

Bilateral research collaboration with Asia 2017-2020

Call for Opportunity Grants with China (incl. Taiwan and Hong Kong), Japan, South Korea and the ASEAN region

Background

In 2017 the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) renewed the Leading House (LH) mandate to ETH Zurich for bilateral collaboration with partner institutions in Asia. In the current phase 2017 - 2020, one single bilateral programme covers the entire region: China (incl. Hong Kong and Taiwan), Japan, South Korea and the ASEAN member states. All activities and instruments in this phase build strongly on the activities, outcomes and experiences from the previous phases. Additional important elements for this phase of the bilateral programme are fostering innovation and the application of research results to economy and society, as well as increasing the visibility of Swiss science and technology abroad.

Goals and objectives

The current open call for **opportunity grants** will support activities of Swiss researchers from universities, universities of applied sciences or public research institutes linked to specific events or incidents in China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), Japan, South Korea and member states of ASEAN¹ (hereafter called partner countries). Examples of such events are on the one hand large public happenings, such as the Olympic Games, international or national Expos etc., or on the other hand major environmental or economic developments in the region. The **goal of the opportunity grants** is to provide non-bureaucratic support to bottom-up initiatives. These initiatives aim at increasing the visibility of Swiss science and technology abroad or applying its results to a concrete development or challenge.

Specifically, opportunity grants can support initiatives such as:

- Participation in exhibitions or activities at the Swiss House of Olympic games or similar events
- Organization of thematic events for a broader audience, putting Swiss research into focus, with or without local partners, e.g. public symposia or discussion fora
- Application of a Swiss technology or research results for the mitigation of a natural disaster or similar incident in the above mentioned countries

The applicants have to explain how the project is linked to a specific event, how it can generate visibility for Swiss science and technology and lead to a mutually beneficial relation with the partner country or partner institutions in the long run. Projects must go beyond the promotion of a single institution and can also include groups of several Swiss scientists.

Opportunity grants are usually given for the duration of the specific event up to maximum one year. The grants do not cover full research projects, salaries of doctoral students or exchange of young researchers. For these activities, please refer to the bridging grants or mobility instruments of the same bilateral programme. The proposed initiatives must also be distinct from scientific symposia or workshops between individual researchers.

The call for opportunity grants will be permanently open until 2020 and applications will be accepted on a rolling base. This format will give researchers the possibility to apply directly when opportunities arise.

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

Eligibility

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

All senior 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. A single Swiss scientist or a consortium of Swiss scientists can act as the main applicant.

Partnership

The application can but does not have to list co-applicants from the partner countries. Co-applicants will have to provide their own funds.

Funding and Budgeting

The maximum amount for an opportunity grant is **50 kCHF**. Budgets will depend on availability, location and size of the individual proposed initiative. 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 activities. For projects including co-applicants from partner countries financial contributions of these partners are 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. The application shall be submitted **in electronic format as one single pdf document** to Rahel Byland, ETH Zurich (rahel.byland@sl.ethz.ch).

Timeline

Deadline for submission:	Call permanently open until 2020
Evaluation and funding decision:	Rolling base
Notification and project start:	2 months after submission of application
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:

- Demonstrated link of the proposed activity to a specific event
- Visibility of Swiss Science and Technology
- Potential for long-term collaboration and follow-up activities
- Technological merit of the anticipated outcomes
- Feasibility and originality of the proposed activity
- Expertise and complementarities of the partner institutions and the applicants (if applicable)
- Contributions by all involved partners, including funding and in-kind contributions
- Promotion of young and female researchers



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

Reporting

The Swiss main applicant is responsible for managing the funds and reporting. He or she must submit a final technical and financial report one month after the termination of the innovation project. Latest deadline for reporting is December 2020.

Contact

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Annex: Application form

Bilateral research collaboration with Asia 2017-2020**OPPORTUNITY GRANTS APPLICATION FORM****PART 1: General information**

Partner country	
Project title (no longer than 80 characters)	
Swiss institution	
Swiss Co-applicant(s)	
Non-Swiss partner institution(s)	
Linked opportunity or event	
Intended start date	
Duration ² (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 (please add signatures of all involved partners as applicable).

Place, Date

Swiss main applicant

Place, Date

Swiss Co-applicant

Place, Date

non-Swiss partner

² Up to 12 months

1.1. Swiss main applicant

Family name:	
First name(s):	
Academic degree:	
Position:	
Sex:	
Date of birth:	
Institution:	
Address:	
City/Post code:	
Country:	
E-mail:	
Phone number:	

1.2. Swiss co-applicant(s) (add information for all partners as applicable)

Family name:	
First name(s):	
Academic degree:	
Position:	
Sex:	
Date of birth:	
Institution:	
Address:	
City/Post code:	
Country:	
E-mail:	
Phone number:	

1.3. Partner(s) from institution(s) abroad

Family name:	
First name(s):	
Academic degree:	
Position:	
Sex:	
Date of birth:	
Institution/company:	
Address:	
City/Post code:	
Country:	
E-mail:	
Phone number:	

1.4. 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 or field trips can be granted. Please indicate the estimated costs in detail.
- Logistics costs for the transportation of material can be granted, if the material is not locally available.

Opportunity Grant	Costs in CHF
Travel	
Accommodation costs	
Project consumables and equipment	
Logistics	
Total requested opportunity grant	
Own contributions	
Swiss Institution	
Partner Institution	
Additional partners	
Total own contribution	
Total project budget	

PART 2 - WORK PLAN (5 pages maximum, minimum font 10pt)

- Project description and objectives
- Relevance and link to a specific opportunity, event or development (including description of the event)
- Expected outcomes including technological merit and visibility for Swiss science and technology
- Expected mutual benefits of the project for all involved partners
- Follow-up activities and long-term perspectives
- Timeframe and work plan

PART 3 – ANNEX

- CVs of all involved collaborators (max. 2 page each, included into the pdf application document)