



## **UK – Indonesia – Thailand - Vietnam Call for Proposals 2016**

### **RCUK – DIPI - TRF – NAFOSTED Research Partnerships Call**

#### **Objectives and Scope**

The Research Councils UK (RCUK) and the Indonesian Science Fund (DIPI), the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) and the National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED) are pleased to invite applications to the UK – Southeast Asia Research Partnerships Call.

This initiative will provide funding for high-quality collaborative research projects between the UK, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam researchers which contribute to the economic development and welfare of Indonesia, Thailand and/or Vietnam. The total amount of funding available is around £6.6 million (£4.9 million from the UK, £550k from Vietnam, £1 million from Indonesia and £200k from Thailand). We invite proposals which address the following topics:

- Atmospheric Pollution and Human Health
- Water Resources
- Tropical Peatlands and Mangroves

The objective is to deliver significant 2-3 year research funding for internationally competitive and innovative collaborative projects between researchers from Indonesia, Thailand and/or Vietnam and the UK that will allow the pursuit of shared research interests.

Please note that different Southeast Asian partners are taking part in different topics, for information on which Southeast Asian Countries can participate in which topic, their eligibility rules and the amount of funding available please refer to the [application guidance](#). **Please note failure to attach the mandatory attachments and complete the proposal form as outlined in the application guidance could result in your proposal being rejected. Please ensure you read the guidance thoroughly before starting your proposal.**

Proposals within the themes listed above are welcomed from across the remits of the UK Research Councils. Recognising the multidisciplinary nature of the thematic areas, the development of interdisciplinary collaborations is particularly welcome.

Consortia should consider how their proposal makes the best use of available expertise in the UK and the participating Southeast Asian Countries, the added value of collaboration and how the proposal will meet the Official Development Assistance (ODA) requirements of this Newton Fund activity.

## **Background of the Newton Fund**

The UK contribution will be channeled from the Newton Fund. The Newton Fund is an initiative intended to strengthen research and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging knowledge economies. It was launched by the Chancellor in April 2014, and will deliver £735 million of funding over the course of seven years.

The Fund forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). ODA funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee list. Newton Fund countries represent a sub-set of this list. For more information, please visit the RCUK Newton Fund page; <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/international/newton/>.

The Newton Fund requires that the funding be awarded in a manner that fits with Official Development Assistance (ODA) guidelines. All applications under this call must therefore be compliant with these guidelines. <http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/about/what-is-oda/>

## **Themes**

- **Atmospheric Pollution and Human Health**

Atmospheric pollution and human health is of vital importance in SE Asia. Not only are the urban air pollution and industrial emissions an issue but the so called annual 'haze' events resulting from forest and peat fires in SE Asia contribute significantly to the atmospheric pollution and impact on human health in this area. Additional to the effects on human health, atmospheric pollution is impacting on the economy, including air travel. Consequently there is a need to:

1. Understand the sources, atmospheric transformations and meteorological transport of air pollutants from urban, industrial and the forest/peat fires both on a regional and national/international scale.
2. Provide predictive capability for the impacts, mitigation measures and spread of the pollution.
3. Create sustainable environmental monitoring and compliance tools.
4. Enhance understanding of the impact of environmental exposures on human health, in particular capitalising on novel (including personal) measurement technologies and advanced research approaches in environmental epidemiology and internal signatures of exposure.
5. Explore causal relationships between exposure and health / disease of individuals in the population setting.
6. Develop improved personal measures of exposure, e.g. personal monitoring; systems biology approaches (metabolomic, proteomic, epigenetic, etc.); biomarkers.

- **Water Resources**

Water resources in SE Asia are under increasing stress as a result of changes in climate, land-use, population, urbanisation and industrialisation. The aim of this call will be to:

1. Understand the impact of different stressors (and multiple stressors) on rivers (including deltas), lakes, and aquifers in Southeast Asia. This includes, but is not limited to, the impact on flows, water levels, sediment fluxes, water quality and freshwater ecology.
2. Recommend forecast tools and solutions to enable sustainable management of water resources and to improve water security.

- **Tropical Peatlands and Mangroves**

Tropical peatlands and Mangroves are often home to unique and an important biodiversity and provide important ecosystems services including carbon storage, flood control, timber and non-timber forest products. Peatlands and Mangroves are being converted and degraded as a result of land use/ management changes and climate change. Apart from deliberate burning, degraded peatland and mangroves are at risk of spontaneous fires which causes further damage and is a risk to human health.

