

UK-VN

SCIENCE &
INNOVATION
NEWSLETTER

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“Innovation is seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has though”



WELCOME TO OUR 3TH NEWSLETTER

UK-VN science and innovation collaboration witnessed another dynamic month. Dive through the most updated activities from page 2, get ready for up-coming activities and funding call listed on page 5, and don't forget to look for the Apple for Thoughts hanging at page 6 and to discuss on “Research Impact”.

HIGHLIGHTS



JULY – SEPTEMBER 2019

NAFOSTED – BRITISH ACADEMY SUPPORTED THREE RESEARCHERS IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGICAL & AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES TO VISIT THE UK

In June, three Vietnamese scientists were selected by the National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED) for academic exchanges to the UK. Scientists from the National Center for Technology Progress (Ministry of Science and Technology), the Institute of Land Management and Rural Development (Vietnam National University of Forestry), and the Hanoi Pedagogical University 2, will conduct short-term studies in Medicine and Biological & Agricultural Sciences for 3 to 6 months respectively at Portsmouth University, Sussex University, and Edinburgh University. This is the first 2019 exchange under the collaboration programme NAFOSTED signed with the UK's British Academy and the Royal Academy of Engineering. The programme is supported by Newton Fund and aims to enhance science and technology capacity for Vietnam. The second call for application is now open until 8 November 2019. For more details, please see "Research Funding Calls" section at page 5.

FIFTH EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION (EAI) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL NETWORKS AND INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS (INISCOM 2019)

The 5th EAI International Conference on Industrial Networks and Intelligent Systems (INISCOM 2019) was organised in Ho Chi Minh City on 19-20 August 2019 (<http://www.iniscom.org>). The conference is a premier forum for presentation of latest cutting-edge research results in computing, telecommunications technologies, and applications of Internet of Things (IoT), to improve citizens' lives. This year, 24 top-quality researches were selected to present at the conference. Most outstanding papers will appear in Special Issues in well-known international journals, i.e., ACM/Springer Mobile Networks and Applications (MONET) and EAI Endorsed Transactions on Industrial Networks and Intelligent Systems. The conference also featured keynotes from renowned world-class leaders in the area, including Prof Tolga M. Duman, Editor in Chief of Elsevier Physical Communication and Dr Norman Apsley, Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. The conference was organised by Nong Lam University and Duy Tan University, technically sponsored by Springer and European Alliance for Innovation (EAI), and financially supported by Newton Fund Institutional Link Programme and Newton Prize 2017. The 6th INISCOM is expected to take place in Hanoi, 27-28 August 2020.

LEADERS IN INNOVATION FELLOWSHIPS SESSIONS IN VIETNAM

The Leaders in Innovation Fellowships (LIF) training program took place in Hanoi from 14-15 August under the coordination of UK's Royal Academy of Engineering (RAEng) and Vietnam's National Agency for Technology Entrepreneurship and Commercialisation Development (NATEC). This is the follow on training from the 2-week intensive sessions in London in January. At the course, LIF students, comprised of professional researchers or technology entrepreneurs, had the opportunity to discuss directly with RAEng's advisors on their work progress for the past 6 months, and on specific challenges they face. Some of the topics that attracted the attention of the Fellows were intellectual property, valuation, fund raising, and product marketing. To further inspire entrepreneurship, real-life stories of branding and market access from notable start-ups such as [Netnam](#), [Far-Green](#), [KidsOnline](#) were shared by the CEOs. This October, the LIF program will continue with the Asia Innovates Conference held in Malaysia.



LIF Sessions in Hanoi

GCRF'S PROJECT IMPROVES THE RESILIENCE OF INFRASTRUCTURES IN STORMS IN VIETNAM

The 2nd Symposium on Wind and Structures (WaS 2019) was hosted in Ho Chi Minh City on 8 September by the Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City (IUH) under the three-year project "Improving the Resilience of Infrastructure in Storms" (IRIS), funded by GCRF through the Royal Society. This is an international collaboration between Nottingham University, the Vietnamese German University, and IUH. Phase 1 created a new wind hazard model for Vietnam and the second phase is exploiting numerical simulations of wind structure interactions to assess the vulnerability of important communication and power assets. The workshop therefore is heavily themed on simulating the responses of structures to wind loads. Eight invited speakers from the UK, USA, Italy, Spain and Vietnam gave presentations on the state of the art in wind structure interactions to an audience of over 60 delegates representing researchers, industry and students. Alongside this workshop, a training workshop on Computational Fluids Dynamics (CFD) was held at IUH on 10 September, providing 20 researchers and students the basis of using OpenFOAM, an open source software, to simulate fluid flows around solid bodies. The project disseminated to universities, with an outreach event at Tran Dai Nghia gifted high school. Two further workshops under this project will be held in 2020 in the UK and in Vietnam, focusing on the final phase - developing a new risk and reliability framework for Vietnam.



