

**Indian Mission to ASEAN
Jakarta**

4th ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF)

The 4th ASEAN-India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF) was held in Langkawi, Malaysia on 28-30 November, 2023. The event was organized under 'ASEAN-India Framework' by Department of Science and Technology (DST), GOI in collaboration with the Indian Mission to ASEAN; the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI); National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia. Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia (YIM), under MOSTI, Malaysia, was the executing agency for the AIGIF-2023.

2. Mr. YB Chang Lih Kang, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Government of Malaysia inaugurated the AIGIF-2023. In his inaugural remarks, the Minister stated that flagship programmes like AIGIF continue to serve as a dynamic platform for showcasing and promoting innovations that have the potential to significantly impact lives at the grassroots level. He urged countries to continue their commitment towards social innovations and that participating nations should continue their commitment in supporting the cross-border mechanisms, information sharing of best practices and networking of ASEAN linkages to global and regional networks to improve their innovation and technology capability, entrepreneurs' resilience, and sustainability.

3. Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST) delivered his pre-recorded remarks. He stated that "Innovators are our hope for the world and we must discover them more often and "do whatever it takes" to support them, if we want to make the world a better place to live". Among others, Mr. B. N. Reddy, High Commissioner of India to Malaysia; Dr Arvind C Ranade, Director, NIF; and, Dr Sulakshana Jain, Scientist E, International Cooperation Division, DST also participated in the inaugural ceremony.

4. In his remarks, Mr. B. N. Reddy, High Commissioner of India to Malaysia said that India has emerged as key nation for the start-ups which are making their presence felt in different parts of the world, including few unicorns rooted

in India also operating in Malaysia. He stressed that platforms like AIGIF can create opportunities for students and the grassroots population in each of the participating countries to learn something new every year, and it should translate into greater co-operation between India and AMS. He urged industry to connect with grassroots innovations and translate them into sustainable solution for the society.

5. The 3-day AIGIF encompassed speaker sessions, panel discussions, exhibition of innovations and two innovation competitions -- Grassroots innovation and Student innovation where a total of 11 countries – India and 10 AMS participated. A total of around 200 representatives from ASEAN Members States and India, including 17 student innovators and grassroots innovators from India, showcased and exhibited their innovations.

6. Mr. Dipak Bharali from Sualkuchi, Kamrup, Assam, India won the 1st prize in the grassroots innovation competition category for the innovation ‘Weft Insertion Device’ while Mr Sunil Shinde from Jalna, Maharashtra won the 3rd prize in the grassroots innovation competition category for the innovation ‘Silkworm Breeding Net Folding Machine’. In the student innovation competition, Ms Aanchal Aggarwal from Delhi has won the 3rd prize for her innovation ‘Parkinson Lathi’. The complete list of winners is given below:

Competition	Prize	Innovator’s Name	Country	Title Of Innovation
Grassroots Innovation Competition	1	Mr. Dipak Bharali	India	Weft Insertion Device
	2	Mr. Chatchai Deesawat	Thailand	EV Ever-Green
	3	Mr. Sunil Shinde Mr. Rusdi Bin Mohd Rifin	India Malaysia	Silkworm Breeding Net Folding Machine Compact Semi-Auto/Manual Sate Skewering Machine
Student Innovation Competition	1	Kawinnart Pongmesa	Thailand	Organic Sanitary Pads From Plant Fibers Coated With Kaffir Lime Extract

	2	Huda Solehah Muhammad Sallehuddin	Malaysia	Ruboba & Ruscrub
	3	Aanchal Aggarwal	India	Parkinson Lathi

7. The AIGIF is an annual programme focused on fostering a strengthened relationship between India and AMS on the premise of cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). By bringing together key players, namely government officials, innovators, academics, business actors, and the wider community, this forum provides a platform to promote and strengthen the development of the grassroots innovation ecosystem.

8. Earlier, the 1st AIGF was held in Jakarta, Indonesia (2018); the 2nd in Davao, Philippines (2019); and the 3rd in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2022).




