REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN THE

90th | COSTI

(Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation)

and Related Meetings in Vietnam

DA NANG, VIETNAM , OCTOBER 13–15, 2025





Strengthening Cooperation for a More Innovative and Sustainable Future

List of the Timor-Leste's delegation;

1. Dr. José Cornélio Guterres (President of INCT)
2. Maria Elsa Diogo Correia (Executive Secretary)
3. Jacinta dos Santos Guterres (National Director of INCT)
4. Benvindo Domingos Guterres (National Director of INCT)
5. Dr. Junior Raimundo da Cruz (UNTL Lecturer / Professor)
6. Dr. Matias da Silva Tavares (UNTL Lecturer / Professor)
7. Dulce Enda Pereira Pinheiro (ASEAN Secretariat Officer, MESCC)
8. Helena Leu Leto Mafalda (ASEAN Secretariat Officer, MESCC)

Contents

1. Introduction 3
2. Objectives of Participation 3
3. Body of the Report 4
   A. The result of the COSTI-90 Meeting 4
   B. Outcome of participation in the 21 st BAC Meeting 7
   C. ASEAN Women in Science Award 15
4. Results of the Five COSTI Sub-Committee Meetings: 17
   4.4.1. SC-STIE 17
   4.4.2. SC-DET 21
   4.4.3. SC-BFS 32
   4.4.4. SC-MET 34
   4.4.5. SC-EOSS 43
5. Official and Related Activities 55
   5.1. Gala Dinner and Cultural and Site Visits 55
   5.2. Diplomatic Engagement and Exchange of Gifts 56
6. Challenges and Issues Identified 57
7. Recommendations and Follow-up Actions 58
8. Conclusion 59
9. Anexes 61

1. Introduction

We, the Delegation of Timor-Leste, participated in the 90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90), held in Da Nang, Viet Nam, from 13 to 15 October 2026. The delegation was represented by Dr. Jose Cornelio Guterres in his capacities as Chair of COSTI for Timor-Leste and Executive President of the National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT).

Our participation in this meeting was of strategic importance to Timor-Leste, as it provided an opportunity to represent the country within ASEAN's regional integration and cooperation mechanisms in the fields of science, technology and innovation (STI). During the meeting, we participated in technical discussions, provided updates on Timor-Leste's progress and commitments, strengthened working relationships with representatives of ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), and identified opportunities for regional cooperation that could contribute to strengthening the country's scientific and technological capacities.

Throughout the three-day programme, we participated in the first meetings of the five COSTI sub-committees held on 13 October 2026: the Sub-Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation Ecosystem (SC-STIE-1); the Sub-Committee on Deep and Emerging Technology (SC-DET-1); the Sub-Committee on Biotechnology and Food Science (SC-BFS-1); the Sub-Committee on Materials and Energy Technology (SC-MET-1); and the Sub-Committee on Earth, Ocean and Space Science (SC-EOSS-1). These meetings marked the first sessions under COSTI's restructured technical framework, which reduced the number of sub-committees from nine to five to strengthen coordination and align regional cooperation with the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2026–2035. We also followed discussions concerning Timor-Leste's contribution to the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF) and engaged in the Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC) and COSTI-90 meetings and related activities. These engagements provided an important platform to communicate Timor-Leste's progress, reaffirm its commitments, exchange information with regional counterparts, and explore opportunities to strengthen the country's participation in ASEAN's science, technology and innovation initiatives.

Our participation in COSTI-90 also provided an opportunity to reinforce Timor-Leste's commitment to regional collaboration and to ensure that the country's priorities and interests were considered in discussions on ASEAN's STI development. Such engagement is particularly important for supporting national research and innovation, enhancing institutional and human resource capacities, and developing partnerships with ASEAN Member States and other regional stakeholders.

This report presents the main activities undertaken by the Delegation of Timor-Leste during COSTI-90, the key discussions and information shared, the progress and commitments reported by Timor-Leste, and the outcomes relevant to the country's participation in ASEAN regional cooperation. It also identifies recommendations for follow-up actions at the national and regional levels to ensure continuity, strengthen institutional coordination, and translate the outcomes of the meetings into practical benefits for Timor-Leste.

2. Objectives of Participation

The main objectives of our participation in COSTI-90 were as follows:

1. To represent Timor-Leste, through the Chair of COSTI for Timor-Leste, in meetings and discussions on regional ASEAN cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI).

2. To participate in the meetings of the five COSTI sub-committees and follow their discussions, priorities and proposed activities, identifying opportunities for Timor-Leste to engage in relevant regional initiatives.
3. To provide updates on Timor-Leste's progress regarding its contribution to the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF), including the preparation and submission of research proposals under ASTIF funding opportunities.
4. To reaffirm the Government of Timor-Leste's commitment to fulfilling its ASTIF contribution obligations in accordance with the relevant agreement and agreed procedures.
5. To strengthen coordination and communication among Timor-Leste, the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), the Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC), the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC), and ASEAN Member States (AMS).
6. To identify opportunities for regional cooperation in research, human resource development, institutional capacity-building and innovation that could support the advancement of science, technology and innovation in Timor-Leste.
7. To participate in the official meetings and related activities of COSTI-90, including technical discussions, consultations and exchanges with ASEAN representatives, to enhance Timor-Leste's understanding of regional STI priorities and cooperation mechanisms.
8. To participate in the cultural site visit organised as part of the programme, promoting an understanding of Viet Nam's cultural heritage and strengthening friendship, mutual understanding and cultural exchange among ASEAN delegations.
9. To attend the official gala dinner, providing an opportunity to strengthen professional relationships, promote informal dialogue and foster closer cooperation among representatives of ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat and other participating institutions.
10. To strengthen Timor-Leste's regional engagement and visibility by combining participation in formal technical meetings with cultural and networking activities, thereby supporting long-term institutional partnerships and cooperation within ASEAN.

3. Body of the Report

A. The result of the COSTI-90 Meeting

I, **Jose Cornelio Guterres**, in my capacity as Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) for Timor-Leste and Executive President of the National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT), participated in the 90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90), held in Da Nang, Viet Nam, from 13 to 15 October 2026. Throughout the meeting, I represented Timor-Leste in the official COSTI deliberations, the Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC) meeting, and related activities held on 14 and 15 October 2026. My participation aimed to contribute to regional discussions, follow developments in ASEAN cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI), review the progress of regional programmes and initiatives, and strengthen Timor-Leste's engagement in fulfilling its commitments and responsibilities as an ASEAN Member State.

My participation enabled me to engage in discussions on contributions to the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF), research proposal development, sub-committee activities, and opportunities for cooperation between Timor-Leste and other ASEAN Member States (AMS). In my capacity as Chair of COSTI for Timor-Leste, I paid particular attention to strengthening coordination among COSTI, BAC and the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) to ensure that Timor-Leste maintains appropriate representation, receives complete and timely information, and participates effectively in regional scientific initiatives.

During the COSTI discussions, I provided an update on the progress made and the commitment of the Government of Timor-Leste to fulfil its financial contribution to ASTIF. I reaffirmed that the Government had committed to meeting this financial obligation as part of its national commitment to supporting scientific and technological cooperation within ASEAN.
I also explained that Timor-Leste would continue working closely with the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) in Jakarta to finalise the administrative and financial procedures required for the contribution payment. The objective was to complete the relevant preparatory and administrative processes by the end of 2026, with payment expected to commence in early 2027, subject to the completion of the necessary arrangements and procedures.

I considered this communication important for informing ASEAN Member States of the Government of Timor-Leste's commitment, strengthening mutual confidence, and ensuring effective coordination among the Government, relevant national institutions and ASEC. This commitment also reflects Timor-Leste's continued efforts to strengthen its participation in regional research programmes and contribute to the advancement of science, technology and innovation across ASEAN.
During the COSTI meetings, ASEAN Member States also discussed ASTIF Call 2026, including the research proposal submission deadline and the evaluation process. During these discussions, the members agreed to extend the submission deadline to 25 October 2026, providing additional time for institutions and their partners to complete proposal preparation and documentation.

According to the arrangements discussed at the meeting, research proposals would be evaluated by the relevant sub-committees and the PAC in accordance with their respective responsibilities. The evaluation results were expected to be announced in February 2027. This process is important to ensure that research proposals are reviewed systematically and assessed against the applicable ASTIF programme criteria.
In addition, the Member States agreed on a proposal to organise ASTIF calls every two years, allowing sufficient time for research programme preparation, implementation and evaluation. The discussions also included information about the management of ASTIF funds deposited with ANZ Bank in Indonesia. According to the information presented at the meeting, the deposit earned an interest rate of 6%, with the rate reviewed every six months. This matter was relevant to discussions on fund management and the long-term financial sustainability of the ASTIF programme.

For Timor-Leste, these outcomes were important in guiding the continued preparation of high-quality research proposals, strengthening coordination with partners from other ASEAN Member States, and ensuring compliance with the established technical and administrative requirements.
During COSTI-90, the Philippines presented a declaration on space as part of the broader discussions on regional cooperation in space science and technology. The presentation

provided an opportunity for ASEAN Member States to learn about initiatives and policy directions related to the development of regional cooperation in the space sector.

For Timor-Leste, discussions of this nature are important for broadening understanding of scientific and technological cooperation opportunities at the regional level. They may also help identify possibilities for developing national capacity and establishing connections with institutions that have relevant experience and expertise. The relevant documents and specific details of the declaration may be included in the annexes to this report, if available.

During the COSTI-90 Plenary Session, the results of the ASEAN–U.S. Science Prize for Women were presented. This initiative recognises the contributions of women scientists to science, technology and innovation.
According to the results presented at the meeting, Indonesia received first place, followed by Viet Nam in second place, Malaysia in third place, and Singapore in fourth place.
These results highlighted the importance of recognising women scientists' contributions and promoting gender equality in research and technological development. Such initiatives can also serve as an inspiration for ASEAN Member States, including Timor-Leste, to strengthen opportunities for women in scientific education, professional training, research, and leadership in science, technology and innovation.

During the COSTI and BAC-related activities, I also participated in discussions concerning reports from the COSTI sub-committee meetings, particularly urgent matters relating to the identification and selection of subsidiary bodies or supporting structures associated with the COSTI sub-committees.
These discussions highlighted the need to clarify representation, responsibilities and the allocation of tasks within the sub-committee structures to ensure that programmes and activities are implemented effectively and in a coordinated manner. For Timor-Leste, this process is important because appropriate national focal points must be identified to represent the relevant areas of work and maintain communication between ASEAN mechanisms and national institutions.
In this context, Timor-Leste's COSTI sub-committees were preparing the names and relevant information of national focal points for the respective tasks and areas of work.
Once the preparations are completed, the information will be submitted to ASEC in Jakarta to continue the coordination process and formalise Timor-Leste's representation.
I consider the appointment of appropriate focal points essential to ensuring that Timor-Leste can respond promptly to communications, participate in technical activities, and contribute effectively to the implementation of programmes agreed upon at the ASEAN level.
In addition to the COSTI and BAC activities, I participated in ASEAN Plus meetings with dialogue partners, including India, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, New Zealand, Australia, Japan and Russia.

These meetings provided an opportunity to gain a better understanding of developments in cooperation between ASEAN and its international partners, particularly in science, technology, innovation and research. Cooperation with these partners may create opportunities for capacity development, knowledge exchange, researcher mobility, technical training and the implementation of joint research projects.

For Timor-Leste, participation in the ASEAN Plus meetings was important for improving access to information on international cooperation initiatives, strengthening institutional networks, and identifying opportunities that could be adapted to national development

priorities. It is therefore important to continue following up on the outcomes of these meetings and sharing relevant information with national institutions, universities and research organisations.

From my perspective as Chair of COSTI for Timor-Leste, the activities and meetings held on 14 and 15 October 2026 provided valuable opportunities to reaffirm Timor-Leste's commitment to its ASTIF contribution, follow developments concerning ASTIF Call 2026, and strengthen coordination regarding Timor-Leste's representation within the COSTI sub-committee structure.

The main matters requiring follow-up include continuing coordination with ASEC on the ASTIF payment process; monitoring the evaluation of research proposals and the announcement of results expected in February 2027; completing the preparation of Timor-Leste's national focal points and submitting the relevant information to ASEC in Jakarta; and sharing relevant information from the COSTI, BAC and ASEAN Plus meetings with national institutions.

Through these follow-up actions, Timor-Leste can strengthen institutional coordination, fulfil its agreed commitments, and increase its participation in regional scientific cooperation. At the same time, continued engagement with ASTIF and other ASEAN initiatives will be essential to ensuring that the opportunities arising from international participation translate into practical benefits for the development of science, technology and innovation in Timor-Leste.

B. Outcome of participation in the 21 st BAC Meeting

The *Board of Advisers to COSTI* (BAC) is a senior strategic advisory body of the *ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation* (COSTI). The primary mission of the BAC is to provide independent analysis, technical opinions, and high-level recommendations to guide regional policy formulation and drive strategic cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) within ASEAN. Structurally, the BAC operates under COSTI, including five Specialized Subcommittees in different areas responsible for operationalizing the projects and programs of the APASTI (ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology, and Innovation 2026–2035).

COSTI is integrated into the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) pillar and serves as the central decision-making body tasked with coordinating all integration policies, strategic investments, and scientific, technological, and innovation cooperation initiatives in the Region. COSTI is composed of delegates and official representatives from the 11 ASEAN Member States, including Timor-Leste.

As a full member of ASEAN, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste undertakes with high rigor and responsibility its commitment to actively participate in all strategic areas of the regional bloc. "In the past year (2025), Timor-Leste, through MESCC, established COSTI, its organic structure, and its secretariat, having regularly participated in the regional meetings of the body."

I, **Maria Elsa Diogo Correia**, as member of the BAC for Timor-Leste and Executive Secretary of the National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT), participated in the 21 st BAC Meeting. As a member of the BAC, this marks my second participation in this regional forum hosted by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, with the first having taken place in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

In this context, the present report aims to formalize the official record of my participation as part of the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in the **21st Meeting of the Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC-21)**, held on **October 14, 2026**, between 08:30 and 12:30, at the facilities of the *Furama Resort Hotel Danang*, in Danang, Vietnam. I would also like to inform that the BAC meeting was integrated into the official program of the **90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90)** and was attended by all ASEAN member states, including Timor-Leste.

The Meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, as well as representatives from the Science and Technology Division of the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC).

The essential objective of Timor-Leste's participation in this regional event is to assert Timor-Leste's scientific sovereignty within ASEAN, ensuring that the country fulfills its institutional and financial duties in the advisory forum (BAC), while our participation also aims to secure Timor-Leste's access to funding, multilateral research partnerships, and technical capacity-building for Timorese scientists and institutions in accordance with national policy and ASEAN's Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) ecosystem.

Regarding the discussions throughout the meeting, they focused on three major strategic axes: resource mobilization, the implementation of priority initiatives, and the monitoring of the efficacy of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2026–2035. However, the deliberations during the meeting centered on six priority axes, detailed as follows:

1. **Status of Funds**
2. **ASTIF Call 2026** (ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund Call for 2026)
3. **Project Appraisal Group - PAG**
4. **PED 2026 and AMD 2027** (Program of Work and Ministerial Meeting / Annual Milestone Deliverables)
5. **APASTI 2026–2035** (ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation)
6. **COSTI Subsidiary Bodies TOR** (Terms of Reference of COSTI Subsidiary Bodies)

a. **Opening of the Meeting**

Dr. Khairul Rizal (current Chair of the BAC) delivered the welcome remarks and expressed his appreciation to all delegates for their participation in the BAC-21 meeting. He highlighted that, since BAC-20 in June 2026, ASEAN COSTI has continued to advance regional cooperation in STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) with the beginning of the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2026–2035. He highlighted the following deliberations, namely:

- the launch of the ASTIF Call 2026, for which 30 proposals have been received so far, and the role of the BAC in supporting a rigorous evaluation process through the Project Appraisal Group (PAG);

- the operationalization of the five restructured COSTI Subcommittees, which held their first meetings on October 13, 2026;
- the adoption of governance arrangements for Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) and Annual Milestone Deliverables (AMDs);

- he improvement of the APASTI Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, launched at AMMSTI-22;
- and the exploration of options to optimize the management of ASTIF resources within the applicable regulatory and governance framework. He concluded by expressing gratitude to ASEC for its continuous support and coordination, and extended his appreciation to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements in organizing COSTI-90 and Related Meetings."

Subsequently, the Chair took the floor, informing the bureau that Mr. Dr. Kiengkay Ounmany, BAC member from Lao PDR, was elected as Vice-Chair of the BAC for this meeting.

At the opening of the proceedings, the Chair gave the floor to the delegates, inviting each Member State to deliver its introductory presentation, culminating in the consideration and approval of the agenda.

b. **Results Achieved at the High-Level Meeting**

At the beginning of the agenda discussion, the BAC Chair emphasized the importance of BAC Member States taking note of the outcomes achieved at the high-level meeting, as well as the operationalization of the recommendations emanating from the 20th BAC meeting, as detailed below:

The Meeting took note of the main highlights from the high-level meetings related to STI (Science, Technology and Innovation), covering the outcomes of the 58th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM-58), held in Manila, Philippines, in September 2026, and the 22nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI-22), held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in June 2026, as described below:

1.The 58th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM-58) in Manila, Philippines focused on competitiveness and the Digital Economy regarding:

- Advancement in space cooperation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital economy, and semiconductors.
- Strategic inclusion of Timor-Leste.
- Harnessing opportunities from the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA).

2. The 22nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI-22) in Vientiane, Lao PDR focused on governance and Strategic Projects, such a fostering ASEAN–Korea HPC infrastructure.

