

**THE 22ND ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (AMMSTI-22)
26 JUNE 2026. VIENTIANE, LAO PDR
JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**

1. The 22nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI-22) was held on 26 June 2026, in Vientiane, Lao PDR, themed “Advancing ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) for a Resilient, Sustainable and Competitive ASEAN.”
2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thongsalith Mangnomek, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Sports, Lao PDR. The Meeting was also attended by ministers, high-level representatives from ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
3. The Meeting congratulated the Ministry of Education and Sports of Lao PDR on the successful hosting of the 22nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI-22), the 89th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-89), and related meetings held from 22 to 26 June 2026 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
4. The Meeting noted that ASEAN's science, technology and innovation (STI) ecosystem continues to be strengthened, with six AMS ranked among the world's top 55 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2025.
5. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to advancing ASEAN cooperation in STI in support of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, ASEAN Economic Community Strategic Plan 2026-2030 and Sustainable Development Goals 2030.
6. The Meeting was briefed on the first year of implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on STI (APASTI) 2026–2035, marking the fifth iteration of ASEAN's STI strategic framework and welcomed the launch of the APASTI Monitoring and Evaluation Dashboard. The Meeting further tasked the APASTI Monitoring and Evaluation Task Force to leverage the dashboard to drive accountability, strategic coordination, and results-oriented STI cooperation in support of ASEAN's resilience, sustainable growth and competitiveness.
7. The Meeting welcomed the progress of the following Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) for 2026:
 - i. ASEAN Declaration on the Advancement of Space Science Technology Innovation Cooperation (short title: ASEAN Declaration on Space Cooperation); and

- ii. Regional Program for Science, Technology, and Innovation on AI (Phase 1 –Health S&T) 2026.
8. The Meeting noted that ASEAN COSTI endorsed “ASEAN-EU ELEVATE (Enabling Local Expertise for Value-Added Technology Transfer) Initiative - Enhancing the capabilities of ASEAN Technology Transfer Offices”, as one of the Annual Milestone Deliverables (AMDs) in 2027.
9. The Meeting endorsed significant restructuring of the ASEAN COSTI’s Sub-Committees framework from nine to five Sub-Committees, strengthening regional STI governance, enhancing strategic alignment with APASTI and enabling impactful delivery of ASEAN STI priorities. The five new Sub-Committees are:
 - i. Sub-Committee on Biotechnology and Food Science (SC-BFS);
 - ii. Sub-Committee on Deep and Emerging Technology (SC-DET);
 - iii. Sub-Committee on Earth, Ocean and Space Science (SC-EOSS);
 - iv. Sub-Committee on Materials and Energy Technology (SC-MET); and
 - v. Sub-Committee on STI Ecosystem (SC-STIE).
10. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the outgoing Sub-Committees for their contributions to advancing ASEAN STI cooperation over the years and tasked the newly established Sub-Committees and their subsidiary bodies, through ASEAN COSTI, to spearhead high-impact regional STI initiatives that deliver tangible benefits to the nearly 700 million people of ASEAN.
11. The Meeting noted the implementation of 126 ASEAN COSTI initiatives in 2026, with 56% supported by external partners, reflecting ASEAN's growing global STI partnerships, cooperation and influence.
12. The Meeting exchanged views on how STI can contribute to ASEAN's resilience and future readiness amid increasing global uncertainties and climate-related challenges. The Meeting also shared national strategies and initiatives to strengthen innovation ecosystems, advance strategic and emerging technologies and enhance technological capabilities.
13. The Meeting recognised the importance of strengthening research capacity and human resource development as essential foundations for advancing innovation and ensuring that all AMS can effectively participate in and benefit from regional STI cooperation.
14. The Meeting emphasised the critical role of STI in addressing regional priorities, particularly in energy and food security, climate resilience, sustainable agriculture as well as disaster risk reduction, and called for deeper regional collaboration to

accelerate innovation-driven solutions for a resilient, sustainable and competitive ASEAN.

15. The Meeting encouraged deeper STI cooperation with external partners to support ASEAN's strategic priorities, including emerging technologies, talent development, research infrastructure and innovation ecosystems. The Meeting welcomed the strengthened commitment of Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States, ASEAN Plus Three and other external partners, reflected either through periodic dialogue, dedicated STI Plans of Action and/or dedicated STI Fund.
16. The Meeting welcomed the launch of the USD1.2 million ASEAN STI Fund (ASTIF) Call for Proposals under the theme, "ASEAN Grand Challenge: AI-Enabled Competitive and Resilient Region." The initiative reflects ASEAN's collective commitment to harnessing artificial intelligence to address regional challenges, accelerate innovation, strengthen economic competitiveness and improve the well-being of ASEAN citizens.
17. The Meeting welcomed the operationalisation of the ASEAN–Korea High-Performance Computing (HPC) Facility in Indonesia, a 4.2-petaFLOPS supercomputing hub listed in the global TOP500 record of the world's most powerful supercomputers and the first ASEAN-shared regional HPC infrastructure. The Meeting recognised the facility as a strategic regional asset that will support advanced research, artificial intelligence development, climate modelling, disaster forecasting, biotechnology and industrial innovation, while strengthening ASEAN's scientific and technological self-reliance. The Meeting further encouraged AMS to maximise the utilisation of the HPC in developing proposals for ASTIF Call 2026. The Meeting also welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Technology Management Hub and the APASTI Monitoring and Evaluation Dashboard at the AMMSTI-22 Opening Ceremony.
18. The Meeting noted that the 23rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on STI (AMMSTI-23) will be hosted by Malaysia, in June 2027.
19. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Lao PDR for the warm hospitality accorded and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

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