



2021 Virtual Pre-Conference



PROGRAMME

November

15th

10:30-14:00 GMT

13:30-17:00 EAT

16th

10:00-16:00 GMT

13:00-19:00 EAT

17th

10:30-15:45 GMT

13:30-18:45 EAT



African-led science, technology and innovation for contributing to the SDGs and stimulating global development



CONFERENCE WEBSITE



Rsif

2021 Virtual
Pre-Conference



SIDE EVENTS

Monday 15 November 2021
10:30-14:00 GMT / 13:30-17:00 EAT

SESSION

DESCRIPTION

ONLINE ATTENDEES

Open from 13:30 EAT

Participants start arriving online

Testing connection

Parallel meetings

14:00 - 17:00hrs EAT

A. Meeting of RSIF International Partner Institutions (IPIs) and African Host Universities (AHUs).
Contact: Dr. Everlyn Nguku, RSIF-RCU

B. RSIF PhD student session – communication and social media training
Contact: Maureen Agena, RSIF-RCU

C. Meeting of RSIF African Host University Vice-Chancellors
Contact: Dr. Moses Osiru, RSIF-RCU



Rsif

2021 Virtual
Pre-Conference



DAY 1

Tuesday 16 November 2021

Start at 10:00 GMT / 13:00 EAT

SESSION

DESCRIPTION

ONLINE ATTENDEES

Open from 13:00 EAT

Participants start arriving online

Share program information.

Short videos on UM6P and RSIF

Bonface Nyagah
Lilian Igweta

OPENING SESSION

**Opening
(45 minutes)**

Conference Welcome and Opening

Bonface Nyagah

13.30-14.15 EAT

Join in from the start as we set out the context and expectations; get reminded of our objectives and shared potential to impact on Africa's priority issues, such as Covid-19 and the power of science to change and shape our shared future in concrete ways.

Moderator: **Dr. Julius Ecuru**, Manager, BioInnovate Africa

Brief RSIF video

- Welcome remarks by Dr. Moses Osiru, RSIF Manager, *icipe*
- Introductory remarks by President, UM6P, Hicham El Habti
- Opening remarks by Ms. Safaa El Kogeli, Education Practice Manager, Eastern and Southern Africa Region, World Bank
- Remarks by Prof. Aminata Sall Diallo, PASET Executive Director
- Statement by Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, Director, Human Resources, Science and Technology, The African Union Commission
- Official Opening Statement by Hon. Dr. Valentine Uwamariya, Minister of Education, Rwanda and PASET Governing Council Chair



Rsif

2021 Virtual
Pre-Conference



DAY 1 (CONTINUED)

Tuesday 16 November 2021
Start at 10:00 GMT / 13:00 EAT

SESSION I

Session theme: Covid in Africa

ONLINE ATTENDEES

**Keynote
(30 minutes)**

14:30-15:00 EAT

Keynote: Covid in Africa – implications for higher education and research

Dr. Patrick Amoth, President of the WHO Executive Board

Moderator: **Dr. Mercy Korir**

Rapporteur: **Prof. Gerald Misinzo**, RSIF Coordinator, Sokoine University of Agriculture

The keynote and subsequent panel discussion will provide African ministers and higher education stakeholders with a global updated perspective on the current covid situation and foresight analysis. We will look closer at what is happening in Africa – what has worked, what has not and what strategies/ best practices are emerging. Specific attention will be given to the impact of covid on education systems and what should be pursued; as well as impact on students and what needs to be done.

Watching,
possibility to ask
questions

**Panel
(1 hour
30 minutes)**

15:00 – 16:30 EAT

Panel – Covid as a catalyst for science, technology and innovation response in Africa

Moderator: **Dr. Mercy Korir**

Rapporteur: **Prof. Gerald Misinzo**

- Panelist 1: **Dr. Mark Rweyemamu**, Sokoine University of Agriculture, RSIF AHU. The role of African universities in supporting response to the covid pandemic and similar epidemics/ pandemics in the future.
- Panelist 2: **Dr. Amadou A Sall** – Director, Institut Pasteur, Senegal. Why Africa should produce its own vaccines.
- Panelist 3: **Dr. Shikoh Gitau**, CEO Qhala and Member of ICT Advisory committee on Covid-19 in Kenya. Catalysing Africa's digital future. What role for responding to covid and similar epidemics in the future.
- Panelist 4: **Mr. Rafiq El Alami**, Director of Digital Learning Lab, UM6P. University responses to covid: Online education and creation of MOOCs in Africa.
- Panelist 5: **Dr. Danica Ramljak**. Senior Science and innovation consultant, World Bank. Implications for the RSIF research strategy.

