

## Bilateral research collaboration with Asia 2017-2020

### Call for Bridging Grants with China, Japan, South Korea and the ASEAN region 2020

#### Background

ETH Zurich is the Leading House for the Bilateral Science and Technology Cooperation Programme of Switzerland with China (incl. Hong Kong and Taiwan), 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 current call for bridging grants builds on existing collaboration projects between Swiss researchers and scientists from universities or research institutes in China, Japan, South Korea and member states of ASEAN<sup>1</sup> (hereafter called partner countries). The **goal of the bridging grants** is to bring already established partnerships to the next level. The project proposal must specify how such a next level can be achieved.

Specifically, a bridging grant can be employed to develop a joint project proposal for submission to large funding agencies (national funding agencies or EU funding schemes)<sup>2</sup> or to develop an established and long-term partnership between two institutions or chairs. Activities to intensify joint teaching or curriculum development are also covered by the bridging grants.

The bridging grants do not cover salaries of doctoral students or exchange of young researchers, which are covered by the mobility instruments of the same bilateral programme.

#### Eligibility

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

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

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

#### 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 Partnerships<sup>3</sup> shall be used as a guideline for the project process.

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<sup>1</sup> ASEAN member states: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.

<sup>2</sup> Indicate the call and agency the research team plans to submit the proposal to.

<sup>3</sup> [https://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11\\_principles\\_7\\_questions/9505-a-guide-for-transboundary-research-partnerships-2nd-edition---2014-](https://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11_principles_7_questions/9505-a-guide-for-transboundary-research-partnerships-2nd-edition---2014-)

## Funding and Budgeting

The maximum amount for a bridging grant is **25 kCHF**. 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 must be provided in the project proposal. Budgeted expenses must be justified and related to the proposed research activities. A financial contribution of each partner is expected and 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 as one single pdf document to Patricia Heuberger, ETH Zurich ([patricia.heuberger@sl.ethz.ch](mailto:patricia.heuberger@sl.ethz.ch)).

## Timeline

<b>Deadline for submission:</b>	<b>30 September 2020</b>
Evaluation and funding decision:	November 2020
Notification:	December 2020
Earliest project start date:	February 2021
Project duration:	Up to 12 months

## Evaluation and selection

Applications will be assessed by an evaluation panel. The evaluation is based on the following criteria:

- 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 complementarities 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

## Reporting

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

## Contact

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