



# AFRASIA

## Programme Validation and Stakeholder Strategic Engagement Workshop

6 – 8 MAY 2026

MALANG, INDONESIA

## CONCEPT NOTE

---

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

---

The Asia–Africa South–South Collaborative Research Programme (AFRASIA) is a multi-country, institutionally anchored initiative designed to strengthen collaboration in science, technology, and innovation (STI) across Asia and Africa. The programme responds to shared development challenges—particularly in water security, renewable energy and just transition, and One Health—where fragmented research efforts, uneven capacity, and limited science-to-policy translation continue to constrain impact.

Since 2022, AFRASIA has evolved through a series of structured consultations, strategic engagements, and institutional dialogues involving funding agencies, research institutions, and policy actors from Asia and Africa. These engagements have progressively shaped the programme’s vision, partnership framework, governance arrangements, funding architecture, and implementation approach. AFRASIA is anchored by founding institutions from South Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Tanzania, and coordinated by the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South–South Cooperation (ISTIC) under the auspices of UNESCO and the National Research Foundation (NRF) South Africa, in collaboration with key partner institutions.

A final collective step is required to confirm readiness for launch. This step takes the form of the AFRASIA Programme Validation and Stakeholder Engagement Workshop.

### PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

---

The AFRASIA Programme Validation and Stakeholder Engagement Workshop aims to:

- Validate the technical completeness, coherence, and feasibility of the AFRASIA programme documents;
- Confirm institutional alignment and shared understanding among funders, work package leaders, and coordinating partners; and
- Secure collective endorsement of the AFRASIA programme framework in preparation for its official launch.

The workshop constitutes the final programme-level review and endorsement mechanism prior to the launch.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

---

The workshop will seek to:

1. Review and validate the AFRASIA programme architecture, including its vision, objectives, programme approach, and work package structure;
2. Confirm governance, coordination, and management arrangements, including roles and responsibilities of key institutions;
3. Validate the co-funding and resource mobilisation framework and ensure alignment with national funding mechanisms;
4. Confirm implementation readiness, including phasing, timelines, and expected results; and
5. Formally record collective endorsement of the AFRASIA programme documents for launch.

## SCOPE OF VALIDATION

---

The workshop will focus on the validation and endorsement of the following documents:

- AFRASIA Programme Framework
- Governance and Coordination Arrangements
- Co-Funding and Resource Mobilisation Framework
- Implementation Roadmap and Phasing
- Expected Results and Outputs Framework
- Communication and Launch Readiness Materials (for information)

Substantive redesign is **not** within the scope of this workshop; discussions will focus on confirmation, clarification, and minor technical refinements where necessary.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

---

By the end of the workshop, the following outcomes are expected:

- Validated and endorsed AFRASIA programme documents;
- Clear and shared understanding of institutional roles, work package leadership, and funding modalities;
- Formal readiness of the AFRASIA programme for its official Launching Workshop; and
- Agreed next steps and responsibilities leading up to programme launch.

## PARTICIPANTS

---

The workshop will bring together a targeted group of key stakeholders, including:

- Representatives of founding and participating funding agencies;
- Work Package Leaders and thematic leads;
- Coordinating and partner institutions;
- Programme secretariat and technical support teams.

Participation is by invitation to ensure focused and decision-oriented discussions.

## FORMAT AND MODALITY

---

The workshop will be conducted in a structured, agenda-driven format, combining:

- Plenary presentations for programme-level review;
- Moderated discussions focused on validation and clarification; and
- Session-based confirmation of endorsement and next steps.
- Rapporteurs will be designated for selected sessions and will be responsible for recording key discussion points, areas of consensus, and agreed actions to inform the official workshop record.

The modality (in-person, virtual, or hybrid) and logistical arrangements will be communicated separately.

## LINKAGE TO THE AFRASIA LAUNCH

---

The AFRASIA Programme Validation and Endorsement Workshop represents the final preparatory milestone prior to the official launch of AFRASIA. Outcomes of the workshop will directly inform:

- Finalisation of programme documents;
- Preparation of launch materials; and
- Formal announcement and commencement of programme implementation.

## WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

---

The workshop is intentionally structured with the two-day Programme Validation preceding the stakeholder engagement segment in order to preserve the integrity and decision-oriented nature of the endorsement process. The Validation Workshop represents the final step required to confirm the technical completeness, institutional alignment, governance arrangements, co-funding framework, and implementation readiness of AFRASIA prior to its official launch. Sequencing validation first ensures that discussions remain focused on confirmation, clarification, and minor refinements, without reopening substantive design elements.

By completing validation before broad engagement, the workshop establishes a shared and formally endorsed baseline for the programme. This approach provides clarity and authority, enabling partners to engage stakeholders from a position of institutional alignment and confirmed readiness. It also mitigates the risk of scope expansion or dilution of decision-making discipline that may arise if wider consultations precede formal endorsement.

With the framework validated and endorsed, the third day is purposefully dedicated to operationalisation. Stakeholder engagement therefore shifts from programme design to participation pathways—positioning AFRASIA within national and industry ecosystems, clarifying entry points for researchers and industry actors, and strengthening implementation linkages. This structure ensures that engagement is forward-looking and impact-oriented, focused on how partners can contribute to an endorsed and launch-ready programme rather than revisiting foundational elements.

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

---

Day 1 - 6 May 2026 (Wednesday)		
Session 1: Opening and Institutional Remarks		
Master of Ceremonies: Fidelia Fitri		
Time	Session	Description
08:00 – 08:30	Registration	
08:30 – 08:45	Traditional performance	
08:45 – 08:50	Indonesia National Anthem	
08:50 – 09:05	Welcome Remarks by UM	Prof. Dr. Hariyono Rector
09:05 – 09:10	Remarks by ISTIC	Prof ChM Dr. Mohd Basyaruddin Abd Rahman Chair, ISTIC Governing Board
09:10 – 09:15	Remarks by NRF	Dr Makobetsa Khati Acting Executive Manager
09:15 – 09:20	Remarks by ASM-MSE	Mdm Nitia Samuel Chief Strategy Officer
09:20 – 09:25	Remarks by COSTECH	Dr Amos Muhunda Nungu Director General
09:25 – 09:30	Opening ceremony	Prof. Dr. Hariyono Rector
09:30 – 09:40	Group Photo Session	

<b>Session 2: Strategic Framing for Validation</b>		
09:40 – 09:50	AFRASIA: From Development to Validation Readiness	<a href="#">Michael Nxumalo (NRF)</a> Evolution of the initiative and readiness for validation
09:50 – 10:00	Validation Mandate & Scope	<a href="#">Sharizad Dahlan (ISTIC)</a> Clarification of validation scope: confirmation and refinement only (no substantive redesign)
10:00 – 10:10	Discussion and Q&A	
<b>Session 3: Programme Architecture Validation</b> <i>Session Chair: Markus Diantoro (UM)</i>		
10:10 – 10:40	AFRASIA Programme Framework	<a href="#">Michael Nxumalo (NRF) &amp; Sharizad Dahlan (ISTIC)</a> Vision, objectives, theory of change, expected results
10:40 – 11:00	<a href="#">Coffee Break</a>	
11:00 – 12:00	Structured Validation Dialogue	<a href="#">Moderator: Nitia Samuel (ASM-MSE)</a> Structured Validation Dialogue focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coherence across thematic areas</li> <li>• Alignment with national STI priorities</li> <li>• Feasibility and phasing</li> <li>• Risk mitigation</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:00	<a href="#">Lunch</a>	
<b>Session 4: Work Package &amp; Results Framework Review</b> <i>Session Chair: Basyaruddin Rahman (ISTIC)</i>		
13:00 – 14:00	Work Package Review	WP Leads present: WP1 – Funding Architecture <a href="#">(Michael Nxumalo, NRF)</a> WP2 – Capacity Building <a href="#">(Sharizad Dahlan, ISTIC)</a> WP3 – MEL <a href="#">(Prudence Makhura, UP)</a> WP4 – Community of Practice <a href="#">(Daniel Nyanganyura, FEAHLC)</a> WP5 – Communication & Dissemination <a href="#">(Intan Sazrina, UTM)</a>
14:00 – 15:00	Results & Impact Framework – Validation Session	<a href="#">Lead Discussant: Prudence Makhura (UP)</a> Focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outputs and performance indicators</li> <li>• Alignment with programme objectives and SDG contributions</li> <li>• Coherence across Work Packages</li> </ul>
15:00 – 15:15	<a href="#">Coffee Break</a>	

