The Concept note for the 6th ASEAN-ROK Award for Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation 2024

Introduction

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 and sound security 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.

Eligibility

This year, the award features two distinctions (there is no age restrictions, but a duplicate application will become invalid).

1) **Next ASEAN Innovator:** an applicant must
   - be a citizen of an ASEAN Member State; and
   - be a professional with less than 5 years *(01 Jan 2019)* of working experience after earning a Ph.D.;
   - have no record in the past two years *(01 Jan 2022)* of receiving an award organized or supported by ASEAN, in the field of science and engineering
2) **ASEAN-ROK STI Pioneer:** an applicant must
   - be a citizen of an ASEAN Member State; and
   - be currently enrolled in a doctoral program in Korea; or
   - be a professional whose completion of a doctoral program in Korea is less than 5 years *(01 Jan 2019)*; or
   - be a professional whose completion of a doctoral program is less than 5 years *(01 Jan 2019)* and has significant research collaboration experience (e.g. post-doctoral programme, etc.) with Korea;
   - have no record in the past two years *(01 Jan 2022)* of receiving an award organized or supported by ASEAN, in the field of science and engineering

** Major field of a Ph.D. degree, a doctoral program, or research collaboration 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.)*

Award

The winner of each distinction will be awarded a cash prize of US $12,000. The winners are also invited to attend the by-nomination annual one-week ASEAN-ROK STI Training Programme held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, to present and share their work**.** During the closing ceremony of the Programme, the Minister of Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) of ROK will present the winners of the ASEAN-ROK Award for Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation with their Award.

** Fares for air and hotel accommodation for participating into the ASEAN-ROK STI Training Programme will be provided.*

Judging

A. Judging Process

Complete submissions received by STEPI will be judged by the AMS and ROK 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 75 pts) received in Phase 1 will be eligible to proceed to Phase 2 evaluation.

  ** Member nominated by COSTI from each AMS participate into the Phase 1 judging process with the coordination of ASEC.*

  - 1) ASEC coordinates a short- list of AMS judges' pool (total 10 judges consist of each AMS member) which incorporates the information of the judges' affiliations, research fields and contacts, and shares the short-list in advance of the Phase 1 evaluation (by Mid-August).

  - 2) Based on the short-list, total 3 judges (1~2 AMS judges + 1~2 Korean judges) will be matched to each candidate with blind screening (virtually), considering the conflict of interests (nationality and affiliations) and the conformity with research fields.

  - 3) Top 3 candidates with the highest average score will be qualified to the Phase 2 evaluation.

- After Phase 2 evaluation (up to 25 pts), the candidate with the highest cumulative points accrued from phase 1 and 2 (total up to 100 pts) will be decided as the final winner.

  ** With the coordination of ASEC, AMS members who have participated into Phase 1 evaluation without conflict of interest (nationality and affiliations) and Korean judges participate into the Phase 2 judging process (online interview) on the Top 3 candidates for each distinction.*

B. Judging Criteria

Phase 1 (75 pts)

***Expertise* (45 pts):** evaluated based on information submitted as part of the complete application package

1. Applicant's key research paper, submitted in full length, appears to be highly esteemed. Higher points will be reserved for applicants whose key research paper is published in a better established journal and carries significant academic implications. (10 pts)
2. Applicant shows notable determination and commitment in academic and professional achievements. (35 pts) Higher points will be given to applicants with more volume and better quality in their list of:
   A. journal articles (25 pts)
   B. conference presentations (5 pts)
   C. fellowships, honors and awards (5 pts)
   D. patents (additional 1 pts)

***Leadership* (30 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 within the ROK STI communities. Higher points will be given to applicants who provide concrete examples of collaboration. (10 pts)
3. Applicant demonstrates concrete plans to continue and further facilitate research collaboration between the ASEAN region and ROK.(10 pts) Points will be distributed based on:
   A. research topic
   B. collaboration plan
   C. feasibility of research
   D. expected results and implications

Phase 2 (25 pts)

***Originality* (15 pts)**

1. Applicant demonstrates strong understanding of its own field. (5 pts)
2. Applicant clearly demonstrates originality or contribution to existing literature. (5 pts)

3. Applicant shows keen awareness on social implications of community impact of his/her own research. (5 pts)

***Potential* (10 pts)**

1. Applicant shows strong commitment in research and understands significance of scientific collaboration. (10pts)

Application Process

- Deadline of submission: 31 August 2024
- Phase 1 evaluation: Mid-September 2024
- Announcement of candidates eligible for Phase 2 evaluation: Early-October 2024
- Phase 2 evaluation : Early-October 2024
- Announcement of Winners: Mid-October 2024

Applicant must submit the **Application Form, Personal Statement** and **Recommendation Letter**, complete in every respect with the **supporting documents**, to STEPI (aseanrokawrd@stepi.re.kr) the latest by **31 August 2024.**

For Further Information

Please refer to the following online posts for details, including application guideline, application form, personal statement form and recommendation letter form.

Should you have any further inquiry regarding the award, please contact STEPI, dw459@stepi.re.kr

Official link: https://bit.ly/5th_aseanrokaward2023

(Above link address and its contents will be revised accordingly after the final coordination.)