

Bilateral research collaboration with Asia 2017-2020

Call for seed money projects with ASEAN member states

Background

ETH Zurich is the Leading House for the Bilateral Science and Technology Cooperation Programme of Switzerland with China, Japan, South Korea and the ASEAN region. Mandated by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), ETH Zurich is in charge of promoting and fostering scientific cooperation with key institutions in the region for the funding period 2017-2020.

Goals and objectives

The goal of the **current seed money call** is to establish and strengthen scientific collaboration between Swiss researchers and colleagues in one or multiple **ASEAN member states**¹: **Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam** (hereafter called partner countries). Seed money grants can be used to initiate new projects and/or establish new partnerships with scientific institutions in the partner countries. The seed money project should not last longer than 12 months.

The seed money grants shall serve the following **purposes**:

- i. to initiate new projects between Swiss scientists or institutions and those of the partner countries
- ii. to establish new research partnerships of mutual interest and benefit
- iii. to connect existing but separately funded research projects in Switzerland and the partner countries.
- iv. to develop a joint project proposal to be submitted to large funding agencies (National funding agencies or EU funding schemes)².

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

Eligibility

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

All senior scientists with a permanent position at a federal and cantonal university, university of applied sciences and university of teachers' education, as well as public research institutes are eligible to apply. Applications by doctoral students must be submitted by their supervisors. The Swiss scientist is the main applicant.

The local collaborators must be scientists affiliated with a university or a public research institute from one of the partner countries. The main collaborator must hold a faculty or senior scientist position or a doctoral degree (Ph.D. or equivalent) with several years of research experience.

¹ Singapore is not part of the current call, as scientific cooperation between Singapore and Switzerland is already well established.

² Indicate the call and/or the funding agency.

Partnership

The mutual commitment of the partners in both countries will serve as an indicator for the strength of the partnership. This includes commitment of funds and in-kind resources by all partners. The KFPE Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships³ shall be used as a guideline for the project process.

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 contract and 20% after approval of the final report.

A detailed budget is required when submitting the project proposal. Budgeted expenses must be justified and related to the proposed activities. A financial contribution of each partner is expected and must be made explicit in cash and in-kind.

The seed money grant does not cover salaries of doctoral students or exchange of young researchers. The bilateral programme with Asia offers mobility grants to cover such activities.

Application

The main applicant is the Swiss Principle Investigator (PI) of the seed money project. He or she must be employed at one of the above-mentioned Swiss institutions. Applications must be submitted in electronic format as one single pdf document to Patricia Heuberger, ETH Zurich (patricia.heuberger@sl.ethz.ch).

Timeline

Deadline for submission:	19 August 2018
Evaluation and funding decision:	September 2018
Notification:	Early October 2018
Project duration:	Up to 12 months

Evaluation and selection

An evaluation panel will review all applications and ETH Zurich will notify the applicants. The evaluation is based on the following criteria (not listed in order of priority):

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

³ https://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11_principles_7_questions

Reporting

The Swiss main applicant is responsible for managing the funds and reporting to ETH Zurich. He or she must submit a final scientific and financial report one month after the termination of the seed money project.

Contact

Patricia Heuberger-Meyer
Programme Manager
ETH Global
HG E 69.3
Rämistrasse 101
8092 Zurich
Switzerland

phone: +41 (0)44 632 56 13
e-mail: patricia.heuberger@sl.ethz.ch
www: www.global.ethz.ch