

**DOST-PCAARRD**

Department of Science and Technology

**PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURE, AQUATIC AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

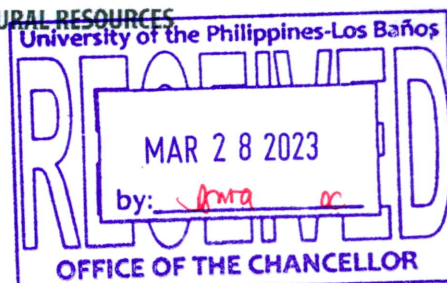
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#202303-GS5001

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

March 22, 2023

*For VC rel/DVCOE**Deans/Unit Heads**— kindly disseminate. Thanks, A***Subject: Call for Project Proposals: Australia's Partnerships for a Healthy Region Initiative****Dear Colleagues:**

We are pleased to extend the Call for Proposals for Australia's Partnerships for a Healthy Region Initiative.

This Initiative is a five-year AU\$ 620 million package that is part of Australia's renewed effort to help build resilient and equitable health systems in the Pacific and Southeast Asia, support partner countries to reduce disease risks, and build stronger, more equitable, national health systems. The new package aims to better support nations to anticipate and control communicable diseases, prevent non-communicable diseases, advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, and build stronger, more equitable, national health systems.

The bulk of the funding (AU\$350 million) is allocated to communicable diseases and immunization, infection control, disease surveillance, and antimicrobial resistance. Cross-cutting priorities of the Initiative also include gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI), climate change, and community engagement. It will also support projects which reflect and embed Australia's approach to First Nations (i.e., Indigenous Peoples of Australia) engagement.

Australia will also fund research and development (R&D) for vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics for diseases, mosquito control technologies relevant to the Pacific and Southeast Asia and will expand regional health assistance provided by key Australian agencies, and extend partnerships with international and regional agencies that support health systems.

Proposals on product development and access and prevention and control of non-communicable diseases will be accepted by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) **until April 20, 2023, 5:00 PM (AEST)**. Please note that proposals must be submitted through the DFAT Health Portal of the SmartyGrants platform (<https://health.smartygrants.com.au/>). You may also visit the following links for further details:

- <https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/pdps-access-call>
- <https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/strategic-partnerships-projects-call>

Kindly note that the DOST requests all interested parties to submit proposals with possible collaboration on the establishment of the following:

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1. The Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines (VIP), which will serve as the premier research and development institute focused on viruses and other pathogens and the pharmaceutical development arm of the Philippines;
2. The Philippine-equivalent for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that aims to improve local engagement in preparedness and response to public health emergencies (PHEs). This will include investments in information and communications technology (ICT), performance-based incentives for private facilities to set up epidemiology and surveillance units (ESU), and strengthening of local government unit ESUs; and
3. Specialty Centers that will provide and improve access to specialized healthcare services.

For our monitoring purposes, we would appreciate being notified of your participation, should there be any, at [pcmd@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph](mailto:pcmd@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph). We have also attached the DOST Memorandum dated March 14, 2023, for your reference and further details.

Please feel free to share this opportunity within your network.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**REYNALDO V. EBORA, PhD**  
Executive Director

**NOTED:**

**JOSE V. CAMACHO, JR.**  
Chancellor ✓

Enc: DOST Memo dated March 14, 2023, re Call for Project Proposals: Australia's Partnerships for a Healthy Region Initiative

cc: Office of the Assistant Secretary for International Cooperation

OED-ARMSS  
OED-RD  
PCMD





Republic of the Philippines

## DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MAR 17 2023

### MEMORANDUM

**FOR: ALL HEADS OF DOST EXECUTIVE OFFICES, SERVICES, AND UNITS OF DOST CENTRAL OFFICE, DOST SECTORAL PLANNING COUNCILS, COLLEGIAL BODIES, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICE INSTITUTES, REGIONAL OFFICES, AND PROVINCIAL S&T OFFICES**

**FROM: LEAH J. BUENDIA, Ph.D.**  
Undersecretary for Research and Development, and  
OIC, Office of the Assistant Secretary for International Cooperation

**SUBJECT: Call for Project Proposals: Australia's Partnerships for a Healthy Region Initiative**

**DATE: 14 March 2023**

We are pleased to inform you that Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Minister for International Development Cooperation and the Pacific Pat Conroy announced the Australian Government's Partnership for a Healthy Region Initiative on 23 February 2023.

The Initiative is a five-year AU\$620 million package to improve health outcomes and promote regional prosperity and stability, and is part of Australia's renewed effort to help build resilient and equitable health systems in the Pacific and Southeast Asia, support partner countries to reduce disease risks, and respond effectively to health emergencies.

The Initiative builds and expands on the previous Indo-Pacific Health Security Initiative for the period 2017-2022. The new package aims to better support nations to anticipate and control communicable diseases, prevent non-communicable diseases, advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, and build stronger, more equitable, national health systems.

The bulk of the funding (AU\$350 million) is allocated to communicable diseases and will fund programs for immunization, infection control, disease surveillance, and antimicrobial resistance. The remainder will expand Australia's assistance to tackle non-communicable diseases via funding for health promotion campaigns in areas such as alcohol, tobacco control, and mental health, as well as screening for conditions such as cervical cancer, heart disease, and diabetes.

Cross-cutting priorities of the Initiative also include gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI), climate change, and community engagement. The Initiative will also support projects which reflect and embed Australia's approach to First Nations (i.e. Indigenous Peoples of Australia) engagement.

Australia will also fund R&D of vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics for diseases, mosquito-control technologies relevant for the Pacific and Southeast Asia and will expand regional health assistance provided by key Australian agencies and extend partnerships with international and regional agencies supporting health systems in the region. In particular, strategic partnerships and projects and product development and access partnerships will be awarded through competitive processes.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is accepting project proposals on product development and access, and prevention and control of non-communicable diseases until **20 April 2023, 5:00 PM (AEST)**. More information on the Initiative may be accessed via the following links:

- <https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/pdps-access-call>
- <https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/strategic-partnerships-projects-call>

In view of the foregoing, we enjoined all interested parties to submit proposals with consideration on including possible collaboration on the establishment of the following:

1. The Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines (VIP), which will serve as premier research and development institute focused on viruses and other pathogens and the pharmaceutical development arm of the Philippines;
2. The Philippine-equivalent for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which aims to improve local engagement in preparedness and response to public health emergencies (PHEs), which will include investments in information and communications technology (ICT), performance based incentives for private facilities to set up epidemiology and surveillance units (ESU), and strengthen local government unit ESUs; and
3. Specialty Centers that will provide and improve access to specialized healthcare services.

Thank you.