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## ASIA-EUROPE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMACY INITIATIVE

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### OVERVIEW and OPEN CALL for Country Informants

#### BACKGROUND

The current global order is undergoing a remarkable transformation in diplomacy and industry, with a growing number of countries appointing Science Diplomats, and businesses integrating diplomats into their public policy departments. The cross-pollination of ideas and expertise drives innovation and economic growth, however at the same time, governments are also ensuring that public good remains a priority.

The increase in focus on **Science, Technology & Innovation (STI)** presents a **unique opportunity to foster increased dialogue and cooperation among Asian and European stakeholders**. Europe and Asia jointly account for a significant share of the world's population (almost 70%<sup>1</sup>) collectively contributing to over 60% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP)<sup>2</sup>. **Asia and Europe stand as powerhouses in the realm of STI**, hosting numerous world-class research centres, universities, and international organisations that uphold their research and development capacities. By cooperating together and leveraging their strong diplomatic ties, they can harness their collective scientific and technological progress to develop cutting-edge solutions and innovations, thereby establishing a solid foundation for science diplomacy and international cooperation.

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) has launched the [Asia-Europe Science and Technology Diplomacy Initiative](#) to **pinpoint and promote areas of potential interregional cooperation** for the ASEF member countries, and to maximise the potential of Science, Technology, and Innovation to achieve sustainable development.

The research report titled **“Asia-Europe Science & Technology Diplomacy Report”** aims to map out the different national strategies, policy tools and performance across 50 ASEF member countries, the European Union and ASEAN Secretariat, and provide insights and recommendations to the relevant institutions on areas for enhanced collaboration within and across the two regions.

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<sup>1</sup> World Population Prospects 2022. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division.

<sup>2</sup> IMF Data Mapper. International Monetary Fund.

## OBJECTIVES

The research report titled “Asia-Europe Science & Technology Diplomacy Report” aims to:



**Map and collect information** on national and regional **science & technology diplomacy strategies**, policy tools and performance.



**Facilitate dialogue, knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer collaboration** in the area of science & technology diplomacy.

## ABOUT THE RESEARCH REPORT

The research report titled “Asia-Europe Science & Technology Diplomacy Report” consists of two distinct parts:

### Part 1 | Measuring Science Diplomacy Trajectories

Using the Science Diplomacy Reporting Initiative (SDRI) methodology developed by the Barcelona Science and Technology Diplomacy Hub (SciTech DiploHub), the first part of the report aims to map and measure national performances with regional capabilities to identify regional patterns.

The methodology utilises custom-made indicators to measure countries' *diplomacy-driven* and *science-driven* capabilities, extracting and analysing data from open data sources such as UN databases, EU transparency systems, and other institutional sources to facilitate cross-comparison between the countries. Based on the findings, this part of the report will classify the countries using the SDRI Science Diplomacy Trajectory categories:

1. Advancing – Countries outstanding from regional performances.
2. Developing – Countries fostering STI growth capabilities through regional and international cooperation.
3. Emerging – Countries collaboratively setting the foundation for scientific growth.
4. Sub-emerging – Countries displaying initial signs of development of Science Diplomacy capabilities.
5. Nascent – Countries that significantly underperform in their region.

### Part 2 | Mapping Science & Technology Diplomacy Strategies

The second part of the report explores Science & Technology Diplomacy using *qualitative* analysis, including documentary analysis and interviews to map national strategies, priorities, policy tools and practices in the field of science diplomacy.

Part 2 of the report will address two main research questions:

- (1) What strategies do countries in Asia and Europe have for Science Diplomacy?
- (2) What initiatives and tools are being used to implement these strategies?

**To map the strategies and priorities**, we will be using the classification of science diplomacy put forward by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Royal Society in 2010<sup>3</sup>, dividing Science Diplomacy into three categories:

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<sup>3</sup> Royal Society (2010) *New Frontiers in Science Diplomacy: Navigating the Changing Balance of Power*. London: Science Policy Centre, The Royal Society.

1. Diplomacy *for* Science
2. Science *for* Diplomacy
3. Science *in* Diplomacy

To identify and map policy tools and initiatives, we will be using the three perspectives of Science Diplomacy proposed by Gluckman et al. in 2017<sup>4</sup>:

1. Actions designed to directly advance a country's national needs.
2. Actions designed to address cross-border interests.
3. Actions primarily designed to meet global needs and challenges.

