

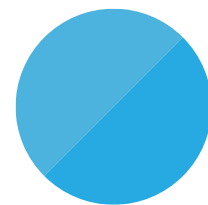


ISTIC 2025 Annual Report



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

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I - Foreword

Message from the Chair



**PROF CHM DR MOHD
BASYARUDDIN ABDUL
RAHMAN FASC, FTWAS**
Chair of ISTIC Governing Board

This is reflected in its expanding programme portfolio, which has successfully engaged policymakers, researchers, and educators across more than 30 countries in the past year. In a global context shaped by climate uncertainty, rapid technological advancement, and evolving geopolitical dynamics, the need for credible and trusted cooperation mechanisms is more critical than ever.

ISTIC's growing engagement across the Global South, particularly its strengthened interregional collaboration between Asia and Africa, underscores both strategic foresight and a strong commitment to solidarity.

The year 2025 marks a significant milestone in the continued evolution of the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) under the auspices of UNESCO.

As Chair of the Governing Board, I have observed the Centre's steady progression from a convening platform for dialogue to a more structured and strategic facilitator of sustained international cooperation. ISTIC has demonstrated increasing institutional maturity, a clearer strategic direction, and disciplined execution of its mandate.

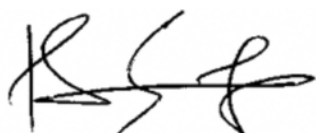
“In a global context shaped by climate uncertainty, rapid technological advancement, and evolving geopolitical dynamics, the need for credible and trusted cooperation mechanisms is more critical than ever.”

Longstanding initiatives such as the KISTEP–ISTIC programme, now in its seventeenth edition and having benefited over 250 policymakers from more than 70 countries, continue to serve as enduring platforms for policy exchange and capacity building.

The Governing Board acknowledges the Centre’s structured portfolio approach, emphasis on shared ownership, and prudent resource stewardship, key elements in ensuring sustained and impactful outcomes. Multi-year frameworks such as AFRASIA, the Global South Research Universities Alliance (GSRUA), and Greening Education for Southeast Asia (GE4SEA) further reflect ISTIC’s commitment to long-term, systemic engagement.

As a UNESCO Category 2 Centre hosted by Malaysia, the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) embodies both national responsibility and global opportunity. It reinforces Malaysia’s role in advancing multilateralism and science diplomacy, particularly within South-South cooperation.

The Board commends the Director and Secretariat for their professionalism and leadership, and remains confident in ISTIC’s continued contribution to strengthening STI systems and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals through purposeful scientific collaboration.



**PROF CHM DR MOHD
BASYARUDDIN ABDUL
RAHMAN FASC, FMIC, FRSC,
FIAAM**
CHAIR, ISTIC GOVERNING BOARD



Message from the Director

2025 has been a defining year in ISTIC's evolution.

We are living in a time of profound change. Climate pressures are intensifying. Technology is advancing at extraordinary speed. Trust between nations is being tested. In this environment, science, technology and innovation must do more than fuel growth. They must strengthen resilience, rebuild trust, and create shared progress across regions.

This year, ISTIC stepped more deliberately into its responsibility to shape cooperation that endures. We moved beyond dialogue to structured partnerships across the Global South, grounded in shared priorities and mutual respect. Innovation must be co-created, and meaningful progress depends on trust sustained over time.



SHARIZAD DAHLAN
Director of ISTIC

“We must strengthen South-South cooperation, not as a slogan, but as a genuine commitment to learn from one another, invest in one another, and move forward together.”

As the Centre matures, our work is defined not by isolated initiatives but by a coherent portfolio built for continuity, responsiveness, and long-term impact. This evolution signals growing institutional confidence and clarity of purpose. Our stewardship of resources reflects this same discipline. We focus on sustained and measurable impact. ISTIC's approach to cooperation is grounded in shared design, shared resourcing, and shared implementation, ensuring that partnerships are built on mutual ownership and long-term commitment. Trust is not built through compliance. It is built through shared responsibility.

None of this would be possible without the steadfast support of the Government of Malaysia, through the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Academy of Sciences Malaysia as our host institution, together with the continued leadership of UNESCO. Their trust and commitment enable ISTIC to advance its mandate with credibility, discipline, and long-term vision.

Looking ahead, our responsibility deepens.

We must lead with foresight in a world that too often reacts in crisis. Innovation must respond to the realities of a changing climate, and digital progress must remain inclusive. Above all, we must strengthen South-South cooperation, not as a slogan, but as a genuine commitment to learn from one another, invest in one another, and move forward together.

Sustainable development will not be shaped by isolated efforts. It will be built on trust, through partnerships grounded in shared responsibility and mutual respect.

That is the role ISTIC was created to serve.

In uncertain times, cooperation in science is not optional. It is how resilience is strengthened and shared progress is made possible. ISTIC will continue advancing it with clarity, conviction, and purpose.



