



# 10th AOSHRI Meeting – Timor-Leste 2025



## ASIAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AOSHRI) MEETING & SECRETARIAT OFFICE LAUNCHING

Presented by:

**Jacinta dos Santos Guterres**

National Director of Science, Technology and Innovation





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Instituto Nacional de Ciências e Tecnologia (INCT), Timor-Leste

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## 1. Introduction

### Research Institution INCT

INCT is a public institute, endowed with legal personality, with extended administrative and financial autonomy and patrimonial, as well as scientific and editorial autonomy, without prejudice to the State's supervisory action, in accordance with the law and of this Statute, based on Decree-Law No. 5/2023 of March 8 First amendment to Decree-Law No. 23/2014, of September 3, which approves the Statute of the National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT). Article 4, paragraph 1 INCT continually promotes the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge in Timor-Leste, exploring opportunities that emerge, in all areas scientific and technological, with the potential to achieve highest international standards for creating knowledge and encourage its dissemination and practical application as a factor of development and improvement of the well-being of the population, and paragraph 2 The INCT actively seeks the continuous promotion of science, innovation and technology in Timor-Leste, as well as storing, preserve and disseminate the intellectual heritage of nature scientific, technological and academic and stimulate and promote the country's scientific research.



The INCT Outcome-Based Research Grant supports research projects funded by the Instituto Nacional de Ciências e Tecnologia (INCT) in Timor-Leste. The "INCT outcome" refers to the results and feedback generated from these projects, which are formally presented to the INCT, relevant ministerial and district stakeholders, and disseminated to the public. The specific outcomes vary depending on each project's objectives.

The INCT focuses on five key thematic areas to advance scientific research and development in Timor-Leste: Innovation, Technology, and Infrastructure; Education, Humanities, and Social Inclusion; Health and Well-Being; Economy, Agriculture, Tourism, Commerce, and Industry; and Environment, Biodiversity, and Climate Action.

## 2. Recent R&D Initiatives and Activities at INCT

The Instituto Nacional de Ciências e Tecnologia (INCT), Timor-Leste's National Institute of Science and Technology, has been actively engaged in recent research and development initiatives. These endeavors encompass the funding of scientific research projects, the promotion of open science principles, and the formulation of a strategic plan for science, technology, and innovation, slated for implementation through 2030.



### 3. Key Activities:

- Funding Research Projects:

INCT has allocated funds to support diverse scientific research projects, particularly focusing on health, nutrition, and socioeconomic aspects.

- Promoting Open Science:

In collaboration with UNESCO and the Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO, INCT organized a workshop on Open Science, with the objective of enhancing the accessibility of scientific knowledge.

- Strategic Planning:

INCT has formulated a strategic plan for the period 2022-2030, which is structured around five key axes: Scientific Research, Inventory and Training, Editing and Publishing, Accreditation and Cataloguing of Scientific Knowledge, and Institutional Development

- Research Dissemination:

INCT is committed to facilitating the integration of scientific research findings into government policy development.

- Collaboration and Partnerships:

To foster advancements in science, technology, and innovation within Timor-Leste, INCT actively collaborates with a wide array of higher education institutions, government bodies, and international organizations.



#### 4. Future Strategic Plan of the Instituto Nacional de Ciências e Tecnologia (INCT)

The Instituto Nacional de Ciências e Tecnologia (INCT) of Timor-Leste has established a comprehensive strategic plan to stimulate science, research, innovation, and technology, with objectives extending through 2030. This plan is structured around five key intervention areas: Scientific Research, Inventory and Training, Editing and Publishing, Accreditation and Cataloging of Scientific Knowledge, and Institutional Development. A core aim of the INCT is to support national development by ensuring that research outcomes are effectively utilized in policy-making and by fostering robust collaboration between research institutions and governmental bodies.

##### 1. Promoting Scientific Research:

- **Sustained Support for Strategic Research:** The INCT will continue to provide support for research projects across various strategic areas critical to national development, including public health, biodiversity, infrastructure, and education.
- **Ensuring Policy Integration of Research Outcomes:** A paramount objective is to ensure the effective utilization of scientific research findings by the government to inform and shape national policies and strategies.

##### 2. Inventory and Training:

- **Scientific Documentation and Archiving:** This area encompasses the systematic collection and comprehensive documentation of scientific research and publications pertinent to Timor-Leste.
- **Accreditation and Intellectual Property Frameworks:** The INCT intends to establish formal standards for the accreditation of national scientific journals and to ensure the recognition and protection of intellectual property rights.

**National Repository Capacity Building:** A key priority will be the provision of capacity building and specialized professional training for the effective management and stewardship of the national scientific repository.

### 3. Editing and Publishing:

- **Dissemination of Research Findings:** The INCT aims to facilitate the broad dissemination of scientific research outcomes through diverse publication channels.
- **International Partnerships for Publication Access:** This objective encompasses establishing strategic collaborations with international institutions to enhance access to global research publications.
- **Development of a Digital Scientific Repository:** A crucial goal is the establishment of a comprehensive digital scientific repository to centralize and provide accessible scholarly works.

### 5. Upcoming Project of INCT Timor-Leste

As of July 14, 2025, the upcoming projects of the National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT) in Timor-Leste primarily encompass the establishment of a digital repository and the continuation of its extensive ongoing research programs. Furthermore, INCT sustains its support for 47 research programs spanning diverse fields, systematically disseminating their findings to both the public and governmental bodies.

