Call for Proposals 2027

The website for proposal submission is: https://naivo.org/2026/proposal/instruction
The deadline for submissions: January 8, 2027

In order to bring about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations, there is no doubt that every individual, country and the whole of society must strive daily and mass mobilize their creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources to achieve the SDGs in every context. As ASEAN IVO's mission states, ASEAN IVO is always advancing activities which are not only following the SDGs, but also focusing on the Environment, the Social, and Governance (ESG). Furthermore, in any activity, carbon neutrality is also a target for ASEAN IVO and topics for advancing collaborative projects are adopted under that consideration and these ICT-based projects are to realize these goals.

From core research to real world application, ASEAN IVO focuses on a broad range of topics in the field of ICT. Particularly with regards to providing solutions for specific regional needs or environmental or social problems, great emphasis is placed on not just fundamental research but practical solutions. Projects would ideally have a strong outlook to conduct a demonstration by the final year of the project. Proposals from all technical fields are welcome and they will be evaluated on the potential benefit of the output.

ASEAN IVO -- Call for Proposals 2027 is now open to all members of ASEAN IVO to make new projects in the ICT field starting from April 2027. Please fill in the Proposal Form and submit it on the designated website.

1. Topics

1) ICT for food

As food is a common need for all people, ensuring food security (i.e. food availability and regional self-sufficiency) is a key concern for every country. The focus of this topic is for ICT applications providing specific solutions to food security issues in the ASEAN region, specifically the development of applications and integrated systems for R&D in all fields addressing food availability, from environment and agriculture through the supply chain to consumption and waste management.

2) ICT for Environment Protection and Disaster Prevention

As the population grows and becomes more urbanized, there has been a massive increase in material needs and environmental impact as well as demand for digital infrastructure to support people's lifestyles and communication, so that environment monitoring and

protection has become an important issue to human society. Today, natural disasters are occurring more frequently and with increasing intensity. As well as disaster prevention and response, environment monitoring is key for stable infrastructure. This topic focuses not only on technologies, but also applications and integrated systems for R&D.

3) ICT for a Secure and Smart Community

With the internationalization and regionalization of ASEAN, we are facing many difficulties, such as cultural differences and social adaptation. Additionally, with rapid urbanization, cities face a variety of risks, concerns, and problems. The unprecedented rate of urban growth creates an urgency in finding smarter ways to manage the accompanying challenges. This topic is a challenging one which not only focuses on technologies, but also applications and integrated systems, including development of useable applications in a real-life context. Moreover, with the rapid development of cyberspace as well as the real world, counter measures against cyberattacks have also become an urgent issue. From this year, this topic will focus on including technology and applications for cyberspace and the real world, in order to create safe and secure communities.

4) ICT for Health and Welfare

Population growth and environmental destruction is causing an ever-increasing list of global health crises. From aging societies to global pandemics, humanity needs to develop new ways to tackle global health problems. Recent disease outbreaks make clear the need to develop new technologies, integrated systems and applications to prevent pandemics and fight infectious diseases like COVID-19 and Ebola. This is particularly relevant in South-East Asia where many countries are home to at least three diseases that are classified as Neglected Tropical Diseases, meaning prevention and treatment are poorly implemented and underfunded, like dengue fever. Care for the elderly and coping with aging societies is also a growing problem. R&D for new systems and technologies to support older people and relieve the burden of caring for them is essential to maintain societal equilibrium.

5) ICT for Inclusive Digital Services and Governance

In today's digital society, everyone should have the opportunity to participate, with no one left behind. ICT can drive inclusive digital services that address the digital divide and support marginalized groups.

This area emphasizes equity, universal design, affordability, and participation in creating mobile-friendly, multilingual platforms accessible on low-cost devices. Measures such as device subsidies, zero-rated access, and community digital hubs can reduce barriers. Governance plays a central role through data privacy safeguards, accessibility measures, and inclusive feedback systems, ensuring that digital transformation delivers equitable opportunities and full participation in the digital economy.

6) ICT related Technologies and Applications

As ICT is a key part of society's infrastructure, promoting ICT R&D will increase manufacturing growth, and any proposals which are focusing on manufacturing are appreciated. Not only manufacturing, but 4IR related proposals such as IoT, AI/Gen AI,

blockchain, big-data, robotics, etc. are also welcome.

2. Important dates

1)	Period for proposal submission:	November 2, 2026 - January 8, 2027
2)	Evaluation period:	March 2027
3)	Notice of results:	April 2027

3. Application

1) The institution of the applicant should be an ASEAN IVO member, and the applicant should be the project leader. Non-members can submit proposals for new projects as project leaders, but they must apply for membership and obtain approval before the deadline for proposal submission.
2) The members of the proposed project must be from a minimum 2 different institutions, and from at least 2 different countries in the ASEAN region.
   - Multiple institutions from one country as well as NICT and other Japanese institutions are also welcome to be members of a project team but will not count towards this minimum requirement.
3) Institutions that are not members of ASEAN IVO can also be members of the project team.
4) Leaders of ongoing projects cannot make new applications. Your next proposal can only be submitted following the final report for the current project and its presentation at the Forum. You are not allowed to change the project leader of your current project in order to continue an ongoing project and submit a new proposal.
5) Researchers can join a maximum of 2 projects as a project member, including ongoing projects.
6) All institutions of members of the proposed project should provide a “Certificate Letter” to certify the researchers of the institution have been authorized as project members to join the project team and the institution is ready to sign a “Collaborative Research and Development Agreement” for ASEAN IVO project.