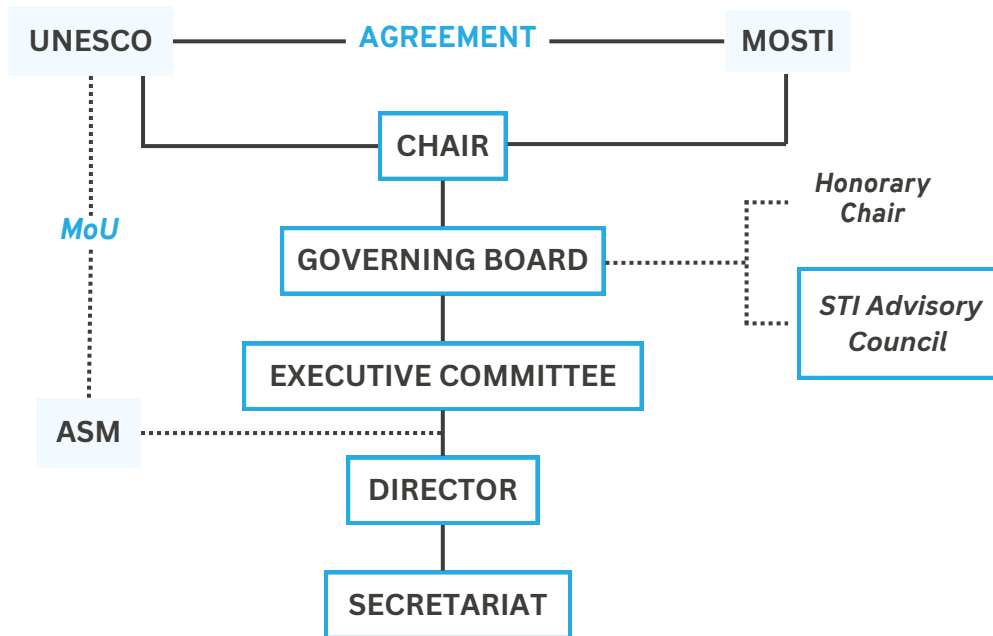
TENGGU SHARIZAD TENGGU DAHLAN
DIRECTOR, ISTIC





II- Organizational Profile and Governance

Institutional Overview



Patron

Dr. Irina Bokova

Former UNESCO Director-General
15 November 2023 - present

Honorary Chair

Academician Dato' Ir Dr. Lee Yee Cheong

January 2016 - present

Governing Board

The Governing Board defines ISTIC's mission and development strategy, approves its annual action plan and budget, appoints members to the STI Advisory Council and more.

In 2025, it met twice (online on May 8th and in Beijing, China, on October 8th).

Prof ChM Dr. Mohd Basyaruddin Abdul Rahman

FASc, FMIC, FRSC, Chair

Academician Dato' Ir. (Dr.) Lee Yee Cheong

Honorary Chair, ISTIC

Prof Dr. Lidia Arthur Brito

UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences ad interim

Datuk Seri Hj. Hasnol Zam Zam bin Hj. Ahmad

Secretary General, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)

Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd Jamil Maah

Honorary Treasurer, Academy of Sciences Malaysia.

Dr. Oh Tae Seog

President, Korea Institute of Science & Technology Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP)

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee, established by the Governing Board in consultation with the Government of Malaysia and UNESCO, oversees the effective day-to-day management of the Centre. Chaired by the Chairperson of the Governing Board, the Committee comprises representatives from MOSTI, the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, UNESCO, and the Director of the Centre as Secretary and non-voting member.

Secretariat

The ISTIC Secretariat, based in Kuala Lumpur and hosted by the Academy of Sciences in its former offices, is responsible for implementing ISTIC's activities, including project management, network coordination, communication, and administration.

Prof Wu Qidi

Director, International Centre for Engineering Education under the auspices of UNESCO (ICEE)

Prof Malik Maaza

UNESCO-UNISA Africa Chair
Nanosciences/Nanotechnology

Professor Dr. Manzor Hussain Soomro

immediate past President of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)

Dr. Marlene Kanga AO, Former President of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)

Prof ChM Dr. Mohd Basyaruddin Abdul Rahman

FASc, FMIC, FRSC, Chair

Dr. Ezra Clark

Chief of Section, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Division of Science Policy and Basic Science (PBS), Natural Sciences Sector, Representing UNESCO

Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd Jamil Maah FASc,

Honorary Treasurer, Academy of Sciences Malaysia.
Representative of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia

Dr. Balamurugan A/L Nallamuthu

Undersecretary of International Division, Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation (MOSTI),
Representative MOSTI Secretary-General

Tengku Sharizad Tengku Dahlan

Director of ISTIC as Secretary and Non-voting Member

Tengku Sharizad Tengku Dahlan

Director of ISTIC

Zarmila Salmi Sabot

Administrative Executive

Hannah Norazharuddin

Senior Programme Executive

Mohd Azim Noor

Programme Executive

Hazman Al-Hafiz Hazal

Assistant Programme Executive

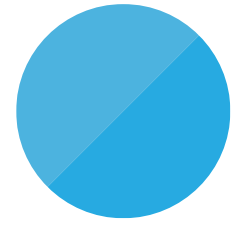
Dr Intan Sazrina Saimy

STI Policy Programme Specialist

Chiraz Haddad

Communication Specialist

Recognitions and Key Partnerships



A Category 2 Center under the auspices of UNESCO

UNESCO Category 2 Centres (C2Cs) form a global network of institutions that advance the Organization's strategic priorities through research, policy advisory, capacity building, and international cooperation. Operating as key partners, these centres extend UNESCO's reach by contributing specialized expertise while leveraging its global platform and convening power.

Since its establishment, ISTIC has been designated as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre in the field of science, technology and innovation policy. It remains the only centre within this network dedicated to South-South Cooperation, positioning it uniquely to strengthen collaboration, build institutional and human capacities, and promote shared development priorities across the Global South.



Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)

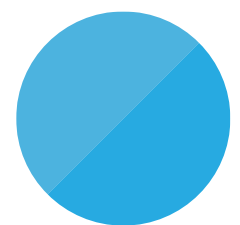
The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) represents the Government of Malaysia as signatory to the Agreement with UNESCO establishing ISTIC as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of the UNESCO.

