



unesco

International Symposium of the Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO in the field of Natural Sciences

15 - 17 May 2024
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Organised by:



Centre
Under the auspices
of UNESCO



ISTIC
INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION CENTRE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO

With the support of:



unesco
Malaysian
National Commission



<https://c2symposium.istic-unesco.org>

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO IN THE FIELD OF NATURAL SCIENCES

15-17 May 2024, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

BACKGROUND

Back in 2015, when global leaders met to adopt the SDGs, they declared that “the future of humanity and our planet lies in our hands”. Leave no one behind became the defining principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Eight years into the agenda, only 15% of all SDG targets are on track and we are leaving more than half the world behind. The world must adopt a new approach and focus to move forward. This necessitates centering the role of science, technology and innovation and identify and act on key transformation points and pathways to accelerate SDG progress.

It led the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim 2024 to 2033 as the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD). It signals the need to shift towards a transformative era of science-based collaboration and progress. This Decade seeks to harness a more effective and inclusive global approach to sustainability based on the synergic cooperation of all sciences and all knowledge forms in an integrative and transformative way to inform policymaking and the implementation of the SDGs.

The IDSSD builds upon the momentum of its predecessor and will encompass basic, applied, social, and human sciences with an ambitious goal to catalyse transformative changes across societies, economies, and the environment. Its strategy emphasizes the interdependence of sound policies, robust scientific research, and strong public support. The aim is to forge a new social contract for science, aligning scientific endeavours with societal needs and sustainable development goals.

UNESCO, with its expansive mandate covering various scientific and cultural domains, is uniquely positioned to champion this transdisciplinary approach in collaboration with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system as well as other stakeholders, including those involved in the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development.

The Decade is set to be officially launched in Colombia during the Open Science Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean (CILAC) in October 2024. This event will mark the beginning of a concerted global effort in science and policy. To track progress, UNESCO plans to release three comprehensive reports in 2026, 2029, and 2032, providing critical insights into the effectiveness and impact of the Decade’s initiatives.

UNESCO has extensive partnership networks that provide a key tool for delivering strategic priorities and in this case, the implementation of the IDSSD. Its Category 2 Centres represent a valuable worldwide network of resources, the full potential of which should be realized.

Category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO are a global network of institutions of excellence in the Organization’s domains of competence. Given their expertise, these institutes and centres contribute in a meaningful way to the implementation of UNESCO’s

priorities, programmes, and global development agendas during a defined period, through international and regional cooperation, research, knowledge production, policy advice, and capacity enhancement. Though independent of UNESCO, category 2 institutes and centres are a privileged partner of the Organization with access to UNESCO's logo, international and intergovernmental bodies and networks, and may leverage UNESCO's international reach and convening powers. Category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO are an integral part of the Organization's Comprehensive Partnership Strategy.

Against this backdrop, the International Symposia will provide a platform for the Natural Sciences Category 2 Centres to input and contribute to the IDSSD planning and implementation. It will also serve as forum for information exchange and sharing, and to explore and generate new collaborations.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the International Symposium of the Category 2 Institutes and Centres Under the Auspices of UNESCO in the Field of Natural Sciences are to advance coordination, knowledge exchange and common understanding among individuals and experts. This will be achieved by:

Enhance Coordination for Effective Implementation

Develop and implement a robust coordination mechanism to bring together individuals and experts from Category 2 centres actively engaged in implementing UNESCO programs, with a specific emphasis on initiatives such as the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development

Facilitate Collaborative Ideation for Program Enhancement

Establish a platform to foster the exchange of views and ideas among participants, with the overarching goal of enhancing the planning and delivery of UNESCO programs.

Cultivate Common Understanding on Key Issues

Create a structured mechanism that enables participants to engage in discussions and collaboratively develop a collective understanding of key issues and priority needs, particularly within the context of UNESCO's mission and natural sciences focus.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF CATEGORY 2 CENTRES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO

15 – 17 May 2024, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Agenda

DAY 1 - 15 MAY 2024 (WEDNESDAY)	
TIME	AGENDA
08.00am – 09.00am	Registration
09:00 am - 09.10am	Welcome <i>Mohd Basyaruddin Abdul Rahman,</i> Chair, ISTIC Governing Board <i>Lidia Brito,</i> Assistant Director-General, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO
09:10 am – 09:45am	Introductory Session A brief overview of priorities and programs of the UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector <i>Lidia Brito,</i> Assistant Director-General, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO Presentation
09.45am – 10.30am	C2C Procedures and administrative issues Information session: C2C Procedures and administrative issues The 2019 C2C Strategy Renewal Procedures Annual reporting and contribution <i>Ezra Clark and Jing Zhao, UNESCO</i> Overview presentations and Q & A
10.30am – 11.00am	Coffee Break
11.00am – 12.30pm	C2C Session 1: Water Sciences Research, Education and Capacity Development <i>Moderator: Rahmah Elfithri, UNESCO</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (ERCE-PAN) Poland 2. International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), The Netherlands and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, The Netherlands 3. Centre on Integrated and Multi-Disciplinary Water Resources Management (CIMWRM), Greece 4. Regional Centre for Integrated River Basin Management (RC-IRBM), Nigeria

