

**Japan – Thailand
Joint Call for Proposals:**

**Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and
Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional
Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)**

2025

Summary:

Call announcement:	2:00pm (JST) / 12:00pm (THA) on July 29, 2025
Deadline for submission:	2:00pm (JST) / 12:00pm (THA) on September 26, 2025
Selection results announcement:	March 2026 (tentative)
Start of projects:	July 2026 (tentative)
Funding per project:	Japan side/project <u>Direct Expenses:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International joint research: Up to 24 million Japanese yen (JPY) - International joint research with an option of researchers' capacity building*: Up to 90 million JPY <p align="center">*Researchers' capacity building: Up to 11.7 million JPY/person.</p> <u>Indirect Expenses:</u> 30% of Direct Expenses
	Thailand side/project 5 million THB (including indirect costs)
Maximum duration of the projects:	36 months
The number of the projects:	Up to five
Research fields:	Biotechnology
Submission:	To JST via e-Rad; To PMU-B via NRIIS
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1. Introduction

Working collaboratively, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B) aim to promote and strengthen collaboration between researchers from Japan and Thailand. JST and PMU-B launch this Call for Proposals for research, jointly conceived and to be jointly implemented by researchers from both countries.

The two agencies will jointly fund up to five research projects in this Call.

JST and PMU-B are supporting joint projects through strategic project support measures to promote cooperation between Japan and Thailand.

On the Japan side, this funding measure is carried out under the program called NEXUS (Networked Exchange, United Strength for Stronger Partnerships between Japan and ASEAN) which aims to build a “Complementary and Sustainable Research Ecosystem”, facilitating mutual growth as co-creating partners by enhancing sustainable research cooperation, grounded in longstanding initiatives such as international collaborative research and the exchange of research personnel. In this Call, applicants may choose whether or not to include researchers’ capacity building in their proposal. If included, JST will provide additional support to the Japan-based team for the purpose of researchers’ capacity building.

On the Thailand side, this funding measure is carried out under N49 (S4P23) Global Partnership. This measure is aimed at promoting joint research projects of mutual interest and thus contributing to intensified scientific and technological cooperation with each country. The aim of this program is to elevate research collaboration through joint research with leading universities and research institutes abroad, leading to the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge and the creation of high-impact research with both academic and socio-economic significance.

Collaboration with other ASEAN Member States (AMSs) is also welcome. The research outcomes from the bilateral initiative are expected to be spread throughout the ASEAN region and to be mutually beneficial to Japan and all AMSs.

2. Research Fields

Research Fields: Biotechnology

Subtopics:

- (i) Genome Engineering Technologies for Clean Energy and Decarbonization
- (ii) Precision Fermentation Technologies for Alternative Foods and Functional Molecules
- (iii) Microbial Community Control Technologies for Planetary Health

Japan has formulated the Bioeconomy strategy and set a goal of “achieving the world's most advanced bioeconomy society by 2030. Thailand has set forth the “BCG (Bio-Circular-Green) Economic Model” as its national strategy, aiming to become “carbon

neutral” by 2050 and to achieve “zero net emissions” by 2065. This research collaboration is intended to promote synergies between Japanese and Thai science and technology, to encourage mutual growth, and to contribute to the Bioeconomy. Biotechnology is a research field that can pursue both social issues and economic growth on a global scale toward the realization of Bioeconomy. In this Joint Call, JST and PMU-B will support research on the above subtopics within the field of “Biotechnology”.

3. Researcher Eligibility

Two identical copies of a project proposal must be submitted to both the JST and PMU-B. Detailed information on a project proposal and submission guidelines can be found in the sections provided below.

Please note that project proposals received by the PMU-B and not submitted by the JST (and vice versa) will automatically be considered ineligible.

When applying through both the JST and the PMU-B online submission systems, it might take time to fill out a form with some details. Therefore, applicants are advised to start preparing for their applications at least one week before the deadline of this Call for Proposals. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

Additionally, we suggest that applicants should also confirm specific submission procedures with the responsible officers at both JST and PMU-B to avoid any discrepancies.