Through this commitment, Malaysia positions ISTIC as a strategic instrument for advancing South-South Cooperation in science, technology and innovation. The Centre reflects a deliberate national contribution to strengthening capacities, enabling knowledge exchange, and fostering collaborative development across the Global South.

Ongoing support from the Government of Malaysia, channelled through MOSTI, ensures the continuity of ISTIC's mandate and programmes. This sustained commitment affirms Malaysia's role in advancing international cooperation in science, technology and innovation, and reinforces its contribution to inclusive and development-oriented innovation pathways globally.



Partners for 2025



Strategic partners :



Collaborative Partners :





III- Priority Agenda 2022-2027

2022-2027

ISTIC acts as a broker and strategic platform across its **6 priority areas** of activity, fostering collaboration and turning shared intentions into effective partnerships.

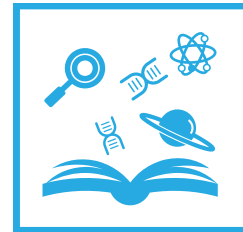
By aligning institutions, bridging systems, and supporting collective outcomes, ISTIC strengthens the global partnership ecosystem and advances sustainable impact.



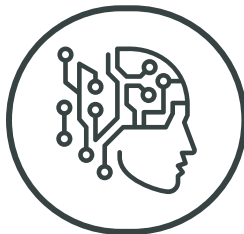
STI Advocacy,
Diplomacy and
Policy



Education for
Sustainable
Development



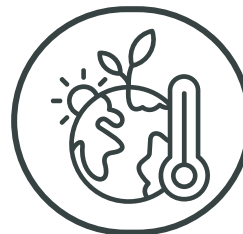
Open Science



Artificial and
Digital Technology



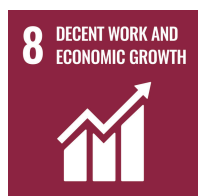
Research
Ecosystem



Climate Change
Education

Our Sustainable Development Goals

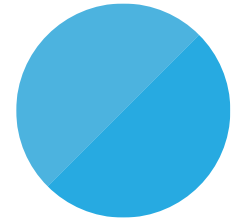
While our commitment extends to all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, these we specifically emphasize and contribute to the SDGs most closely aligned with our objectives.





IV- Core Programmes and Strategic Initiatives

Overview



40

Programmes
and Events

11

Conducted
Programmes

10 Strategic
Engagements



Top Participating Countries

Malaysia



Kenya



South Africa



China



Indonesia



India



Total : 34 Countries represented

Programmes Attendees

441

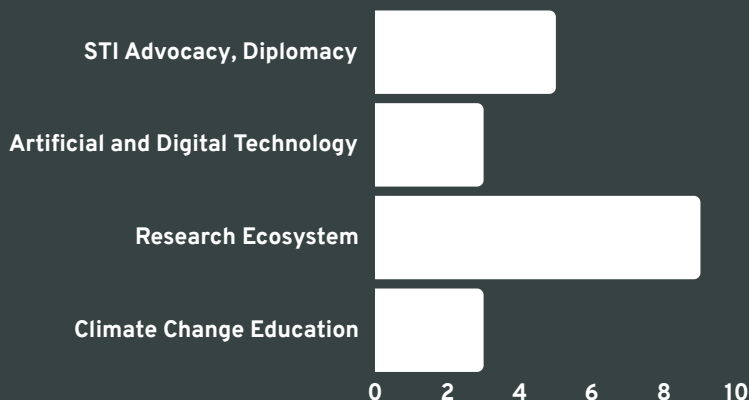
Participants

48%

Men

52%

Women



20

Programmes
based on the
Priority Agenda

Programme Participations

1- Leading Beyond Borders

21 - 25 April, Mauritius

17 Participants

5 Countries : Ghana, Iran, Malaysia, South Africa, Mauritius



2- Traditional Knowledge and Reverse Pharmacology

20 - 21 May, Setia Alam, Malaysia

28 Participants

3 Countries : Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal



3- Training Course on Sustainable Energy for Big Data Centre

24 - 26 May, Johor Bahru, Malaysia

22 Participants

1 Country : Malaysia

4 - 2nd East Africa Regional Workshop on Mastering Research Proposals

31 May - 3 June, Nairobi, Kenya

40 Participants

7 Countries : Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malaysia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda

5 - Training Programme on AI Literacy for ASEAN Teachers

17- 19 June, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

46 Participants

4 Countries : Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand



6 - Malaysia-South Africa Consultative Workshop

16- 17 July, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

49 Participants

1 Country: Malaysia



Programme Participations

7- KISTEP-ISTIC S&T Innovation Training Programme

12 - 15 August, Seoul, Korea

21 Participants

15 Countries : Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Mauritius, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uganda, Uzbekistan



8 - ISTIC - IKCEST : Big Data and AI

25-28 August, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

68 Participants

8 Countries : Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Jordan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Kazakhstan

9- ISTIC-NAM S&T Center - UM STI Policy Training Programme

22-24 September, Malang, Indonesia

18 Participants

10 Countries : Cambodia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Zambia

10 - International Conference on Women in SE²TI

9 - 11 October, Beijing, China

97 Participants

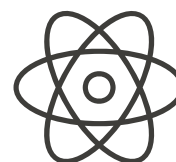
8 Countries : Malaysia, China, France, Indonesia, Iran, Thailand, Pakistan, Kazakhstan

11- ISTIC-NRF Consultative Meeting & AFRASIA Concept Co-Creation

24 - 25 November, Pretoria, South-Africa

35 Participants

8 Countries : Indonesia, South Africa, Kenya, Malaysia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Tunisia, Zimbabwe



Transformative Programmes

1- Advancing STI Policy, Advocacy and Diplomacy across regions

In 2025, ISTIC further strengthened its commitment to advancing science, technology and innovation (STI) policy, advocacy and diplomacy across the Global South. Through sustained institutional partnerships, high-level policy platforms and targeted governance initiatives, ISTIC reinforced its role as a trusted convener for strengthening national innovation systems and promoting South–South cooperation.