	<p>5. International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management (i-WSSM), Republic of Korea</p> <p>6. Centre for the Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Caribbean Island States (CEHICA), Dominican Republic</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Presentations from C2Cs (8 minutes maximum), followed by Q&A and moderated discussion</p>
12.30pm – 02.00pm	Lunch Break
02.00pm – 03.15pm	<p>C2C Session 2: Hubs for sustainability: UNESCO-designated Sites and Networks</p> <p><i>Moderator: Hans Thulstrup, UNESCO</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Post-graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands, (ERAIFT), Democratic Republic of Congo 2. International Centre on Space Technologies for Cultural and Natural Heritage (HIST), China 3. Asia-Pacific Centre for Ecohydrology (APCE), Indonesia 4. International Research Centre on Karst (IRCK), China <p style="text-align: right;">Presentations from C2Cs (8 minutes maximum), followed by QA and moderated discussion</p>
03.15pm – 03.45pm	Coffee Break
03.45pm – 04.30pm	<p>Cross Cutting Session: Open Science</p> <p><i>Ezra Clark and Fereshteh Rafieian, UNESCO</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Overview Presentation and Q & A</p>
04.30pm – 05.00pm	Closing Day 1
05.00pm – 06.00pm	<p>Clinic/Consultations</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Individual advice and assistance on C2C procedures and administrative issues</p>

DAY 2 – 16 MAY 2024 (THURSDAY)	
TIME	AGENDA
08.00am – 09.00am	Registration
09.00am – 10.15am	<p>C2C Session 3: Water and disaster risk reduction <i>Moderators: Faduma Ali and Rahmah Elfithri, UNESCO</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Knowledge Centre for Engineering Sciences and Technology (IKCEST), China 2. Regional Education and Research Centre on Earthquake Risk Management and Resilience for West and Central Asia, Iran 3. International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Japan 4. International Research and Training Centre on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES), China 5. Central Asian Regional Glaciology Centre (CARGC), Kazakhstan <p style="text-align: right;">Presentations from C2Cs (8 minutes maximum), followed by Q&A and moderated discussion</p>
10.15am – 10.45am	Coffee Break
10.45am – 11.15pm	<p>Cross Cutting Session: International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development <i>Lidia Brito</i> Assistant Director-General, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Overview Presentation</p>
11.15am – 12.30pm	<p>C2C Session 4: Addressing the Planetary Crises: climate change and biodiversity <i>Moderator: Hans Thulstrup, UNESCO</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Centre for Capacity Development - Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Societal Change (GRO), Iceland 2. International Centre on Global-scale Geochemistry (ICGG), China 3. Regional Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for South-East Asia and the Pacific (HTC-KL), Malaysia <p style="text-align: right;">Presentations from C2Cs (8 minutes maximum), followed by Q&A and moderated discussion</p>
12.30pm – 02.00pm	Lunch Break
02.00pm – 03.15pm	<p>C2C Session 5: Revolutionising Capacity Building in Engineering for SDGs <i>Moderator: Jing Zhao, UNESCO</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Competence Centre for Mining-Engineering Education (ICMEE), Russian Federation 2. International Knowledge Centre for Engineering Sciences and Technology (IKCEST), China 3. International Centre for Engineering Education (ICEE), China

	<p>4. The Centre of Excellence in Engineering Innovations, Manufacturing, and Technology Transfer (TCC), Ghana</p> <p>5. International Training Centre in Astronomy (ITCA), Thailand</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Presentations from C2Cs (8 minutes maximum), followed by Q&A and moderated discussion</p>
3.15pm - 3.45pm	Coffee Break

03.45pm – 4.30pm	<p>Plenary: High-Level Ceremony</p> <p><i>Mohd Basyaruddin Abdul Rahman</i> Chair, ISTIC Governing Board</p> <p><i>Lidia Brito</i> Assistant Director-General, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO</p> <p><i>YB Fadhlina Sidek</i> Minister of Education (MOE) and President of Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU)</p>
04.30pm – 04.45pm	Group Photo Session
04.45pm – 06.00pm	<p>Interactive Poster Session</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Interactive session with C2Cs</p>