3.1 Eligible researchers for JST support:

If a research proposal is selected, the research project must maintain its qualified status as per the submission requirements for the entire duration of the period of research. If the research project fails to meet the requirements during the research period, the research project will in principle be completely or partially suspended (i.e. be terminated early). Please also refer to the Application guidelines (appendix for Japan-side PIs).

- Any independent researcher personally affiliated with (and actively conducting research at) a ‘Domestic Japanese research institution’, regardless of nationality, is eligible to apply.
 - ‘Domestic Japanese research institution’ refers to universities, independent administrative institutions, national/public testing and Research Institutions, specially authorized corporations, public-service corporations, and enterprises, etc. that satisfy requirements predetermined by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Please refer to the MEXT website for more information:
https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm
- The Japanese applicants must also complete a research ethics training program conducted by the research institute with which the Principal Investigator (PI) is affiliated, and then declare the completion of the program to JST. If it is very difficult

for the Japanese PI to undertake a program provided by his or her affiliated institute, they should contact JST. Please note that unless applicants complete a research ethics program, his or her application will be deemed ineligible. For more details, please refer to the call announcement page linked from the JST website.

- The Japan-side researchers are not allowed to propose more than one proposal as a PI in the Call; the Co-PI is not restricted in this respect, and is not prevented from proposing one proposal as a PI and participating in other proposals as a Co-PI. In such cases, measures might be taken to avoid excessive concentration. For details, please refer to the Application guidelines (appendix for Japan-side PIs).
- Japanese applicants will have to register their applications on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad: <https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html>).

3.2 Eligible researchers for PMU-B support:

- Eligibility conditions for PMU-B support are described at <https://www.pmu-hr.or.th/>
 - The applicants must be researchers and/or university professors/instructors (Thai/non-Thai) who work in public/non-profit organization research institute or university in Thailand and are competent in conducting research with international partner.
 - Neither the project leader nor any project participants shall be involved in any research misconduct or unethical behavior.
 - The applicants' institution has agreed or recognized from the submission through the operation of the project.
 - The proposal must have the researchers from Thailand at least 2 institutes or universities to cooperate with.
 - Thai applicants will have to register their applications on the NRIIS System (NRIIS: <https://nriis.go.th>).

4. Characteristics of Proposals under this Call

4.1 Proposal for JST

A joint proposal must be written in English and must comply with instructions in the Joint Application Form. Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to PMU-B and JST, respectively. In addition, Japan-based PIs must also submit the Japanese application form (appendix for Japan-side PIs) in Japanese.

4.2 Proposal for PMU-B

A joint proposal must be written in English and must comply with instructions in the Joint Application Form. Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to PMU-B and JST, respectively. In addition, Thailand-based PIs must also submit the PMU-B application form for Thailand-side in Thai/English through NRIIS system: <https://nriis.go.th>

5. Amount of Funding

5.1 Amount of Funding by JST:

The research expenses include direct and indirect expenses. The direct expenses consisted of the following types of expenses (see Figure 1). In addition to the direct expenses, 30% of the direct expenses will be added as indirect expenses.

(1) Amount for international joint research

JST will support each Japan-based team up to 24 million JPY as direct expenses for 36 months.

(2) Researchers' capacity building with extra amount for international joint research

In this Call, applicants may choose whether or not to include researchers' capacity building in their proposal. If included, JST will provide additional support to the Japan-based team for the purpose of researchers' capacity building as follows:

- JST will support Thai early-career researcher (ECR) candidates who would attain a doctoral degree in a Domestic Japanese research institution. The support is composed of accommodation costs and research expenses for ECR candidates, with a maximum allocation of 3.9 million JPY/year for each ECR candidates. Accommodation costs will range from 1.8 to 2.4 million JPY/year, while research expenses will be capped at 1.5 million JPY/year. The maximum duration of the support is 36 months, making the total amount for researchers' capacity building up to 11.7 million JPY/person.
- In addition to 24 million JPY as shown in 5.1. (1), JST will support each Japan-based team with up to 66 million JPY for international joint research related to researchers' capacity building.

Figure 1: Amount of funding by JST

	Direct expenses of International joint research	Direct expenses of researchers' capacity building
Proposal for international joint research	24 million JPY	-
[Optional] Proposal for international joint research with researchers' capacity building	90 million JPY (66 million JPY as extra support)	3.9 million JPY/person/year

Please refer to the Application guidelines (appendix for Japan- side PIs) for details.

