

Bilateral research collaboration with the Asia-Pacific region 2013-2016

Call for seed money projects with selected Asian countries

Background

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) has commissioned ETH Zurich as Leading House (LH) for the bilateral collaboration with partner institutions in China, Japan and South Korea. In addition, the mandate includes exploratory activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

The current seed money call aims at consolidating existing partnerships or initiating new collaboration with institutions of 18 selected countries in South and South-East Asia. The following countries are covered:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam¹

In total, between 15 and 20 seed money projects can be funded.

Goals and objectives

The **goal of the seed money call** is to establish links with scientists and institutions of the countries mentioned above (hereafter called partner countries). Specifically, seed money can be employed to develop a joint project proposal to be submitted to large funding agencies (National funding agencies or EU funding schemes)² or to develop a long-term partnership between two institutions or chairs.

The seed money grants shall achieve the following **objectives**:

- i. to intensify interaction and scientific cooperation between Swiss scientists or institutions and those of the partner countries
- ii. to establish research partnerships of mutual interest and benefits
- iii. to connect existing but separately funded research projects in Switzerland and the partner countries.

Proposals linked to larger national and international research programmes are particularly welcome.

Partnership

The mutual commitment of the partners in both countries will serve as an indicator for the strength of the partnership. The KFPE Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships³ shall be used as a guideline for the project process.

¹ Projects with Vietnamese partner institutions will be managed by EPFL under their Leading House (LH) role.

² Indicate the call and agency the research team plans to submit the proposal to.

³ http://www.naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11_principles_7_questions/9505-a-guide-for-transboundary-research-partnerships-2nd-edition---2014-

Eligibility

The call is open for activities in all scientific disciplines and fields of research.

All scientists of federal and cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences or universities of teachers' education, or public research institutions⁴ are eligible to apply. Applications by doctoral students must be submitted by their supervisors. The Swiss scientist is the main applicant.

Research partners must be scientists affiliated to a university or a public research institute from one of the countries mentioned above. The principal investigator must hold a faculty or senior scientist position or a doctoral degree (Ph.D. or equivalent) with several years of research experience.

Funding and Budgeting

The maximum amount for a seed money grant is **10,000 CHF**. The grant will be disbursed in two instalments: 80% after signing the grant agreement and 20% after approval of the final report. A detailed budget is required when submitting the project proposal. Projected expenses must be justified and related to the proposed research activities. The (financial) contribution of each partner must be made explicit in cash and in-kind.

Application

The main applicant must be employed at one of the above mentioned Swiss institutions. Applications shall be submitted in electronic format to Patricia Heuberger, ETH Zurich (patricia.heuberger@sl.ethz.ch).

Timeline

Deadline for submission:	11 September 2015
Evaluation and funding decision:	October 2015
Notification:	30 October 2015
Project start date:	December 2015
Project duration:	Up to 12 months

Evaluation and selection

Applications will be assessed by an evaluation panel and notified by ETH Zurich. The evaluation is based on the following criteria (not listed in order of priority):

- Scientific and technological merit of the anticipated outcomes
- Originality and feasibility of the proposed activity
- Expertise and complementarities of the partner laboratories/institutes and the applicants
- Contributions by all involved partners
- Potential for long-term collaboration and follow-up activities
- Promotion of young and female researchers

Reporting

The Swiss main applicant is responsible for administrating the funds and for reporting. He or she must submit a final scientific and financial report one month after the termination of the seed money project. Latest deadline for reporting is December 2016.

⁴ <http://www.sbf.admin.ch/themen/01367/01679/index.html?lang=de>



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI



ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

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Annex: Application form

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SEED MONEY PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

PART 1: General information

Partner country	
Project title	
Swiss institution	
Partner institution	
Keywords	
Intended start date	
Duration ⁵ (months)	
Total funding requested (in CHF)	

I hereby confirm that all the information given in this application and the attachments is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Place, Date

Swiss main applicant

Place, Date

Main partner from partner institution

⁵ Up to 12 months

1.1. Swiss main applicant

Family name:	
First name(s):	
Academic degree:	
Gender:	
Date of birth:	
Nationality:	
Institution:	
City:	
Country:	
E-mail:	
Phone number:	

1.2. Main partner from institution abroad

Family name:	
First name(s):	
Academic degree:	
Gender:	
Date of birth:	
Nationality:	
Institution:	
City:	
Country:	
E-mail:	
Phone number:	

1.3. Budget

Please fill in the budget table below and present the contributions of each partner (financial and in-kind). Other funding sources must be mentioned as well. If necessary, the table may be adapted by the applicant.

- A roundtrip economy ticket for flights up to CHF 2,000 per trip may be granted.
- Accommodation costs and consumables or equipment for meetings can be granted. Please indicate the estimated costs in detail.
- Partial salary costs may only be granted for the author of a joint proposal to be submitted to a larger funding agency.

Category or activity	Costs in CHF
Salary contribution ⁶	
Travel	
Accommodation costs	
Consumables and equipment	
Total partner contributions	
Partner 1	
Partner 2	
External partner, if any	
Total requested Seed Funding Grant	

PART 2 - WORK PLAN (5 pages maximum)

- Project description and objectives
- Relevance and innovativeness of the topic
- Description of past or existing research collaboration between the Swiss and the Asian partner institution(s), if any
- Relevance of the planned seed money project for future research collaboration between the partner institutions
- Expected impact and follow-up activities
- Timeframe and work plan
- Agency/funding scheme to which the a joint proposal shall be submitted (if applicable)
- Intended Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) agreements (if applicable)

PART 3 - ANNEX

- CVs of all involved collaborators (max. 2 page each)
- Annex for projects with Vietnam: Letter from the Dean or Head of the involved Swiss institute stating the support for the proposed activities and certifying that there will be no overhead or other indirect costs charged.

⁶ Salary cost contributions are only permitted for the preparation of a joint proposal to be submitted to a larger funding agency (i.e. National funding agencies or EU funding schemes).