At the UNESCO **Global Ministerial Dialogue on Science Diplomacy**, held on **25–26 March 2025** at **UNESCO headquarters in Paris**, ISTIC joined the Malaysian delegation at the invitation of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). Convened under the theme “**Science Diplomacy in a Rapidly Changing World: Building Peace in the Minds of Men and Women,**” the Dialogue brought together ministers, policymakers and experts to advance science diplomacy as a tool for peacebuilding, multilateral collaboration and sustainable development.

During the Dialogue, the Minister of MOSTI co-chaired a Ministerial Roundtable on **Open Science** alongside **UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences**. In her remarks, the ADG acknowledged **ISTIC’s role as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre** and commended its contributions to promoting South–South cooperation in **STI**, particularly in capacity-building and knowledge exchange. The engagement reinforced ISTIC’s visibility within UNESCO’s multilateral framework and highlighted its continued relevance in advancing open and inclusive science.

MINISTERIAL VISIT TO OCE

Leveraging the opportunity of the UNESCO Global Ministerial Dialogue on Science Diplomacy in Paris, ISTIC facilitated a technical visit for the Malaysian delegation to the Office for Climate Education (OCE) at Sorbonne University, strengthening dialogue on collaboration in climate change education and youth-focused learning initiatives.



ISTIC and Malaysian Delegation at the OCE

In Africa, ISTIC advanced its support under the umbrella **programme ISTIC–UNESCO Cooperation in Promoting STI in Sustainable Island Developing States (SIDS)** in East Africa, through the project Strengthening the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) System in Mauritius, beginning with the formulation of the National STI Policy and Roadmap (2025–2030). The initiative was pursued in collaboration with UNESCO as a joint effort to enhance the country’s innovation governance framework. Strategic consultations with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research contributed to establishing coordination arrangements and identifying institutional focal points to guide the proposed policy development process. The process underscored the importance of **policy coherence, cross-sectoral alignment and sustainability considerations within national STI planning.**

Further strengthening its Global South footprint in the African region, ISTIC contributed to the **Sustainability Research and Innovation (SRI) Africa Satellite Event 2025** in Nairobi, a significant platform for STI policy dialogue. Through participation in high-level plenary sessions on inclusive resource governance and equitable scientific partnerships, ISTIC advanced discussions on the strategic role of STI in addressing **climate resilience, social equity and sustainable development priorities.** ISTIC co-convoked a dedicated session on strengthening **STI policy for SIDS**, reinforcing the value of coherent governance frameworks and South–South collaboration in advancing resilience-oriented innovation. The platform strengthened dialogue among policymakers, research institutions and development partners, enhancing ISTIC’s visibility in inclusive STI governance discourse.

Building on this momentum, ISTIC convened the **Leading Beyond Borders: Mastering Global Diplomacy, Strategic Alliances and Impactful Leadership workshop** from **21–25 April 2025** at the University of Mauritius, in collaboration with **Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)** and with the support of the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research of Mauritius. The workshop brought together 18 senior professionals from Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa, Iran and Ghana, representing a cross-section of scientific, policy and diplomatic leadership across the Global South. Designed as a high-level capacity-building initiative, the programme strengthened leadership competencies at the interface of science, technology and international policy, addressing diplomatic negotiation, cross-border collaboration and strategic alliance-building. Through expert-led sessions, strategic simulations and peer exchange, participants examined their roles in shaping STI diplomacy and institutional cooperation in multilateral environments. The successful delivery of the workshop reinforced ISTIC’s role as a convening platform for advancing STI diplomacy and leadership development across the Global South.



In Asia, ISTIC reinforced its role as a regional hub within the Global South through two long-standing strategic partnerships.

The **17th instalment of the KISTEP–ISTIC S&T Innovation Training Programme for High-Level Policy Makers**, co-organised with the **Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP)**, continued a collaboration that since 2009 has convened over **250 senior policymakers** from more than **70 countries**. The 2025 edition, held in Seoul, brought together **21 delegates from 15 countries** for structured policy dialogue on R&D planning and coordination mechanisms, performance-based evaluation systems, budget allocation processes and science diplomacy. By engaging officials directly responsible for national STI strategy and governance, the programme remains a sustained platform for peer exchange and institutional learning, strengthening evaluation frameworks and international STI cooperation across the Global South.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

It comprised eight lecture sessions, which are designed to provide a comprehensive overview of Korea's R&D management model and help maximize the capacity of participants in STI policy decision-making. The lectures provided insights into the key aspects of P.I.E. (Planning, Investment and Evaluation). The sessions included:

- Science and Technology Policy of Korea : Past and Forward
- Science and Technology Basic Plan
- National Strategic Technologies
- R&D Program Evaluation
- R&D Institution Evaluation
- R&D Program Budget Allocation and coordination
- Special Session on Science Diplomacy



ISTIC also continued its long-standing strategic partnership with the NAM S&T Centre, in collaboration with Universitas Negeri Malang (UM), through the 2025 “**International Training Programme on STI Policy: Artificial Intelligence for Climate Learning Futures**” held in Indonesia. Bringing together 18 participants from 10 countries across Africa and Asia, the programme addressed the governance implications of emerging technologies in advancing climate literacy and sustainable development priorities.