Moderated Discussion

Watching,
possibility to ask
questions

Poll on priority
questions to be
answered



Rsif

2021 Virtual
Pre-Conference



DAY 1 (CONTINUED)

Tuesday 16 November 2021
Start at 10:00 GMT / 13:00 EAT

SESSION I

Session theme: Covid in Africa

**ONLINE
ATTENDEES**

HEALTH BREAK

Video on RSIF and on UM6P

SESSION II

Session Theme: Building Research Capacities in Africa

**ONLINE
ATTENDEES**

**Keynote
(30 minutes)**

17:00-17:30 EAT

Keynote from a global scientific leader from Africa

Dr. Geoffrey H. Siwo, Research Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame, USA.

Moderator: **Dr. Sylvia Mkandawire**, Manager, ACE Impact Project, AAU

Rapporteur: **Prof. Julius M. Mwabora**, RSIF Coordinator, UoN

Join us for an engaging keynote by Geoffrey Siwo on his globally acclaimed research. Get his views of the contribution that science in Africa can make to global development and the SDGs. Learn more on some specific initiatives he is working on to support science in Africa – and make sure not to miss his message of encouragement to the RSIF scholars – Africa’s future scientific leaders.

Watching,
possibility to ask
questions

**Panel
(1 hour 30 mins)**

17:30-19:00 EAT

Panel - The RSIF “sandwich” model

Moderator: **Andries W. Coetzee**, Michigan University

Rapporteur: **Fréjus Ariel Kpêdétin Sodédji**, RSIF PhD Student

The RSIF doctoral scholarship programme has been designed using the best practices that have emerged from on-going programs globally, adopting a “sandwich” training approach that incorporates international and home-country study anchored in African institutions. There are currently 15 African Host Universities (AHUs), and 19 International Partner Institutions (IPIs). RSIF encourages partnerships and collaboration in training, research and innovation. What are the advantages of this model? What challenges can be expected and how can these best be managed and mitigated?

Watching,
possibility to
ask questions

Possible poll



Rsif

2021 Virtual
Pre-Conference



DAY 1 (CONTINUED)

Tuesday 16 November 2021
Start at 10:00 GMT / 13:00 EAT

SESSION II

Session Theme: Building Research Capacities in Africa

ONLINE ATTENDEES

Panel - The RSIF "sandwich" model

Introduction by **Ms. Sylvia Maina** on her research placement in Korea.

- Panelist 1: **Prof. Maïssa Mbaye**, Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, Senegal (an RSIF AHU)
- Panelist 2: **Prof. Abdelghani Chehbouni**, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P) (an RSIF IPI)
- Panelist 3: **Athol Swanepoel**, HR Director and Donavin Hattingh, Technical and Production Division, Nestlé
- Panelist 4: **Kazuo Sasaki**, Challenge Co. Ltd., Japan.

Comments by **Andrea Johnson**, Program Officer, Higher Education and Research in Africa, Carnegie Corporation of New York

Moderated discussion

End of Day 1 Summary: Mr. Arun Sharma, Independent Consultant



Rsif

2021 Virtual
Pre-Conference



DAY 2

Wednesday 17 November 2021

SESSION

DESCRIPTION

ONLINE ATTENDEES

Open from

Participants starts arriving online

Testing connection

**13:30 EAT
13:45 EAT**

Video

SESSION III

Session Theme: Science Funding in Africa

ONLINE ATTENDEES

**Keynote
(30 minutes)**

Keynote: The role of RSIF in Strengthening Africa's development with a focus on SDGs

Watching, possibility to ask questions

14:00-14:30 EAT

Moderator: **Prof. Frans Swanepoel**, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Rapporteur: **Emmanuel Effah**, RSIF PhD Student

Prof. Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, CEO of the National Research Foundation of South Africa

The rationale for RSIF is that Africa requires world class scientists in priority thematic disciplines that are relevant to national economic growth across sub-Saharan Africa. How can a regional approach address critical national problems in developing research capacity? What is the role of national research funds in this respect? What are the lessons from the South African context for the continent?