- Monitoring and Management: Advancement of 2026 PEDs, implementation of the Technology Management Hub, and activation of the APASTI Dashboard.

c. Issues Discussed at the 21st Meeting of the Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC-21)

1. Status of Funds

It is reported that the COSTI development fund relies on its own resources for funding the ASTIF, stemming from financial contributions made by ASEAN Member States. In the year 2000, member countries committed to contributing the amount of 1 million US dollars per member state, a fund that enables the execution of COSTI activities, with particular emphasis on research support. Taking into consideration the importance of the fund for the sustainability of COSTI, the meeting discussed the following points, as described below:

- The Meeting noted that the ASTIF balance as of August 31, 2026, was USD 12,433,714.31, as indicated in the account statement. The usable amount derived from accumulated interest income that can be used to fund COSTI and Subcommittee activities is USD 1,541,852.77.
- The Meeting further noted that USD 12,416,937.96 of the ASTIF was placed in a six-month Time Deposit (TD), with an interest rate of 3.65% per annum and maturity on December 15, 2026. The Meeting also noted that USD 1.2 million of available ASTIF funds would be allocated to support the 2026 ASTIF Call.
- The Meeting recommended that COSTI allow ASTIF funds to accumulate over a two-year period and launch the ASTIF Call on a biennial basis, approving a limited number of proposals with a funding ceiling per project. Priority areas for proposed projects will be developed in due course.

2. Contributions to the STI Partnership

Taking into account the importance of COSTI, the meeting highlighted the voluntary contribution of some ASEAN Member States such as Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand to the ASEAN STI Partnership. Emphasizing that the criteria for contributions were already approved by COSTI on September 9, 2026, it recommended that other member countries make their contributions to support the implementation of APASTI 2026–2035. However, countries that already contribute may expand their contributions in accordance with APASTI priorities.

3. Timor-Leste's Contribution to the ASTIF

The Meeting noted:

- the ASEAN Secretariat's guidance on the indicative procedural steps for Timor-Leste's Accession to ASEAN Economic Agreements (AEAs);
- the update provided by Timor-Leste that its Government is fully aware of the contribution requirement and is working closely with its Permanent Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta to finalize the procedures, with a view to completing them and making the contribution before the end of 2026;
- that the Note Verbale would include the proposed contribution amount and payment schedule for COSTI's consideration through the accession process.
- **The Meeting RECOMMENDED that COSTI encourage COSTI-Timor-Leste to coordinate closely with its Permanent Mission to**

ASEAN to convey a Note Verbale to the Secretary-General of ASEAN, formally notifying Timor-Leste's readiness to accede to the Agreement on the Augmentation of the ASEAN Science Fund (2000).

d. ASEAN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FUND (ASTIF) CALL 2026

The Meeting noted the summary of progress and key updates regarding the ASTIF Call 2026 as follows:

1. Fourteen proposals were received under the Open Competitive Track, with one project proposal in the Space, Terrestrial, Oceanic, and Climate Intelligence priority area expressing interest in utilizing the ASEAN–Korea HPC Facility in Indonesia.
2. Sixteen proposals were received under the Sub-Committee Track. Among the sixteen proposals, eight were received under the Advanced Materials and Energy Transition priority category, four proposals were received under the health, bioeconomy, and food security category, and four proposals were received under the space, terrestrial, oceanic, and climate intelligence category. One project proposal expressed interest in utilizing the ASEAN–Korea HPC Facility in Indonesia.
3. Next steps will cover evaluation and selection (1 Nov. 2026 – 31 Jan. 2027), the announcement of selected projects (15 Feb. 2027), agreement signing (1 Mar. – 31 Mar. 2027), and the project implementation period (1 Apr. 2027 – 31 Mar. 2029).

The Meeting noted the deadline of October 16, 2026, for project proponents to submit ASTIF Call 2026 proposals to their respective National Focal Points (NFPs) and recommended that COSTI allow NFPs flexibility to obtain missing supporting documents from project proponents after the initial submission, with a view to submitting complete proposals to the ASEAN Secretariat by October 26, 2026.

e. **PROJECT APPRAISAL GROUP (PAG)**

The **Project Appraisal Group (PAG)** is the technical body responsible for **evaluating, deliberating, and guiding the project proposal selection process** submitted to the ASTIF (*ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund*) under COSTI. Each ASEAN Member State (AMS) appoints principal and alternate representatives to the PAG, ensuring an impartial and representative evaluation at the regional level. It is reported that at the BAC meeting in Vietnam, matters regarding the appointment of PAG members were discussed and submitted for COSTI approval, establishing the following:

- Requesting the remaining ASEAN Member States (AMS) of the BAC to nominate their principal and alternate PAG representatives to ASEC by October 19, 2026.
- The Meeting recommended that COSTI mandate the PAG to convene its final deliberation meeting in Indonesia in February 2027 to conclude the evaluation of proposals, with ASTIF funding supporting the participation of one PAG member from each AMS. The initial PAG meeting should be held

virtually in early November 2026 to discuss guidelines and provide guidance on the evaluation of ASTIF proposals.

f. **2026 Priority Economic Deliverables (PED) and 2027 Annual Milestone Deliverables (AMD)**

To ensure COSTI's governance, the meeting noted that the Terms of Reference (ToR) on internal governance for determining PEDs and AMDs were recommended by the BAC to COSTI and approved by COSTI on September 14, 2026.

g. **2026 PRIORITY ECONOMIC DELIVERABLES (PED)**

The Meeting also **NOTED** the progress of the 2026 PEDs: (i) 2026 PED – ASEAN Declaration on Advancing Cooperation in Space Science, Technology and Innovation (ASEAN Declaration on Space Cooperation); and (ii) Regional Program for STI in AI (Phase 1 – Health Science and Technology).

Regarding the ASEAN Declaration on Space Cooperation, the Meeting **RECOMMENDED** that COSTI advise:

- AMS to proceed with the necessary internal approval processes to support the endorsement by ASEAN Ministers on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI) of the ASEAN Declaration on Space Cooperation as soon as possible, where ministerial endorsement has not yet been obtained; and
- the Philippines that the ASEAN Declaration on Space Cooperation requires review and endorsement by the ASEAN Economic Community Council (AECC) and the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) prior to its submission to the 49th ASEAN Summit in November 2026.
- Regarding the Regional Program for STI in AI (Phase 1 – Health Science and Technology), the Meeting noted the update presented by the Philippines on the proposed Regional Action Plan for AI in Health. The Meeting also recommended that COSTI endorse the phased implementation framework and initiate core activities for 2026–2030 under the proposed Regional Plan.

h. **2027 ANNUAL MILESTONE DELIVERABLES (AMDs)**

- The Meeting noted the progress of Singapore's approved 2027 AMD on Capacity Building of Local Experts for ASEAN-EU Value-Added Technology Transfer (ELEVATE).
- The Meeting also recommended that COSTI approve the proposed ASEAN Ministerial Declaration on Access to Space for Emerging Space Nations proposed by Singapore as a 2027 AMD.
- The Meeting further noted the proposed AMD on the ASEAN Quantum Action Plan (AQAP) by Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting also noted potential synergies between Work Package 2 and the ASEAN Quantum Scoping Study being developed by Malaysia with support from ERIA, which is currently under review awaiting internal clearance.
- The Meeting recommended that COSTI task the ASEAN Secretariat with facilitating the approval of Brunei Darussalam's proposed AMD on the

AQAP by the relevant Subcommittee and COSTI, and encourage Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and other interested ASEAN Member States (AMS) to explore potential synergies and cooperation opportunities.

i. **IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) DASHBOARD OF APASTI 2026–2035**

The Meeting **noted** the progress of the APASTI 2026–2035 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Dashboard presented by COSTI Lao PDR as Chair of the Task Force and **thanked** COSTI Indonesia for leading the development of the Dashboard.

j. **REALIGNMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) OF COSTI SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

The Meeting **recommended** that COSTI task the BAC and the ASEAN Secretariat with convening an online consultation session with the Subcommittees and their respective Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) in 2026, aimed at providing guidance on aligning the SBs with the ToR for the Establishment of New Subsidiary Bodies under COSTI.

The Meeting also **recommended** that COSTI advise the Subcommittees (SCs) to consolidate and restructure their Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) in accordance with the ToR, with progress to be reported to COSTI at AMMSTI-23.

k. **Conclusions and Recommendations**

As a member of the BAC (Board of Advisers to COSTI – Advisory Board of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation) representing Timor-Leste, participation in the regional meeting in Vietnam (within the framework of the COSTI/BAC meetings) brings fundamental strategic conclusions for the country's integration process into the ASEAN community.

Based on the deliberations and key points discussed at the 21st Meeting of the Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC-21), held on October 14, 2026, in Da Nang, Vietnam, the following conclusions and strategic implications for Timor-Leste are highlighted:

1. **Implementation of APASTI (2026–2035):** The ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation is considered a strategic and powerful program to leverage the potential of our Timorese researchers and their regional integration across all scientific domains.

   Timor-Leste needs to align its national research and innovation priorities with the strategic pillars of APASTI 2026–2035 to ensure relevance and eligibility in regional programs.

2. **ASTIF Call 2026 and Evaluation Process:** Recording progress of the call under the theme *"ASEAN Grand Challenge: AI-Enabled Competitive and Resilient Region"*, a program that promotes greater engagement from all members by offering project funding opportunities in priority areas

such as energy transition, advanced materials, bioeconomy, food security, and space/climate technologies.

For Timor-Leste, it is essential to strengthen and reinforce the COSTI structure and the ASEAN Secretariat within MESCC to support national researchers and institutions in meeting submission deadlines and formal application support requirements.

3. **Restructuring of COSTI Subcommittees:** Monitoring the operational start of the five new restructured Subcommittees, whose first meetings took place on October 13, 2026, aligning national institutional participation with the new thematic priorities.

Although Timor-Leste has carried out the restructuring of the Subcommittees, it is essential to prepare technical cadres to progressively join the consultation sessions. online sessions of the Subcommittees and participate in decisions regarding the governance and structuring of these bodies.

4. Financial Contribution of Timor-Leste to ASTIF

The meeting took note of the financial obligation of 1 million US dollars resulting from Timor-Leste's accession to ASTIF. It is confirmed that, at the BAC meeting in Vietnam, Timor-Leste reiterated its commitment to make the said payment by the end of the current year 2026, subject to the prior approval of the Agreement to be signed between the Government of Timor-Leste and the ASEAN Secretariat-General.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanisms

Having approved a Platform (*M&E Dashboard ASEAN Technology Management Hub*) created by the Republic of Laos as an essential instrument to ensure the monitoring and control of APASTI activities. Timor-Leste appreciates the initiative to create an efficient and effective platform to promote COSTI governance.

6. Participation in Regional Initiatives and Technological Synergies

There is a growing focus on cooperation in emerging technologies, such as the use of the ASEAN–Korea High-Performance Computing (HPC) infrastructure in Indonesia, quantum action plans (AQAP), technology transfer (ELEVATE project), and access to space. Inclusion in shared infrastructures (such as access to HPC) and considering our integration into regional COSTI activities allows Timor-Leste to build capacity among local scientists and academics without the immediate need for major investments in own physical infrastructure.

l. **Recommendations / Strategic Actions for Strengthening COSTI in Timor-Leste**

- **Institutional and Operational Strengthening of COSTI Timor-Leste:** Reinforce the organizational structure and operational capacity of Timor-Leste's ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI), ensuring administrative and financial sustainability, as well as the

allocation and strategic designation of executive cadres, qualified experts, and academics to the respective technical subcommittees according to their areas of expertise.

- **Technical Capacity Building and Awareness Raising in Coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat:** Submit a formal proposal to the ASEAN Secretariat to promote continuous capacity building, technical training, and awareness actions targeted at technical personnel national personnel and members of the subcommittees, with a view to ensuring alignment and effective participation in regional initiatives and programs.
- **Mobilization and Allocation of Financial Resources with the Ministry of Finance:** Request the Ministry of Finance to allocate the necessary and adequate budget to ensure the funding and implementation of the activity.

Finally, to report our participation in the 21st Meeting of the BAC reaffirms our country's commitment to fully integrate into ASEAN's multilateral forums in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) — sectors of great importance and strategic value for the socioeconomic and sustainable development of our nation. In general, we recognize that Timor-Leste still faces structural and institutional challenges in consolidating its scientific and technological ecosystem; however, these challenges do not immobilize us; on the contrary, they reinforce our commitment to walk hand in hand with ASEAN sister nations, sharing best practices, technological capacities, and cooperation networks.

C. ASEAN Women in Science Award

During the 90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90) Plenary Session, the results of the ASEAN–U.S. Science Prize for Women were presented as part of the regional efforts to recognise and promote the contributions of women scientists to science, technology and innovation. The initiative highlights the important role of women in advancing scientific knowledge, conducting research, developing technological innovations and contributing to the social and economic development of their respective countries. It also reflects the shared commitment to promoting gender equality and strengthening women's participation and leadership in scientific and technological development across ASEAN.

According to the results presented during the meeting, Indonesia received first place, followed by Viet Nam in second place, Malaysia in third place and Singapore in fourth place. The recognition of these countries demonstrated the growing contributions of women researchers and scientists within the ASEAN region and highlighted the importance of providing greater opportunities for women to participate in scientific research, technological innovation and academic leadership.

The ASEAN–U.S. Science Prize for Women represents an important regional initiative because women's contributions to scientific development should be recognised, encouraged and supported through appropriate institutional policies and opportunities. Promoting women's participation in science is not only a matter of gender equality but also an important factor in strengthening research capacity, diversifying scientific perspectives and improving the quality of research and innovation. Greater participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) can also contribute to developing solutions to regional challenges in areas such as health, agriculture, environmental sustainability, education and digital transformation.

For Timor-Leste, this initiative provides an important reference for strengthening national policies and institutional programmes that support women in science, technology and innovation. Although the country continues to face challenges in research funding, specialised

scientific training and institutional research capacity, there is a need to ensure that women researchers, university lecturers, students and young professionals have equal opportunities to access scholarships, research grants, professional development programmes and regional scientific networks. In this regard, INCT, in cooperation with higher education institutions and relevant government agencies, could further promote women's participation in research activities, scientific publications, innovation programmes and international research collaborations. Encouraging young women to pursue education and professional careers in STEM fields should also become an important part of national efforts to develop the next generation of scientists and researchers in Timor-Leste.

In addition to the presentation of the ASEAN–U.S. Science Prize for Women, during the COSTI and Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC) meetings on 14 and 15 October 2026, I also participated in discussions concerning reports and updates from the COSTI sub-committee meetings. Particular attention was given to urgent matters relating to the identification and selection of subsidiary bodies and supporting structures associated with the COSTI sub-committees. These discussions were important in clarifying institutional arrangements, responsibilities and coordination mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of ASEAN science, technology and innovation programmes.

The presentation of the ASEAN–U.S. Science Prize for Women provided important insights into the broader priorities of ASEAN cooperation. They reinforced the importance of promoting inclusive scientific development, recognising women's contributions, strengthening institutional coordination and ensuring that all ASEAN Member States have opportunities to participate in and benefit from regional science, technology and innovation initiatives.

4. Results of the Five COSTI Sub-Committee Meetings:

4.4.1. The 1st Meeting of Sub-Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation Ecosystem

Date of Meeting:	13 October 2026
The responsibility of the SC-STIE-1:	**Jacinta dos Santos Guterres**
COSTI Meeting:	COSTI-90
Date of Report:	19 October 2026

A. Key Decisions of the Meeting:

1. The Meeting noted the progress of ongoing projects of the Sub-committee (SC) and its Subsidiary Bodies (SB) particularly the Annual Priorities (APs). The follow-up activities and plans moving forward were likewise noted.

- The engagement of ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM) Community has been completed.

A. Key Decisions of the Meeting:

1. The Meeting noted the progress of ongoing projects of the Sub-committee (SC) and its Subsidiary Bodies (SB) particularly the Annual Priorities (APs). The follow-up activities and plans moving forward were likewise noted.
    - The engagement of ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM) Community has been completed.
    - The ASEAN Regional Research Infrastructure (RRI) Strategy proceeded with the creation of the Coordination Group, which will have its first meeting on 5-6 November 2026 in Bangkok to draft the ASEAN RRI Implementation Roadmap.

    - ASEAN COSTI, with the support of EASPDF, will participate in ICRI 2026 on 2 4 December 2026 to engage global partners, share ASEAN priorities, and support implementation of the ASEAN RRI Strategy. An ASEAN-EU Forum on Research Infrastructure will also be held in conjunction with ICRI 2026

    - Thailand presented a mock-up of the Harmonized ASEAN STI Digital Gateway (dashboard) which will continue supporting the harmonization of ASEAN STI online platform by hosting another workshop to further refine the mock-up and integrate related SC projects and SB initiatives

    - Brunei Darussalam reported an increasing trend for article submission, journal usage and citation of the ASEAN Journal of Science and Technology for Development (AJSTD). A special edition of the Journal titled "A Decade of APASTI: Advancing

regional prosperity through science, technology and innovation" was released in December 2025. Brunei Darussalam maintained its strategic collaboration with Elsevier for (2026-2029) to facilitate management and heighten the Journal's exposure.