Through expert dialogues, innovation labs and country presentations, participants co-developed draft STI–Climate–AI policy briefs, laying the foundation for a joint knowledge publication. The programme strengthened South–South exchange, expanded institutional linkages and reinforced ISTIC’s growing role in responsible AI and climate policy discourse.

Across these areas, ISTIC continued to strengthen its role as a platform for science diplomacy, policy dialogue and international cooperation. Through sustained partnerships and high-level exchanges, ISTIC supports the development of **more coherent and collaborative STI governance approaches across the Global South**.

2- Strengthening Research Ecosystems and Fostering Scientific Collaboration

Throughout 2025, ISTIC advanced efforts to strengthen research ecosystems across the Global South by facilitating **collaborative platforms, supporting capacity development for emerging researchers, and expanding institutional partnerships**. These initiatives emphasised **transdisciplinary research approaches**, inclusive participation in **science**, and strengthened South–South collaboration to address shared sustainable development challenges.

As part of these efforts, ISTIC organised the **2nd East Africa Regional Workshop on Mastering Research Proposals “Integrating Transdisciplinary Approaches for Impactful Research”** in Nairobi.

The workshop convened 41 early- and mid-career researchers from six East African countries, together with 2 representatives from Malaysia, to strengthen skills in developing competitive research proposals addressing priority challenges such as climate change, food and water security, and poverty eradication. By promoting transdisciplinary collaboration and problem-oriented research design, the workshop supported the development of research capacities aligned with regional development priorities.



At the global level, ISTIC contributed to discussions on financing science and innovation systems by co-organising a side event at the **4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) in Seville, Spain**, together with the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa.

The session examined financing mechanisms and partnership models aimed at strengthening STI systems across the Global South, highlighting the importance of coordinated funding strategies to support collaborative research and long-term capacity development.

ISTIC also contributed to strengthening inclusivity within the global research ecosystem through its involvement in the **International Conference on Women in Science, Engineering, Economy, Technology and Innovation (SE²TI) in Beijing**. The conference provided a platform to advance discussions on increasing women's participation and leadership in science, technology and innovation while promoting gender inclusivity within research and innovation systems.

International Conference on Women in Science, Engineering, Economy, Technology and Innovation



In advancing South–South research collaboration, ISTIC facilitated the development of the **Global South Research Universities Alliance (GSRUA)** as a collaborative platform linking research universities across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Implemented in partnership with the **National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa and the Future Earth Africa Hub**, the alliance seeks to promote **collaborative research, expertise exchange and the development** of joint projects addressing shared sustainable development challenges. An initial mapping study of existing university networks was undertaken to identify potential member institutions and collaboration pathways, laying the groundwork for the alliance's governance structure and priority research areas.

ISTIC also supported the strengthening of bilateral and trilateral research collaboration through engagements connected to the **Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) between Malaysia and South Africa**. A series of technical visits and consultative workshops convened 48 participants, including policymakers, researchers and innovation stakeholders, to identify priority areas for cooperation such as **water security, renewable energy** and the **One Health** approach. Building on these discussions, ISTIC further expanded collaboration through a strategic visit to Indonesia, engaging with the **Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MOHEST), the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)** and **Universitas Negeri Malang (UM)** to explore opportunities for joint research initiatives, capacity development and co-funding in priority STI areas.



Technical Visit to ASM



Technical Visit to MRANTI



MoU Signing ISTIC-NRF



Technical Visit to BRIN



3rd South Africa - Malaysia JCM



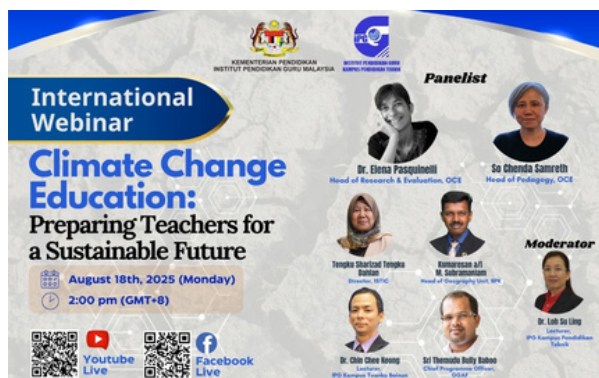
Consultative workshop

Building on these collaborative efforts, ISTIC together with the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa and the Future Earth Africa Hub advanced the **AFRASIA** initiative, a six-year **Asia–Africa STI cooperation framework** designed to strengthen **collaborative research, capacity development and knowledge exchange between Asia and Africa**. The initiative brings together key institutions from **Malaysia, South-Africa, Indonesia and Tanzania** and supports joint research funding programmes, the development of communities of practice, impact monitoring mechanisms and the dissemination of research outcomes addressing shared global challenges such as climate change, food and water security, health and energy transition.

Collectively, these initiatives strengthened collaborative research networks and institutional partnerships across the Global South. Through transdisciplinary research platforms, South–South cooperation and collaborative funding pathways, ISTIC continues to support the development of resilient research ecosystems capable of generating knowledge and solutions to address shared sustainable development challenges.

3 - Advancing Education for Sustainability and Climate Action

In 2025, ISTIC strengthened its contributions to climate change and sustainability education across the Global South by working with international partners, supporting capacity-building initiatives and promoting regional collaboration in Southeast Asia. These actions focused on enhancing educators' ability to integrate climate change into existing teaching and learning systems.