5.2 Amount of Funding by PMU-B:

PMU-B will support each Thai-based team up to 5 million Baht as direct expenses for 3 years.

The total budget for the Thai researcher over a full 3-year period is up to 5,000,000 THB per project. The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities and compliance with PMU-B financial guideline (please find details via PMU-B website: www.pmu-hr.or.th or [download here](#))

6. Eligible costs

6.1 Eligible costs for JST:

(1) Direct expenses

1) Eligible cost for international joint research

Direct expenses for international joint research are expenses directly used for research purposes at the awarded research institution and can be used for the following items and examples (please also refer to the Application guidelines (appendix for Japan-side PIs)):

- Equipment costs (equipment and consumables)
- Travel costs
 - In principle, travel costs are incurred in accordance with the guidelines of the awarded research institution. Travel costs are applicable to travel directly related to the execution of the research, dissemination activities, etc.
- Personnel costs (PI personnel costs and buyout policy may apply)
- Miscellaneous
- In addition to the above, for example, research expenses may include:
 - Costs for organizing and hosting events for research result dissemination
 - Outsourcing costs (excluding subcontracting)
 - Equipment leasing costs and transportation costs for equipment used for the research project
 - Personnel costs for administrative staff that coordinate the travel of exchange activities and their personnel-related procedures can be recorded as direct expenses

If a proposal includes researchers' capacity building, for example, research expenses may cover:

- Airfare of coming to Japan and going back to Thailand (excluding costs for temporary return trips) for ECR candidates
- Personnel costs for research assistantship for ECR candidates, other young researchers, and students
- Travel and other costs for holding lectures and seminars for students in the partner country.

(Points of Caution)

In principle, participants are to allocate around 30% of the total direct expenses for international joint research to exchange activities of young researchers including graduate and undergraduate students who can play an important role in the joint research and who are expected to be internationally active in the future, *e.g., by promoting their international mobility and circulation, such as dispatching them to the partner country or holding workshops, or by providing international research opportunities such as presenting at international conference and research assistantship and airfare of coming to Japan and going back to Thailand (excluding costs for temporary return trips) for ECR students.*

2) Eligible cost for researchers' capacity building

Direct expenses for researchers' capacity building are accommodation costs and research expenses for ECR candidates. Eligible costs of the research expenses must follow the same rule as the direct expenses for international joint research. The use of the expenses must be decided in consultation between a PI or Co-PIs and ECR candidates. For further details, please refer to the Application guidelines (appendix for Japan-side PIs).

(2) Indirect expenses

In addition to the direct expenses, 30% of the direct expenses will be added separately as indirect expenses to cover administrative purposes.

6.2 Eligible costs for PMU-B:

The maximum funding allocated per project is 5,000,000 THB for the project with the maximum of 36 months. (please find details via PMU-B website: www.pmu-hr.or.th)
The following costs are eligible:

- Personnel costs

Costs for scientists or student research assistants can be covered for the whole period of the project if their work is clearly related to the research project. Total personnel costs should not exceed 30% of the total budget, excluding equipment costs.

- Honorarium costs

Researchers' compensation costs should not exceed 30% of total budget

- Travel Costs

- round-trip economy class tickets to the project partner countries
- airport transfer costs upon presentation of a receipt
- visa costs
- accommodation costs
- services

- Equipment

Equipment cost is allowed on a limited scale. Details and specifications are required to be provided with full justification.

- Consumables

Consumable costs include laboratory chemicals and materials, but does not include office supplies such as paper, stationery, and etc. Consumable costs are to be spent in Thailand.

- Indirect/Overhead costs

Total indirect (overhead) costs should not exceed 10% of total budget, excluding equipment costs, international travel expenses, and exhibition expenses.

7. Submission

The Principal Investigator from Japan must submit the joint proposal to JST and the Principal Investigator from the Thailand must submit the collaborative proposal to PMU-B. **Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to JST and PMU-B, respectively.**

7.1 Submission procedure for JST:

Application documents by the Japan-based researcher should be submitted through the online e-Rad platform (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/>).