1 hour 30 min

Panel 1 - Contributing Governments

Watching, possibility to ask questions

14:30-16:00 EAT

Moderator: **Prof. Aminata Sall Diallo**, PASET Executive Director

Rapporteur: **Prof. Mwemezi Rwiza**, RSIF Coordinator, NMAIST

Join in for a focussed discussion on some leading African government perspectives. RSIF is the flagship programme of the African government-led Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology. Central in RSIF's value proposition is the lower cost for high quality PhD training compared with different countries internationally and its focus on PASET's priority areas for far-reaching impact in society. Integral in the design is increasing the institutional capacities of selected African universities and the wider national innovation systems to ensure sustainability and strengthen Africa's positioning.



Rsif

2021 Virtual
Pre-Conference



DAY 2 (CONTINUED)

Wednesday 17 November 2021

SESSION III

Session Theme: Science Funding in Africa

ONLINE ATTENDEES

1 hour 30 min

Panel 1 – Contributing Governments

Brief introduction by Dr. Moses Osiru, Manager, RSIF

Watching, possibility
to ask questions

14:30-16:00 EAT

- Panelist 1: Korea: **Dr. Kwangchul Ji**, Director, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Government of Korea (Video).
- Panelist 2: Kenya: **Prof. Walter O. Oyawa**, Director General - NACOSTI
- Panelist 3: Mozambique: **Prof. Eugénia Cossa**, National Director of Science, Technology and Innovation
- Panelist 4: Côte d'Ivoire: **Prof. Aka Fulgence Nindjin**, Director of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- Panelist 5: Rwanda: **Hon. Dr. Valentine Uwamariya**, Minister of Education

Moderated discussion

1 hour 20 min

Panel 2 – Establishing an endowment fund for building STI capacity in Africa

Watching, possibility
to ask questions

16:10- 17:30 EAT

Moderator: **Prof. Wole Winston Soboyejo**, Provost, Senior Vice President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Boston

Possible poll

Rapporteur: **Prof. Jibrin Mohammed Jibrin**, RSIF Coordinator, Bayero University, Kano

The first pan-African science fund of its kind, PASET RSIF has the objective of establishing a permanent fund that can sustainably support applied scientific and engineering research in sub-Saharan Africa universities. RSIF design promises multiplier effects and reduced PhD costs over time, required to substantially increase the stock of highly skilled scientists, professionals and innovators for transformation to a knowledge economy. Join the discussion on ways for the partnership to raise long-term investments in Africa's science capacities in the post-Covid era – as we consider the proposed modalities for establishing the RSIF permanent fund.



Rsif

2021 Virtual
Pre-Conference



DAY 2 (CONTINUED)

Wednesday 17 November 2021

SESSION III

Session Theme: Science Funding in Africa

ONLINE ATTENDEES

Panel 2 - Establishing an endowment fund for building STI capacity in Africa

Introduction on the rationale and case for a permanent Pan-African science fund

- Panelist 1: **Dr. Mercy Karanja**, Senior Program Officer, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Panelist 2: **Mrs. Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli** (MFR), Co-founder/ Managing Partner, Sahel Consulting
- Panelist 3: **Prof. Philip Cotton**, Director, Human Capital Development, Mastercard Foundation
- Panelist 4: **Mrs. Dora Waruiru**, Head of Foundation Cooperative Bank

Moderated discussion

Comments by:

- **Mr. Joel Kibet Molel**, Principal Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Officer, African Development Bank
- **Mr. Marcel Mballa-Ekobena**, Sloan Fellow, London Business School, Investments, Markets and ESG Executive
- **Dr. Dorothy Nyambi**, President and CEO, MEDA.

HEALTH BREAK

Video





Rsif

2021 Virtual
Pre-Conference



DAY 2 (CONTINUED)

Wednesday 17 November 2021

SESSION III

CLOSING SESSION

ONLINE ATTENDEES

Closing
(45 minutes)

18:00-18:45 EAT

Closing

Moderator: **Ms. Ruth Charo**, World Bank

Rapporteur: **Dr. Julius Ecuru**, Manager, BioInnovate Africa

Make sure to tune in for the closing session for key take-aways from the discussions with lessons for Africa's higher education, science, technology, and innovation space. The meeting outcomes will inform our continued Covid-response and effective contribution to the SDGs and climate goals; Building of research capacity; and Way forward for science funding in Africa, and RSIF specifically. Together we lay out agreed actions and outcomes for the network as we look ahead to the upcoming RSIF Conference in Morocco in May 2022.

