



Bilateral research cooperation with South Korea

Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation Programme

In the Federal Council Dispatch on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation for 2008-2011, the Swiss Confederation reoriented its foreign science policy, naming eight non-EU countries with which it wished to broaden and deepen bilateral scientific relations. South Korea was mentioned among these countries.

The Swiss Federal Council and the Republic of Korea signed the bilateral agreement on scientific and technological cooperation on 6 May 2008.

The State Secretariat for Education and Research SER launched the Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation Programme for the purpose of encouraging bilateral cooperation with South Korea. State Secretary Mauro Dell'Ambrogio met with South Korea's Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Sang Mok Lee, in Bern on 16 June 2009. On this occasion, the joint action plan establishing the details for bilateral cooperation was signed. In May 2011, a meeting of the joint committee took place to discuss future cooperation strategy.



Opening ceremony for the "Neue Monte Rosa Hütte" exhibition at the Yonsei University during the joint committee meeting (Seoul 2011).

Priority research fields for 2011 onwards:

- Energy
- Environment
- Information technology
- Life sciences
- Materials sciences

The cooperation programme seeks to encourage joint research projects (JRPs) with emphasis placed on direct exchanges between researchers.

In the first two calls for JRP proposals (2009 and 2010), a total of 25 JRPs were approved. A third call for JRP proposals is planned for the autumn of 2011. Project funding is awarded for a one-year period. The cooperation programme with South Korea enjoys considerable support in Switzerland: in addition to Switzerland's two federal institutes of technology (ETH in Zurich and EPF in Lausanne), the Swiss Institute

for Materials Science and Technology (EMPA) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG), three cantonal universities (BE, BS and NE), the University Hospital of Lausanne (CHUV), and the Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften (ZHAW) have also become involved in JRPs.

Funding: Swiss Confederation's budget for 2008-2011: CHF 1.2 million; planned budget for 2012: CHF 300,000

Leading House: ETH Zurich

Additional information and calls for proposals:

ETH Zurich: www.global.ethz.ch/stc/Korea

SER: www.sbf.admin.ch/htm/themen/international/bilateral_programm_en.html

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