Outreach event at Tran Dai Nghia gifted high school

UK-VIETNAM COOPERATION FOR BETTER WEATHER FORECASTING

A delegation of Vietnam Hydrology and Meteorology Administration (VNMHA) visited London from 23-24 September for a global conference of the Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership (WCSSP) programme funded by the Newton Fund. The UK Met Office and VNMHA signed a Letter of Intent to implement the WCSSP project Southeast Asia from May 2019. It is expected that in the next 2 years, the two parties will implement scientific research on climate modelling, and improve Vietnam's capacity in impact-based forecasting. Accordingly, weather forecasts will be built to suit the diverse needs of different sectors, such as agriculture, transportation, infrastructure development, etc.



Vietnam delegation at the Global WCSSP Conference - London

GCRF PROJECT SUPPORTS BUILDING MEDICAL ETHICAL FRAMEWORK | [The HIC-Vac Network](#) is an international network of researchers who are developing human infection challenge (HIC) studies to accelerate the development of vaccines against pathogens of high global impact. Funded by GCRF through MRC and BBSRC, the Network promotes an engaged and interactive community to share expertise and best practice, generate new ideas, and form new collaborations. The understanding of ethical issues surrounding human infection challenge studies, during which volunteers are purposefully exposed to an infection in a safe way with healthcare support, is an area that needs strengthening – particularly in low and middle income countries, where few of these studies have been carried out to date. The HIC -Vac Network is therefore supporting a project led by the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit ([OUCRU](#)) in Vietnam to develop a widely applicable ethical framework that researchers, ethics committees, health policy makers and the public could use. The collaborative project includes investigators from Vietnam, Thailand, Kenya and Malawi, met for the first time in Oxford, UK, in July 2019 to progress the framework. Training and travel grants in this area are available on HIC-Vac Network website: <https://www.hic-vac.org/>.

UK CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER VISITS THE VIETNAM NATIONAL INSTITUTION VETERINARY RESEARCH

Professor Christine Middlemiss paid her first visit to the Vietnam Institute for Veterinary Research in Hanoi on 27 September. The visit focused on the GCRF One Health Poultry Research Hub, a million-Pound research initiative addressing the need to meet rising demand for poultry meat and eggs in developing countries, while minimising risks to local and international public health. Professor Middlemiss was recently named chair of the One Health Poultry Hub Advisory Board. In Vietnam, the project team includes the National Institute of Animal Sciences, National Institute of Hygiene And Epidemiology, National Veterinary Research Institute, National University of Agriculture, with the coordination of CIRAD. More information on the Research Hub can be found on its [official website](#).



CVO Christine Middlemiss visiting NIVR's Lab

THE VIETNAMESE-BORN RESEARCHER NAMED THE ROYAL SOCIETY ROSALIND FRANKLIN AWARD AND LECTURER WINNER 2019 |

Professor Nguyen Thi Kim Thanh, a Vietnamese-born professor at the University College London, was named the Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture Winner 2019 for her achievements in the field of nanomaterials. The Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture is made to an individual for an outstanding contribution to any area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and to support the promotion of women in STEM. The award is named in honour of the biophysicist Rosalind Franklin, who made critical contributions to the understanding of the fine molecular structures of DNA. Professor Thanh is a first-generation Newton Fund awardee under a joint UK-VN research in 2015 with the Institute of Advanced Material Sciences, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology. Professor Thanh will give a Public Lecture on nanomaterials and its biomedical application on 29 October 2019. The lecture will be webcast live. More information can be found [here](#).



Prof. Thanh at an international conference in Da Nang, Vietnam

NEW INITIATIVE TO WELCOME TOP SCIENTISTS TO THE UK | Prime Minister Boris Johnson recently has decided to develop [a new fast-track visa route](#) for the brightest and best. Options, which could be discussed with leading institutions and universities, include abolishing the cap on numbers under the Tier 1 Exceptional Talent Visas, expanding the pool of UK research institutes and universities able to endorse candidates, creating criteria that confer automatic endorsement, subject to immigration checks, and ensuring dependents have full access to the labour market, removing the need to hold an offer of employment before arriving. The policy is expected to be completed and launched in 2020.

