

**Summary of the Mid Term Report by
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich
on the
Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation Programme
<http://www.global.ethz.ch/stc/Korea>**

Goals

The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH) is acting as a coordinator for the Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Programme on the Swiss side, representing all Swiss universities and universities of applied sciences. On the South Korean side, the programme is coordinated by the National Research Foundation (NRF), which is part of the South Korean Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST). The aim of the programme is to strengthen bilateral cooperation and specifically to promote scientific exchanges between Korea and Switzerland in the fields of science and technology. The support should help to facilitate interaction between research groups on a scientific and cultural level. Enabling regular meetings through seed funding will thus facilitate understanding between groups. Moreover, stays in the partner country should offer opportunities to learn new techniques and make use of specialist equipment. The overall goal of the programme is bring people, technology and infrastructure together. Joint research projects are supported with a maximum amount of KRW 20 million from the South Korean side and CHF 18,000 from the Swiss side. Funding is only given to specific exchange projects that should not exceed the duration of one year. The programme is primarily designed to support expenses related to the exchange of researchers between Korea and Switzerland with the precondition that the main research infrastructure is already provided for each research group. The following funding instruments are available to support individual projects:

- Seed funding for joint workshops and meetings covering travel and organisational expenses
- Support of short-term stays in the partner laboratory/country for PhD students and postdoctoral fellows covering travel and additional living expenses
- Support for faculty exchange covering travel and visiting expenses

Achievements

A first call for proposals in the areas of Applied Physics, Design Sciences, Energy, Environment, IT, Life Sciences, Material Sciences was announced to all Swiss universities and universities of applied sciences conducting research in related fields, as well as to research institutes affiliated with Swiss universities. The call for proposals resulted in 27 applications that were jointly submitted by South Korean and Swiss researchers to the NRF and ETH in parallel. Applications in Switzerland came from researchers from 11 different institutions. The proposals were evaluated by independent committees in both countries, who then jointly selected 12 projects for grant funding. The approved projects are being carried out at EMPA, ETH Zurich, EPFL, University of Neuchatel, University of Bern and University of Basel in Switzerland and at different partner institutions in South Korea. A second call for proposals will follow in August 2010 for the same areas and funding instruments. The deadline is scheduled for 30 September 2010.

Outlook

On 9 and 10 September 2010, the Swiss Embassy in South Korea and ETH Zurich will hold a workshop in Seoul with the support from NRF/MEST on Cleantech. This workshop will focus on water management and sustainable buildings. 6 speakers from different Swiss institutions have been invited; the programme also includes selected speakers from the South Korean side. An involvement of industry and especially spin-off companies is being considered. An audience of scientists from South Korean partner institutions will be invited to enable the exchange between researchers and explore the potential for further cooperation.

The funding programme will continue with a second call for proposals in August 2010. A third call for proposals will be launched in the summer 2011 if sufficient funding can be provided on the South Korean side. Researchers from several Swiss institutions have showed considerable interest in the grant funding programme and the number of applications has exceeded the amount of available grant funding.

We thus hope that the programme will continue beyond the period 2008-2011 and can be enlarged to match the needs or complemented with other funding sources e.g. from industry. Numerous visits made by representatives of South Korean Universities to ETH and other Swiss institutions show that also there is a deep interest on the South Korean side in working with Switzerland. It is also an indication that Swiss Universities enjoy a good reputation.

August 2010.