<b>Session 5: Technical Synthesis and Refinement</b> <i>Session Chair (Leading Synthesis): Daniel Nyanganyura (FEAHLIC)</i>		
15:15 – 16:15	Consolidated Synthesis	Session to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate key validation outcomes from Sessions 3 and 4</li> <li>• Confirm alignment and technical coherence</li> <li>• Identify outstanding issues requiring clarification</li> <li>• Agree on final refinements prior to governance and endorsement discussions</li> </ul>
16:15 – 16:30	Special Remarks by Dr Fauzan Adziman, Director General (Research & Development) MOHEST	
16:30 – 16:45	Group photo session	
	Outcome	Agreed technical refinements and clarified outstanding issues, confirming readiness for governance and endorsement discussions.

## GOVERNANCE, FUNDING & FORMAL ENDORSEMENT

*(Closed Session – Decision-Oriented)*

**Theme: Institutional Alignment and Implementation Readiness**

<b>Day 2 – 7 May 2026 (Thursday)</b>		
<b>Session 6: Governance, Co-Funding &amp; Institutional Alignment</b> <i>Session Chair: Dr Makobetsa Khati (NRF)</i>		
Time	Session	Description
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of Day 1	Daniel Nyanganyura (FEAHLIC) Summary of validated elements and outstanding refinements from Day 1
09:15 – 10:45	Governance Framework & Coordination Arrangements	Lead Discussant: Michael Nxumalo (NRF) Co-lead Discussant: Sharizad Dahlan (ISTIC) Review of steering mechanisms, Secretariat functions, and Work Package leadership responsibilities
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15 – 12:00	Co-funding Architecture & Call Modalities	Lead Discussant: Nitia Samuel (ASM-MSE) Review of national alignment, cost-sharing principles, and joint call procedures.
		Moderator: Yos Sunitiyoso (MOHEST)

12:00 – 12:30	Structured Validation Dialogue	<p>This session serves as a <b>final validation checkpoint prior to endorsement</b>, focusing on confirming institutional alignment and implementation feasibility of the AFRASIA programme.</p> <p>The dialogue will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm the institutional fit of governance and coordination arrangements;</li> <li>• Validate alignment with national STI priorities and funding mechanisms;</li> <li>• Assess the feasibility of coordination and co-funding modalities; and</li> <li>• Identify any outstanding issues or risks requiring resolution prior to endorsement.</li> </ul> <p>The session to ensure all critical elements are aligned, implementable, and supported by participating institutions.</p> <p>Expected Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmed areas of alignment;</li> <li>• Identified constraints or risks; and</li> <li>• Inputs to inform final endorsement.</li> </ul>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
<b>Session 7: Implementation Readiness and Endorsement</b> <i>Session Chair: Prudence Makhura (UP)</i>		
13:30 – 14:30	Implementation Roadmap & Phasing	<p><b>Sharizad Dahlan (ISTIC) &amp; Michael Nxumalo (NRF)</b></p> <p>Presentation of implementation readiness, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First call timeline</li> <li>• Secretariat set-up and operational arrangements</li> <li>• Cross-cutting Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework supporting all Work Packages</li> </ul>
14:30 – 16:00	<p>Formal Institutional Endorsement of the AFRASIA Programme</p> <p><i>Endorsing Institutions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NRF</li> </ul>	<p><b>Michael Nxumalo (NRF) &amp; Sharizad Dahlan (ISTIC)</b></p> <p>Structured endorsement session bringing together founding and participating funding agencies to formally confirm institutional commitment to the AFRASIA programme framework.</p> <p>The session will include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ASM-MSE</li> <li>- MOHEST</li> <li>- COSTECH</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutional confirmation of alignment with the validated AFRASIA programme framework</li> <li>• Endorsement of key programme components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Governance and Coordination Arrangements</li> <li>○ Co-Funding and Resource Mobilisation Framework</li> <li>○ Implementation Roadmap and Phasing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Indication of readiness to support implementation through national funding and institutional mechanisms</li> <li>• Identification of any final considerations for operationalisation</li> </ul>
16:00 – 16:15	Closing Reflections	Makobetsa Khati (NRF) & Basyaruddin Rahman (ISTIC) Reflections on partnership, commitment, and the transition towards AFRASIA implementation
16:15 – 16:30	Coffee Break	
End of Day 2 Outcome		AFRASIA formally validated and endorsed
19:00	Official Dinner hosted by the Mayor of Malang	

