

Concept Note

Webinar Series: “Open Science: From the UNESCO Recommendation to Reality in Asia and the Pacific”

First phase of the project: *Capacity Building for Open Science in Asia-Pacific: Advancing Collaborative Research for Sustainable Development*

Supported by: Government of Japan (MEXT)

Organized by: UNESCO Regional Office in Jakarta

Duration: October 2025 – Summer 2026

Background

Open Science offers a transformative approach to making scientific knowledge more accessible, inclusive, transparent, and collaborative. In 2021, UNESCO Member States adopted the *UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science*, which provides a shared global framework for promoting Open Science policies and practices that support sustainable development and social well-being.

Recognizing the importance of advancing Open Science in the Asia-Pacific region, UNESCO Regional Office in Jakarta, with the support of the Government of Japan, is implementing the project “*Capacity Building for Open Science in Asia-Pacific: Advancing Collaborative Research for Sustainable Development*” from 2025-2028.

The project seeks to raise awareness, strengthen technical capacity, and promote hands-on experience in applying Open Science principles across disciplines and countries in the region.

Objectives of the 3-year project

1. **Raise awareness** on the potential, challenges, and diverse practices of Open Science through a **monthly webinar and discussion series (starting October 2025)**.
 2. **Build technical skills** of early-career researchers and academics through a comprehensive **Open Science training online and in person module (2026)**.
 3. **Enhance practical skills** in co-designing and conducting **collaborative, participatory research for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** through regional bootcamps.
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About the Webinar Series

The **webinar and discussion series** titled “*Open Science: From the UNESCO Recommendation to Reality in Asia and the Pacific*” will serve as the first phase of the project. It aims to:

- Deepen understanding of what Open Science is and why it matters.

- Highlight how Open Science enhances the quality, equity, and impact of research, particularly in the Asia-Pacific context.
- Facilitate dialogue among diverse Open Science stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, funders, and those who support scientists.
- Share **regional initiatives, national experiences, and good practices**, including but not limited to those reported under the national monitoring of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

Each session will combine **expert discussions and interactive inputs** from participants via tools such as Mentimeter, pre-activity questions and post-activity surveys, ensuring active and inclusive engagement and knowledge exchange.

Participants

- Invited speakers with expertise in Open Science from different disciplines and countries.
- Diverse stakeholders and actors of the science system, including researchers, academics, students, librarians, policymakers, data managers, and science communicators, and citizens interested in science, from across Asia and the Pacific.

Session 1: Launch and Opening Discussion

Topic: *Reclaiming Science as a Collective Benefit for Society*

Date: 30 October 2025

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 Jakarta Time (GMT+7)

Registration link: <https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/2FhgjTC1TnC8iTqpz9caqQ>

This opening session will mark the official **launch of the webinar series and the project**. It will explore **the human rights dimension and core values of Open Science**, highlighting its role as a collective benefit for society and a driver of sustainable, human-centric development.

Key discussion points include:

- What kind of science and technology systems are needed to effectively address pressing environmental and social challenges?
- How can Open Science principles guide the transformation of research systems to be more equitable, inclusive, and responsive to societal needs?

Agenda:

- **Opening Remarks:** Director, UNESCO Jakarta
- **Remarks from** Representative from the Government of Japan (5 min) (TBC)

- **Introduction to the Project:** UNESCO – *Awareness and capacity-building as key enablers of Open Science* (5-10 min)
 - **Panel Discussion:** *Science as a Collective Benefit for Society*
 - **Dr. Sujata Raman**, ANU Centre for the Public Awareness of Science – *Science for the Public Good*
 - **Dr. Ismael Rafols**, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV), València, UNESCO Chair on Diversity and Inclusion in Global Science, Leiden University – *Open Science for Diversity and Inclusion*
 - **Dr. Leslie Chan**, University of Toronto Scarborough – *Equity and Fairness in Knowledge Production*
 - **Interactive Q&A and Participant Reflections** (10 min)
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Expected Outcomes

- Increased understanding of Open Science as a values-driven approach that enhances the societal relevance of science.
- Strengthened network of Open Science advocates and practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Collection of participant insights to inform future sessions and identify needs for capacity-building interventions.