- ASEAN Technology Management Hub completed its development with the support of CTIF in March 2026. A user validation workshop was hosted in Cambodia and Indonesia in February 2026.
- Indonesia will continue discussions with possible partners to further the development of the ASEAN S & T network (ASTNET)

2. The Meeting noted the completion of the following AMS-led activities with the support of various Dialogue Partners:

- ASEAN NEXT 2025 on 3-4 December 2025, in Cambodia with the theme "Role of Infrastructure Technology and Innovation in Successful Manufacturing"
- ASEAN-India Scale Hub on 15-17 July 2026 in Bali, Indonesia
- 2nd ASEAN-India Women Scientist Conclave on 8-10 July 2026 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia with the theme "Building Inclusive STI Communities"
- 11th ASEAN+3 Junior Science Odyssey (APT JSO-11) on 6-10 July 2026 in Clark, Pampanga, Philippines with the theme "Climate Action and Responsible e- nnovation for sustainability" (ASEAN+3 CARES)

3. The Meeting encouraged AMS to strengthen information dissemination, utilize available facilities, and participate actively in capacity-building and other initiatives of the SC and its SB.
   - Submit articles for publication in the ASEAN Journal of Science and Technology for Development (AJSTD)
   - Call for ASEAN researchers to use the ASEAN-ROK High Performance Computing Facility
   - Contribute content to ASTNET to increase its visibility
   - Participate in various webinars, technical sessions, joint research projects, fellowships, awards and recognition for researchers and scientists

4. The existing subsidiary bodies are advised to review their Terms of Reference and align it according to the ToR for Subsidiary Bodies approved by COSTI in June 2026.
5. Three (3) proposals are intended to be submitted under the SC-track of the ASTIF call for proposals.
6. The Meeting also mapped out the ongoing SC-STIE initiatives vis-à-vis the focus areas that were agreed upon to align with APASTI 2026-2035. This exercise was intended to identify gaps, challenges and opportunities to further sharpen SC-STIE's initiatives and heighten participation and collaboration between and among AMS in project design, implementation, and financing. Some of the initial discussions were on increasing inclusivity to target disadvantaged or underrepresented sectors, capacitating AMS to lead or shepherd initiatives, and focusing on technology transfer and translation of research results for socio-economic benefits

B. Newly Endorsed Project (if any):

SC-STIE endorsed the following concept notes intersession ally between Oct 2025 to date:

1. ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Enabling STI Talent Mobility (DESTINY) - endorsed via ad ref on 5 Oct 2026
2. ASEAN-UK Strategic Alignment Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation - endorsed via ad ref on 16 Sept 2026
3. EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership Dialogue Facility (EASPDF) - endorsed via ad ref on 4 Aug 2026
4. Strengthening S&T Commercialization Ecosystem in ASEAN for Sustainable Growth (SCALE-ASEAN) - endorsed via ad ref on 20 July 2026
5. Startups and Entrepreneurship Enabler for Development (SEED) - endorsed via ad ref on 31 Dec 2025
6. ASEAN Semiconductor Forum 2026 - endorsed via ad ref on 25 September 2026;
7. ASEAN Science Diplomacy Action Plan Workshop - endorsed via ad ref on 7 May 2026; targeted to be implemented from June 2026 to June 2027
8. The ASEAN Science Diplomats Assembly: 10th Founding Anniversary - endorsed via ad ref 22 April 2026; targeted to be held on 17-22 May 2026
9. Accelerating Technology Commercialization in ASEAN through ASEAN Sandbox Initiative - endorsed via ad ref on 7 Aug 2026; target implementation is from 2025 to 2028
10. Startup ASEAN Digital Centre of Excellence (DCoE) - endorsed via ad ref on 31 july 2026; target implementation is from 2026 to 2027

Proposed joint activities to be carried out through cooperation with Timor- Leste.

1. The ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM)
2. Capacity building
3. ASEAN-Japan Cooperation
4. Continue ASTIF Call

Status of Projects/Activities 2026		**Summary of the Subsidiary Bodies Status**	
Completed projects/activities	5	Completed projects/activities	15
On-going projects/activities	27	On-going projects/activities	20
proposed	1	proposed	1
witdrawn	0	witdrawn	0

DIALOGUE PARTNERS

No.	Dialogue Partners	ASEAN Country Coordinator		
		2021-2024	2024-2027	2027-2030
1	Australia	Lao PDR	Indonesia	Cambodia
2	Canada	Malaysia	Lao PDR	Indonesia
3	China	Myanmar	Malaysia	Lao PDR
4	European Union	Philippines	Brunei Darussalam	Malaysia
5	India	Singapore	Philippines	Myanmar
6	Japan	Thailand	Singapore	Philippines
7	Republic of Korea	Viet Nam	Thailand	Singapore
8	New Zealand	Brunei Darussalam	Viet Nam	Timor-Leste
9	Russia	Cambodia	Myanmar	Viet Nam
10	United Kingdom	Brunei Darussalam	Viet Nam	Thailand
11	United States	Indonesia	Cambodia	Brunei Darussalam


THE 1ST MEETING OF THE ASEAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM
(SC-STIE-1)


THE 1ST MEETING OF THE ASEAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM
(SC-STIE-1)
13 October 2026, Da Nang, Viet Nam


TIMOR-LESTE

4.4.2. SC-DET: Report on Timor-Leste's Participation in the First Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Deep and EmergingTechnologies (SC-DET)

Prepared by:

- Benvindo D. J. Guterres
- Instituto Nacional de Ciência e Tecnologia (INCT) de Timor-Leste
- Focal Point for ASEAN Sub-Committee of Deep and Emerging Technologies (SC-DET)



I. Introduction

In accordance with the orientation by His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, on 24 September 2026, reference number 103/GPM/IX/2026, the Timor-Leste delegation was authorized to participate in the 90th meeting of the Asean Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90), held in Da Nang, Vietnam, on 13-15 October 2026.

The Timor-Leste delegation was led by the Chair of the Executive Board of the National Institute of Science and Technology of Timor-Leste, Dr José Cornélio Guterres, in his capacity as Chair of COSTI Timor-Leste, accompanied by the representative of the Advisory Board and the focal points of all subcommittees, including the Subcommittee on Advanced and Emerging Technologies (SC- DET), the Sub-Committee on Biotechnology and Food Science (SC-BFS), the Sub-Committee on Materials and Energy Technology (SC-MET), and the Sub-Committee on Earth, Ocean and Space Sciences (SC-EOSS).

In this context, Benvindo D. J. Guterres (myself), as National Director of the National Scientific Repository of Timor-Leste, represented the Sub-Committee on Deep and Emerging Technologies (SC-DET) at the meeting. The SC-DET serves as a regional platform to strengthen cooperation in research, development, and innovation related to advanced and emerging technologies. Following the recent reorganization of COSTI's subsidiary bodies, SC-DET plays a key role in promoting regional cooperation and the responsible development and adoption of emerging technologies among ASEAN Member States.

The Sub-Committee on Deep and Emerging Technologies (SC-DET) held its first meeting following the reorganization. This first meeting took place in person at the Furama Hotel Resort in Da Nang, Vietnam. Dr Lim Tiong Hoo, representing Brunei, chaired the meeting and assumed the role of Chair of the Sub-Committee on Advanced and Emerging Technologies. All Sub-Committee representatives and the ASEAN Secretariat were present, except representatives from Malaysia and Myanmar, who participated virtually.

This 1st Meeting of the SC-DET provided ASEAN Member States with a platform to discuss key developments, trends, opportunities, and challenges in advanced and emerging technologies. It also enabled participants to strengthen regional cooperation, share knowledge and experiences, identify potential areas for collaboration, and explore ways to promote science, technology and innovation for sustainable socio-economic development in the region.

This report sets out the key points regarding the purpose of Timor-Leste's participation in the meeting, information on ASEAN's financial situation, and relevant technological developments in ASEAN Member States. It also provides an overview of the status of SC-DET projects, plans and activities, reports from networks and centers, new SC-DET initiatives and proposals, SC-DET's plans for 2026 and beyond, the date and venue of the next SC-DET meeting, key points of Timor- Leste's verbal statement, main opportunities identified for Timor-Leste; and final consideration.

II. Objectives of Timor-Leste's Participation

The primary objectives of Timor-Leste's participation were:

- Reinforce Timor-Leste's commitment to the Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) and regional cooperation mechanisms in science, technology, and innovation;
- Enhance understanding of policies, strategies, programs, and initiatives implemented by
- ASEAN Member States in deep and emerging technologies;
- Identify potential cooperation between Timor-Leste and other ASEAN Member States;
- Promote greater participation of Timor-Leste's researchers and institutions in regional initiatives and projects;
- Identify opportunities for the development of technical and scientific capacities;
- Explore opportunities for participation in projects supported by the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF).

III. Election of the Vice-Chairperson

The meeting began with the election of EN Sovann, SCDET KH, as Vice-Chairperson.

IV. Status of Funds

- The Meeting reviewed the financial status of the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF) and STI Partnership Contributions, based on the information presented by the ASEAN Secretariat.
- Regarding the ASTIF, the Meeting noted that, as of 31 August 2026, the fund's total balance was USD 12,433,714.31. Of this amount, USD 1,541,852.27 from cumulative interest income was available to support COSTI and Sub-Committee activities.
- The Meeting further noted that USD 12,416,937.96 of the ASTIF was maintained in a six- month fixed deposit, bearing an annual interest rate of 3.65%, with maturity scheduled for 15 December 2026.
- The Meeting also noted that USD 1.2 million from the available ASTIF funds would be allocated to support the ASTIF Call 2026, allowing ASEAN Member States to submit proposals for regional projects in science, technology, research and innovation.
- The ASEAN Secretariat also informed ASEAN Member States that any new submissions for the ASTIF Fund should be made within the week to allow sufficient time to endorse new projects. Subsequently, under the Meeting's follow-up actions, the deadline for ASTIF proposal submissions was extended to 26 October 2026, with an endorsement letter from the SC-DET Chair required.
- Regarding other funds, the ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that it was unable at that time to provide detailed information on their status and indicated that updates would be provided once the information had been updated.

V. Updates On Technological Developments from SC-DET Members

In this section, each member state provides an update on relevant technological developments in ASEAN Member States. Below is a summary of each AMS presentation and verbal intervention.

1. Brunei Darussalam

- Artificial Intelligence
- Testbed for Emerging technology
- Brunei Innovation & Technology Awards
- Post Quantum Cryptography Framework

2. Cambodia

- National AI Policy Initiatives and other Digital Initiative
- Cybersecurity Law and Personal Data Protection Law is expected to be endorsed by 2027.
- STI's Roadmap 2030; consists of 5 pillars:
- National Research Agenda 2025 & R&D Funds
- National AI & Data Science Research Centre Project
- National Research Center on AI for Education
- Khmer LLM; 10 billion Tokens
- Community Tech Center, with a target 550 CTC by 2027
- Cambodia Digital Skill Development Roadmap 2024-2035 with a target of 100,000 Digitally skilled Human resources by 2030.

3. Indonesia

- ASEAN-Korea HPC Facility in Indonesia
- Open Call for utilization closes in phases
- Policies have been established to guide the utilisation, operations, acceptable use and access of HPC facility
- Upgrade and security tightening
- Lao PDR
- STI Strategy 2026 - 2032
- AI strategy 2026-2035
- Looks forward to possible collaborations with AMS

4. Malaysia

- Malaysia 2026 Deep Tech Agenda has 4 pillars: AI & Digital, Quantum, Advanced Materials and Governance & STI
- URIIS 2026
- Top 8 engagement opportunities
- ASEAN Quantum Summit 2025
- UTM SPC GPU infrastructure
- UTM AI Skills passport
- Great Innovation Challenge 2026- AI for sustainability

5. Myanmar

- Submitted two proposals to ASTIF

6. Phillippines

- AI Strategy approved Framework is measured against five strategic pillars:
- 1st National AI Stakeholders Conference
- National AI Centre for Research and Innovation was convened October 2025
- Singapore
- Singapore RIE2030 has four priority domains: Industry; Health; Sustainability and Digital
- RIE2030 Priorities & Collaboration opportunities.

7. Thailand

- National AI Strategy 2028 - 2032, 4 pillars: Infrastructure; Trust; Human Capital and Value creation;

8. Timor-Leste

- Timor-Leste reaffirmed its commitment to COSTI, recognizing it as a vital platform for Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI). The delegate highlighted active efforts to encourage local researchers to participate, build technical capacity, and strengthen regional networks, with the goal of transitioning from passive participation to active partnership.

9. Vietnam

- National AI strategy
- AI Law
- AI Governance and Ethics
- Multimodal - agentic AI
- Cybersecurity
- Semiconductor,
- Aims to master the key technology and be more independent

10. Others important points:

- SCDET Vietnam highlighted that, AMS must remain vigilant regarding the emerging risks and challenges associated with the rapid evolution of technology, including Artificial Intelligence, next-generation mobile networks (5G/6G), and cybersecurity.
- Chairman pointed out the lack of IP regulations for AI-generated products within Research and Innovation. The Vice-Chairperson agreed that a gap exists and suggested it as a potential area for joint exploration and partnership.
- SCDET TL inquired about the management and governance of AI in Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam. SCDET KH clarified that ongoing efforts focus on localizing AI adoption and establishing risk categorization frameworks, adding that further details and relevant documentation could be shared via email. SCDET Brunei clarified that a Working Group for AI has been established, consisting of key stakeholders who took part in formulating the National AI Guidelines, further information can be shared via email.
- With respect to SCDET Indonesia updates on HPC, SCDET Philipine inquired on whether datasets with open access can be hosted by HPC facilities. The governance on open access for datasets has not been developed.
- Chairman acknowledged SCDET Myanmar's updates on key initiatives and suggested extending invitations for AMS members to participate in upcoming activities.
- On SCDET Myanmar submission to ASTIF, Chairman invited SCDET Mianmar Primary Investigator or Lead to email Chairman for letter of endorsement.
- Vice-Chairperson proposed that AMS may highlight their preferred areas of interest for ASEAN Secretariat to compile and circulate, consequently interested countries are encouraged to reach out to the lead country directly to discuss joint initiatives.

- Chairman noted that several country-level updates feature impactful activities that could be expanded into ASEAN-wide initiatives.
- Chairman further shared that, AMS can draft and circulate project proposals beyond ASTIF channels, submitting them to ASEAN Secretariat to seek external funding opportunities. Alternatively, COSTI Focal Points may engage directly with their assigned Dialogue Partners to explore joint funding and cooperation options.

VI. Status of SC-DET Projects and Initiatives

In this section, each ASEAN member state, along with the ASEAN Secretariat and relevant regional organizations and partners, provided updates on its SC-DET projects, plans, and activities. Key points from the presentations are summarized below.

ASEAN SECRETARIAT: ASEAN-China Joint Research Projects

- The Meeting noted that this 3 projects are still ongoing and project report will be shared soon.
- The Chairman requested clarification regarding the submission process for new proposals which was supposed to be out in 2026. China is evaluating internal arrangements for a potential second call, while ASEAN Secretariat continues to coordinate with China on the availability and timeline of future project calls.

THAILAND: Learning Technologies with KidBright Platform

- The Meeting noted that this is still ongoing and currently being implemented.
- Over 100 Mekong region educators are being trained in Coding, IoT, and AI—with workshops upskilling 57 educators from Thailand and Cambodia, and ~85 more from Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar concluding by late October 2026. This capacity-building effort is set to reach 900+ CLMVT students by February 2027 and yield 5 student-led innovative societal solutions by July 2027.
- ASEAN Secretariat requested clarification regarding the projected completion timeline for the project. SCDET TH clarified that the project is to be successfully completed by the end of 2027.

PHILIPINE: Korea-ASEAN AI Development & Start-up Competition

- The Meeting noted that this project is still ongoing.

INDONÉSIA: Building HPC Infrastructure and HPC Capacity for ASEAN Data Utilization

- The Meeting noted that this project has implemented the system but is still ongoing for utilization.
- The meeting also noted that there are twenty-four proposals have been submitted, and calls for more submissions from other AMS
- SCDET ID indicated its intention to conduct a workshop aimed at promoting the utilization of HPC, and it was suggested that invitations be extended to AMS.

BRUNEI: ASEAN Sustainable Ready for Industry 5.0 Program 2025

- The Meeting noted that the project is still ongoing.
- The ASEAN Secretariat noted that the project's timeline may extend over several years and recommended exploring alternative funding sources to ensure its long-term sustainability.

ASEAN SECRETARIAT: ASEAN Quantum Summit 2025

- The Meeting noted that this project is completed.
- ASEAN Secretariat inquired that VN has indicated interest to host the next ASEAN Quantum Summit. SCDET. However, MY clarified concept note indicated one-time event, if VN wishes to host, ASEAN Secretariat highlighted that a new concept note is required including sources of funding.

PHILIPINES: PED 2026 - Regional Program for STI on AI (Phase 1 - Health S&T) – Notation

- The ASEAN AI in Health framework ensures safe, equitable adoption across member states through governance standards, landscape assessments, and regional collaboration.
- Operations utilize six strategies and twelve actions spanning governance, workforce competencies, evidence review, data interoperability, sustainability, and cross-border health innovation partnerships.
- A phased roadmap guides implementation, prioritizing foundational governance from
- 2026 to 2030 followed by tiered Member State rollouts to eliminate gaps.

THAILAND: The construction of the radio observational network KAVN (Korea-ASEAN VLBI* Network)

- The Meeting noted that status is still ongoing.

UNITED KINGDOM (U.K) - Artificial Intelligence for Development in Asia (AI4D Asia)

- The Meeting noted that status is still ongoing.
- Chairman sought clarification on SCDET's specific role and measurable outcomes regarding UK's intended engagement with the ASEAN Working Group on AI, noting that the stipulated activities fall under the purview of the ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN). The UK responded that it intends to submit an activity plan.

VII. Reports of Networks and Centers

In this section, the ASEAN Hydroinformatics Data Center (AHC) updated stakeholders on progress and outlined the way forward. The AHC presentation outlined regional cooperation for climate-resilient water management. It emphasized three core pillars: knowledge sharing, technology matching, and capacity building. The presentation also highlighted member-country contributions, joint telemetry deployments, and upcoming online workshops to support long-term disaster risk reduction.

VIII. New Sc-DET Initiatives and Proposals

The points presented were as follows:

- The Meeting highlighted the ASEAN EU Quantum Readiness and Awareness Workshop.
- Quantum technologies pose urgent cybersecurity risks through vulnerabilities in classical encryption. ASEAN requires a coordinated regional action plan to build policy frameworks, enhance readiness, and foster economic competitiveness across member states.
- The four work packages encompass awareness workshops, capability assessments, quantum-safe roadmap development, and long-term regional cooperation mechanisms led by SCDET. SCDET BRUNEI will be implementing Working Package 1 by 13-14 January 2027 and invites interested AMS to explore collaboration opportunities for the remaining work packages.

- SCDET BRUNEI invites AMS to join this initiative to ensure ASEAN is ready for Q-Day.
- SCDET SINGAPORE supports this initiative, as it would help raise awareness of quantum.
- Proposed by SCDET BRUNEI, the China-ASEAN Semiconductor and Intelligent Application Program addresses regional capability gaps through public plenaries and closed-door roundtables, fostering cross-border collaboration, talent mobility, and joint innovation across key thematic areas.
- BRUNEI also presented the China-ASEAN Co-operation in Advanced Semiconductor and Intelligent Application Program. This proposal addresses challenges in agentic and generative AI, with the primary objective of preparing AMS for AI's future. SCDET members are invited to co-host the program, and we will circulate the concept note next year.

