



**19th SHARE Meeting
19 October 2023, Tokyo, Japan**

COMMUNIQUE

High-level stakeholders from Asian countries gathered in Tokyo and Kitakyushu, Japan, from October 17 to 19, 2023, to discuss the potential of ICT to support social innovation and address the challenges posed by climate change and other related global issues. The Telecommunication Technology Committee Japan (TTC) hosted the meeting and brought together representatives from government, industry, academia, and civil society. Participants shared their insights on the latest ICT trends and developments and explored how these technologies can create positive social and environmental impact.

One of the key themes of the meeting was the role of ICT in promoting social resilience. Participants discussed how ICT can support disaster response, improve access to healthcare and education, and empower communities to take action on climate change.

Another key theme of the meeting was the importance of collaboration and partnerships. Participants recognized that the world's challenges today are complex and interconnected and that no single organization can solve them alone. They called for increased collaboration between government, industry, academia, and civil society to develop and deploy ICT solutions to address these challenges and create a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

They expanded the discussion to the possibility of adopting the Social Innovation approach as the central principle for future work by SHARE members. It is about collaborating and sharing information materials and experiences on a shared platform, where projects in each country are co-defining, co-designing and co-constructing ideas based on the fundamental principles of the SHARE membership. There is a pending need to address the post-COVID impact on society and how solutions are constructed to address the "new normal". Aspects of social innovation studies should include newness in the means-to-end process, creating a new emerging need for social capability. For instance, innovating in the face of frequent extreme weather

events is imperative for sustaining societal well-being, with a focus on both the most advantaged and the least advantaged, including indigenous and marginalised communities. This new sense of resilience is essential for the well-being of all members of society, regardless of where they live.

SHARE members aim to continue **innovating and collaborating** under the **Green Climate Change Adaptation** theme. Given the post-COVID pandemic effects on Asian communities and the critical importance of food security, SHARE members proposed a comprehensive research plan to demonstrate initiatives that focus on transforming agriculture and food supply chains to enhance social resilience. Multidisciplinary research teams from SHARE partner countries will design and deploy innovation that will build on collaboration across sectors to address critical issues of climate change, extreme weather events and their impact on food systems. The collective effort will pursue resource sharing, mutual learning, and collective response to inform the research processes required.

In the three-day meeting, SHARE members also had an opportunity to witness farming activities in the Kitakyushu countryside. Members saw how ICT was used in rice farming and how new businesses emerged from traditional farming, which younger entrepreneurs now run.

The meeting concluded with a call to action for participants to work together to harness the power of ICT to create a better world for all. Participants are committed to sharing their knowledge and resources and collaborating on projects to develop and implement innovative ICT solutions to society's challenges. A synthesis has taken shape at the end of the visit, where one research initiative will focus on Agriculture and Food Systems in ASEAN and Japan. The lead organization is the Kasetsart University team in Thailand. They will outline the Open Cyber Exchange implemented locally and shared with other SHARE member countries. The parallel thrust will focus on the adaptations made by partner countries for sustainability, the design for resilience against extreme weather events, and the long-term cascade of problems for farmers in different countries. Learning from Thailand's experience in modernizing Agriculture during the COVID-19 pandemic through youths, SHARE member countries will study the same phenomenon in various contexts - emphasizing the marginalized outsiders who have much to contribute to Social Resilience.

At the end of the meeting, SHARE confirmed the follow-up activities:

1/ Workshop: To create a comprehensive research plan that utilizes Social Resilience as the critical approach to address **Green Climate Change Adaptation through Innovation and Collaboration**.

2/ Ideathon: To be held in the first quarter of 2024 to increase interest and motivation among Asian youths to think of innovative solutions for **Green Climate Change Adaptation**.

The participating organizations were:

Bandung Institute of Technology, Palangka Raya University, Kasetsart University, National Vietnam Telecom Public Company Limited, Ateneo de Manila University, University of Technology Sarawak, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, NTT, NEC, OKI.