

Message from the Chair of STEPAN

Dr Aini Suzana Ariffin

Chair, SETI Policy Asia and
the Pacific Network (STEPAN)



As 2021 just ended, it is time to reflect on 2021 and welcome 2022.

I would personally like to thank all our valued Coordination Board members, National Focal Points and partners for their continuous support and dedication - we couldn't have been where we are now without such a tremendous level of endorsement from all of you. Last November 2021, we managed to develop STEPAN Trust, Roadmap and Action Plans 2022-2024 and this year 2022 onwards, together we will implement them effectively.

As the world around us is changing rapidly including economies, industries and societies. Technology trends like Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, IoT (Internet of Things), Big Data, and others will not only have a profound impact on how technology is diffused but also how it is shared for the benefit of the society and nation. Therefore, knowledge sharing and training will remain very relevant as the need for competencies continue to increase to overcome those changes. In this context, one of our main initiatives for 2022 is to introduce and implement Open Science widely.

Ever since its inception in 1988 and revival in 2021, STEPAN always remains committed to assist countries to target and utilize their sometimes scarce and limited SETI resources effectively towards future development for industry and economic growth of country members. We have every intent to be one of the premier and effective networks within the region. It may sound like a very big challenge indeed. But, with imagination, vision and determination, from all country members, it can and will happen.

I also would like to thank the team of STEPAN Secretariat at UNESCO Office Jakarta for all the hard work and incredible levels of enthusiasm ensuring that our members get the best from us.

Wishing everybody a happy, healthy and successful 2022.

2021 STEPAN Newsletter



Mr Mohamed Djelid

Director of UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Representative to Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste

Message from the Director of UNESCO Regional Science Bureau

“STEPAN played, and will continue to play an important role in Asia and the Pacific to enhance the member states' SETI capacity through sound policy and strategy towards national development goals and SDGs in a gender transformative and responsive way.”



UNESCO relaunches STEPAN in March, 2021

10 years after STEPAN's last meeting, more than 50 experts from across Asia and the Pacific, including 16 member states represented by officially nominated national STEPAN Focal Point Representatives, took part in a two-day revival discussion.

[Read more](#)



STEPAN Coordination Board elected in April, 2021

After STEPAN Revival, the NFPRs voted for the Coordination Board of STEPAN for the first term (2021-2024). Dr Aini Suzana Hj Ariffin was elected as the Chair, Dr Eunjung Shin, Dr Inkyoung Sun, Dr Mahesha Sigera Nadugala and Dr Dilfuza Egamberdieva were elected as the Vice-Chairs in charge of STEPAN Themes: 1) Open Science implementation Mechanism, 2) SDGs technologies, and 3) Monitoring and nurturing SETI national and regional culture.



Coordination Board meetings in 2021

Following the official appointment in May 2021, the Coordination Board meets with the secretariat of STEPAN regularly to discuss the Action Plan, the strategies and plan for the upcoming activities of STEPAN. The three coordination board meetings were held last year on 12 May, 9 September and 12 October.



Members approved Action Plan in November, 2021

Since the first discussion on the Action Plan in March 2021, the coordination board, the secretariat and the STEPAN members have been working hard together through an integrative process. The final draft was approved by the members in November.

[Read the final draft](#)

The screenshot displays the website interface for the research topic: "Advancing UNESCO Member States' National Development Goals on Open Science, SETI and SDGs in Asia and the Pacific". It includes navigation links like "Overview", "Articles", "Authors", and "Impact", and buttons for "Submit your abstract", "Submit your manuscript", and "Participate".

STEPAN is launching an edition in Frontiers in January, 2022

As the first collaborative effort of STEPAN, the network is launching an edition in Frontiers in Political Science journal: "Advancing UNESCO Member States' National Development Goals on Open Science, SETI and SDGs in Asia and the Pacific"

[Learn more](#)

The screenshot shows the new website design with the title "STEPAN (Science Technology Engineering Innovation Policy Asia and the Pacific Network)" and a "Learn more" button.

New website of STEPAN is coming in early 2022

To build a cooperative environment of member states in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen the regional network by exchanging information regularly, the official STEPAN website is under development and will be launched early this year.

The poster is titled "ONLINE TRAINING RESEARCH ETHICS STANDARDS: REFASHIONING SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE". It lists trainers: Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari (Vice Chairman, UNESCO-World Commission for Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology) and Dr. Ali Tahla Khalil (Assistant Professor, The Lady Reading Hospital Medical Teaching Institution (LRH-MTI)). It includes a QR code and the URL "bit.ly/ResearchEthic".

Addressing the issue of Research Integrity

In the first quarter of 2022, STEPAN in collaboration with UNESCO will organise a Special Regional Dialogue and a capacity building programme, to discuss current issues and way forward in the field of research ethics and integrity during the pandemic. Free elearning course available:

[Learn more](#)

The banner features the UNESCO and STEPAN logos and the text: "Country Report from National Focal Point Representatives National Perspectives and Exchanges". It includes a "Click to download" button and a small disclaimer at the bottom: "This information will be consolidated and aligned into STEPAN's Work Programme for 2022 and 2023 onwards. We will upload into our Big Data Management and to be shared with all members."

2nd Annual Meeting in May 2022

The next annual meeting of STEPAN will be held in May 2022. Besides the current members sharing their country report (template available for download), nominations of new members will be opened to the whole region.

For more information, please contact: a.sugjura@unesco.org