IX. The Plans of Sc-DET for 2026 and Beyond

The Meeting noted that SCDET's focus area for 2026 and beyond include:

1. Quantum Technology;
2. Next Generation Computing;
3. Future Communications;
4. Digital Trust including Cybersecurity;
5. Advance Semiconductor Technology;
6. Sustainable Systems;
7. Immersive Technology (AV/VR/MR);
8. Artificial Intelligence (including Foresight Technology);
9. Advanced Manufacturing (adaptive, robotics);
10. Data Science.

X. Date and Venue of Next Sc-DET Meeting

- The Meeting noted that SCDET-2 Meeting will be hosted by Brunei Darussalam in 2027. Further information on this matter will be provided by the host and the ASEAN Secretariat in due course.

XI. Key Points from Timor-Leste Verbal Intervention

During the meeting, Timor-Leste, through the National Focal Point for Deep & Emerging Technologies (DET), Mr. Benvindo Domingos José Guterres (myself), reaffirmed Timor-Leste's commitment to the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI), recognizing it as an important regional platform to strengthen cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI), share knowledge and experiences, and develop joint initiatives among ASEAN Member States.

In my intervention, I highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen the national science, technology and innovation ecosystem and promote greater participation in ASEAN initiatives. The key priorities included:

- Encouraging the involvement of national researchers in ASEAN initiatives, programs, and projects related to science, technology, and innovation;
- Strengthening technical capacities and research infrastructure, particularly in areas related to deep and emerging technologies;
- Strengthening regional cooperation networks by promoting connections among researchers, scientific institutions, universities, and government agencies; and
- Increasing Timor-Leste's participation in COSTI activities and projects, aiming to turn regional engagement into concrete opportunities for cooperation, capacity development, and joint project implementation.

I also expressed our intention to move progressively toward more active, substantive, and results-oriented participation by establishing strategic partnerships, engaging in regional projects, and mobilizing national researchers and institutions. This approach will enable the country to benefit from regional cooperation opportunities and contribute knowledge, experiences, and national priorities to the regional STI agenda.

Timor-Leste also participated in discussions on the governance, management, and responsible adoption of
Artificial Intelligence (AI), seeking to learn from Cambodia's and Brunei Darussalam's experiences in this
area. The exchange provided valuable insights into AI governance, capacity building, regulation, and responsible use, relevant to the future development of national policies and capacities.

Overall, participation in SC-DET-1 strengthened Timor-Leste's engagement in regional cooperation on deep and emerging technologies, identified potential areas for collaboration, and promoted greater alignment between the country's national STI priorities and ASEAN initiatives.

XII. Key Opportunities for Timor-Leste

- ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF)

The meeting reviewed the status of the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF) and noted opportunities for Member States to submit new funding proposals. It was also reported that the deadline for ASTIF proposals had been extended from 16 October to 26 October 2026 and that proposals require an endorsement letter from the SC-DET Chair. This opportunity is particularly relevant for Timor-Leste because it gives national researchers and institutions a mechanism to participate in regional research and innovation projects.

- High-Performance Computing (HPC) Project

Another highly relevant area was the Building HPC Infrastructure and HPC Capacity for ASEAN Data Utilization project. The meeting noted that the system has been implemented and is currently in use. Twenty-four proposals have been submitted, and ASEAN Member States were encouraged to submit additional proposals. Indonesia also indicated its intention to organize a workshop to promote the utilization of the HPC infrastructure and suggested extending invitations to ASEAN Member States. For Timor-Leste, this infrastructure may provide an opportunity to strengthen research capacity in areas requiring advanced computing resources, subject to the development of suitable projects and proposals.

- Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence was a central theme of the meeting. Several ASEAN Member States presented national policies, strategies, research centers, and AI-related programs. The meeting also discussed AI governance, risk management, and capacity development. The SC-DET Chair further highlighted a gap in intellectual property regulations for AI-generated products in research and innovation and suggested joint exploration and partnership.

- Cybersecurity and Digital Trust

Cybersecurity was identified as a priority area of SC-DET under the broader concept of Digital Trust. The increasing use of AI, advanced computing, quantum technologies, and other emerging technologies creates new security challenges that require stronger regional cooperation. In this context, an initiative related to a Quantum-Safe Roadmap was presented to strengthen ASEAN Member States' preparedness for future risks associated with quantum technologies and cryptographic security.

XIII. Recommendations for Timor-Leste

Based on the outcomes of the meeting, the following actions are recommended:

- Strengthen Researcher Participation

INCT, in collaboration with universities and other relevant national institutions, should systematically disseminate information on research and cooperation opportunities available through COSTI and SC-DET.

- Develop a Portfolio of Regional Projects

Research projects should be identified and developed in priority areas such as AI, Data Science, Cybersecurity, HPC and other emerging technologies.

- Prepare Future ASTIF Proposals

Even where a proposal cannot be submitted within a particular deadline, Timor-Leste should prepare concept notes and research proposals in advance for future funding calls.

- Explore HPC Opportunities

Identify relevant national researchers and projects to assess potential use of the regional HPC infrastructure and establish contact with the institutions responsible for its implementation.

- Develop Regional Partnerships

Timor-Leste should seek strategic partnerships with ASEAN Member States that have greater experience and capacity in the priority areas identified by SC-DET.

- Strengthen National Capacity

Timor-Leste should consider developing a national capacity-building agenda covering AI, cybersecurity, HPC, data science, quantum technology, and other emerging technologies.

XIV. Final Consideration

Timor-Leste's participation in the 1st Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Deep & Emerging Technology represented an important opportunity to strengthen the country's engagement in regional cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation.

The meeting provided an opportunity to understand ASEAN Member States' priorities in deep and emerging technologies, identify opportunities for funding, capacity development and access to regional infrastructure, and establish a basis for future partnerships.

One key outcome of Timor-Leste's participation was the reaffirmation of its commitment to increasing the participation of national researchers and transforming Timor-Leste's engagement in COSTI into a more active, project-oriented, and partnership-based participation.

Based on the opportunities identified, Timor-Leste should establish a systematic mechanism to follow up on SC-DET initiatives, identify national projects with regional potential, and prepare national researchers and institutions to participate in future ASEAN calls, programs, and cooperation activities.

4.4.3. The First Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Biotechnology and Food Science (SC-BFS-1)

On 13 October 2026, I, Jose Cornelio Guterres, together with Dr. Matias and Dulce, representing the National COSTI of Timor-Leste, participated in the First Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Biotechnology and Food Science (SC-BFS-1), held at Furama Resort, Da Nang, Viet Nam, as part of the official programme of the 90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90). Our participation aimed to gain a better understanding of ASEAN's regional priorities, strategic directions, and cooperation initiatives in biotechnology and food science, while identifying opportunities for Timor-Leste to strengthen its engagement in these important areas of science, technology and innovation.

The meeting provided an important platform for discussing the role of biotechnology, engineering biology, scientific research and technological innovation in addressing regional development challenges. These areas are particularly relevant to Timor-Leste, especially in strengthening agricultural productivity, improving food quality and processing, promoting sustainable livestock production, and enhancing national food and nutrition security. I paid particular attention to the importance of applied research, technological innovation and collaboration among scientific and research institutions across ASEAN Member States. From Timor-Leste's perspective, regional cooperation offers valuable opportunities to access technical expertise, strengthen researchers' capabilities, participate in specialised training programmes and develop collaborative research projects that respond to national development priorities.

As part of the discussions on engineering biology cooperation, Timor-Leste presented its national priorities, key challenges and proposed contributions to the development of an ASEAN Vision and Roadmap for Engineering Biology. The intervention emphasised the importance of translating scientific and technological advances into practical benefits for agriculture, public health and community development. In this regard, Timor-Leste identified two national priorities for the next five to ten years. The first is agriculture and food security, particularly the application of locally appropriate biofertilisers, biological pest-control methods and microbial solutions to improve soil health, alongside improved livestock feed technologies to address seasonal feed shortages and increase animal productivity. These applications could initially be evaluated through small-scale field trials involving researchers and farming communities to assess their suitability, effectiveness and safety. The second priority is public health, particularly the potential application of engineering biology to improve access to affordable diagnostic technologies and strengthen laboratory capacity for detecting infectious diseases. This is especially important for rural and remote communities where access to specialised health services and diagnostic facilities remains limited.
In addition to identifying these priorities, Timor-Leste highlighted four major barriers that could constrain the development and application of engineering biology nationally. These include limited human resources and specialised research capacity; inadequate research infrastructure and limited access to technology transfer; gaps in regulatory frameworks, biosafety standards and institutional expertise; and financial constraints, particularly the limited availability of funding for research programmes, specialised training, laboratory equipment and long-term scientific activities. Addressing these challenges requires sustained investment in scientific education, institutional development, research infrastructure and appropriate regulatory mechanisms. Timor-Leste also recognised that ASEAN cooperation could play an important role in addressing these limitations through joint research initiatives, researcher exchanges, shared research facilities, technical assistance, specialised training and targeted funding opportunities.

To contribute to the development and implementation of the ASEAN Vision and Roadmap for Engineering Biology, Timor-Leste proposed two practical regional outputs. The first was an

ASEAN Regional Pilot Research and Capacity-Building Programme, focusing on collaborative pilot projects in areas such as biofertilisers, biological pest management and improved livestock feed technologies. This programme could combine applied research, technical training, farmer participation and measurable indicators to evaluate the effectiveness and suitability of proposed technologies under different agricultural and environmental conditions. The second was an ASEAN Biosafety and Responsible Technology Transfer Toolkit, designed to provide practical guidance on risk assessment, biosafety procedures, research ethics and responsible technology transfer. It could also support ASEAN Member States in strengthening national regulatory capacity and ensuring that engineering biology applications are developed and implemented safely and responsibly. Timor-Leste encouraged ASEAN and its development partners to support these proposed initiatives through technical expertise, financial assistance and collaboration between established research institutions and countries with developing scientific capacities.

The discussions also reinforced the importance of strengthening cooperation with ASEAN universities, research centres and technical institutions to support researcher training, scientific knowledge exchange, institutional capacity development and the transfer of appropriate technologies. For Timor-Leste, these partnerships are particularly important in addressing limitations in research infrastructure, specialised technical expertise and access to scientific resources. Given the importance of agriculture and food security to the livelihoods of many Timorese communities, cooperation in biotechnology and food science could contribute significantly to improving agricultural practices, increasing productivity, strengthening food processing and preservation, and developing practical solutions adapted to local conditions.

The participation of Timor-Leste in SC-BFS-1 provided a valuable opportunity to communicate national priorities, identify common regional challenges and contribute practical proposals to ASEAN cooperation in biotechnology and food science. The discussions highlighted the importance of translating scientific and technological advances into practical solutions that benefit farmers, researchers and local communities. For Timor-Leste, continued engagement with ASEAN institutions and research partners will be essential to strengthen national research capacity and develop collaborative initiatives that contribute to sustainable agriculture, food security, public health and the advancement of science, technology and innovation.



Picture 1 : Sub-Committee's meeting

4.4.4. The 1st meeting on ASEAN Sub-Committee on Materials and Energy Technology (SC-MET-1)

REPORT

On the 1st meeting on ASEAN Sub-Committee on Materials and Energy Technology (SC-MET-1)

Objective:	• Participation in the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Materials and Energy Technology (SC-MET-1) • Participation in then Side Event on Engineering Biology in ASEAN On the 90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) and Related Meetings
Date:	13 -15 October 2026
Location:	Da Nang, Viet Nam
Delegate:	**Junior Raimundo da Cruz, Dr. Eng.** *UNTL, Mechanical Engineering,* *Focal Person for ASEAN sub-Committee on Material and Energy Technology (SC-MET)*

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the outcomes and strategic takeaways from Timor-Leste's participation as an integrating member state at the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Materials and Energy Technology (SC-MET-1). The session was hosted by Viet Nam (COSTI-VN), chaired by Cambodia (SC-MET Chair) and vice-chaired by Indonesia (SC-MET Vice-Chair) on 13 October 2026 in Da Nang, Viet Nam, and the 90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) on 14 -1October 2026.

As our nation actively prepares for full economic and technical integration ahead of the 2029 ASEAN Chairmanship, this mission served to establish Timor-Leste's presence within the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI) framework. Our delegation successfully delivered an introductory statement, observed strategic policy trajectories, and identified specific focal networks—particularly in sustainable materials and clean energy infrastructure—that align directly with Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan.



Fig. 1. The 1st meeting of the ASEAN Sub- Committee on Materials and Energy Technology (SC-MET-1)



Fig. 2. Timor-Leste SC-MET focal person

2. MANDATED ROLES & OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

My participation in this meeting was as a focal person representing Timor-Leste in COSTI sub- committee. While this is my first time joining the sub-committee and specific operational responsibilities are still being clarified, the focal person for SC-MET within each ASEAN Member State (AMS) fundamentally serves as the primary technical and policy nexus between cross- border engineering bodies and domestic infrastructure ministries. This role can be defined across four distinct functional areas:

Operational Pillar	Mandated Duties & Performance Expectations
National Voting & Policy Evaluation	Cast Timor-Leste's official vote on binding regional energy standards, unified electrical grid protocols, and materials testing regulations. Review and critique multilateral technical project blueprints submitted by other Member States.
Project Sourcing, Sponsorship and reviewing	Design and author Timor-Leste-led project proposals to access the ASEAN Science, Technology, and Innovation Fund (ASTIF). Secure formal co-sponsorship from at least two ASEAN nations to clear regional funding thresholds. Review the incoming project proposal under sub-committee track.
Dialogue Partner Intermediary	Negotiate with external dialogue powers (such as Japan, South Korea, Australia, and China) during sub-committee working groups. Channel bilateral hardware allocations, lab tech transfers, and elite fellowships back to local institutions.
Domestic Policy Domestication	Enforce the seamless translation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology, and Innovation (APASTI 2026–2035) into state planning. Advise domestic regulators on updating building codes and power grid architectures.

3. KEY MEETING OUTCOMES & AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on the agenda attached to this report, the key outcomes of the meeting are as follows:

3.1. Institutional Frameworks (Agenda Items 1, 2, & 4)

The meeting successfully adopted the provisional agenda and reviewed high-level outcomes from recent ASEAN ministerial summits.

- Strategic Takeaway:
  - Endorsement of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Establishment of New Subsidiary Bodies under COSTI was noted. Timor-Leste must monitor these structural

developments closely to ensure our local institutions are ready to deploy technical focal points when required.

- 4 ongoing Subsidiary bodies, namely: ASEAN Network on Metallurgy and Metallic Materials (ANMMM), ASEAN Network on Sustainable and Environmental Material (ANSEM), ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research (NSPR), ASEAN Battery Safety Network (ABSN) requested all ASEAN Member State (AMS) to appoint a National representative to each Subsidiary Bodies.

- We noted that the ABSN is preparing to formally invite Timor-Leste to nominate representative after accession.

3.2. Clean Energy & Technology Portfolio (Agenda Item 3)

In relation to the agenda Item 3, the sub-committee reviewed advanced technology initiatives aiming to transform the regional industrial footprint:

- Green Hydrogen Initiative: Thailand presented the 'Green H2 ASEAN: Japan-ASEAN Hydrogen Future' proposal. This initiative signals ASEAN's long-term pivot toward hydrogen-blended natural gas ecosystems.
- Ongoing Technical Research: The committee reviewed advanced material initiatives, including highly efficient reusable superhydrophobic rubber foam for oil-water separation and joint ASEAN-China residential energy optimizations based on blended gas and geothermal energy.
- Gender-Inclusive Technology: Attention was given to the UN Women Policy Action
- Brief, which focuses on promoting women's economic empowerment through inclusive climate technology.

3.3. Sub-Committee Regional Networks (Agenda Item 5)

Comprehensive progress reports were received from five critical regional networks. Two networks hold immediate strategic value for Timor-Leste's domestic resource frameworks:

- Sustainable and Environmental Materials (Led by Brunei): This network presented strategic models for sustainable resource allocation, bio-materials, and environmental standard baselines.
- ASEAN Battery Safety Network (Led by Singapore): Crucial for establishing technical standard operating procedures and security baselines as ASEAN scales up its clean energy storage infrastructure.

4. TIMOR-LESTE'S INTERVENTION AND ENGAGEMENT

4.1. **Formal Introduction:** During the opening remarks, we officially thanked the Chair and Host, affirming our commitment to technical capacity building and regional alignment.

4.2. Policy Positions Taken:

- Our delegation actively signaled Timor-Leste's strong future interest in participating as an observer in the Sustainable and Environmental Materials Network and the Green H2 framework to ensure early institutional calibration.

- We noted with great appreciation the diverse portfolio of new, ongoing, and completed projects. We were particularly interested in the Green H2 ASEAN proposal and the ongoing research into inclusive climate technology. As we build our national frameworks, we reaffirmed that we welcome opportunities for our local researchers to observe or participate in future capacity-building workshops associated with these initiatives.

- Timor-Leste takes note of the endorsed Terms of Reference for these new subsidiary bodies. We expressed that understanding these organizational structures is crucial for our delegation as we prepare our domestic institutions for full participation and future responsibilities under COSTI.

- We took note of the proposed arrangements for SC-MET-2 meeting which will be held in Brunei next year 2027. We affirm that we are looking forward to sending our delegation to the next session to sustain this vital momentum
- We declared that we were fully supports the adoption of the Report of SC-MET-1 on an ad-referendum basis. We congratulated the Chair, the host Viet Nam, and all delegates for a highly successful and historic meeting

5. OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TIMOR-LESTE

5.1. Observations

During the meetings, some key points that were observed and noted from the meeting that required to be considered by Timor-Leste are as follow:

- SC-MET:
  The sub-committee on Material and Energy Technology (SC-MET) was formed by merging 2 previous sub-committees (1. SCMST-Sub-Committee on Materials Science and Technology, 2. SCSER - Sub-Committee on Sustainable Energy Research)

- SC-MET TASK and Focus Areas:
  The SC-MET is tasked with aligning regional material and energy projects with the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology, and Innovation (APASTI 2026–2035). The committee evaluates and drives regional initiatives centered on clean energy, materials technology, and sustainable resource development.

