



**NSERC
CRSNG**



As 18 March 2026

(Draft) Agenda

The 14th Global Research Council (GRC) Annual Meeting 2026

18th Monday – 22nd Friday May 2026

Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Date and time	Program	Venue
18 May 2026	Pre-meetings & side events¹	
From 08:30	Registration Reception	2 nd Floor
09.00 – 10.30	Parallel Sessions: Side event	
09.00 – 10.30	Side event 1: Diamond Open Access as a Foundation for Research Sovereignty and Trust in Science: Funder Perspectives from Asia, Africa, Americas, and Europe	Suriya 2 nd Floor
	Side event 2: Enhancing and navigating global initiatives: the role of research funding organisations in international R&I movements on research assessment reform	Lumpini 3 rd Floor
10.30 – 10.40	Coffee/Tea Break	
10.40 – 12.10	Parallel Sessions: Side event	
10.40 – 12.10	Side event 3: Research on SDG Design and Impact	Suriya 2 nd Floor
	Side event 2: RRA-WG side event	Lumpini 3 rd Floor
12.10 – 13.30	Lunch at Dusit Thani Gourmet Restaurant	
13.30 – 15.00	Parallel Sessions: Side event	
13.30 – 15.00	Side event 5: Multilateral Engagements: challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation (part 1)	Lumpini 3 rd Floor
	Side event 6: Frontiers of Funding: Global Insights from Metascience	Silom 3 rd Floor
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee/Tea Break	
15.30 – 17.00	Parallel Sessions: Side event	
15.30 – 17.00	Side event 5 (continuation): Multilateral Engagements: challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation	Suriya 2 nd Floor
	Side event 7: Inclusive Application of Open Science Principles	Silom

¹ The allocation of side events is only indicative and not final.

Date and time	Program	Venue
		3 rd Floor
17.00	End of the Business Day	
17.15 – 18.15	Executive Support Group (ESG) (closed session)	Silom, 3 rd floor (70 pers)
19 May 2026	Pre-meetings & side events	
05.00 – 08.00	TSRI x GRC FunD Run: Run for a Sustainable World	Lumpini Park
From 08:30	Registration Reception	
09.00 – 10.30	Parallel Sessions: Side event	
9.00 – 10.30	Side event 8: EDI-WG Side event	Silom 3 rd Floor
9.00 – 10.30	Side event 9: Curiosity-Driven Research (TBC)	Suriya 2 nd Floor
10.30 – 10.40	Coffee/Tea Break	
10.40 – 12.00	Parallel Sessions	
10.40 – 12.00	Collaboration and Neutrality Task Group (CNT) Consultation Town Hall (for HORCs of GRC participating organisations only)	Suriya 2 nd Floor
10.40 – 11.20	RRA Working Group Internal Meeting	Silom 1 3 rd Floor
10.40 – 11.20	MLE Working Group Internal Meeting	Lumpini 3 rd Floor
11:20 – 12:00	EDI Working Group Internal Meeting	Silom 2 3 rd Floor
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch at Dusit Thani Gourmet Restaurant	
13.00 – 14:30	Regional Meetings	
	13.00 – 14:30: Americas	Library 3 rd Floor
	13.00 – 13:40: Asia-Pacific	Lumpini 3 rd Floor
	13.00 – 13:40: Europe	Suriya 2 nd Floor
	13.45 – 14:30: Joint meeting between Asia-Pacific and Europe	Lumpini

