



## Bilateral research cooperation with Japan

### Strategic Japanese-Swiss Cooperative Programme on Medical Research

The Federal Council Dispatch on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation for 2008-2011 presents Switzerland's realigned foreign science policy. Japan is mentioned among eight non-EU priority countries with which Switzerland wishes to broaden and deepen bilateral scientific ties.

The Federal Council and the Japanese government signed a bilateral research cooperation agreement on 10 July 2007. According to the terms of this agreement, the joint committee meets either in Switzerland or Japan to discuss cooperation activities and share information. These meetings are held every two to three years. In order to encourage bilateral cooperation between Japan and Switzerland, the State Secretariat for Education and Research SER launched the Strategic Japanese-Swiss Cooperative Programme on Medical Research.

The first joint workshop, which was held in Zurich in September 2008, gave participants the opportunity to establish networking ties. A second workshop was held in Tokyo in September 2009.



Group photo at the joint workshop in Tokyo in September 2009.

The priority research fields all relate to medicine and include, albeit not exclusively, the following:

- Regenerative Medicine and Gene Therapy
- Innovative Drug Development
- Preventive Medicine
- Healthy Aging
- Central Neurological Diseases
- Immunological Diseases

Funding within the framework of the Strategic Japanese-Swiss Cooperative Programme is provided over a period of three years and covers the following: salaries for doctoral and postdoctoral students, costs for joint workshops and seminars, travel and attendance costs, consumables as well as the costs to use facilities.

For the first two calls for joint research project proposals (2008 and 2009), a total of 56 JRP proposals were submitted and 9 approved. A third call for JRP proposals was launched in 2011. In addition to ETH Zurich and EPF Lausanne, four cantonal universities (BS, FR, GE and ZH), the Children's Hospital in Basel and the Friedrich Miescher Institute in Basel have all taken part in JRPs.

**Budget:** Swiss Confederation's budget for 2008-2011: CHF 1.2 million; planned budget for 2012: CHF 470,000

**Coordination:** ETH Zurich

#### **Further information and calls for proposals**

ETH Zurich: [www.global.ethz.ch/stc/japan](http://www.global.ethz.ch/stc/japan)

SER: [www.sbf.admin.ch/htm/themen/international/bilateral\\_programm\\_en.html](http://www.sbf.admin.ch/htm/themen/international/bilateral_programm_en.html)

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