As part of this initiative, ISTIC introduced the **Greening Education for Southeast Asia (GE4SEA)** project at the **International Webinar on Climate Change Education** in August. Developed in collaboration with the **Office for Climate Education, GE4SEA** focuses on strengthening regional capacity by supporting teacher training, localising global climate education frameworks and fostering cross-country collaboration. The initiative contributes to enhancing existing education systems by enabling educators to more effectively deliver climate change and sustainability content.



International Webinar on CCE

OCE 3RD INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
 ISTIC supported Malaysia's participation in the 3rd International Seminar on Climate Change Education organised by the Office for Climate Education (OCE) in Erice, Sicily. The seminar brought together educators, policymakers and experts to exchange approaches for integrating climate change into formal education systems.



Throughout the year, ISTIC advances its efforts in this area through participation in international platforms, including the **7th International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE 2025)** in New Delhi and the **5th International Conference on Business, Economics, and Sustainability (BESS)** in Malang. These platforms provided opportunities to reinforce the role of sustainability education in supporting green skills development, employment pathways and the transition towards climate-resilient societies.



7th International Conference on Sustainability Education in India



5th International Conference on Business, Economics, and Sustainability in Indonesia

ISTIC's role in advancing and supporting climate change education and sustainability learning across the Global South will continue to expand. Through capacity-building for educators, regional collaboration and alignment with global frameworks, ISTIC contributes to strengthening and enhancing existing education systems in support of climate resilience and sustainable development.

4- Accelerating Digital Transformation and Responsible Artificial Intelligence

In 2025, ISTIC expanded its work on digital transformation as a driver of sustainable development, with a focus on environmental responsibility, ethical practices and inclusive capacity-building. These efforts highlighted how digital technologies can be applied in ways that support both innovation and sustainability.

In Johor Bahru, ISTIC convened the **Training Course on Sustainable Energy for Big Data Centre**, bringing 22 Malaysian participants to explore how the rapid growth of digital infrastructure like a big data centre can be managed more sustainably. The programme examined practical approaches to improving **energy efficiency, integrating renewable energy and adopting circular design principles, offering insights into reducing the environmental impact of digital systems.**

Recognising the growing importance of artificial intelligence education, ISTIC, together with AETDEW and Sri Bestari Private School, organised the **Training Programme on AI Literacy for ASEAN Primary and Secondary School Teachers** in Kuala Lumpur, from 17 to 19 June 2025.

Aligned with Malaysia's National Robotics Roadmap and global frameworks such as the Beijing Consensus on Artificial Intelligence and Education, the programme supported teachers in integrating AI concepts into existing curricula. It also emphasised key competencies such as **computational thinking, ethical awareness and innovation**, helping to prepare students for a rapidly evolving digital landscape. The programme was attended by **46 participants** from four countries, including **26 men and 20 women**.



AI Literacy workshop for ASEAN Primary and Secondary School Teachers



International Training Workshop on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence



In Kuala Lumpur, ISTIC co-organised the **International Training Workshop on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence** in collaboration with **IKCEST, MIMOS and Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU)**. The programme brought together 67 participants from 11 countries to explore how data-driven tools can enhance research productivity and strengthen collaboration across borders. The strong participation of women and early-career researchers, with 30 male and 37 female participants, underscored ISTIC's commitment to inclusivity in advancing digital competencies and innovation.

As digital technologies continue to reshape how we live, learn and work, ISTIC remains committed to promoting a transformation that is both responsible and inclusive. By supporting practical applications of AI and data-driven solutions, while encouraging collaboration across borders, ISTIC helps to ensure that digital progress contributes meaningfully to sustainable and equitable development.



V- Finance

Finance

The total budget for ISTIC in 2025 amounts to **RM2,000,000.00**, with a carried forward balance of **RM1,050,885.11** from the previous year.

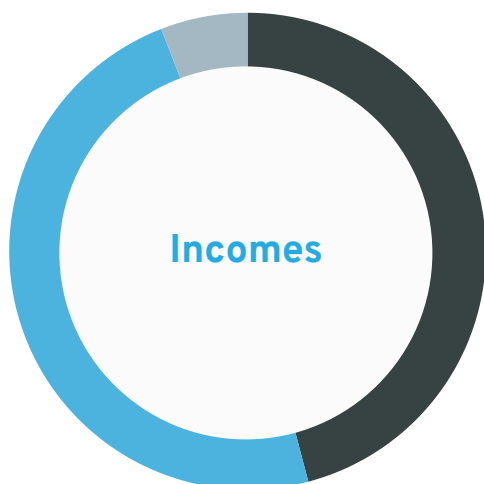
INCOME

For 2025, ISTIC's total available budget stands at **RM3,050,885.11**, combining deferred income and the anticipated government grant. RM1,400,377.47 (45.9%) is allocated to operations to cover staffing, utilities, and essential day-to-day functions, while RM181,272.53 (5.9%) supports governance, including Board meetings and compliance activities.

The largest portion, RM1,469,235.11 (48.2%), is dedicated to programmes and activities aligned with ISTIC's strategic thrusts, supporting capacity building, regional collaboration, and sustainable development through STIE.

This balanced distribution enables ISTIC to remain efficient, accountable, and impactful in delivering its mandate.