Date and time	Program	Venue
		3 rd Floor
	13.00 – 14:30: Middle East/North Africa	Silom 2 3 rd Floor
	13.00 – 14:30: Sub-Saharan Africa	Silom 1 3 rd Floor
14:30 – 14:45	Transition Break	
14:45 – 16:45	Governing Board Meeting (closed session)	Silom 1 3 rd Floor
17:00 – 18:30	Global South HORCs Meeting (closed session)	Silom 2 3 rd Floor
17.00 – 18.30	Joint Working Group (RRA, EDI, MLE) / ESG Liaisons Meeting (closed session)	Vimarn 2 nd Floor
14:30 – 18:30	Bilateral Meeting	
18:30	End of the Business Day	
19:00 – 21:00	Networking Welcome Reception	Napalai 1 st floor
20 May 2026	Main Event Day 1	Napalai 1 st floor
From 08.30	Registration and Welcome Coffee Reception	
09:00 – 10:00	Opening Ceremony Session Chair: TBD	Napalai 1 st floor
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prof. Dr. Alejandro Adem - Governing Board Chair and Co-host of the 2026 Annual Meeting: President of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada ● Prof. Dr. Sompong Klaynongsruang – Governing Board: Co-host of the 2026 Annual Meeting: President of Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI) 	Napalai 1 1 st floor
09:15 – 09:45	Opening Keynote Speech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 09:15 – 09:30: Minister of Ministry of Higher Education Science Research and Innovation (MHESI), Thailand (TBC) 	Napalai 1 1 st floor

Date and time	Program	Venue
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 09.30 – 09.45: H.E. Ms. Ping Kitnikone, Ambassador of Canada to Thailand (TBC) 	
09.45 – 10.00	Introduction of HORCS (video)	Napalai 1 st floor
10.00 – 14.00	Session 1: Topic 1, Open Science Session Chair: HE Dr. Munir Eldesouki, KACST President (TBC)	Napalai 1 st floor
10.00 – 10.20	Keynote Speech: By representative of NSERC and UKRI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10.00 – 10.10: Assoc. Prof. Leslie Chan, University of Toronto Scarborough (TBC) ● 10.10 – 10.20: Prof. Christopher Smith, UKRI (TBC) 	Napalai 1 st floor
10:20 – 10:50	Lightning Talks on Topic 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Americas HORC: ● ASPAC HORC: ● Europe HORC: ● MENA HORC ● SSA HORC: 	
10:50 – 11:00	Transition into Breakout groups	
11:00 – 12:00	Breakout Groups	
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch at Dusit Thani Gourmet Restaurant	
13:00 - 13:30	Reporting from Breakout Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MENA Dr Sadim Jawhar, plus one and EDI WG (Co-Chair): Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation Council (QRDI); Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) or Dr Ouma Elyoussoufi Attou, plus one : Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (CNRST), Morocco	Napalai 1 st floor
13:30 – 13:45	Endorsement of Statement of Principle for Topic 1	

Date and time	Program	Venue
13:45- 14:45	Case Studies Presentations - GRC Statements of Principles: Principles to Practice Chair: TBD	Napalai 1 st floor
14:45 – 15:00	Group Photo	
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break / Bilaterals	
15:30 – 16.10	Session 2: Presentations on GRC Activities Session Chair: TBD	
15:30 – 15:45	Governing Board Chair Presentation Prof. Alejandro Adem - President of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada	Napalai 1 st floor
15:45 - 16:10	Executive Secretary Presentation Michael Bright- GRC Executive Secretary, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), UK	Napalai 1 st floor
16:10	End of Business Day	
16.10 – 16.45	Fresh up	
16.45 – 18.00	Travel to Chaopraya River, pick up point at Dusit Thani Hotel	
18.00 – 20.00	Gala Dinner	
21 May 2026	Main Event Day 2	
07.30 - 08.30	Governing Board Members Breakfast (closed meeting)	
From 08.30	Registration and Welcome Reception	Napalai 1 st floor
09.00 – 12.00	Session 3: Topic 2, Research for Sustainable Communities Session Chair: TBD	Napalai 1 st floor
09.00 – 9.20	Keynote Speech By representative of NSERC and TSRI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9.00 – 9.10: Prof. Ursula Eicker, Concordia University Montréal ● 9.10 – 9.20: Dr. Kobsak Pooprakool, Executive Director of Bangkok Bank (TBC) 	Napalai 1 st floor
09.20 – 09.50	Lightning Talks on topic 2	Napalai