Reading of the Meeting communique
Closing remarks

UM6P

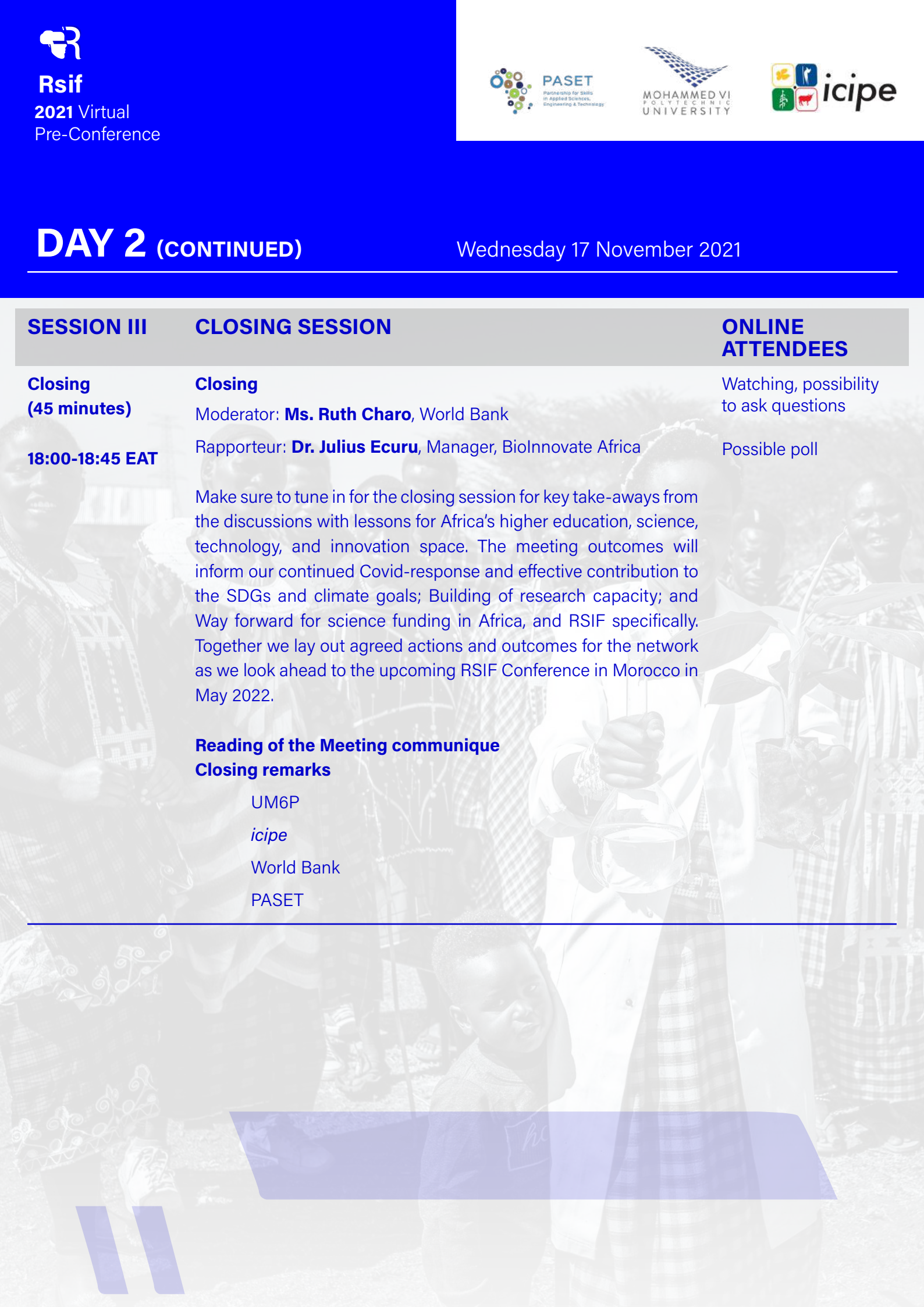
icipe

World Bank

PASET

Watching, possibility to ask questions

Possible poll





Rsif

2021 Virtual
Pre-Conference

THANK YOU

WEB

 www.rsif-paset.org

CONTACT

 Rsif@icipe.org

 [TheRsif](https://www.facebook.com/TheRsif)

 [company/paset-Rsif/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/paset-Rsif/)

 [@pasetRsif](https://twitter.com/pasetRsif)

 [@pasetRsif](https://www.instagram.com/pasetRsif)

#RSIFConf