ACTIVITIES

[Asia Innovates Summit](#) under Newton Leaders in Innovation Fellowships Programme

15-17 Oct. 2019
Malaysia

[Rosalind Franklin Public Lecture](#) on nanomaterials

18:30, 29 Oct. 2019
Online

Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership (WCSSP) SEA Second Regional Workshop

6-8 Nov. 2019
Philippines

FUNDING CALLS

- **Newton Fund:** [NAFOSTED – UK Academies 2019 UK Fellowships and Grants](#). Deadline 8 November 2019
- **Newton Fund:** [Leaders in Innovation Fellowships \(LIF\)](#). Deadline: 15 November 2019
- **GCRF:** [Knowledge Frontier International Interdisciplinary Research](#). Deadline: 23 October 2019.
- **GCRF:** [Writing Workshops 2020](#). Deadline: 6 November 2019
- **GCRF:** [Education and Learning in Crises](#). Deadline: 4 December 2019
- **GCRF:** [Youth Futures Programme 2019](#). Deadline: 4 December 2019
- **GCRF:** [Global Professorships 2020 in any field of the humanities or the social sciences](#). Deadline: 19 February 2020
- **GCRF:** [AHRC Urgency Grants](#). Deadline: 31 October 2020
- **Wellcome Trust:** [International Exchange Programmes in Humanities, Social Science and Bioethics](#). Deadline: 3 March 2020
- **Wellcome Trust:** [Research Development Awards in Humanities, Social Science and Bioethics](#). Deadline: 3 March 2020
- [Dasgupta Review on the Economics of Biodiversity – Call for Evidence](#). Deadline: 6 November 2019



ON RESEARCH IMPACT



While both the Newton Fund and GCRF aim for research excellence, their ultimate purpose is to bring about socio-economic development and benefits for partner countries. That is why it is very common in the call specification and application forms, we explicitly mention "Research Impacts" and ask for a plausible "Pathway to impact".

The complimentary article below is from Professor Elena Gaura, Coventry University. Professor Gaura was the official trainer for the "Enhancing Science & Innovation Capacity of Vietnam for Sustainable Development" programme, delivered by British Council and Vietnam Institute of Science Technology and Innovation (VISTI) within the framework of the Newton Programme Vietnam.

Until recently, most of us, researchers, have measured the success of our scientific endeavours mainly through the volume and quality of our publications, the academic networks that we are part of, and the leadership roles we play in the subject specific scientific community we belong to.

Most fellow researchers would agree however that the fundamentals of good research lay with its utility, its significance to others and ultimately its use. This has been a common truth during centuries of academic pursuit, but as a point in itself, measurable use/utility of the research was implied, rather than made explicit till about a decade ago: when it acquired its own name – Impact.

Impact as a metric for research quality, measures the importance, uptake and consequence of uptake for the research results and discoveries generated through one's scientific work. One may think that measuring Impact or considering it, is a post-event activity, to take place sometime later, after the contributions to knowledge have been made by a researcher and even possibly as an activity that someone else may undertake on behalf of the researcher or the institution they belong to. This is not entirely true: most impactful research takes place when the intended Impact is clear, specified and specific at the onset and preparation stages of a research programme.

It is when the research idea is born, that we need to already consider its potential Impact, and the means by which that impact could be achieved (which we commonly call "Pathways to impact").

So, how should researchers ensure their work is of high Impact and that the impact is realised? For me, the key lays with ensuring that five prerequisites are fully met before I engage with a new research process, theme, or project idea; I outline them below, as advise that may help other Early Career Researchers:

- ✓ All research undertaken, by all of us, researchers, needs to be directed to solve particular, well specified and well described problems, that are brought to bear by stakeholders; a technical roadblock that needs research breakthroughs in order to be overcome, for example, would be defined by the industrial partners that benefit the most from the solution emerging from research; in other words, “all research needs to have an engaged client (or clients), be them industry, the government, the representatives of groups and society, etc - depending on the scope and nature of research”;
- ✓ Form partnerships with the stakeholders, rather than simply obtaining their problem definition; long term partnerships ensure that the research remains viable and relevant, timely and significant throughout the discovery cycle; the partners will have an opportunity, as collaborators, to shape the research process in order for the value of the research to increase as it progresses, and reaches the desired solutions;
- ✓ Understand not only what the intended Impact is going to be, but also how are you going to know that you “made Impact”; be clear about the timeline upon which Impact will be realised, as the research and Impact timelines usually differ, with Impact taking place, at times, long after the research has ended; define strong criteria for measuring impact and ensure all beneficiaries and stakeholders are consulted and willing to participate in recording the Impact;
- ✓ Identify your Impact partners and set up the processes for recording the evidence of Impact - and do so before the research project has ended! The best of Impact evidence is found when the stakeholders or beneficiaries are as interested as you are in measuring just how much a difference your research findings have made to them and to the world! Think creatively on who can be best Impact partners for your work - sometimes, these partners are not necessarily your beneficiaries - for example, an NGO may be a great Impact partner when the results of research meant to change societal behaviour, for particular populations!
- ✓ Read about impact and impactful projects and understand the nature of Impact that is suitable for your work, the types of evidence that is usually sought and the criteria that are used by other! Impact is a difficult concept for some areas of research and learning from others who have made it, is worth every penny!

Finally, I wish to say that research is meant to make the world a better place, to induce economic growth, to advise governments and regulatory bodies of best practice with robust evidence, to lobby for change for better! Do this kind of research and you will feel rewarded, however hard it is to...‘research with impact’.

PROFESSOR ELENA GAURA
COVENTRY UNIVERSITY

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