Key Initiatives and Outlook:

**Digital Repository:** INCT is prioritizing the establishment of a comprehensive digital repository. This centralized digital platform, equipped with robust metadata, will facilitate the organized storage and efficient retrieval of vital research materials.

**Research Programs:** The Institute currently manages and actively supports 47 research programs, spanning diverse scientific and technological disciplines.

**Dissemination:** INCT is dedicated to ensuring the broad dissemination of research reports and outcomes to both the public and governmental bodies, thereby fostering knowledge transfer and evidence-based decision-making.

**Implementation Timeline:** The full implementation of the digital repository project is projected for the forthcoming year.



## 6. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Commitment at INCT

### Research Programs of INCT

Related to INCT research activities, there are also several research projects that also focus on occupational health and safety, including:

- **Geoscience Investigation on National Road Failure at Lugatoi Area, Viqueque Municipality, Timor-Leste (2024):** This project focuses on understanding the geological and geotechnical conditions pertinent to road infrastructure. Such investigations are crucial for preventing structural failures, which pose significant risks of accidents and injuries. By ensuring the stability of road structures and minimizing construction and maintenance-related hazards, this research directly contributes to enhancing the occupational health and safety environment for road construction and maintenance personnel.
- **Traffic Control Strategies to Reduce Road Congestion and its Impacts in Dili, Timor-Leste (2023):** This research project examines strategies for mitigating road congestion in the capital. The systematic conduct of thorough risk assessments is fundamental to identifying potential hazards associated with traffic flow, such as increased accident exposure or prolonged idle times for professional drivers and public transport personnel. Implementing effective control measures derived from such assessments directly contributes to enhancing safety and reducing occupational risks for individuals whose work involves navigating or managing urban traffic environments.

- **Solid Waste Management System in the Municipality of Dili: Challenges and Solutions (Ongoing/Proposed):** This research aims to comprehensively analyze the multifaceted challenges inherent in Dili's solid waste management system. Addressing these issues is crucial for public health and environmental well-being, which directly affects the occupational safety of waste management personnel and the health of the wider community. Key challenges under investigation include:
  - ✓ **Increasing Waste Generation:** Rapid population growth and ongoing urbanization are leading to escalating waste volumes, placing considerable strain on existing waste management infrastructure and potentially exposing waste handlers to increased risks.
  - ✓ **Limited Landfill Space:** The identification of suitable and environmentally sustainable landfill sites presents a growing challenge, constrained by significant environmental concerns and public opposition. Inadequate facilities can lead to informal dumping, creating unsafe working conditions for those involved.
  - ✓ **Environmental Impact:** Improper waste disposal practices contribute significantly to soil and water pollution, the emission of harmful gases, and an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. These environmental hazards pose direct health risks to waste collectors and nearby communities.
  - ✓ **Public Awareness and Participation:** A notable lack of public awareness regarding proper waste segregation and disposal methods, coupled with insufficient community participation, significantly impedes the implementation of effective and safe waste management strategies.



## **7. Meeting Results: The ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Summit, or OSH Summit 2025**

The ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Summit, or OSH Summit, was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on August 4-5, 2025, with the theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability". The event brought together OSH professionals and experts from across ASEAN and internationally to foster collaboration, innovation, and policymaking in worker safety. Key components included the Conference and Exhibition on OSH (COSH 2025) and the NIOSH International Standards Seminar (NISS 2025), which focused on evolving global OSH standards.

The ASEAN OSH Summit 2025 in Malaysia hosted the 10th Asian Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute (AOSHRI) Meeting, which officially opened AOSHRI's Liaison Office, a permanent office for OSH research located at the facilities of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in Malaysia.

**Purpose:** An annual gathering to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and foster collaboration in occupational safety and health.

### **Key Details:**

- Event Name: ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Summit 2025.
- Date: August 4-5, 2025.
- August 6, 2025 (field visit)
- Location: Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.
- Organizers: The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).
- Theme: Inclusivity and Sustainability (as part of Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship)
- Significance: The summit marked the elevation of the Conference and Exhibition on Occupational Safety and Health (COSH 2025) to an ASEAN international platform, facilitating discussions on worker welfare and sustainable workplaces.

### **Highlights and Components:**

- Participants:  
Experts from ASEAN countries and international speakers attended.

- COSH 2025:

The Conference and Exhibition provided a platform for exploring cutting-edge OSH advancements, engaging in panel discussions, and visiting exhibitions.
- NISS 2025:

The NIOSH International Standards Seminar brought together experts to discuss the role of evolving international standards in creating safe and healthy workplaces.
- AOSHRI Meeting:

The summit also hosted the 10th Asian Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute (AOSHRI) Meeting, marking the launch of its Secretariat Office.
- MaRINA 3.0 Workshop:

The event included a workshop on Malaysia's Research Initiatives for National Agenda 3.0 (MaRINA 3.0), focusing on setting a national OSH agenda for a sustainable future.
- Key Topics:
  - ✓ Psychosocial risk management
  - ✓ Artificial intelligence (AI) in OSH
  - ✓ Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategies in the workplace
  - ✓ Building a mentally healthy future of work
- Future plans for Timor-Leste
  - ✓ Focus areas

Ergonomics issue in new work environment (digital work, wearables, and work from everywhere)
  - ✓ Research need

Migration from traditional work to new work environment
  - ✓ Main output

Prevalence study on new work environment

✓ Partners

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