Research could include:

1. Understanding peat swamp and mangrove forest ecosystems –including their biodiversity, processes and functions (hydrology, sedimentation, biogeochemical cycling, carbon and greenhouse gas dynamics) and the services they provided (carbon storage, flood control, timber, habitat for species, coping with sea level rise etc.);
2. Understanding the ecosystem resilience to human-induced threats and perturbations like land use and climate change, and extreme weather events (deforestation, drainage/drying, fires);
3. Understanding the tipping points of the ecosystems to such threats as a means to gauge the impact of degradation (e.g. from drainage and/or fire) on functions and services;
4. Understanding how ecosystem processes/functions and services can be restored and managed to deliver multiple benefits and services.

## **How to apply**

### **Intention to Submit**

In order to identify peer reviewers and convene assessment panels in advance, as well as to identify proposals intending to involve human or animal participation, researchers are required to indicate their intention to submit a proposal to this call.

**Please note** that this should be submitted by **16:00 BST (22:00 WIB, 22:00 ICT, 23:00 PHT) Wednesday 13 July 2016** to [RCUKNewtonFundEnquiries@rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:RCUKNewtonFundEnquiries@rcuk.ac.uk).

If you the deadline please get in contact with the RCUK Newton Fund team at [RCUKNewtonFundEnquiries@rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:RCUKNewtonFundEnquiries@rcuk.ac.uk)

**Please note:** this form is not intended to assess or comment on the eligibility of a proposal or research team and should not affect or delay the creation and completion of your proposal on the Je-S system. After sending in your intention to submit, changes can be made to your full application (i.e. additional co-applicants can be added and strands of work can be amended) although any changes made to the involvement of human or animal participation should be sent to the RCUK office first.

### **Submitting your Proposal**

This RCUK – DIPI - TRF – NAFOSTED call will be managed through RCUK systems and hosted by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) behalf of all seven research councils, DIPI, TRF and NAFOSTED.

The full deadline is **16:00 BST (22:00 WIB, 22:00 ICT, 23:00 PHT) Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016**. Any proposal received after this deadline **will not** be considered for funding.

Researchers will be responsible for developing their own collaborations. Once a research proposal is developed, UK and Southeast Asian applicants must apply jointly for funding to the RCUK Newton-SEA Research Partnerships Call 2016, via the NERC Je-S online application system (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk>).

Applications must be submitted by the UK Principal Investigator on behalf of the RCUK Newton-SEA Research Partnership. The application must be JOINTLY prepared and submitted in English. Once received, RCUK will share the applications with DIPI, TRF and NAFOSTED.

The following documents must be included in the joint application.

- Joint Case for Support
- Justification of Resources (including both UK and Indonesian/ Thai/ Vietnamese justification)
- Pathways to Impact
- Data Management Plan
- Indonesian/ Thai/ Vietnamese costs proforma (please ensure you complete the relevant form/s to the Country/ies you are applying for funding from)
- CVs and publications
- Letters of support

- Any additional attachments required by Partner Country (please check Eligibility Criteria section)

**Failure to include the mandatory attachments and complete the proposal form as outlined in the application guidance could result in your proposal being rejected. Please ensure you read the guidance thoroughly before starting your proposal.**

**Please Note:** the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) are hosting this call on behalf of the Research Councils and DIPI, TRF and NAFOSTED through the UK Research Councils' grant submission system known as 'Je-S'. It is a requirement of this call that successful proposals will be withdrawn from the call on Je-S after decisions have been made and re-submitted to the **lead remit council** of the proposal on Je-S for awards to be finalised and made. NERC remit grants will not need to be withdrawn and resubmitted.

### **Key dates**

Announce call for proposals (Je-S system opens)	09 June 2016
Intention to submit	13 July 2016
Closing date for proposals	10 August 2016
PI response to reviewer comments for those going to Panel (Please note you will have 5 days to respond)	November 2016
RCUK, DIPI, TRF and NAFOSTED Joint Panel	December 2016
Decisions announced	January 2017
Successful proposals withdrawn from NERC Je-S system by research offices and submitted to lead council by remit (not necessary for NERC-remit grants)	January 2017
Grants commence	01 February 2017

### **Grant Start Dates**

Due to the tight timescales and funding restrictions of the Newton Fund, UK grants must start by **01 February 2017**; i.e. the 'start confirmation' must be submitted by 01 February 2017 (this is shorter than the standard 42 days for Research Council grants).

Please refer to the RCUK terms and conditions for information on what the starting procedure entails; please inform the relevant support staff in your organisation of this requirement to ensure the project starts on time.

### **Assessment criteria and decision making process**

Following submission, peer review will be undertaken by the funding agencies. To be funded, proposals must be internationally competitive and at a standard equivalent to that normally expected to be supported by each funding organisation.

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Research merit and scientific excellence of the proposal
- Relevance of the proposal to the strategic objectives of the Newton Fund – including potential benefits and impact
- Strength and appropriateness of proposed partnership and collaboration

- Project management structure and resources, including value for money

## **Contacts**

Any enquiries related to this call should be directed to:

### **RCUK**

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