- Meeting:
  - The SC-MET meeting will be held annually or Bi-annual. The next SC-MET meeting will be in Brunei, on October 2027.
  - The 91st meeting of ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-91) will be held with tentative date and venue: 21-25 June 2027, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- Proposal review:

Per the ASTIF Call 2026 guidelines, project proponents under the COSTI Sub-Committee Track require formal endorsement from their respective Sub-Committee. In this regard, SC-MET members will be requested to review the all-incoming project proposal.

5.2. Strategic Recommendations

Based on the technical discussions at SC-MET-1, it is recommended that Timor-Leste should deploy the following measures:

- **Codify the Sustainable Energy Law:** Expedite the passage of the draft Base Law for Renewable Energies to build a dedicated domestic renewable fund. This will provide the necessary legal counterpart required to receive technical grants through ASEAN channels.

- **Utilize South-South Capacity Training:** Scale up certification programs (similar to the UNDP-backed ACCESS project which trained local operators via South-South cooperation) by embedding Timorese engineers into ASEAN programs like Thailand's proposed LH2ASEAN (Japan-ASEAN Hydrogen) track.

- **Observer Status Applications:** Formally request the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) to provide institutional instructions on how Timor-Leste technical experts can sit as observers in upcoming working group meetings of the ASEAN Network on Sustainable and Environmental Materials (5.3).

- **Human Capital Preparation:** Allocate funding or seek specific ASEAN-Dialogue Partner scholarships (e.g., ASEAN-Japan, ASEAN-China) tailored for Timorese engineers to study green hydrogen deployment and advanced environmental materials optimization.

- **Form Sub-Committee Consortiums:** The National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT) of Timor-Leste must foster collaborative joint-proposals with established ASEAN neighbors to capture ASTIF and dialogue-partner resources. By co-authoring proposals, Timor-Leste can access the $1.2 Million ASEAN Science, Technology, and Innovation Fund (ASTIF) pool.

- **ASTIF Call 2026:** Timor-Leste off-grid areas are being rapidly transformed via micro-hydro and decentralized Solar Home Systems. Hence, Timor-Leste can apply for funding under the ASTIF Call 2026 (AI for Advanced Materials and Energy) to digitize remote mini-grid microcontrollers.

- **Establish the Technical Advisory Node:** Create a joint working group consisting of national energy regulators, materials engineers, and academic heads to map Timor-Leste's existing lab capacities against ASEAN standards.

- **Responsibilities of Timor-Leste focal Person on SC-MET:** Define roles and responsibilities of focal Person representing Timor-Leste on each sub-committee.
- **Representation on subsidiary body under SC-MET:** Prepare for the appointment of a National representative to each Subsidiary Bodies under SC-MET.

6. Participating Side Event on Engineering Biology in ASEAN

On Day 2, October 14, 2026, Dr. Matias and I attended a side-event meeting on Engineering Biology. The core topics discussed in this meeting related to the evaluation of current regional capabilities, cooperation needs, and opportunities, while helping shape an ASEAN Engineering Biology vision and draft roadmap. Three specific questions were raised for discussion during the roundtable:

1. Which two sectors could Engineering Biology deliver the greatest value for each AMS country over the next five to ten years?
2. Which challenges could be addressed regionally rather than by individual AMS?
3. What are the key aspects that should be included in the forthcoming ASEAN Engineering Biology Vision and Zero Roadmap workshop for it to be useful to AMS?

These three questions were pre-ask by organizing committee to be answered.

After the discussion between Timor-Leste delegations, Dr. Jose Cornelio, as a COSTI chair Timor-Leste, drafted and sent the response to organizing committee in advance.

From this meeting, we noted that:

- The result of the study presented by Universitas Putra Malaysia (UPM) showed that the readiness of Timor-Leste's ecosystem and policies for safe & Ethical application, and scale-up of EB still categorized as "PRE-ENGAGEMENT". The Safe Application is weak; Ethical Application is Basic and Scale-up / Commercialization is also weak. Therefore, it was considered that Timor-Leste still in the early-stage foundation with limited EB capacity.

- The key results and recommendations from this meeting are:
    - Harmonized biosafety and regulatory approach;
    - Harmonized guidelines for ethics, risk assessment and responsible innovation;
    - Common standards supporting research and commercialization;
    - Connected national repository and an ASEAN data hub.

- A mechanism for collaborating:
    - Joint research programs, exchanges and training
    - Shared and accessible infrastructure
    - Technology -transfer arrangement;
    - Regional funding Mechanism, with longer term funding,
    - Clear propriety and implementation plan;
    - Agreed approac hes to burden and benefit sharing

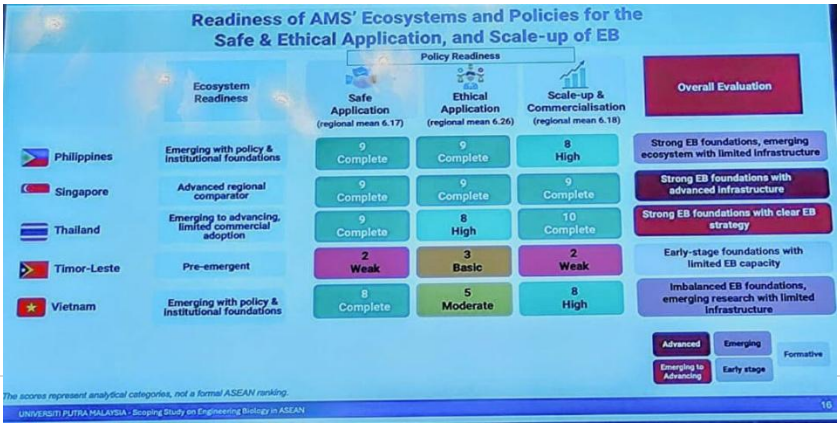


Fig. 4 The presentation slide presented by UPM on the Readiness of AMS' Ecosystems and





Fig. 5. Dr. Matias and I attended a side-event meeting on Engineering Biology

7. Timor-Leste delegation on COSTI 90th and the Sub-Committee meeting

The meeting was designated as the 90th COSTI meeting; however, the previous nine sub- committees have since been merged into only five. Consequently, parallel meetings for each of the five sub-committees took place on 13 October to consolidate their respective action plans. All 5 newly restructured sub-committees met simultaneously to coordinate practical regional initiatives under the APASTI 2026–2035 framework.

The program comprises seven official meetings, including 1st meeting across five specialized sub-committees, the 21st Meeting of the COSTI Advisory Council (BAC-21), and the COSTI-90th plenary session.

The focal persons representing Timor-Leste for each sub-committee, the BAC, and COSTI are:

- **Representation for Five sub-committee meeting:**
  - **Dr. Junior Raimundo da Cruz** – Sub-Committee on Materials and Energy Technology (**SC-MET**)
  - **Dra. Jacinta da Costa Guterres** – Sub-Committee on Science, Technology, andInnovation Ecosystems (**SC-STIE**)
  - **Dr. Benvindo Domingos José Guterres** – Sub-Committee on Deep and Emerging Technologies **(SC-DET)**

- **Dr. Jose Cornélio Guterres –** Sub-Committee on Biotechnology and Food Science **(SC-BFS)**

- **Dr. Matias da Silva Tavares –** Sub-Committee on Earth, Ocean, and Space Sciences **(SC-EOSS)**



Fig. 6. Timor-Leste Delegates for each Sub-Committee



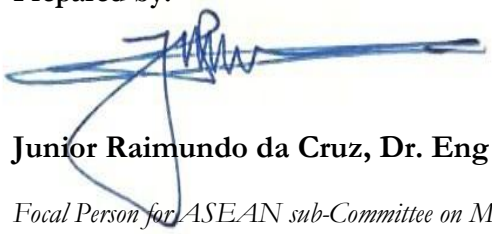
Fig. 7. Timor-Leste delegation for COSTI 90 , 21BAC, and 1st sub-committee meeting in Vietnam.

8.CONCLUSION

By participation in SC-MET-1 confirms our process in moving along a highly strategic path regarding regional technical integration. By matching our natural resource management goals with ASEAN's established technical networks, we can accelerate our local structural development while proving our long-term institutional readiness for full partnership ahead of the 2029 Chairmanship. In addition, by participating in this sub-committee's future capacity-building tracks, Timorese academic and state infrastructure bodies can directly access the specialized knowledge transfer, green hydrogen training, and ASTIF research grants, which is required to advance our domestic renewable energy roadmap.

Date: October 28, 2026

Prepared by:



Junior Raimundo da Cruz, Dr. Eng

Focal Person for ASEAN sub-Committee on Material and Energy Technology (SC-MET) Lecturer and Researcher
Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL)
Timor-Leste

4.4.5. The 1st meeting on ASEAN Sub-Committee on Earth, Ocean, and Space Sciences (SC-EOSS)

REPORT ON TIMOR-LESTE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ASEAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON EARTH, OCEAN AND SPACE SCIENCES (SC-EOSS-1)

Date: 13 October 2026
Venue: Furama Resort Da Nang, International Convention Palace, Da Nang, Viet Nam
Related Meeting: 90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90)
Representative of Timor-Leste: Dr. Matias Tavares

1. Executive Summary

The First Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Earth, Ocean and Space Sciences (SC-EOSS-1) was held on 13 October 2026 in Da Nang, Viet Nam, as part of the broader programme of ASEAN science, technology and innovation cooperation.

The meeting marked an important milestone following the restructuring of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI), which consolidated several previously separate areas of cooperation into five new sub-committees. SC-EOSS brings together Earth Sciences, Ocean Sciences and Space Sciences, providing a platform for strengthening regional scientific cooperation, technical exchange, capacity development and collaborative initiatives.

The discussions covered the restructuring of COSTI, ASEAN science and technology priorities, the status of the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF), ongoing regional projects, capacity-building initiatives and international cooperation.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of integrated scientific approaches to addressing regional challenges, including climate change, natural disasters, environmental degradation and sustainable development. Participants were encouraged to identify practical areas of collaboration and develop initiatives that respond to the priorities and capacities of ASEAN Member States.

For Timor-Leste, participation provided an important opportunity to understand the new institutional arrangements, observe regional cooperation mechanisms, identify potential opportunities and consider the institutional preparations required to participate effectively in SC-EOSS and other COSTI activities.

This report summarises the meeting's key discussions, identifies their relevance to Timor-Leste and presents recommendations for strengthening national participation in ASEAN science, technology and innovation cooperation.

2. Background and Context

The ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) is a regional mechanism responsible for promoting cooperation in science, technology and innovation among ASEAN Member States.
In 2026, ASEAN undertook an important restructuring of COSTI's subsidiary bodies, reducing the previous nine sub-committees to five. The restructuring was endorsed at the 22nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI-22), held in June 2026 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

The five new sub-committees are:

1. Sub-Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation Ecosystems (SC-STIE).
2. Sub-Committee on Deep and Emerging Technologies (SC-DET).
3. Sub-Committee on Biotechnology and Food Science (SC-BFS).
4. Sub-Committee on Materials and Energy Technology (SC-MET).
5. Sub-Committee on Earth, Ocean and Space Sciences (SC-EOSS).

The establishment of SC-EOSS brings together three interconnected scientific and technological areas that previously operated through separate cooperation arrangements.

As highlighted in the opening remarks by the Chair, the Earth, ocean and space are closely interconnected. Challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, environmental degradation and sustainable development cannot be addressed effectively through isolated scientific disciplines. They require integrated scientific knowledge, advanced technology and sustained regional cooperation.

The Chair also emphasised that SC-EOSS should function as an effective platform for bringing these disciplines together, exchanging knowledge and translating scientific cooperation into practical solutions for the region.
The restructuring is aligned with the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2026–2035 and is intended to strengthen ASEAN's collective scientific and technological capacity.
For Timor-Leste, as a new ASEAN Member State, this restructuring creates opportunities to participate in regional scientific cooperation while also requiring stronger national coordination, appropriate technical representation and institutional support.

3. Objectives of the Meeting

The meeting aimed to:

- Establish and strengthen the operational arrangements of the newly restructured SC-EOSS.
- Review relevant outcomes and decisions from ASEAN high-level meetings.
- Discuss the status of ASEAN science, technology and innovation funding.
- Review ongoing and proposed projects, activities and initiatives under Earth, Ocean and Space Sciences.
- Exchange information on national technical capacities, experiences and developments.
- Identify opportunities for regional cooperation, capacity building and technical exchange.
- Discuss the common framework and Terms of Reference for COSTI subsidiary bodies.
- Strengthen cooperation with international partners and relevant regional institutions.

4. Meeting Information and Programme

The meeting was held on 13 October 2026 at Furama Resort Da Nang, International Convention Palace, Viet Nam.
The main agenda included:

1. Opening remarks.
2. Election of the Vice-Chairperson.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Highlights of relevant ASEAN meeting outcomes.

5. Update on the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund.
6. Updates on SC-EOSS projects, activities and initiatives.
7. Common Terms of Reference framework for COSTI subsidiary bodies.
8. Updates on existing subsidiary bodies.
9. National reports and technical presentations.
10. International cooperation and partnerships.
11. Discussion on the next meeting.
12. Other matters.
13. Adoption of the meeting report.
14. Closing remarks.

During the discussion on the agenda, the Chair encouraged project-leading countries to provide concise presentations of approximately one to two minutes, focusing on each initiative's vision, direction and implementation progress. The remaining discussion time was intended to allow other Member States to provide comments and suggestions.

This approach reflected the intention to make the meeting more focused and provide opportunities for broader participation.

5. Key Discussions and Outcomes

5.1 Opening Remarks and Strategic Direction of SC-EOSS

The Chair welcomed ASEAN Member State representatives and the ASEAN Secretariat, emphasising the significance of the new SC-EOSS structure.

The opening remarks highlighted several important priorities:

- Strengthening connections between Earth, Ocean and Space Sciences.
- Promoting the exchange of scientific knowledge and practical experience.
- Developing integrated approaches to climate change and natural disaster challenges.
- Encouraging collaborative research and technology development.
- Strengthening regional capacity through training and technical cooperation.
- Identifying shared priorities and developing practical initiatives that respond to Member States' needs.

The Chair also emphasised the importance of SC-EOSS in supporting the implementation of APASTI 2026–2035.

These remarks established an important strategic direction for the sub-committee: cooperation should not be limited to information exchange but should lead to practical activities, collaborative research and stronger scientific and technical capacity across ASEAN.

5.2 Highlights of ASEAN High-Level Meeting Outcomes

The ASEAN Secretariat provided updates on relevant developments from recent ASEAN high-level meetings, particularly the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting in September 2026 in Manila, Philippines, and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation in June 2026 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Several developments were highlighted.

Regional economic cooperation and emerging technologies

The ASEAN Secretariat reported progress on the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement, with negotiations concluded and signing targeted for the ASEAN Summit in November 2026.

The framework was identified as providing opportunities for cooperation in digital transactions and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and quantum technologies.

Updates to the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement were also highlighted, including provisions relating to circular economy and environmentally friendly products.

COSTI restructuring

The Secretariat confirmed that the science and technology ministers had endorsed the restructuring of COSTI's subsidiary bodies from nine to five sub-committees.
This restructuring is expected to improve coordination and strengthen cooperation across ASEAN's science and technology priorities.

ASEAN science and technology initiatives

The meeting was informed about the ASEAN STI Call for 2036, which focuses on building an AI-enabled, competitive and resilient ASEAN region.

The Secretariat also highlighted the importance of maximising the use of high-performance computing facilities to support scientific research and technology applications.

Other developments included the launch of the ASEAN Technology Management Hub and the APASTI Monitoring and Evaluation Dashboard. These initiatives are intended to strengthen accountability, strategic coordination and monitoring of ASEAN science, technology and innovation cooperation.

ASEAN space cooperation

The Secretariat highlighted progress on the ASEAN Declaration on Space Cooperation and the importance of ensuring effective follow-up and implementation.

The discussion reinforced the growing strategic importance of space technology and its applications across multiple sectors, beyond the traditional science and technology domain.

5.3 ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF)

The ASEAN Secretariat presented an update on the financial status of the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund.
As reported at the meeting, the fund's position as of August 2026 included:

Financial item	Reported amount
Total fund balance	USD 12.4 million
Cumulative interest income available for COSTI and sub-committee activities	Approximately USD 1.54 million
Cumulative expenditure	Approximately USD 1.7 million

The Secretariat explained that the fund was held through financial instruments, including current accounts and fixed deposits. A fixed deposit arrangement established in June 2026 was reported to have an interest rate of approximately 3.65%.
The meeting was also informed that ASTIF had supported 66 activities since its establishment in 1989.

The update demonstrated the importance of understanding ASEAN funding arrangements and identifying opportunities for Member States to participate in eligible regional activities.

For Timor-Leste, this information is particularly relevant when considering participation in regional research, technical cooperation, training and capacity-building initiatives. National institutions should become familiar with the relevant funding procedures, project development requirements and opportunities available through COSTI.

5.4 Earth Sciences Initiatives

The meeting reviewed several ongoing initiatives under Earth Sciences, particularly meteorology, climate prediction, weather forecasting and climate-related services.

A. Short-term weather forecasting and heavy rainfall nowcasting

Singapore presented updates on its initiative relating to short-term weather forecasting and heavy rainfall warning across Southeast Asia.

The presentation highlighted the development of forecasting capabilities, technical workshops and training activities to support the exchange of expertise among participating countries.

Recent developments included the use of a new AI-based nowcasting system, developed with support from the National University of Singapore and relevant meteorological institutions.

The initiative aims to improve the detection and forecasting of short-term weather events in tropical regions.

A further technical workshop on AI-supported nowcasting and weather prediction was proposed for May or June 2027.