DAY 3 - 17 MAY 2024 (FRIDAY)	
TIME	AGENDA
08.00am – 09.00am	Registration
09.00am – 10.15am	<p>C2C Session 6: The Role of Basic Sciences in Advancing Emerging Technologies and Breakthrough Innovations</p> <p><i>Moderator: Jing Zhao, UNESCO</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The International Center for Research and Postgraduate Training in Mathematics (ICRTM), Viet Nam 2. Junior Academy of Sciences (JAS), Ukraine 3. Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), India 4. International Centre for Biotechnology (ICB), Nigeria 5. International Centre for Theoretical Physics Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP), China <p style="text-align: right;">Presentations from C2Cs (8 minutes maximum), followed by Q&A and moderated discussion</p>
10.15am – 10.45am	Coffee Break
10.45am – 12.30am	<p>C2C Session 7: The intersection of Science and Policy: transformative progress</p> <p><i>Moderators: Ezra Clark and Fereshteh Rafieian, UNESCO</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Research and Training Centre for Science and Technology Strategy (CISTRAT), China 2. Regional Centre for Science Park and Technology Incubator Development Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran 3. International Centre for South-South Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (ISTIC), Malaysia 4. Dundee Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science (CWLPS), UK <p style="text-align: right;">Presentations from C2Cs (8 minutes maximum), followed by Q&A and moderated discussion</p>
12.30pm – 02.30pm	Lunch Break
02.30pm – 04.30pm (including coffee break)	<p>C2C Breakout Sessions: Challenges and Opportunities for C2Cs</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Small group discussion, reporting back suggestions and recommendations to Plenary</p>
04.30pm – 05.00pm	<p>Plenary Closing</p> <p><i>Mohd Basyaruddin Abdul Rahman</i> Chair, ISTIC Governing Board</p> <p><i>Lidia Brito</i> Assistant Director-General, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO</p> <p><i>YB Chang Lih Kang</i> Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia</p>

**CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO
IN THE FIELD OF NATURAL SCIENCES**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No	Name	Position	Country	Institutes/Centres
1	Lidia Maria Serra Ribeiro Arthur Brito	Assistant Director- General for Natural Sciences	France	UNESCO
2	Ezra Clark	Chief of Section, Science Technology and Innovation Policy Section	France	UNESCO
3	Rahmah Elfithri	Chief of Section for Capacity Development and Water Family Coordination	France	UNESCO
4	Hans Dencker Thulstrup	Chief of Section for MAB Networking, Biosphere Reserves and Capacity Building	France	UNESCO
5	Jing Zhao	Junior Professional Officer	France	UNESCO
6	Faduma Hussein Ali	Associate Programme Specialist	France	UNESCO
7	Fereshteh Rafieian Najafabadi	Programme Specialist	France	UNESCO
8	Fitrie Atviana Nurritasari	Project Assistant	Indonesia	UNESCO
9	Prof. ChM Dr. Mohd Basyaruddin Abdul Rahman	Chair, ISTIC Governing Board	Malaysia	ISTIC
10	Tengku Sharizad Tengku Dahlan	Director	Malaysia	ISTIC
11	Zarmiela Salmi Sabot	Administrative Executive	Malaysia	ISTIC
12	Mohd Azim Noor	Programme Executive	Malaysia	ISTIC

13	Hazman Al-Hafiz Hazal	Assistant Programme Executive	Malaysia	ISTIC
14	Fasehah Ali	Communications Executive	Malaysia	ISTIC
15	Ahmadul Mokhtar Mohd Hayani	Executive Secretary	Malaysia	Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU)
16	Arina Jasny	External Relations Officer	Malaysia	Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU)
17	Khairol Hazlan Hamzah	Culture & Communication Officer	Malaysia	Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU)
18	Dr Idris Ismail			Permanent Delegation to Malaysia to UNESCO (PDTM)
19	Mohd Najmie Mohd Yusoff	Multimedia Programmer	Malaysia	Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
20	Muhammad Effandie Nordin	Assistant Executive IT	Malaysia	Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
21	Ahmad Khudri Abd Razak	Assistant Executive IT	Malaysia	Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
22	Mohd Zefri Mohd Zulkefli	Operation Assistant	Malaysia	Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
23	Mohamad Haziq Rosli	Graphic Designer	Malaysia	Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
24	Najib Mohd Idris	Sr. Executive Corporate Communications	Malaysia	Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
25	Baudouin Michel	Director	Democratic Republic of Congo	Regional Post-graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands
26	Dr Alexandr Yegorov	Head of the Department of International Relations	Kazakhstan	Central-Asian Regional Glaciological Centre of the Category 2 under the auspices of UNESCO
27	Dr Alexandra Sviristileva (Kopteva)	Executive director	Russia	International Competence Centre for Mining Engineering Education under the auspices of UNESCO
28	Dr C.V. Srikanth	Professor	India	Regional Centre for Biotechnology