Date and time	Program	Venue
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Americas HORC: ● ASPAC HORC: ● Europe HORC: ● Dr. Saif Al-Hiddabi – HORC of Oman: MENA HORC (tbc) ● Mr Cephas Adjei Mensah, HORC: Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Ghana: SSA (tbc) 	1 st floor
09:50 – 10:00	Transition into Breakout Groups	
10:00 – 11:00	Breakout Group Discussions on Topic 2	
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee/Tea Break	
11:15 – 11:40	Working Group Reporting (tbc)	Napalai 1 st floor
11:40 – 12:10	Reporting from Breakout Groups on Topic 2	
12:10 – 12:20	Endorsement of Statement of Principles for Topic 2	Napalai 1st floor
12:20 – 13:20	Lunch at Dusit Thani Gourmet Restaurant	
13:20 – 15:00	Session 4: Regional hot topics and Farewell Session Chair: TBD	Napalai 1 st floor
13.20 – 14.20	Regional hot topic discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Americas ● Asia-Pacific ● Europe ● Prof. Gena Elfeky, ASRT, HORC of Egypt: MENA Representative ● Dr. Yaya Sangare, HORC : Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI), Côte d'Ivoire : SSA Representative 	Napalai 1 st floor
14.20 – 14.40	Presentation from the Hosts of the 2027 Annual Meeting National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa and the German Research Foundation (DFG)	Napalai 1 st floor
14.40 – 15:00	Final Remarks and Farewell by Co-hosts	Napalai 1 st floor

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 13.00 – 13.10: Prof. Dr. Alejandro Adem - Governing Board Chair and Co-host of the 2026 Annual Meeting: President of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada ● 13.10 – 13.20: Prof. Dr. Sompong Klaynongsruang – Governing Board: Co-host of the 2026 Annual Meeting: President of Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI) 	
15:00 – 16:00	Collaboration and Neutrality Task Group (CNT) meeting (closed session)	Silom 1 3 rd Floor
16:00 – 17:00	Programme Committee meeting (closed session)	Silom 2 3 rd floor
17:00 – 18:00	International Steering Committee (closed session)	Silom 1 3 rd floor
18:00 – 19:00	Executive Support Group (ESG) Washup (closed session)	Silom 1 3 rd floor
19:00	End of Business Day	
22 May 2026	Site Visit	
8:00 – 12:00	<p>Excursion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Route 1: Maximum 50 Persons, Ayuttaya Point 1: Wat Mahathat, Ayuttaya https://maps.app.goo.gl/9TP97dVF8QRzLtwf6 Point 2: Chao Sam Phraya National Museum https://maps.app.goo.gl/uHDRyHW8GyLwMo957 ● Route 2: Maximum 50 Persons, Bangkok Grand Palace, Bangkok https://maps.app.goo.gl/zfZUQeXhu3ckkQLY8 ● Route 3: Maximum 50 Persons, Bangkok National Museum, Bangkok https://maps.app.goo.gl/Q9m9WhLzF5QbyDU29 ● Route 4: Maximum 50 Persons, Bangkok Wat Pho https://maps.app.goo.gl/pFouYENNYkCp1j197 	Ayutthaya Province & Bangkok



Agenda

FunD Run: Run for a Sustainable World

The 14th Global Research Council (GRC) Annual Meeting 2026 serves as an important platform that brings together leaders of research funding organizations from around the world, who play a key role in shaping the long-term direction of the global science, research, and innovation system. However, interactions among participants are often limited to the formal setting of the conference.

The **FunD Run: Run for a Sustainable World** activity is therefore designed as a “social space” that provides an opportunity for senior leaders to meet, exchange ideas, and build relationships in a friendly and informal environment. The activity helps reduce hierarchical barriers and reflects shared values related to health, environmental responsibility, and sustainability, which are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the evolving role of research funding organizations in the 21st century.

At the same time, the activity also serves as a signature moment for Thailand as the host of the 14th Global Research Council (GRC) Annual Meeting 2026. Memorable elements such as the gathering of Heads of Research Councils in running attire, group photos in a green space in the heart of Bangkok, and visual storytelling help communicate Thailand’s image to the international community as a green city and a metropolis of innovation.

Time	Activity
04:30 – 05:00	Registration
05:00 – 05:10	Opening Remarks
05:10 – 05:20	Warm-up Exercise
05:20 – 05:30	Group Photo
05:30 – 06:30	FunD Run (Approx. 2.5 km)
06:30 – 07:00	Closing

Notes: Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable running attire and sports shoes.