During the discussion, Cambodia raised an important point concerning the need for clearer project implementation timelines, including expected starting and completion dates. Cambodia noted that some initiatives had been recorded as ongoing for several years, making it difficult for Member States to understand their progress and expected completion.

The Chair acknowledged the observation and explained that some initiatives are continuous activities, such as recurring training programmes and regional forecasting services, rather than projects with fixed completion dates.

This discussion highlighted the importance of clearly communicating project objectives, implementation periods, progress and expected outcomes.

B. Sub-seasonal to seasonal prediction for Southeast Asia

Singapore also presented the capacity-building programme on sub-seasonal to seasonal (S2S) prediction.

The initiative aims to strengthen participants' ability to generate and interpret climate prediction products over sub-seasonal and seasonal timescales.

The programme focuses on:

- Improving understanding of the mechanisms influencing S2S predictability.
- Developing technical skills to generate and interpret seasonal prediction products.
- Strengthening the application of climate information in different sectors.

- Supporting the use of climate forecasts in water-resource management, agriculture, food production and health.

The presentation also highlighted continuing technical sessions on sub-seasonal prediction and a workshop on marine heatwave services conducted in July 2026.

The initiative provides a relevant opportunity for Timor-Leste to strengthen its technical capacity in climate forecasting and the application of climate information in agriculture, water management and disaster preparedness.

5.5 Ocean Sciences Initiatives

The meeting agenda included regional initiatives relating to oceanography, marine resources, coastal resilience, marine biodiversity and the blue economy.

The broader SC-EOSS framework recognises the importance of ocean sciences in addressing climate change impacts, coastal vulnerability, marine resource management and sustainable development.

The meeting materials identified cooperation opportunities involving:

- The ASEAN Blue Economy Roadmap.
- Aquatic algae biofuel production and related capacity-building activities.
- Climate change impacts and adaptation in coastal communities in the South China Sea region.
- Ecological restoration and environmental training.
- Ocean engineering and marine renewable energy.
- Marine bioprospecting.
- Marine robotics.
- Research-to-market cooperation.

These initiatives provide potential opportunities for Timor-Leste to strengthen its marine science and technology capacity, particularly in coastal resource management, marine biodiversity, sustainable fisheries, seaweed development and the blue economy.

Further details on individual presentations and discussions should be incorporated when the remaining meeting transcript or presentation records are available.

5.6 Space Sciences Initiatives

Space Sciences was identified as an important component of the new SC-EOSS structure, particularly in relation to satellite applications, remote sensing, Earth observation and geospatial technologies.

The meeting materials highlighted several regional cooperation initiatives, including:

- ASEAN-India space cooperation.
- Space policy expert exchange.
- Space Situational Awareness and Space Traffic Management.
- Satellite-based rice paddy statistics and damage assessment.
- ASEAN-China Remote Sensing Satellite Data Sharing Service Platform.
- ASEAN Space Council.
- Earth observation applications for air-quality monitoring.
- ASEAN Space Forum.
- Regional flood monitoring and local capacity development.

- ASEAN cooperation on access to space.

These initiatives demonstrate the potential contribution of space technology to environmental monitoring, disaster risk reduction, agricultural assessment and sustainable development.

For Timor-Leste, satellite-based Earth observation and remote sensing could provide valuable information for monitoring land use, forest cover, agricultural production, coastal changes and natural hazards.

5.7 Common Framework for COSTI Subsidiary Bodies

The meeting also considered the common framework for COSTI subsidiary bodies, which had been endorsed by COSTI in June 2026.

The framework provides guidance for the establishment, operation and management of different forms of subsidiary bodies, including task forces, centres, networks, consortia, expert groups and platforms.

An important consideration is that existing subsidiary bodies should align their Terms of Reference with the common framework and ensure the participation of all ASEAN Member States, including Timor-Leste.

The framework also provides a process for proposing new subsidiary bodies, including consideration of strategic alignment, feasibility, regional value and sustainability.

For new initiatives seeking long-term institutional recognition, proposals should demonstrate sustainability, including financial planning and a strategy extending beyond the initial three years.

This framework is relevant to Timor-Leste because it clarifies the institutional arrangements and participation requirements for engaging in COSTI cooperation mechanisms.

5.8 Existing Subsidiary Bodies

The meeting materials identified several existing regional institutions and mechanisms relevant to SC-EOSS, including:

- ASEAN Earthquake Information Center (AEIC).
- ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre (ASMC).
- ASEAN Weather Modification Centre (AWMC).
- ASEAN Research and Training Centre for Space Technology and Applications (ARTSA).
- Southeast Asia Astronomical Network (SEAAN).

These institutions provide important opportunities for technical cooperation, research, training and information exchange.

Timor-Leste should consider how relevant national institutions and technical professionals can engage with these mechanisms.

5.9 National Reports and International Technical Cooperation

The meeting programme included national reports on tsunami early warning systems, weather radar, tropical cyclone monitoring and forecasting.

These discussions are particularly relevant to Timor-Leste, given its exposure to climate-related hazards, heavy rainfall, flooding, landslides, coastal risks and potential tsunami impacts.

The meeting materials also identified technical cooperation with international partners, including China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the World Meteorological Organization.

Examples of cooperation highlighted in the meeting materials included meteorological forecasting, satellite applications, weather radar, tropical cyclone forecasting, technical training and disaster monitoring.

Further country-specific details should be confirmed against the complete meeting records before being attributed to particular presentations or participants

6. Timor-Leste's Participation and Commitment

Timor-Leste's participation in SC-EOSS-1 represented an important step in strengthening its engagement with ASEAN science, technology and innovation cooperation.

As a new ASEAN Member State, Timor-Leste recognises that participation in COSTI and its subsidiary bodies provides opportunities to contribute national experiences, learn from other Member States and strengthen national scientific and technical capacities.

Timor-Leste's participation should therefore be viewed as an ongoing commitment rather than a one-time attendance at regional meetings.

The country has experiences and knowledge in relevant areas that can contribute to regional discussions. At the same time, there is considerable motivation to learn from the technical experiences, institutional arrangements and scientific developments of other ASEAN Member States.

Continued participation and collaboration will be important for identifying areas where Timor-Leste can contribute, benefit from regional initiatives and develop stronger national capacities.

For the representative, this first participation in this type of COSTI sub-committee meeting was also an important learning opportunity. It provided an opportunity to observe the meeting processes, understand the expectations placed on sub-committee representatives and identify areas where Timor-Leste could improve its preparation and engagement in future meetings.

7. Key Institutional Lessons and Areas Requiring Attention

Participation in the meeting highlighted several institutional issues that require consideration by the Government and relevant national institutions.

7.1 Selection of Qualified Representatives

The meeting demonstrated that representatives from other ASEAN Member States generally had academic, scientific or professional backgrounds closely aligned with the technical responsibilities of their respective sub-committees.

Timor-Leste should therefore give careful consideration to the selection of its representatives and focal points.

Selection should be based on relevant academic qualifications, professional experience, technical expertise and institutional responsibilities.

A balanced approach should also be considered, involving both experienced senior professionals and younger qualified professionals who can contribute to the development of national scientific capacity over time.

Representatives should be selected according to the specific mandate of each sub-committee rather than through general institutional representation alone.

7.2 Development of Clear Terms of Reference

There is a need to develop comprehensive Terms of Reference for each COSTI sub-committee representative, member and focal point.
These ToR should clearly define:

- Roles and responsibilities.
- Expected contributions to meetings and technical discussions.
- Responsibilities for reporting and information sharing.
- Coordination with relevant national institutions.
- Participation in regional projects and activities.
- Follow-up responsibilities after meetings and training.
- Expected outputs and accountability arrangements.

Clear ToR would help ensure that representatives understand their responsibilities and that participation results in practical contributions to national and regional cooperation.

7.3 Establishment of a Dedicated COSTI Secretariat or Coordination Mechanism

Given Timor-Leste's full membership of ASEAN and the increasing responsibilities associated with COSTI, there is a strong need for a dedicated coordination mechanism to support participation in COSTI and its subsidiary bodies.

This mechanism could operate as a small secretariat or coordination unit within the relevant government institution.

Its responsibilities should include:

- Coordinating communication with the ASEAN Secretariat.
- Managing correspondence, invitations and official documents.
- Sharing relevant information with sub-committee representatives and focal points.
- Maintaining records of previous and current meetings.
- Tracking regional projects, activities and opportunities.
- Coordinating national inputs and reports.
- Monitoring participation in training and capacity-building activities.
- Supporting preparation for future meetings.

The secretariat should ensure that relevant information is shared with sub-committee leads and focal points in a timely manner.

This is particularly important because representatives need access not only to current meeting documents but also to previous discussions, project developments, decisions and future opportunities.

7.4 Information Management and Institutional Memory

A central information management system should be established to maintain records of Timor-Leste's participation in COSTI.

The system should include:

- Meeting invitations and agendas.
- Meeting reports and decisions.
- ASEAN project documents and proposals.
- National reports and technical contributions.
- Lists of representatives and focal points.
- Training and capacity-building records.
- Relevant correspondence with ASEAN institutions.
- Upcoming meetings, deadlines and opportunities.

Maintaining institutional records will help ensure continuity when representatives change and prevent the loss of knowledge and information between meetings.

7.5 Monitoring Training and Capacity-Building Outcomes

Timor-Leste should develop a systematic mechanism to monitor participation in ASEAN training programmes and capacity-building activities.

It is important to record not only who attended a particular training programme but also what knowledge and skills were gained and whether these were shared or applied after participants returned to Timor-Leste.
A monitoring system should consider:

1. Who participated in each training programme?
2. What technical knowledge or skills were acquired?
3. Was the knowledge shared with colleagues or relevant institutions?
4. Were the new skills applied in professional activities?
5. Did the training lead to any improvements in institutional practices, technical capacity or service delivery?

This approach would help the Government assess the value of ASEAN capacity-building opportunities and ensure that participation produces practical benefits for national institutions.

8. Strategic Relevance and Opportunities for Timor-Leste

The establishment of SC-EOSS provides several opportunities for Timor-Leste.

Earth Sciences
Timor-Leste could strengthen cooperation in climate forecasting, meteorology, disaster risk reduction, climate monitoring and early warning systems.
These areas are relevant to agriculture, food security, water management and climate change adaptation.

Ocean Sciences
Participation could support national efforts in marine resource management, coastal resilience, marine biodiversity, seaweed development and the blue economy.

Space Sciences

Regional cooperation in satellite applications, remote sensing and geospatial technologies could support agricultural monitoring, land-use assessment, environmental management and disaster risk reduction.

Capacity Development
ASEAN training programmes and technical exchanges could strengthen the capabilities of national researchers, government technical officers and university professionals.

Regional Research Cooperation
Timor-Leste should progressively identify research institutions and technical experts who can participate in regional projects, networks and collaborative research activities.

9. Recommendations and Follow-up Actions

Based on the meeting discussions and institutional observations, the following actions are recommended.

No.	Recommended action	Proposed responsibility	Expected outcome
1	Establish a dedicated COSTI coordination mechanism or secretariat.	Relevant government authority	Stronger coordination and continuity of national participation.
2	Develop clear selection criteria for COSTI representatives and focal points.	Relevant government institutions	Technical representatives aligned with each sub-committee's mandate.
3	Prepare comprehensive ToR for all representatives and focal points.	COSTI coordination mechanism and relevant institutions	Clear roles, responsibilities and accountability.
4	Establish a central information and document management system.	COSTI secretariat or coordination unit	Timely access to ASEAN documents, correspondence and project information.
5	Develop a national register of COSTI projects, training and capacity-building activities.	COSTI coordination mechanism	Better monitoring of participation and opportunities.
6	Introduce a post-training reporting and knowledge-sharing requirement.	Relevant institutions and training participants	Improved application and dissemination of acquired knowledge.
7	Identify national experts and institutions for each SC-EOSS technical area.	Relevant ministries, universities and research institutions	Stronger technical representation and national contributions.
8	Identify priority regional projects for Timor-Leste's participation.	SC-EOSS representatives and relevant institutions	More targeted participation in ASEAN cooperation.
9	Improve preparation for future COSTI and SC-EOSS meetings.	National representatives and coordination mechanism	More effective participation and contributions.

Immediate Priorities

Three institutional priorities deserve particular attention:
First: Establish a dedicated COSTI coordination mechanism. This is essential to manage the increasing volume of communication, documentation, meetings, projects and capacity-building activities associated with Timor-Leste's ASEAN membership.

Second: Strengthen the selection and responsibilities of representatives. The Government should ensure that representatives are technically qualified, appropriately selected and supported by clear Terms of Reference.

Third: Establish a national monitoring system for training and capacity building. This will help ensure that participation in ASEAN programmes translates into improved technical knowledge, institutional capacity and practical outcomes in Timor-Leste.

10. Conclusion

The First Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Earth, Ocean and Space Sciences provided an important opportunity for Timor-Leste to engage with the newly restructured COSTI cooperation mechanism and better understand ASEAN's regional priorities in Earth, Ocean and Space Sciences.

The meeting demonstrated the importance of integrated scientific cooperation, technical exchange, collaborative research and capacity development in addressing shared regional challenges.

For Timor-Leste, participation represents both an opportunity and a responsibility. The country should continue contributing its experiences while learning from other ASEAN Member States and strengthening its national scientific and technical capabilities.

However, effective participation requires more than appointing representatives to attend meetings. It requires appropriate institutional arrangements, qualified technical personnel, clear responsibilities, effective information management and systematic follow-up.

Establishing a dedicated COSTI coordination mechanism, developing clear Terms of Reference and strengthening the monitoring of capacity-building activities would provide an important foundation for Timor-Leste's sustained engagement.

With appropriate government support and institutional coordination, Timor-Leste can progressively strengthen its contribution to SC-EOSS and the broader ASEAN science, technology and innovation agenda.

11. References

1. ASEAN Secretariat. (2026). *COSTI-90 Delegate Handbook*.
2. ASEAN Secretariat. (2026). *Draft Annotated Agenda: First Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Earth, Ocean and Space Sciences (SC-EOSS-1)*.
3. ASEAN Secretariat. (2026). *SC-EOSS-1 Meeting Presentation*.
4. ASEAN Secretariat. (2026). *A Common Framework for COSTI Subsidiary Bodies*.
5. ASEAN Secretariat. (2026). *SC-EOSS-1 Meeting Transcription*, 13 October 2026. Partial transcription, covering the opening session and initial project presentations.
6. China Meteorological Administration. (2026). *Progress Report on China–ASEAN Meteorological Cooperation*.
7. Japan Meteorological Agency. (2026). *Technical Cooperation among ASEAN Members and JMA*.
8. Thai Meteorological Department. (2026). *Status Report on Monitoring Network of the Tsunami Early Warning System in Thailand*.
9. ASEAN Secretariat. (2026). *COSTI-90 Administrative Circular*.

5. Official and Related Activities

5.1. Gala Dinner and Cultural and Site Visits

As part of the official programme associated with the 90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90), held in Da Nang, Viet Nam, from 13 to 15 October 2026, the Timor-Leste delegation participated in the Gala Dinner on 14 October 2026 and a cultural side visit to Hoi An on 15 October 2026. These activities complemented the formal meetings by providing opportunities to strengthen diplomatic relationships, promote friendship and mutual understanding, and appreciate the cultural heritage and traditions of Viet Nam.

The Gala Dinner on 14 October brought together representatives from ASEAN Member States and participating institutions in a friendly and informal atmosphere. The occasion was honoured by the presence of the Minister responsible for Science and Culture of Viet Nam and the head of Da Nang City, reflecting the host country's commitment to regional cooperation, cultural exchange and ASEAN friendship. Beyond its social purpose, the Gala Dinner served as an important platform for diplomatic engagement, allowing delegates to exchange experiences, establish professional connections and strengthen institutional relationships outside the formal meeting sessions. For the Timor-Leste delegation, this occasion provided an opportunity to interact with representatives of other ASEAN Member States and regional institutions, reinforcing the importance of dialogue, mutual respect and solidarity in advancing regional cooperation in science, technology and innovation.

On 15 October 2026, the Timor-Leste delegation participated in a cultural side visit to Hoi An, a historic town in Viet Nam recognised for its distinctive architectural heritage, traditional streets, cultural landmarks and historical significance as an international trading port. The visit provided an opportunity to explore the town's historical environment, appreciate its traditional architecture and gain insights into the cultural diversity shaped by centuries of commercial and intercultural exchanges. Hoi An represents an important example of how historical heritage, local traditions and cultural identity can be preserved while contributing to tourism and local economic development.

During the visit, the delegation also had the opportunity to experience the traditional marketplace and observe local commercial activities, handicrafts, traditional products and everyday community interactions. The marketplace reflects the close relationship between local livelihoods, cultural traditions and the preservation of community identity. It also demonstrates how traditional markets can contribute to local entrepreneurship, support small businesses and promote cultural tourism.

For the Timor-Leste delegation, visiting Hoi An offered valuable perspectives on the importance of protecting historical heritage and promoting cultural identity as part of sustainable development. Similar opportunities may be relevant to Timor-Leste, where traditional markets, historical sites, cultural practices, handicrafts and local products represent important national assets that can support tourism, community livelihoods and cultural preservation.

Overall, the Gala Dinner and cultural visit to Hoi An complemented the technical and institutional discussions of COSTI-90 by highlighting the importance of diplomatic engagement, cultural appreciation and people-to-people relations. For the Timor-Leste delegation, these activities contributed to strengthening relationships with ASEAN counterparts, promoting mutual understanding and reinforcing the spirit of friendship, cooperation and solidarity among ASEAN Member States. They also demonstrated that effective regional cooperation depends not

only on formal meetings and institutional commitments but also on sustained relationships, cultural exchange and mutual respect among participating countries and their people.

5.2. Diplomatic Engagement and Exchange of Gifts

As part of the diplomatic and institutional engagement surrounding the 90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90), the Timor-Leste delegation presented and exchanged gifts of Timor-Leste coffee with representatives of the other ten ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), Jakarta. This activity represented an important gesture of diplomatic courtesy, friendship and mutual respect, reflecting Timor-Leste's commitment to strengthening relationships and promoting solidarity with ASEAN Member States and regional institutions.