- 45.9% Operations
- 48.2% Programmes and Activities
- 5.9% Governance

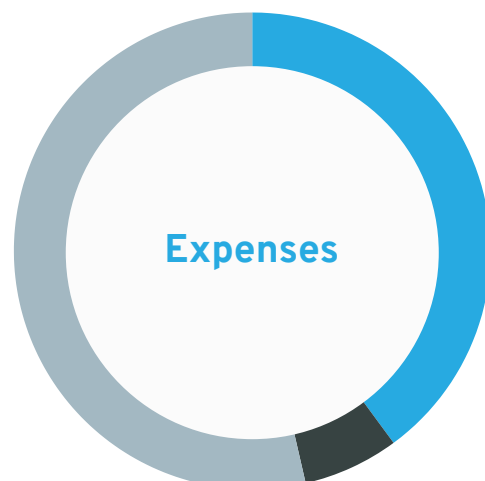


EXPENSES

As of 31 August 2025, total expenditure reached **RM1,110,763.39**, with 39.9% (RM442,766.55) spent on emoluments, 6.5% (RM72,560.41) on office operations, and 53.6% (RM595,436.43) on governance and programme activities, including conferences, workshops, and collaborative initiatives.

The majority of spending being directed toward programmes highlights ISTIC's focus on delivering tangible outcomes and advancing its mandate. Operational and governance costs were carefully managed, ensuring resources are used efficiently while maintaining transparency, accountability, and the capacity to respond to emerging priorities.

- 39.9% Emolument Cost
- 6.5% Office Operations
- 56.6% Governance and Programmes



Finance

INCOME

In 2025, ISTIC recorded a strong and prudent financial performance, supported by effective budget planning and disciplined expenditure management. The total income for the year, comprising the allocation from the Government of Malaysia (GOM) and the balance brought forward from 2024 amounting to RM1,050,885.11, stood at **RM3,050,885.11**

**Total Allocation:
RM 3,050,885.11**

- 66% Government of Malaysia
- 34% Balance

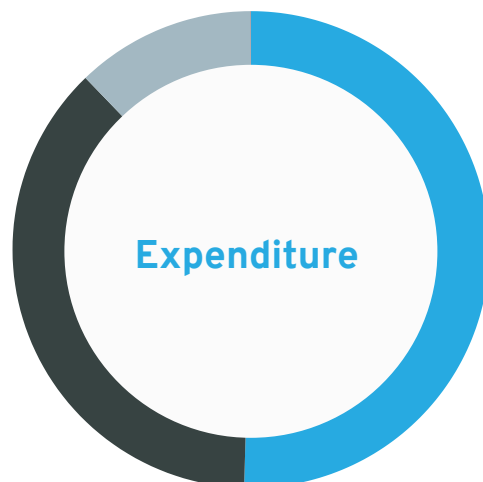


EXPENDITURE

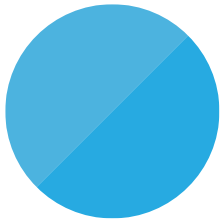
Total expenditure for the year amounted to **RM1,801,723.33**, resulting in an overall budget utilisation rate of approximately 90%. The expenditure comprises of programme RM900,799.41 (50%), emolument RM669,493.97 (37%), office operational RM231,429.95 (13%) and governance RM938.39 (0.05%).

The unutilised budget balance of **RM222,066.00** was attributable to administrative, operational and timing-related factors including the non-appointment of approved resource positions, pending payment of the Chairman's honorarium and non-disbursement of Governing Board meeting.

- 50% Programmes
- 37% Emolument
- 13% Office Operational
- 0,05% Governance



Total Allocation : RM 1,801,723.33



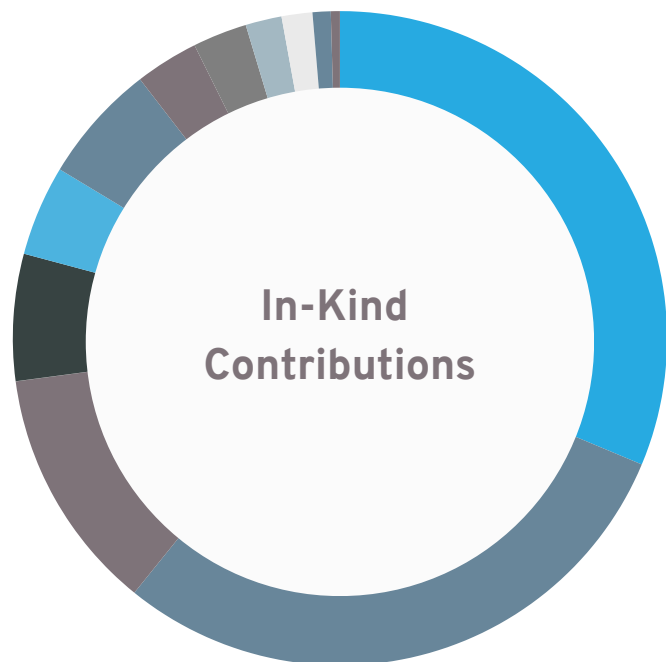
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

In addition to direct financial resources, ISTIC benefited from in-kind contributions valued at RM1,222,000.00, which supported programme delivery, strategic partnerships and capacity-building initiatives throughout the year.

FINAL REMARKS

Overall, the 2025 financial outcome reflects sound financial governance, prudent resource utilisation, and strong institutional support, positioning ISTIC favourably for programme continuity and strategic implementation in subsequent years. The balance carried forward for 2025 is **RM1,249,161.78**.