Excursion

22 May 2026

Bangkok & Ayutthaya

One of the highlights not to miss is the stunning collection of gold artifacts, royal ornaments, and sacred Buddha relics displayed in the museum's central hall. The intricate gold crowns, jewelry, and ceremonial objects offer a rare glimpse into the elegance of the royal court.

Located near the Ayutthaya Historical Park, the museum is easy to combine with visits to nearby temple ruins. A short stop here helps visitors better understand the history behind the magnificent sites of Ayutthaya.



Wat Phra Sri Rattana Satsadaram (Wat Phra Kaew) and The Grand Palace – A Glimpse into Thailand’s Royal Heritage

Located in the heart of Bangkok, the Grand Palace is one of Thailand’s most iconic landmarks and a must-visit destination for international visitors. Even if you are in Thailand primarily for meetings or conferences, a short visit here offers a memorable introduction to the country’s rich culture and history.

Built in 1782, the Grand Palace served as the official residence of Thai kings for over 150 years. The complex features magnificent buildings, golden spires, and intricate Thai craftsmanship that reflect the artistic and spiritual traditions of the nation. Within the palace grounds is the revered Temple of the Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Kaew), home to Thailand’s most sacred Buddha image.

Visitors should not miss the detailed murals, glittering temple architecture, and beautifully maintained courtyards throughout the complex. The Grand Palace is located along the Chao Phraya River in central Bangkok and can be easily reached by taxi, river boat, or public transport. For the best experience, visit in the morning and dress respectfully, as it is an important cultural and religious site.

Wat Phra Sri Rattana Satsadaram (Wat Phra Kaew)

Description

Wat Phra Sri Rattana Satsadaram, or the Wat Phra Kaew, is located within the outer court of the Grand Palace in Bangkok. It follows the architectural style of the temples in the royal palace of Ayutthaya and was built as a special royal temple by King Rama I when he founded the city of Rattanakosin. It houses the highly revered Emerald Buddha image, as well as various important Buddha statues and the royal regalia of past kings. The temple is used for various significant royal ceremonies. The highlight of this temple is the opportunity to pay homage to the sacred Emerald Buddha, a small but greatly revered image carved from a single piece of jade. It is exquisitely crafted in the style of the Sukhothai-Siamese art, and its costume changes with the seasons. Visitors can also admire the intricate beauty of the ubosot's murals, pillars, and window panels, which were created by master craftsmen during the early Rattanakosin period. Additionally, the temple features the longest continuous mural painting in the world, depicting the Ramakien epic, with a total of 178 scenes accompanied by descriptive verses. Apart from the main temple, there are many other precious religious and cultural sites within the temple complex, such as the Phra Thep

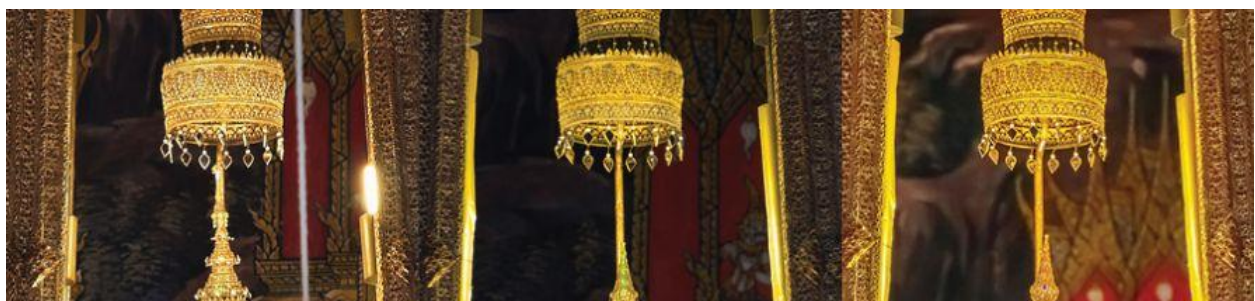
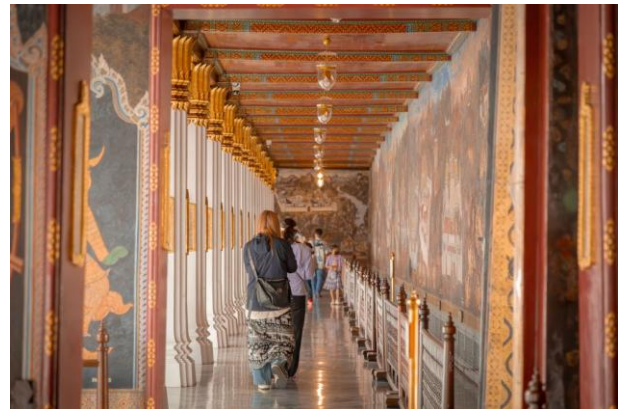
Bidorn Shrine, Phra Mondop, Phra Sri Rattana Chedi, Viharn Yod, Ho Phra Maha Kana, eight pagodas, the Demolished City Memorial, and more.