4. Budget

Max. 40,000 USD/project/year

The budget allocation is subject to change based on NICT’s fiscal year budget situation.

The budget is not distributed directly to the project, rather, expenses require an application in advance on a case-by-case basis. Regarding asset management and spending, expenditures must strictly adhere to NICT regulations, with a comprehensive procedural guidebook to be provided following project selection.

5. Projects

Around 5 projects will be selected in total.

1) The duration of the project can be from 6 to 24 months. If the duration is more than 12 months, the project will be reviewed once by the Steering Committee.
2) To encourage ICT R&D in Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia, at least one project from these three countries will be selected from the proposals this time. If there are more than two proposals, the proposal with the highest score will be selected. Only 4 projects will be selected from other countries this time.

6. Review and selection

1) The ASEAN IVO Steering Committee will evaluate each submission from the following viewpoints. In some cases, modifications may be recommended.

- Proposal concept, significance, quality and efficiency of the implementation and the management
  - ・Soundness of concept, addressing of significant needs, and quality of objectives, advantages to this proposal compared to similar projects.
  - ・Quality and effectiveness of the science and technology methodology and associated work plan
  - ・Appropriateness of the management structure, procedures, and the allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment)
- Benefits to development of collaboration in the applicant country and ASEAN region
  - ・Balance, equality and complementarity between organizations and between countries within the project team
    (Based on the proposal objective, check member (institution) composition and evaluate the team balance.)
  - ・Contribution to the technical proficiency of research in developing ASEAN countries.
    (Focus on “helping each other”, if the proposal objective and team composition includes Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, it should be evaluated highly.)
  - ・Realization of new collaborations as well as reinforcing continuing partnerships
    (It is highly evaluated if it leads to new collaborations based on the expected outcome, and it could reinforce continuing partnerships within the project team.)
- Potential to generate sustainable community practices, or business models with future development.
  - ・Role or contribution of end users in the team for the development of application or systems
    (End user means the people who use the technology or operate the application or system for daily activities including business or public services.
    Examples: If the project develops a water reuse system for a city, an end user would be a water management authority. If the project develops an application for agriculture, an end user would be a company, or farmers. If the project develops IoT technology for physical distribution, an end user would be an engineer who could create a system by using the technology.)
    (End users from multiple countries are highly evaluated.)

- Other funds for supporting this project.
  (You are encouraged to obtain other funds for advancing the proposed project. This proposal can be part of a total which you are planning, but you must describe the total plan clearly.)
  (An equivalent amount you obtained with evidence is highly evaluated.)
- Appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of project results, and management of intellectual property. Any plan for technology transfer in future
  (You are encouraged to transfer technology or applications or implement systems to provide solutions to societal needs. The vision should be clear, and consideration should be detailed.)
  (It is highly evaluated if you have plan and described in the proposal.)

- If a submitted proposal was also presented at the ASEAN IVO Forum or was a poster at the forum, that proposal will automatically receive bonus evaluation points from the evaluation you received at the forum.

2) A panel review of Steering Committee and an interview with the Secretariat will take place for final selection.
3) Selected proposals will be published on the ASEAN IVO website.
4) Members of the selected projects, especially project leaders, are asked to cooperate with NICT for administrative procedures.

7. Other financial support

In addition to the support of ASEAN IVO, other financial support for your project is welcome. For example, this can be a matching fund from the institution of the applicant or a public fund or another source. This point will be evaluated highly, and additional points will be added.

8. Intellectual Property

Among the project products produced by the collaborative research and development, the intellectual property of any product that is **independently** created by a researcher or researchers of one institution shall be solely reserved by that institution.

Among the project products produced by the collaborative research and development, the intellectual property of any product that is **jointly** created by researchers of more than one institution shall be jointly held by those institutions.

9. Open Source and Data sharing

ASEAN IVO envisions an acceleration of innovation that can be achieved by open access to technologies and information. For this purpose, it is highly recommended that research data is made available between ASEAN IVO members, if it is appropriate and practicable, and researchers are encouraged to consider open source development or make use of shared platforms.

10. Project Review and Reports

There is a progress report in the first year and a project review in the second year, if the duration of the project is more than 12 months (1 year).

The following reports will be required at the ASEAN IVO Forum which is organized annually:

- Progress reports once a year.
- A final report at the end of the project.

Information about the status of your project, based on these progress reports, will be published on the ASEAN IVO website. Additionally, you are encouraged to publish a website for your project, where possible.

11. Notes about Submission

1) Institutions in non-ASEAN regions can be a member of your project, but the budget provided by NICT can only support the institutions of project members which are located in the ASEAN region.
2) Personnel expenses should not be included in your proposal, because the budget provided by NICT cannot support personnel expenses for your project.

12. Submission

1) For submission, please visit: https://naivo.org/2027/proposal/instruction. The website will be open from November 2, 2026.
2) If you don't have an ASEAN IVO account, please create an account following the instructions on the website.
3) If you already have an account which you created in a previous year or when you applied to join the ASEAN IVO Forum 2026, you can continue to use that.
4) The submission has two parts.
   a) The first part is to provide basic information for your submission, for which there is a Check List, Applicant Information and Project Members Information. If you didn't provide any one of these, you cannot advance to the next step for submission.
   b) The second part is to upload the necessary documents including "Certification Letter", "Project Summary" and "Project Proposal". Please prepare the "Certification Letters" in PDF format, and the documents "Project Summary" and "Project Proposal" in both MS Word and PDF formats before your submission.

      Please carefully read and follow the instructions on the submission website.

13. Inquiries

ASEAN IVO Secretariat
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