The exchange of gifts in international and regional diplomatic settings carries significance beyond the material or economic value of the objects presented. It represents an expression of national identity, cultural heritage, hospitality and mutual recognition. Through this practice, countries have opportunities to introduce their national products, communicate their cultural values and demonstrate respect for the diversity of other nations. In this context, presenting Timor-Leste coffee was not simply an exchange of a commercial product but also a form of cultural diplomacy, allowing the delegation to introduce an important element of the country's identity and agricultural heritage to ASEAN partners.

Coffee occupies an important place in Timor-Leste's economy, society and rural community life. It is one of the country's recognised agricultural products and an important source of livelihood for many farming households, particularly in rural and mountainous areas. Beyond its economic contribution, coffee production is closely connected to local traditions, farming practices, community knowledge and the relationship between people and their natural environment. Timor-Leste coffee, particularly its distinctive quality and production characteristics, represents the country's agricultural potential and the contribution of local farmers to national development.

Presenting coffee as a diplomatic gift therefore carries several meanings. First, it represents national identity by introducing a recognised Timor-Leste product to international representatives. Second, it reflects the country's tradition of hospitality and sharing, as coffee is commonly associated with social interaction, welcoming visitors and strengthening relationships within communities. Third, it provides an opportunity to promote the country's agricultural production, particularly the work of local coffee farmers and producers. In this sense, coffee becomes a cultural and diplomatic symbol that connects national identity, local livelihoods and international engagement.

From an economic and development perspective, promoting Timor-Leste coffee through ASEAN diplomatic activities can also contribute to increasing international awareness of national products, creating opportunities for market access, strengthening agricultural value chains and encouraging cooperation in coffee production, processing, quality improvement and marketing. Such opportunities are particularly relevant for Timor-Leste as it continues to pursue economic diversification and strengthen the contribution of agriculture to sustainable national development.

Within the ASEAN context, the exchange of national products provides a meaningful opportunity for Member States to appreciate one another's cultural identities and economic contributions. ASEAN cooperation is not limited to formal political discussions, institutional commitments or economic integration; it also depends on friendship, mutual respect, cultural understanding and people-to-people relationships. Sharing national products helps communicate

the distinctive characteristics of each country while reinforcing a common spirit of regional solidarity and cooperation.
For Timor-Leste, presenting coffee to representatives of the other ten ASEAN Member States and ASEC was particularly meaningful in strengthening the country's visibility and identity within the regional community. It demonstrated that Timor-Leste can contribute to ASEAN not only through its participation in science, technology and innovation programmes but also through its agricultural products, cultural traditions and national heritage. It also provided an opportunity to recognise the importance of coffee farmers and rural communities whose work contributes to the country's agricultural production and international reputation.

The exchange of Timor-Leste coffee during COSTI-90 therefore represented more than a ceremonial diplomatic activity. It was an expression of national identity, hospitality, friendship and economic potential. Through this gesture, the Timor-Leste delegation promoted the country's coffee as both an agricultural product and a symbol of its cultural heritage, while strengthening diplomatic relationships and mutual understanding with ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat.

6. Challenges and Issues Identified

The participation of the Timor-Leste delegation in COSTI-90 identified several administrative, institutional and coordination challenges that need to be addressed to improve the country's participation in future ASEAN meetings and activities.

6.1. Late Travel Arrangements and Ticketing: Delays in confirming flight tickets created difficulties in preparing the delegation's travel arrangements and other administrative requirements.

6.2. Insufficient Coordination with ASEC: Communication and coordination between the National COSTI Secretariat of Timor-Leste and the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) were insufficient, particularly regarding meeting arrangements, official information and documentation.

6.3. Lack of Access to Presentation Materials:The Timor-Leste delegation did not receive the official presentation materials and relevant meeting documents in advance due to inadequate coordination between the National COSTI Secretariat and ASEC. This affected the delegation's preparation and ability to follow technical discussions and formulate national contributions.

6.4. Weak National Institutional Coordination: Coordination between the National COSTI Secretariat, the COSTI Chair for Timor-Leste, INCT, the relevant Ministry and other national institutions needs improvement to ensure clear responsibilities and effective preparation.

6.5. Limited Knowledge and Understanding of ASEAN Mechanisms: Most members of the delegation were relatively new to ASEAN meetings and activities and had limited knowledge of ASEAN's institutional structure, decision-making processes, COSTI mechanisms, regional programmes and the responsibilities of participating Member States. This created challenges in following discussions and understanding the institutional context of the meetings. Greater orientation, information-sharing and capacity-building are therefore necessary for newly appointed delegates.

6.6. Limited Technical and Human Resource Capacity: The availability of specialised researchers, technical experts, research infrastructure and funding remains a challenge for Timor-Leste's effective participation in ASEAN STI programmes and initiatives.

6.7. Insufficient Follow-up Mechanisms: There is a need to strengthen information-sharing, reporting and monitoring of decisions and commitments arising from COSTI, BAC and the sub-committee meetings.

7. Recommendations and Follow-up Actions

Based on my participation in COSTI-90 and the discussions concerning ASEAN science, technology and innovation cooperation, particularly the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF), the following recommendations and follow-up actions are proposed to strengthen Timor-Leste's institutional coordination, national representation and participation in ASEAN programmes and initiatives.

7.1. Finalise the ASTIF Contribution Arrangements: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MNEC), through the Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste to ASEAN in Jakarta, should continue coordinating with the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) to finalise the necessary agreement and payment procedures, with payment expected to commence in early 2027.

7.2. Strengthen Institutional Coordination: Improve coordination among the National COSTI Chair, the National COSTI Secretariat, the Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC), the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC), INCT, MNEC and other relevant government institutions to ensure effective communication and implementation of national and regional commitments.

7.3. Improve Coordination with ASEC: Establish an effective communication mechanism between the National COSTI Secretariat and ASEC to ensure timely receipt of official invitations, meeting agendas, presentation materials and other relevant documents before ASEAN meetings.

7.4. Monitor ASTIF Call 2026: Confirm the final submission deadline and applicable requirements, follow the proposal evaluation process, and support Timorese researchers in preparing high-quality research proposals in collaboration with ASEAN partners.

7.5. Strengthen Research Capacity: INCT should continue supporting researchers and universities through proposal-writing assistance, technical training, research partnerships and access to regional funding opportunities.

7.6. Complete National Focal Point Appointments: Finalise the nomination of representatives for the relevant COSTI sub-committees and communicate their details to ASEC through the appropriate channels.

7.7. Complete the Appointment of Members of COSTI Subsidiary Bodies: Finalise the nomination and appointment of Timor-Leste representatives to the subsidiary bodies and relevant supporting structures of the five COSTI sub-committees. The National COSTI Secretariat, in coordination with the COSTI Chair and relevant ministries and institutions, should identify qualified experts, confirm their institutional representation and submit official nominations to ASEC. This is essential to ensure Timor-Leste's technical representation and active participation in ASEAN science, technology and innovation programmes.

7.8. Provide ASEAN Orientation and Capacity-Building for National Delegates: Organise introductory briefings and training for newly appointed national delegates on ASEAN's institutional structure, decision-making mechanisms, COSTI responsibilities, regional programmes and cooperation procedures to ensure better preparation and more effective participation.

7.9. Strengthen the Institutional and Technical Capacity of the National COSTI Secretariat: Provide targeted capacity-building programmes, technical training and institutional support to improve the Secretariat's understanding of ASEAN mechanisms, COSTI procedures, administrative responsibilities, meeting coordination, documentation management and communication with ASEC. Training should also cover the preparation of national positions, management of official correspondence, distribution of meeting materials and monitoring of ASEAN decisions and commitments. Strengthening the Secretariat's capacity is essential to ensuring effective coordination, continuity and institutional support for Timor-Leste's participation in ASEAN activities.

7.10. Improve Administrative and Travel Preparation: Ensure that official travel arrangements, including flight tickets, accommodation and other logistical requirements, are processed sufficiently in advance to avoid delays and administrative difficulties.

7.11. Improve Preparation for Future COSTI Meetings: The national delegation should review meeting agendas and documents in advance, consult relevant institutions, establish national priorities and prepare clear positions before participating in regional meetings.

7.12. Disseminate Meeting Outcomes and Monitor Implementation: Share the main decisions, commitments and cooperation opportunities arising from COSTI-90 with relevant ministries, universities, research institutions and national stakeholders, and monitor progress through regular follow-up reporting.

8. Conclusion

The participation of the Delegation of Timor-Leste in the 90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90), held in Da Nang, Viet Nam, from 13 to 15 October 2026, was an important opportunity to represent the country, strengthen regional institutional relationships, and contribute to discussions on ASEAN cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI). The meeting and its related activities enabled the delegation to follow key developments concerning the ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Fund (ASTIF), research proposal preparation and evaluation, the work of the five COSTI sub-committees, and opportunities for cooperation with ASEAN Member States (AMS) and other regional partners.

Throughout the programme, the delegation followed discussions on ASTIF Call 2026, reaffirmed the Government of Timor-Leste's commitment to fulfilling its ASTIF contribution obligations, and highlighted the importance of strengthening national research capacity, developing institutional partnerships, and ensuring appropriate representation in ASEAN scientific initiatives. Participation in the COSTI and Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC) meetings also reinforced the need for effective coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC), and relevant national institutions to ensure that commitments are followed up and regional cooperation opportunities are translated into practical outcomes for Timor-Leste.

The meetings of the five COSTI sub-committees provided further opportunities to understand ASEAN's technical priorities and identify areas where Timor-Leste could strengthen its participation. These discussions were particularly relevant to developing national scientific expertise, promoting joint research, strengthening human resource capacities, and expanding institutional cooperation. Active engagement in these sub-committees will be important for

ensuring that Timor-Leste's priorities and capacities are considered in the implementation of ASEAN's STI programmes.

In addition to the formal meetings, the gala dinner on 14 October and the cultural site visit to the HoiAn traditional marketplace under the theme "Meet in Peace" on 15 October provided opportunities to strengthen friendship, diplomatic relations, and cultural understanding among participating delegations. These activities demonstrated that ASEAN cooperation depends not only on formal meetings and institutional commitments but also on mutual respect, cultural appreciation, and sustained relationships among participating countries.

Following COSTI-90, priority actions for Timor-Leste include continuing coordination with ASEC regarding the ASTIF contribution process, monitoring the evaluation and announcement of ASTIF Call 2026 results, finalising the appointment of national focal points for relevant COSTI sub-committees, and communicating the meeting outcomes to relevant ministries, universities, research institutions, and other national stakeholders. These actions should be supported by effective institutional coordination and systematic monitoring to ensure continuity in Timor-Leste's regional commitments and participation.

Overall, COSTI-90 strengthened the Delegation of Timor-Leste's understanding of ASEAN's STI priorities and provided valuable opportunities to advance the country's engagement in regional cooperation. The meeting reaffirmed the importance of active participation, clear national priorities, and sustained collaboration with ASEAN partners. Continued follow-up and effective implementation of the commitments and opportunities identified during the meeting will be essential to strengthening research capacity, promoting innovation, developing human resources, and supporting the sustainable development of science, technology and innovation in Timor-Leste

9. Anexes

1. Delegation Composition & Multi-Tiered Representation Structure

To ensure complete coverage across all official proceedings—including the Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC), high-level plenary sessions, and the newly restructured Sub-Committees—Timor-Leste deployed a dedicated 8-member delegation comprising government leaders, senior academic researchers, and national focal points:

Nu	Delegation Member	National Position & Role	COSTI Sub-Committee / Body	Contribution
1	Dr. Jose Cornelio Guterres	National COSTI Chair / Delegation Lead	COSTI Leadership & Representative for SC-BFS (Biotechnology & Food Science)	Master Overview, High-Level Policy & 1st SC-BFS Technical Meeting Report
2	Dra. Maria Elsa D. Correia	Board Representative	Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC)	Section: BAC-21 Financial Audit & Project Review Report
3	Mrs. Jacinta Guterres	Sub-Committee Representative	SC-STIE (STI Ecosystem)	Section: 1st SC-STIE Technical Report & Capacity Building
4	Dr. Matias da Silva Tavares	Sub-Committee Representative	SC-EOSS (Earth, Ocean & Space)	Section: 1st SC-EOSS Technical Report & Space Declaration
5	Dr. Benvindo Guterres	Sub-Committee Representative	SC-DET (Deep & Emerging Tech)	Section: 1st SC-DET Technical Report, AI & Microelectronics
6	Dr. Junior Raimundo	Sub-Committee Representative	SC-MET (Materials & Energy Tech)	Section: 1st SC-MET Technical Report, Energy & Materials
7	Ms. Helena L. Mafalda	National Focal Point	COSTI National Focal Coordinator (MESCC)	Section: COSTI-90 Plenary Proceedings
8	Ms. Dulce E. P. Pereira	National Focal Point	COSTI National Focal (MESCC)	Section: COSTI-90 Plenary Proceedings

2. Multi-Day Event Schedule & Delegation (Day 1 – Day 3)

The overall 3-day meeting framework encompassed parallel sub-committee sessions, plenary proceedings, side events, and cultural exchange, structured as follows across Day 1 to Day 3:

Date / Session	Program Title & Agenda Outline	Meeting Format	Timor-Leste Representative / Lead
Day 1: Tue, 13 Oct (Full Day)	1st Meetings of Restructured Sub-Committees: • SC-STIE, SC-EOSS, SC-DET, SC-BFS, SC-MET	Parallel Technical Sessions	Mrs. Jacinta Guterres (STIE) & assisted by Ms. Helena Mafalda, Dr. Matias da Silva Tavares (EOSS), Dr. Benvindo Guterres (DET) & assisted by Dra. Maria Elsa, Dr. Junior Raimundo (MET), Dr. Jose Cornelio Guterres (acting SC-BFS) & assisted by Ms. Dulce E. Pereira
Day 2: Wed, 14 Oct (Morning)	21st Meeting of BAC (BAC-21) Side Event: Engineering Biology in ASEAN	Parallel Technical & Scoping Discussions	Dra. Maria Elsa D. Correia (BAC) & assisted by all the delegation members
Day 2: Wed, 14 Oct (Afternoon/Evening)	COSTI-90 Plenary Session (Day 1) ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for	Plenary & Ceremonial Events	Dr. Jose Cornelio Guterres (Chair), Ms. Helena Mafalda, Ms. Dulce Pereira (Plenary Coordination) &

	Women Awarding Welcome Dinner (Minister Vu Hai Quan)		assisted by all the delegation members
Day 3: Thu, 15 Oct (Morning/Afternoon)	COSTI-90 Plenary Session (Day 2) Side Event: Women Innovating for ASEAN	Plenary & Invited Panel	Dr. Jose Cornelio Guterres (Chair): Intervention on ASF Accession), & assisted by all the delegation members
Day 3: Thu, 15 Oct (Evening)	Cultural Activities: Hoi An Ancient Town	Delegates Tour	Full National Delegation

3. Detailed Annotated Plenary Agenda

The official COSTI-90 Plenary Sessions were conducted over two days according to the approved business agenda:

Time (GMT+7)	Agenda Item / Activity Outline	Lead Entity & Action
14 Oct | 13:30 - 14:00	Registration, Business Arrangements & Photo Session	Host (Viet Nam)
14 Oct | 14:00 - 14:15	Opening Remarks (Chair Souksavath Sihapanya), Election of Vice-Chair, Adoption of Agenda (Item 1)	COSTI Chair (Lao PDR) / Plenary
14 Oct | 14:15 - 14:45	Item 2: High-Level Meeting Outcomes (AEM/AMMSTI) Item 3: Follow-up Actions COSTI-89 Item 4: Status of Funds (ASTIF, ASF)	ASEC Briefings; Timor-Leste intervention on ASF Accession
14 Oct | 14:45 - 15:00	Item 5: Outstanding APs & 2026 PEDs (5.1 HPC Infrastructure; 5.2 Space Declaration & Health AI)	COSTI ID / KISTI / COSTI PH
14 Oct | 15:15 - 17:00	Item 6: Science Prize for Women 2026 Final Judging & Awarding Ceremony; Speech by H.E. Minister Vu Hai Quan	USABC / ULRI / MOST Viet Nam
15 Oct | 09:00 - 10:00	Item 7: Report of the Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC-21)	BAC Chair / Dra. Maria Elsa D. Correia
15 Oct | 10:00 - 10:45	Item 8: Reports of Restructured Sub-Committees (SC-BFS, SC-DET, SC-EOSS, SC-MET, SC-STIE)	COSTI Chair & SC Chairs / Dr. Jose Cornelio Guterres (acting SC-BFS)
15 Oct | 11:00 - 12:00	Item 9: Annual Milestone Deliverables (9.1 ASEAN-EU ELEVATE TTO; 9.2 Quantum Action Plan)	COSTI Vice-Chair / COSTI SG / COSTI BN
15 Oct | 13:30 - 14:30	Item 10: STI Cooperation with Dialogue Partners (10.1 Dialogue Partners 1-11; 10.2 UN Women, ERIA, UNESCO)	Country Coordinators / ASEC / Partner Entities
15 Oct | 14:45 - 15:15	Item 11: Other Matters (Semiconductor, HPC,Marine) Item 12: Date & Venue of COSTI-91 (Malaysia, June 2027) Item 13: Consideration & Adoption of COSTI-90 Report	COSTI Vice-Chair / COSTI MY / Closing Remarks by Chair


THE 1ST MEETING OF THE ASEAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON
DEEP AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY (SC-DET-1)




TIMOR-LESTE


THE 90th
MEETING OF THE
(COSTI-90)
ASEAN COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
AND RELATED MEETINGS






TIMOR-LESTE


TIMOR-LESTE


TIMOR-LESTE


TIMOR-LESTE


Lenovo
TIMOR-LESTE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Ha Noi, 04 September 2026

ASEAN National COSTI Chairpersons
ASEAN COSTI Sub-Committee Members
Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC) Members and BAC Private Sector Representatives
ASEAN External Partners
ASEAN Secretariat

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

Subject: Invitation to the 90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90) and Related Meetings, 13-15 October 2026, Da Nang, Viet Nam

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MST) of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is pleased to host the 90th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-90) and Related Meetings **from 13 to 15 October 2026 at Furama Resort Danang, Da Nang, Viet Nam**. We are honoured to invite you and your delegation to participate in the COSTI-90 and Related Meetings.