Activities/Points of Interest

- Pay homage and make merit to the Emerald Buddha and take photos with the sculptures of giants around the Temple of the Emerald Buddha as a souvenir.
- Admire the intricate beauty of the Ubosot's murals and other traditional architectures i.e. golden stupas as well as the world's longest mural painting depicting the Ramayana epic.

Visiting Guidelines and Regulations

- Dress appropriately according to the rules of the religious institution, which prohibits wearing sleeveless shirts, tank tops, cropped tops, tight-fitting clothes, thin pants, shorts, torn pants, tight-fitting skirts, and short skirts.



Bangkok National Museum

Located in the historic heart of Bangkok, the Bangkok National Museum offers visitors a fascinating journey through Thailand's rich history, art, and cultural traditions. It is an ideal destination for international visitors who wish to explore Thai heritage during a short break from meetings or conferences.

The museum traces its origins to the reign of King Mongkut, when a royal collection was first established inside the Grand Palace. Later, King Chulalongkorn opened the collection to the public, marking the beginning of Thailand's first national museum. In 1887, the museum was relocated to the historic Front Palace, where it remains today.

Visitors can explore several permanent galleries displaying Thai history, archaeology, and art from prehistoric times to the Rattanakosin era. Highlights include beautifully crafted Buddha images, traditional royal chariots used in royal cremation ceremonies, and exquisite decorative arts such as ceramics, textiles, and Khon masks.

Within the museum grounds, visitors can also admire remarkable historic buildings, including the elegant Buddhaisawan Chapel, home to the revered Phra Buddha Sihing image. With its central location and rich collections, the museum is a rewarding cultural stop that can easily be explored in 1–2 hours.

Activities/Points of Interest

- Visit the ancient Buddha images and mural paintings depicting Buddhist stories inside the Phra Thinang Phutthaisawan. - Admire the beauty of the Phra Viharn Yod, Sriwichai Art, which showcases the beauty of traditional Thai art.





Wat Pho: Thai Traditional Medical and Massage

Located in the historic heart of Bangkok, Wat Pho is one of Thailand's most fascinating cultural landmarks and a perfect place to explore after a day of meetings or conferences.

Established more than 200 years ago, the temple is one of the oldest and most important temples in Bangkok. Wat Pho is widely recognized as the birthplace of traditional Thai massage and a historic center of Thai traditional medicine. Within the temple grounds, visitors can find stone inscriptions and ancient illustrations that once served as a public knowledge source for subjects such as medicine, anatomy, and healing practices.

The temple's most famous attraction is the magnificent 46-meter-long Reclining Buddha, covered in gold leaf and beautifully decorated with intricate mother-of-pearl patterns on its feet. Another unique experience is enjoying an authentic Thai massage at the renowned Wat Pho Thai Traditional Medical and Massage School, where traditional healing techniques are still taught and practiced.

Conveniently located near the Grand Palace, Wat Pho is easily accessible and can be explored in about 1–2 hours, making it an ideal cultural stop during a short visit to Bangkok.

Activities/Points of Interest

- Pay homage and performing religious rituals at the Phra Ubosot (an ordination hall).
- Explore the architectural beauty of the Four Great Chedis representing the four reigns.
- Experience traditional Thai massages at Wat Pho.

Ref: <https://visit.bangkok.go.th/place/2048>

