -What are the challenges in funding consensus?</li> <li>3. Topic 2: North-South collaboration in MLE (10 minutes) Discussion on participation and workload issues. -How can we balance global and local research priorities? -How to organize and structure MLE schemes more effectively, focus on clear roles and responsibilities for each funder while considering their administrative workloads?</li> <li>4. Conclusion and Next Steps (5 minutes) -Summary of key takeaways from Panelists</li> </ol>	

<b>17:20-17:25</b>	Close of Day 1 Zhang Yongtao, Acting Director General, Bureau of International Cooperation, NSFC
<b>19:00-20:30</b>	Formal Dinner (Junting Chinese Restaurant, Grand Building)

**Day 2: October 31, 2024 (Thursday)**

<b>Time (UTC+8)</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
<b>9:00-9:05</b>	Welcome	Director, Bureau of International Cooperation, NSFC
<b>Topic 2: Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges</b> Moderator: Rong Nianhe, Division of Asia, Africa and International Organization, NSFC		
<b>9:05-9:10</b>	Introduction of the session	Moderator, Rong Nianhe
<b>9:10-9:30</b>	Background Paper introduction	Ozlem Doğan and Fatih Esen, TUBITAK (online)
<b>9:30-9:45</b>	Keynote	Xue Lan, Tsinghua University
<b>9:45-10:45 (60 min)</b>	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b> (5 minutes each including Q&amp;A)</p> <p>Moderated discussion among all meeting delegates of Topic 2 (35min)</p>	<p>Chair: Chen Jing, Director of Division of American and Oceanian Affairs, NSFC</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sepalika Sudasinghe, Director General, National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka</li> <li>2. Shigeo Morimoto, Vice President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)</li> <li>3. Hyuk Jeong, Head of NRF Beijing Office, National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)</li> <li>4. Li Wencong, Division of Asia, Africa and International Organization, NSFC</li> <li>5. Ron Xavier, Counsellor (Science &amp; Innovation), Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), New Zealand Embassy Beijing</li> </ol> <p>Support: Tang Rongda, Program officer, Division of American and Oceanian Affairs</p>

<b>10:45-11:00</b>	Tea Break	
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	<p><b>Break-out discussion</b></p> <p>(4 groups + 1 online group) instruction and briefing questions (5min)</p> <p>Discussion (25 min)</p>	<p>Moderator: Rong Nianhe, Division of Asia, Africa and International Organization, NSFC</p>
	<p><b><u>Guiding questions for Break out groups:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on what has been discussed above, what do you think successful co-creation initiatives are?</li> <li>2. How can funder enhance researchers' and innovators' skills in interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement? Which specific challenges and solutions do you see for your organization?</li> <li>3. What role can GRC play to provide a structured framework for co-creation in RDI? what role GRC can play in promoting co-creation?</li> <li>4. Which aspects of the research management system of your funding agency have been affected by AI? What practices do you take to address these challenges?</li> <li>5. Are there any specific AI technologies that your organizations are using or exploring to improve research management?</li> <li>6. Can you share with us one or two takeaways you learned through the past two days of meetings?</li> </ol>	
<b>11:30-11:50</b>	<p>Report back and summary of each group (3-4min each, 5 groups)</p>	<p>Moderator: Rong Nianhe, Division of Asia, Africa and International Organization, NSFC</p>
<b>Closing remarks</b>		
11:50-11:55	Sepalika Sudasinghe, Director General, NSF, Sri Lanka	
11:55-12:00	Lan Yujie, Vice President of NSFC, China	
12:00-14:00	Lunch break (Buffet, First floor, Friendship Palace)	
<b>Side event</b>	<b>14:00-17:00</b>	

<b>Science for sustainable development &amp; transdisciplinary research</b> <b>NSFC &amp; NSF, Sri Lanka</b>	
18:00-	Dinner (Buffet, First floor, Friendship Palace)

**Day 3: November 1, 2024**

**Academical Visit:**

Peking University: Laboratory and Campus

Gathering time: 8:45 AM, First floor, Friendship Palace

Originated as the Imperial University of Peking in 1898, Peking University was China's first national comprehensive university and the supreme education authority at the time. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, it has developed into a comprehensive university with fundamental education and research in both humanities and science. Peking University is a cradle of top-quality and creative students, a major source of cutting-edge science and knowledge innovation, and a key bridge for international exchange.



## Side Event : Science for sustainable development & transdisciplinary research

**Date:** October 31, 2024

**Time:** 14:00-17:00

**Location:** Meeting room 5, Friendship Palace, Beijing Friendship Hotel

### Agenda

Time (UTC+8)	Items	Speakers
14:00-14:10	Welcome speech	Zhang Yongtao, Acting Director General, Bureau of International Cooperation, NSFC
14:10-14:40	-Keynote Speech: Top-Level Design of the SDIC Project (30min) -Q&A (10min)	Liu Congqiang Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Fellow of the International Association of GeoChemistry, and Foreign Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Tianjin University
14:40-15:10	-SDIC Project Achievement Report 1(20min) -Q&A(10min)	Li Xinhai, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)
15:10-15:40	-SDIC Project Achievement Report 2(20min) -Q&A(10min)	Fu Yongshuo, Beijing Normal University
15:40-16:00	Tea Break	
16:00-16:05	Introduction to the Panel Discussion	Inoka Sandanayake, Scientific Officer, NSF, Sri Lanka
16:05-17:00	Experience in transdisciplinary research (20 min) Q & A (30 min) Concluding Remarks (5min)	Inoka Sandanayake, Scientific Officer, Research Division, NSF Sri Lanka (Moderator) 1. Mahesh Dissanayake, Head, Research Division, NSF Sri Lanka 2. Osamu Kobayashi, Director, Department of International Affairs, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). 3. Pongpan Kaewtatip, Vice President, Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI) 4. Du Xin, Division Director, Department of Interdisciplinary Science, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

	<p>Guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Can you briefly explain your organization's experience in implementing transdisciplinary research programmes.</li><li>2. What are the challenges / potential drawbacks you have faced and strategies taken to overcome them?</li></ol>
<b>17:00-17:10</b>	<p>Summary</p> <p>Rong Nianhe Program Officer, NSFC</p>