7.2 Submission procedure for PMU-B:

Applicants from the Thailand-based researcher must submit the joint proposal to PMU-B through NRIIS platform

Application documents by the Thai-based researcher should be also submitted through the online NRIIS platform (<https://nriis.go.th>).

8. Timeline

Call announcement: 2:00pm (JST) / 12:00pm (THA) on July 29, 2025

Deadline of submission: 2:00pm (JST) / 12:00pm (THA) on September 26, 2025

Evaluation Period: October to January 2026

Expected selection results announcement: March 2026

Expected start of granted projects: July 2026

9. Review and Selection

9.1 Review Procedure

Independent Committees consisting of experts selected by JST and PMU-B respectively will review all proposals. Based on the results of the document review, JST and PMU-B will make a common decision regarding funding of selected proposals.

If a proposal includes researchers' capacity building, JST plans to have an interview with Japanese PIs about a researchers' capacity building plan. Please refer to the Application guidelines (appendix for Japan- side PIs) for details.

9.2 Criteria for reviewing proposals

The following general review criteria will apply to each proposed proposal:

- Consistency with the research field of the Call
- Capability of Research Leaders
- Expected scientific results of the joint research
- Synergy effects of international collaboration
- Validity of research plan
- Validity of exchange plan
- Expected economic and social impact of the joint research
- Feasibility of implementation (given proposed plan, participants, budget, facilities, means of cooperation, etc.)

For a proposal including researchers' capacity building submitted by Japan-based teams, the following criteria will be considered in an interview review which will be conducted in the Japan side.

- Validity and anticipated impact of a researchers' capacity building plan, including the appropriateness of the number of individuals targeted, the clarity of the development plan and of entry/exit strategies, and the anticipated outcomes and impacts of the plan.

10. Contract between Researchers

10.1 The Japan-based PIs

A contract for cooperative research MUST be entered into among institutions with which collaborating researchers are affiliated for implementing actual research collaboration. The contract for cooperative research shall include conclusions of discussions among the institutions which are entitled to intellectual property arising as a result of research collaboration, and the institutions concerned on issues regarding treatment of research information brought by researchers involved for the implementation of research collaboration, of research achievements as a result of research collaboration and of intellectual properties among the concerned institutions. Before conclusion of the contract, the Japan-based principal investigator must submit the check-list in specified form to JST and then undergo a check by JST. When concluded, JST needs to be promptly notified of the contract. If there is any difficulty in concluding the contract, please consult JST in advance.

10.2 The Thailand-based Project Leads

A research contract must be established between the institutions affiliated with the collaborating researchers to facilitate the actual research collaboration. The contract should include the outcomes of discussions among the institutions entitled to any intellectual property resulting from the collaboration, as well as agreements on handling research information provided by the involved researchers, research achievements from the collaboration, and intellectual property rights among the institutions. Prior to finalizing

the contract, the Thailand-based principal investigator must submit a specified checklist to PMU-B for review.

11. Reporting

11.1 The Japan-based PIs

Japan-based PIs shall submit to JST annual research plans for the year ahead and reports on the progress in the past year, and the institution with which the PI is affiliated shall submit an annual financial report.

At the end of the period of support and after completion of the joint research activities, the Japan-based PI shall promptly submit to JST a final report which shall include a financial report and a description of the research activities and outcomes. The report shall include a general summary of the activities of both the Japanese and the Thailand research teams. If papers describing results of the research activities are presented to academic journals, societies etc., a list of those papers and other related information should be attached to the final report. Detailed instructions for preparation of the final report will be provided to the Japan-based PI during the final year of the project. Completed projects will be duly evaluated and excellent outcomes may be made public.

11.2 The Thailand-based Project Leads

Every six months, the Thailand PI shall promptly submit a progress report on the status of joint research to PMU-B. In addition, the researchers are also required to update the progress report in the NRIIS system every six months, to request approval for the disbursement of the next funding instalment.

After completion of the period of joint research, the Thailand PIs shall submit within a month a final report on the results of the joint research to PMU-B.

12. Contact information

Japan-based applicants: inquiries to JST regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to joint-call-ja@jst.go.jp

Thailand-based applicants: inquiries to PMU-B regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to pmub.gp@nxpo.or.th, pmu.b@nxpo.or.th