This second part aims to identify common areas and themes as well as the priorities in different countries and regions in Asia and Europe in the field of Science Diplomacy. It aims to provide Governments and stakeholders with insights on potential areas of cooperation within and across the two regions.

## COUNTRY INFORMANTS

Country Informants will contribute to **Part 2 | Mapping Science & Technology Diplomacy Strategies** of the report titled "Asia-Europe Science & Technology Diplomacy Report".

The Country Informants will play a key role in collecting evidence, synthesising information and writing short country profiles. We are looking for one Country Informant per ASEF member. **Country Informants will need to complete the following tasks:**

- Conduct **desk research** to map national science and technology diplomacy strategies of the respective country (questionnaire provided by ASEF);
- Lead 2-3 **interviews** with key stakeholders driving science and technology diplomacy in the respective country, to gain further insights into the topic and the country's approach, such as with representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Ministries of Education, Science and Research (outreach facilitated by ASEF if needed);
- Summarise the findings in a narrative **country report** (template provided by ASEF, approx. 2-3 pages in total);
- Participate in online **check-in meetings** with ASEF and fellow Country Informants to discuss progress and challenges.

The research will take place between June to October 2024 with the following **planned schedule:**

- Desk research: June – August 2024
- Interviews and Summary: September – October 2024

A Country Informant is required to **allocate an estimated 10-12 hours a month** to complete the above tasks within this time period.

## ELIGIBILITY

Country Informants will need to comply with the following eligibility criteria:

- Citizens of eligible [Asian and European countries](#)\*
- Academics, diplomats, professionals or students between 18-35 years
- Excellent command of English (verbal and written) and of the official language of the selected country

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<sup>4</sup> Gluckman, P. D., Turekian, V. C., Grimes, R. W., et al. (2017) 'Science Diplomacy: A Pragmatic Perspective from the Inside', Science and Diplomacy, Vol. 6.

Previous research experience, as well as knowledge or experience in Science & Technology Diplomacy will be an advantage.

The applicants will be selected based on a non-discriminative, inclusive, and fair selection process. When assessing applicants and selecting potential candidates, ASEF and its partners will particularly look out for the motivation of applicants and previous experience in research.

\* All ASEF projects are implemented in line with the decision of the ASEF Board of Governors.

## **BENEFITS**

Selected Country Informants will benefit from:

- Learning more about science diplomacy and how it is applied in the respective country;
- Opportunity to meet and conduct interviews with key stakeholders of the science and technology diplomacy ecosystem of the country;
- Getting acknowledgement and credit as a co-author of the report, to be published in Singapore with an ISBN number.

Please note that this is a voluntary engagement, and ASEF cannot commit to providing any monetary compensation for your contribution.

## **EXPECTED IMPACT**

In the long-term, the expected impact of the Research Report is to promote connectivity and collaboration between Asian and European stakeholders in science, technology, and diplomacy and empower regional stakeholders, through:

- Fostering interdisciplinary and international research around Science Diplomacy;
- Identifying national and regional Science Diplomacy initiatives;
- Indicating potential areas of interregional cooperation in Science Diplomacy; and
- Promoting intergovernmental cooperation through national and regional collaboration and research on Science Diplomacy initiatives.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

### Q1: How long is the research period?

After selection, the research is due to be conducted between June to October 2024. The length may differ depending on how long it takes for the Country Informant to complete the tasks.

### Q2: I'm interested, what now?

Seize the opportunity and submit your online application [here](#)!

### Q3: When is the deadline to apply?

We accept applications until Sunday, 9 June 2024, GMT 23:59. Keep an eye out for the confirmation email upon your successful submission; if you do not receive it, it might have landed in your junk/spam folder.

### Q4: When will the results of selection be out?

We will announce the application outcome through email by latest Monday, 24 June 2024.