- 28.6% KISTEP
- 27.0% South African Partners
- 11.0% UTM
- 8.5% Universitas Negeri Malang
- 5.7% NAM S&T ● 4.1% ICEE
- 5.4% Big Data and AI Partners
- 2.9% OCE ● 2.5% MOSTI
- 1.6% ARST ● 1.4% LBB
- 0.8% IMR ● 0.4% ICSE



Total : RM 1,222,000.00

VI- Annexes

ANNEXE 1 : Analysis of 2025 Programmes

| <u>No</u> | Programme | Participants | Countries | Number of Countries |
|-----------|--|--------------|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Workshop on Leading Beyond Borders: Mastering Global Diplomacy, Strategic Alliances and Impactful Leadership (LBB2025) <i>21 - 25 April 2025, Mauritius</i> | 17 | Ghana, Iran, Malaysia (4), Mauritius (8), South Africa (3) | 5 |
| 2 | ISTIC – IKCEST International Training Workshop on Big Data and AI <i>25 - 28 August 2025, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</i> | 68 | Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Jordan (2), Malaysia (49), Nepal (2), Pakistan, Kazakhstan | 8 |
| 3 | KISTEP-ISTIC S&T Innovation Training Program for High-Level Policy Makers: Enhancing STI Policy Excellence: Focusing on Evaluation Systems and Science Diplomacy Insights from Korea <i>12 - 15 August 2025, Seoul, Korea</i> | 21 | Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia (4), Mauritius, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uganda, Uzbekistan (4) | 15 |
| 4 | ISTIC – NAM S&T Centre – UM STI Policy Training Programme <i>22 - 24 September 2025, Malang, Indonesia</i> | 18 | Cambodia, Egypt, India (3), Indonesia (5), Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia (3), Myanmar, Nepal, Zambia | 10 |
| 5 | Training Programme on AI Literacy for ASEAN Primary and Secondary School Teachers <i>17 - 19 June 2025, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</i> | 46 | Cambodia, Malaysia (41), Indonesia (2), Thailand (2) | 4 |
| 6 | Malaysia–South Africa Consultative Workshop <i>16 - 17 July 2025, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</i> | 49 | Malaysia (49) | 1 |

ANNEXE 1 : Analysis of 2025 Programmes

| <u>No</u> | Programme | Participants | Countries | Number of Countries |
|-----------|---|--------------|--|---------------------|
| 7 | Workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Reverse Pharmacology: Bridging the Past, Present and Future (IMR) <i>20 - 21 May 2025, Setia Alam Selangor, Malaysia</i> | 28 | Indonesia, Malaysia (26), Nepal | 3 |
| 8 | International Conference on Women in Science, Engineering, Economy, Technology and Innovation (SE ² TI) <i>9 - 11 October 2025, Beijing, China</i> | 97 | Malaysia, China, France, Indonesia, Iran, Thailand, Pakistan, Kazakhstan | 8 |
| 9 | 2nd East Africa Regional Workshop on Mastering Research Proposals: Integrating Transdisciplinary Approaches for Impactful Research <i>31 May - 3 June 2025, Nairobi, Kenya</i> | 40 | Burundi, Ethiopia (2), Kenya (32), Malaysia (2), Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda | 7 |
| 10 | Training Course on Sustainable Energy for Big Data Centre <i>24 - 26 May 2025, Johor Bahru, Malaysia</i> | 22 | Malaysia (22) | 1 |
| 11 | ISTIC-NRF Consultative Meeting & AFRASIA Concept Co-Creation <i>24 - 25 November 2025, Pretoria</i> | 35 | Indonesia (2), South Africa (18), Kenya (1), Malaysia (8), Netherlands (1), Nigeria (1), Tunisia (1), Zimbabwe (1) | 8 |

ANNEXE 2 : Participation by Countries

| <u>No</u> | Country | Total |
|-----------|------------|-------|
| 1 | Bangladesh | 2 |
| 2 | Botswana | 1 |
| 3 | Burundi | 1 |
| 4 | Cambodia | 4 |
| 5 | China | 44 |
| 6 | Egypt | 4 |
| | Ethiopia | 2 |
| 8 | Ghana | 1 |
| 9 | India | 5 |
| 10 | Indonesia | 11 |
| 11 | Iran | 1 |
| 12 | Iraq | 1 |
| 13 | Jordan | 2 |
| 14 | Kazakhstan | 1 |
| 15 | Kenya | 34 |
| 16 | Malaysia | 176 |
| 17 | Mauritius | 9 |
| 18 | Myanmar | 1 |

| <u>No</u> | Country | Total |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 19 | Namibia | 1 |
| 20 | Nepal | 5 |
| 21 | Netherlands | 1 |
| 22 | Nigeria | 2 |
| 23 | Pakistan | 1 |
| 24 | Philippines | 1 |
| 25 | Rwanda | 1 |
| 26 | South Africa | 21 |
| 27 | Sri Lanka | 1 |
| 28 | Tanzania | 1 |
| 29 | Thailand | 2 |
| 30 | Tunisia | 2 |
| 31 | Uganda | 2 |
| 32 | Uzbekistan | 4 |
| 33 | Zambia | 1 |
| 34 | Zimbabwe | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 441 |


ANNEXE 3 : Participation by Geographical Region


| Region | Asia & The Pacific | Arab States | Africa | Latin America & the Caribbean | North America & Europe |
|---|--------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| LBB | 5 | | 12 | | |
| IKCEST BDAI | 56 | 2 | | | |
| KISTEP | 15 | 1 | 5 | | |
| NAM S&T | 14 | 2 | 2 | | |
| AI Literacy ASEAN Primary & Secondary School teachers | 46 | | | | |
| Malaysia-South Africa Consultative Workshop | 17 | | 21 | | |
| IMR | 28 | | | | |
| SE2TI | 97 | | | | |
| 2nd East Africa Regional Workshop | 2 | | 38 | | |
| Big Data Centre | 22 | | | | |
| NRF | 10 | 1 | 21 | | 1 |
| TOTAL | 312 | 6 | 78 | 0 | 1 |


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