29	Dr Daisuke Kuribayashi	Chief Researcher	Japan	International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM)
30	Dr Elisabeth Lictevout	Director	Netherlands	International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)
31	Dr Evgeniy Lyubin	Employee	Russia	International Competence Centre for Mining Engineering Education under the auspices of UNESCO
32	Dr Li Zhe	Director of Office of Think Tank Operation and Research Management	China	CISTRAT/CASTED
33	Dr Matipon Tangmatitham	Acting Director	Thailand	International Training Centre in Astronomy
34	Dr Min Zhang	Office Director	China	International Centre for Theoretical Physics Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP)
35	Dr Sergey Ivanets	Deputy Director	Russia	International Competence Centre for Mining Engineering Education under the auspices of UNESCO
36	Dr Xiaotian Cai	Researcher	China	CISTRAT/CASTED
37	Dr Zhang Bimin	Secretariat Director of UNESCO International Center on Global-Scale Geochemistry Director of Geochemical Exploration Division	China	Institute of Geophysical and Geochemical Exploration (ICGG)
38	Fanzi Meng	Liaison secretary	China	International Centre for Theoretical Physics Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP)
39	Jie Fu	Post-doctoral Fellow	China	International Center for Engineering Education (ICEE)
40	Lihui Xu	Assistant to the Secretary-General	China	International Center for Engineering Education (ICEE)
41	Mariya Soldatchenko	Deputy Project Manager, PhD, Associate Professor	Russia	International Competence Centre for Mining Engineering Education under the auspices of UNESCO

42	Meng Wang	Office Director	China	International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage under the Auspices of UNESCO
43	Nína Björk Jónsdóttir	Director General	Iceland	GRÓ Centre for Capacity Development, Sustainability and Societal Change
44	Professor Biming Zhang	Secretary General	China	UNESCO International Centre on Global-scale Geochemistry
45	Professor Cheng Zhang	Secretary General	China	International Research Centre on Karst, Institute of Karst Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences
46	Professor Denys Svyrydenko	Category 2 Teaching Methodology Expert, Regional Cooperation Department	Ukraine	Junior Academy of Sciences
47	Professor Elpida-Kleanthi Kolokytha	Director of C2c Cimwrm Thessaloniki Greece	Greece	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
48	Professor Huadong Guo	Director	China	International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage under the Auspices of UNESCO
50	Professor Ignasius Sutapa	Director	Indonesia	Asia-Pacific Centre for Ecohydrology
51	Professor Ioannis Mylopoulos	Professor, Ex Rector	Greece	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
52	Professor Jianli Zhang	Deputy Director General	China	International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES)
53	Professor John Rowan	Director	United Kingdom	Centre for Water Law, Policy & Science, University of Dundee
54	Professor Juanle Wang	Distinguished Expert of IKCEST	China	International Knowledge Centre for Engineering Sciences and Technology (IKCEST) under the auspices of UNESCO
55	Professor Maciej Zalewski	Professor	Poland	European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology

56	Professor Omogbemi Omolaju Yaya	Director	Nigeria	Regional Centre for Integrated River Basin Management
57	Professor Paul Omojo Omaji	President of the Consortium of universities "Subsoil of Africa"	Russia	International Competence Centre for Mining Engineering Education under the auspices of UNESCO
58	Professor Thi Ha Duong Phan	Director	Vietnam	International Centre of Research and Postgraduate Training in Mathematics Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology
59	Professor Umezuruike Linus Opara	Director	Nigeria	International Centre for Biotechnology
60	Professor Xiangyun Du	Director and Professor	Denmark	Aalborg Centre for Problem Based Learning in Engineering Science and Sustainability under the auspices of UNESCO
61	Professor Francis David	Director General	Ghana	TCC International Centre for Innovation, Manufacturing, Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship
62	Sooyoung Park	Programme manager	Republic of Korea	International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management under the auspices of UNESCO
63	Tian Nianping	Programme Specialist	China	CISTRAT/CASTED
64	Weifeng Qiao	Associate Professor in Research, Assistant to the Secretary-General	China	International Center for Engineering Education (ICEE)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We want to express our profound gratitude to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), the Ministry of Education (MOE), the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM), the Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU), and the Permanent Delegation to Malaysia to UNESCO (PDTM) for their invaluable support in bringing this program to fruition. We sincerely appreciate your partnership and commitment to advancing our shared goals.



ISTIC
INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION CENTRE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO

**International Science, Technology and Innovation
Centre for South-South Cooperation under the
Auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC-UNESCO)**

902-4, Jalan Tun Ismail, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: +603-2694 9898/Fax: +603-26984589

Email: info@istic-unesco.org

Website: www.istic-unesco.org