### Q5: What are the eligibility criteria?

You have to meet the following criteria to be eligible for consideration:

- Be a citizen of one of the eligible [Asian and European countries](#)\*
- Be an academic, diplomat, professional or student between 18-35 years
- Have excellent command of English (oral and written) and the official language of the chosen country

### Q6: What are the selection criteria?

When assessing applicants and selecting potential candidates, ASEF and its partners will particularly look out for:

- A motivational statement with arguments why you would like to contribute to this research;
- Previous research experience; and
- Knowledge, experience, and interest in Science & Technology Diplomacy.

We are looking for one Country Informant per ASEF member. We aim to select a group with diversity in gender, educational background, and expertise.

The Open Call and the screening process adopt a non-discriminative approach ensuring

a balanced geographic representation, gender balance and fair access to all. In doing so, the organisers do not discriminate any applicant or participant on the basis of his or her race, colour, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, disability, religion (creed), marital status, or age.

### Q7: I do not have experience researching or writing reports. Can I still apply?

Yes. While we primarily seek individuals with a certain level of knowledge and experience in research, we are open to accepting those with less experience, who are motivated to contribute. We will have people available to help guide you through your research process to ensure its academic quality.

### Q8: I am older than 35 years old. Am I still eligible to apply?

This research project is addressed to people between 18-35 years old, however if you are above 35 and believe you have a lot to contribute, we encourage you to still apply.

### Q9: I am an ASEF country national living / studying in a non-ASEF country. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, you are welcome to apply. However, please bear in mind that Country Informants will be required to do desk research and do live or online interviews with the stakeholders of the country assigned, in the official language of the given country. You can indicate in the application form which countries you feel confident conducting research on.

### Q10: I am not currently residing in my country of citizenship. Which country am I meant to research?

The Country Informants are expected to conduct interviews with stakeholders of the country which they are researching. Therefore, they are expected to speak the language of and be familiar with the country they are researching. We invite you to indicate in the application form which countries you feel confident conducting research on. It does not necessarily be your country of citizenship or country of residency.

### Q11: Will I be working in a group or by myself?

We are looking for one Country Informant per country. While you will be working on your own

to conduct the research in your country, the ASEFEdu team will support you throughout the process and guide you to find the right resources and potential stakeholders that may be able to help you in your research.

You are not expected to work specifically with any Country Informant from another country, but there will be check-in sessions where you can meet and network with other Country Informants.

**Q12: Will I be credited for my contribution?**

The research will conclude with the publication of a report consisting of the results from all countries involved in the research. As a Country Informant, you will be credited as a contributor in this report. In addition, all Country Informants will receive a Letter of Reference from ASEF upon successful submission of your country report.

**Q13: Will I be monetarily compensated?**

The Country Informants will be participating on a voluntary basis. ASEF cannot commit to provide any monetary compensation for the research but will explore opportunities to honour the time and commitment of Country Informants.

**Q14: What support will I receive during the research process?**

The ASEF Team will help guide you in your research and put you in contact with relevant stakeholders to interview for your country report. However, you are expected to take initiative on this matter as well.

In addition, the ASEF team will answer any questions that come up along the way and support the Country Informants with advice and, where possible, with human resources on administration, communication, outreach, and stakeholder liaison.

**Q15: I have special needs, can I apply?**

Yes, we encourage everybody to apply, including persons with disabilities or other special needs.

**Q16: Can I submit the application via other methods besides the online form?**

To allow us to assess the applications smoothly, all applications need to be completed in English and submitted through the online form provided. However, if you have any needs related to the accessibility of the form, please get in touch with us and we will try to assist you accordingly.

**Q17: I have other questions!**

Drop us an email at E: [scitech@asef.org](mailto:scitech@asef.org)

## ORGANISED BY



### Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). ASEF promotes understanding, strengthens relationships, and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy, public health and media.

For more information, please visit [asef.org](http://asef.org)

## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



### Barcelona Science and Technology Diplomacy Hub (SciTech DiploHub)

The Barcelona Science and Technology Diplomacy Hub (SciTech DiploHub) is a pioneering nonprofit public-private partnership backed by leading research centers, universities, non-profits, startups, corporations and public institutions that positions Barcelona as a global lab in science diplomacy for cities around the world.

It has the mandate to elevate the role of science, technology and cities in foreign policy and make Barcelona a more influential player on the global stage by representing its knowledge and innovation ecosystem worldwide.

For more information, please visit [scitechdiplohub.org](http://scitechdiplohub.org)