## RESEARCH & INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

(Open Session – Researchers, Industry, Innovation Agencies etc)

Day 3 - 8 May 2026 (Friday)		
Session 1: From Validation to Implementation <i>Master of Ceremonies: Fidelia Fitri</i>		
Time	Session	Description
08:00 - 08:30	Registration	
08:30 - 08:35	Emcee welcome	Overview of Day 3
08:35 - 08:45	Opening Remarks	Prof. Yos Sunitiyoso (MOHEST)
08:45 – 09:30	AFRASIA – From Validation to Implementation <i>Interactive Q&amp;A</i>	Michael Nxumalo (NRF) & Sharizad Dahlan (ISTIC) Overview of endorsed framework, governance and first call roadmap.
Session 2: Strategic Panel Discussion <i>Session Chair: Prof Basyaruddin Abdul Rahman (ISTIC)</i>		
09:30 – 11:00	Panel Discussion featuring:	Strategic dialogue on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key success factors for effective</li> </ul>

	1) Dr Makobetsa Khati (NRF) 2) Mdm Nitia Samuel (ASM-MSE) 3) Prof. Yos Sunitiyoso (MOHEST) 4) Prof Agus Muhammad Hatta (ITS) 5) Mr Mahmed Vincent (PT Pindad)	research–industry collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funders’ expectations in collaborative and impact-driven research</li> <li>• Role of industry as co-investor, partner, and adopter</li> <li>• Practical challenges and lessons from implementation</li> <li>• Implications for operationalizing AFRASIA in the Indonesian context</li> </ul> Followed by audience Q&A
11:00 – 11:10	Closing remarks	Prof Basyaruddin Abdul Rahman (ISTIC)
11:10 – 13:00	Lunch & Friday Prayer	

## CONCLUSION

The AFRASIA Programme Validation and Endorsement Workshop marks a critical milestone in the transition from programme design to implementation. Building on sustained institutional engagement and collaborative development since 2022, the workshop provides a formal platform to confirm the technical soundness, institutional alignment, and implementation readiness of the AFRASIA programme framework.

Through the collective validation and endorsement of the programme documents, participating funding agencies, work package leaders, and partner institutions reaffirm their shared commitment to advancing structured, co-funded South–South cooperation in science, technology, and innovation. This process ensures that AFRASIA is positioned as a credible, coordinated, and results-oriented platform capable of addressing priority challenges in water security, renewable energy and just transition, and One Health across Asia and Africa.

The outcomes of this workshop will directly enable the formal launch of AFRASIA and lay the foundation for its operationalisation as a long-term collaborative mechanism. By consolidating governance arrangements, funding modalities, and programme pathways, the workshop contributes to strengthening collective ownership and accountability among partners, while reinforcing AFRASIA’s contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and broader international development agendas.