The tentative programme is enclosed for your kind reference. We would be grateful if you and your delegation could confirm your attendance by completing the online registration form by **30 September 2026.**

COSTI-90 Online Registration Form

The COSTI or relevant COSTI Sub-Committees are kindly invited to disseminate this invitation to their respective partners and invite them to participate in the relevant meetings, as appropriate.

For any further enquiries, please contact the COSTI-90 Organising Committee at asean@mst.gov.vn, with the ASEAN Secretariat copied at snt@asean.org.

Your esteemed presence will greatly enrich the deliberations and contribute significantly to the success of these meetings. We look forward to welcoming you and your delegation in Da Nang, Viet Nam.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nguyen Thiem Nghia
National COSTI Chair - Viet Nam
Director General, Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Science and Technology

Encl.: Tentative Programme

18 Nguyen Du Street, 10000 Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Telephone: (+84 24) 39430204 Fax: (+84 24) 38226590 Email: dic@mst.gov.vn Website: www.mst.gov.vn

PROPOSTA DE COMPOSIÇÃO DA DELEGAÇÃO

N.º	Representante	Órgão	Função / instituição
1	Dr. José Cornélio	COSTI	Presidente do INCT e Presidente nacional do COSTI
2	Dr. Matias Tavares	SC-EOSS	Docente e investigador da UNTL
3	Sra. Helena Mafalda	COSTI	Ponto focal do COSTI no MESCC
4	Sra. Jacinta dos Santos Guterres	SC-STIE	Diretora Nacional de Tecnologia e Inovação do INCT
5	Dr. Benvindo Domingos José Guterres	SC-DET	Diretor Nacional de Ciência, Catalogação e Repositório Científico Digital do INCT
6	Dr. Alcino da Costa Isaac Andrade Fernandes	SC-BFS	Presidente do IPTL
7	Eng. Junior Raimundo da Cruz, Ph.D.	SC-MET	Docente e investigador da UNTL
8	Dra. Maria Elsa Correia	BAC	Secretária Executiva do INCT
9	Sra. Dulce Enda Pereira Pinheiro	COSTI	Ponto focal do COSTI no MESCC

Por esta razão, propõe-se a participação dos cinco pontos focais nacionais dos novos subcomités, bem como de uma segunda técnica do MESCC que assegura o acompanhamento regular dos trabalhos do COSTI, perfazendo um total de nove representantes. A participação destes pontos focais reveste-se de especial importância, uma vez que, até ao presente, não tiveram oportunidade de participar presencialmente nas reuniões dos respetivos subcomités, apesar de acompanharem à distância os trabalhos e contribuírem para a revisão de documentos técnicos remetidos regularmente aos Estados-Membros. A sua presença permitirá assegurar a representação nacional nas cinco sessões paralelas, acompanhar diretamente os documentos e decisões técnicas, reforçar a articulação com os homólogos dos demais Estados-Membros e identificar oportunidades de cooperação, formação e financiamento no quadro do APASTI 2026-2035.

Para Timor-Leste, enquanto novo Estado-Membro da ASEAN, a participação efetiva nestes órgãos contribuirá igualmente para reforçar a integração do país nos mecanismos regionais de ciência, tecnologia e inovação e para promover a inclusão das prioridades nacionais nos programas e iniciativas da ASEAN.

Face ao exposto, **submeto à superior consideração de Vossa Excelência a aprovação da delegação nacional composta por nove representantes, nos termos da proposta constante do anexo, para participação na COSTI-90 e reuniões conexas.**

Aproveito o ensejo para reiterar a Vossa Excelência os protestos da minha mais elevada estima e consideração.

Eng. Mariano Assanami Sabino
Ministro do Ensino Superior, Ciência e Cultura (interino)

3334

REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR-LESTE
MINISTÉRIO DO ENSINO SUPERIOR, CIÊNCIA E CULTURA
Gabinete do Ministro

Sua Excelência
O Primeiro-Ministro da RDTL
Sr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

Ref. n.º 172 / MESCC / MINISTRO / IX / 2026, de 23 de setembro

Assunto: Pedido de aprovação da delegação nacional à 90.ª Reunião do Comité da ASEAN para a Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação.

Excelência,

Tenho a honra de submeter à aprovação de Vossa Excelência a participação de uma delegação nacional composta por nove representantes na 90.ª Reunião do Comité da ASEAN para a Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (COSTI-90) e reuniões conexas, a realizar de 13 a 15 de outubro de 2026, no Furama Resort Danang, em Da Nang, Vietname, conforme proposta de composição da delegação constante do anexo à presente carta.

O COSTI é o órgão técnico da ASEAN responsável pela cooperação regional nos domínios da ciência, tecnologia e inovação e pela implementação das prioridades estabelecidas no Plano de Ação da ASEAN para a Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação 2026-2035 (APASTI 2026-2035).

A COSTI-90 assume particular relevância por marcar o início do funcionamento da nova estrutura do COSTI, recentemente reorganizada de nove para cinco subcomités temáticos. No dia 13 de outubro realizar-se-ão, em simultâneo, as primeiras reuniões dos cinco novos subcomités, seguindo-se, nos dias 14 e 15 de outubro, a 21.ª Reunião do Board of Advisers to COSTI (BAC) e as sessões plenárias da COSTI-90. A agenda abrange matérias de interesse direto para as prioridades nacionais, designadamente o ecossistema de ciência, tecnologia e inovação, tecnologias profundas e emergentes, biotecnologia e ciência alimentar, materiais e energia, ciências da Terra, do oceano e do espaço, computação de alto desempenho, cooperação espacial e aplicação da inteligência artificial à saúde.

Nos termos da orientação do Ministério dos Negócios Estrangeiros e Cooperação (MNEC), as **delegações nacionais com mais de três participantes carecem de aprovação de Sua Excelência o Primeiro-Ministro.** O MNEC encontra-se já a processar a deslocação de três representantes; contudo, uma delegação limitada a esse número não permite assegurar a representação de Timor-Leste nas cinco sessões técnicas que decorrerão em paralelo.

Endereço: Avenida Marginal n.°4- Colmera, Díli / *Contactos:* (+670) 77275147 / *Email:* gabinete.mescc@gmail.com

PRIMEIRO MINISTRO
IX Governo Constitucional

Gabinete
Primeiro-Ministro

No. 1037 /GPM/IX/2026
Díli, 24 de setembro de 2026

Sua Excelência Senhor
Eng. Mariano Assanami Sabino
Ministro do Ensino Superior, Ciência e Cultura (Interino)

Assunto: Encaminhamento de Despacho
Pedido de aprovação da delegação nacional à 90.ª Reunião do Comité da ASEAN para a Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação

Aproveitando para transmitir a V.Exa os cumprimentos de Sua Excelência o Senhor Primeiro-Ministro, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, junto envio, a pedido deste, os termos do despacho por ele exarado, relativo ao assunto em epígrafe, que a seguir se transcreve.

Despacho:

Aprovado!

Data do despacho : 24/9/2026

Grata pela atenção, subscrevo-me com os melhores cumprimentos

E. Exposto

Elizabeth Exposto
Chefe de Gabinete do Primeiro-Ministro

Palácio do Governo
Avenida Marginal
Dili, Timor-Leste

E-ticket
Flight 4

Citilink
QG-500
Economy

Sunday, 18 October 2026

09:00 Bali / Denpasar (DPS)
Ngurah Rai International Airport - Terminal International

12:05 Dili (DIL)
Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport

Traveloka Booking ID
1398981474

Airline Booking Code (PNR)
GGW3XJ

Present e-ticket and passport at check-in

Check-in at least 90 minutes before departure

All times shown are in local airport time

Passenger Details

No.	Passenger(s)	Route	Flight Facilities	Ticket Number
1.	BENVINDO DOMINGOS JOSE GUTERRES (Male) (Adult)	DPS - DIL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	131310241219
2.	ALCINO DA COSTA ISAAC ANDRADE FERNANDES (Male) (Adult)	DPS - DIL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	131310241219
3.	JUNIOR RAIMUNDO DA CRUZ (Male) (Adult)	DPS - DIL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	131310241219
4.	MARIA ELSA DIOGO CORREIA (Female) (Adult)	DPS - DIL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	131310241219
5.	JACINTA DOS SANTOS GUTERRES (Female) (Adult)	DPS - DIL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	131310241219
6.	DULCE ENDA PEREIRA PINHEIRO (Female) (Adult)	DPS - DIL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	131310241219
7.	HELENA LEU LETO MAFALDA (Female) (Adult)	DPS - DIL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	131310241219

E-ticket
Flight 1

Citilink
QG-501
Economy

Sunday, 11 October 2026

13:05 Dili (DIL)
Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport

14:05 Bali / Denpasar (DPS)
Ngurah Rai International Airport - Terminal International

Traveloka Booking ID
1398981474

Airline Booking Code (PNR)
EJRZHN

Present e-ticket and passport at check-in

Check-in at least 90 minutes before departure

All times shown are in local airport time

Passenger Details

No.	Passenger(s)	Route	Flight Facilities	Ticket Number
1.	BENVINDO DOMINGOS JOSE GUTERRES (Male) (Adult)	DIL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	091935161527
2.	ALCINO DA COSTA ISAAC ANDRADE FERNANDES (Male) (Adult)	DIL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	091935161527
3.	JUNIOR RAIMUNDO DA CRUZ (Male) (Adult)	DIL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	091935161527
4.	MARIA ELSA DIOGO CORREIA (Female) (Adult)	DIL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	091935161527
5.	JACINTA DOS SANTOS GUTERRES (Female) (Adult)	DIL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	091935161527
6.	DULCE ENDA PEREIRA PINHEIRO (Female) (Adult)	DIL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	091935161527
7.	HELENA LEU LETO MAFALDA (Female) (Adult)	DIL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	091935161527

E-ticket
Flight 2

AirAsia Berhad (Malaysia)
AK-369
Economy

Sunday, 11 October 2026

16:40 Bali / Denpasar (DPS)
Ngurah Rai International Airport - Terminal International

19:45 Kuala Lumpur (KUL)
Kuala Lumpur International Airport - Terminal KLIA2

Traveloka Booking ID
1398981474

Airline Booking Code (PNR)
LFP8VG

NON-REFUNDABLE

Stop in Kuala Lumpur — 13h 30m

Bring your passport and transit visa (if required)

Check the local regulations and, if needed, prepare visa before departure

AirAsia Berhad (Malaysia)
AK-642
Economy

Monday, 12 October 2026

09:15 Kuala Lumpur (KUL)
Kuala Lumpur International Airport - Terminal KLIA2

10:50 Da Nang (DAD)
Da Nang Airport - Terminal 2

Present e-ticket and passport at check-in

Check-in at least 90 minutes before departure

All times shown are in local airport time

Passenger Details

No.	Passenger(s)	Route	Flight Facilities	Ticket Number
1.	BENVINDO DOMINGOS JOSE GUTERRES (Male) (Adult)	DPS - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG
		KUL - DAD	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG

traveloka

2.	ALCINO DA COSTA ISAAC ANDRADE FERNANDES (Male) (Adult)	DPS - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG
		KUL - DAD	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG
3.	JUNIOR RAIMUNDO DA CRUZ (Male) (Adult)	DPS - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG
		KUL - DAD	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG
4.	MARIA ELSA DIOGO CORREIA (Female) (Adult)	DPS - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG
		KUL - DAD	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG
5.	JACINTA DOS SANTOS GUTERRES (Female) (Adult)	DPS - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG
		KUL - DAD	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG
6.	DULCE ENDA PEREIRA PINHEIRO (Female) (Adult)	DPS - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG
		KUL - DAD	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG
7.	HELENA LEU LETO MAFALDA (Female) (Adult)	DPS - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG
		KUL - DAD	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	LFP8VG

E-ticket
Flight 4

Citilink
QG-500
Economy

Sunday, 18 October 2026

09:00 Bali / Denpasar (DPS)
Ngurah Rai International Airport - Terminal International

12:05 Dili (DIL)
Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport

Traveloka Booking ID
1398991383

Airline Booking Code (PNR)
KKFMRN

Present e-ticket and passport at check-in

Check-in at least 90 minutes before departure

All times shown are in local airport time

Passenger Details

No.	Passenger(s)	Route	Flight Facilities	Ticket Number
1.	JOSE CORNELIO GUTERRES (Male) (Adult)	DPS - DIL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	KKFMRN
2.	MATIAS DA SILVA TAVARES (Male) (Adult)	DPS - DIL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	KKFMRN

E-ticket
Flight 3

Malaysia Airlines
MH-749
Economy

Friday, 16 October 2026

14:35 Da Nang (DAD)
Da Nang Airport

18:30 Kuala Lumpur (KUL)
Kuala Lumpur International Airport - Terminal KLIA1

Traveloka Booking ID
1398991383

Airline Booking Code (PNR)
ELELFN

Stop in Kuala Lumpur — **20h 40m**

Bring your passport and transit visa (if required)

Check the local regulations and, if needed, prepare visa before departure

Malaysia Airlines
MH-853
Economy

Saturday, 17 October 2026

15:10 Kuala Lumpur (KUL)
Kuala Lumpur International Airport - Terminal KLIA1

18:30 Bali / Denpasar (DPS)
Ngurah Rai International Airport - Terminal International

Present e-ticket and passport at check-in

Check-in at least 90 minutes before departure

All times shown are in local airport time

Passenger Details

No.	Passenger(s)	Route	Flight Facilities
1.	JOSE CORNELIO GUTERRES (Male) (Adult)	DAD - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage
		KUL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage
2.	MATIAS DA SILVA TAVARES (Male) (Adult)	DAD - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage
		KUL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage

E-ticket
Flight 2

AirAsia Berhad (Malaysia)
AK-369
Economy

Sunday, 11 October 2026

16:40 Bali / Denpasar (DPS)
Ngurah Rai International Airport - Terminal International

19:45 Kuala Lumpur (KUL)
Kuala Lumpur International Airport - Terminal KLIA2

Traveloka Booking ID
1398991383

Airline Booking Code (PNR)
RFMJYW

NON-REFUNDABLE

Stop in Kuala Lumpur — 13h 30m

Bring your passport and transit visa (if required)

Check the local regulations and, if needed, prepare visa before departure

AirAsia Berhad (Malaysia)
AK-642
Economy

Monday, 12 October 2026

09:15 Kuala Lumpur (KUL)
Kuala Lumpur International Airport - Terminal KLIA2

10:50 Da Nang (DAD)
Da Nang Airport - Terminal 2

Present e-ticket and passport at check-in

Check-in at least 90 minutes before departure

All times shown are in local airport time

Passenger Details

No.	Passenger(s)	Route	Flight Facilities	Ticket Number
1.	JOSE CORNELIO GUTERRES (Male) (Adult)	DPS - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	RFMJYW
		KUL - DAD	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	RFMJYW
2.	MATIAS DA SILVA TAVARES (Male) (Adult)	DPS - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	RFMJYW
		KUL - DAD	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	RFMJYW

E-ticket
Flight 1

Citilink
QG-501
Economy

Sunday, 11 October 2026

13:05 Dili (DIL)
Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport

14:05 Bali / Denpasar (DPS)
Ngurah Rai International Airport - Terminal International

Traveloka Booking ID
1398991383

Airline Booking Code (PNR)
DJDMSA

Present e-ticket and passport at check-in

Check-in at least 90 minutes before departure

All times shown are in local airport time

Passenger Details

No.	Passenger(s)	Route	Flight Facilities	Ticket Number
1.	JOSE CORNELIO GUTERRES (Male) (Adult)	DIL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	DJDMSA
2.	MATIAS DA SILVA TAVARES (Male) (Adult)	DIL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 20 KG Baggage	DJDMSA

E-ticket
Flight 3

Malaysia Airlines
MH-749
Economy

Friday, 16 October 2026

14:35 Da Nang (DAD)
Da Nang Airport

18:30 Kuala Lumpur (KUL)
Kuala Lumpur International Airport - Terminal KLIA1

Traveloka Booking ID
1398981474

Airline Booking Code (PNR)
EL6N46

Stop in Kuala Lumpur — 20h 40m

Bring your passport and transit visa (if required)

Check the local regulations and, if needed, prepare visa before departure

Malaysia Airlines
MH-853
Economy

Saturday, 17 October 2026

15:10 Kuala Lumpur (KUL)
Kuala Lumpur International Airport - Terminal KLIA1

18:30 Bali / Denpasar (DPS)
Ngurah Rai International Airport - Terminal International

Present e-ticket and passport at check-in

Check-in at least 90 minutes before departure

All times shown are in local airport time

Passenger Details

No.	Passenger(s)	Route	Flight Facilities
1.	BENVINDO DOMINGOS JOSE GUTERRES (Male) (Adult)	DAD - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage
		KUL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage

2. ALCINO DA COSTA ISAAC ANDRADE FERNANDES
(Male) (Adult)

DAD - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage
KUL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage

3. JUNIOR RAIMUNDO DA CRUZ
(Male) (Adult)

DAD - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage
KUL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage

4. MARIA ELSA DIOGO CORREIA
(Female) (Adult)

DAD - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage
KUL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage

5. JACINTA DOS SANTOS GUTERRES
(Female) (Adult)

DAD - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage
KUL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage

6. DULCE ENDA PEREIRA PINHEIRO
(Female) (Adult)

DAD - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage
KUL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage

7. HELENA LEU LETO MAFALDA
(Female) (Adult)

DAD - KUL	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage
KUL - DPS	7 KG Cabin Baggage *With a specific dimension subject to airline's policy 25 KG Baggage



Da Nang, Viet Nam
October 13–15, 2025