

Indo-Swiss Executive Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology (2013-2016)

between

**the Department of Science & Technology (DST),
Ministry of Science & Technology (Govt. of India)**

and

**the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER),
Federal Department of Home Affairs**

IN ACCORDANCE with the inter-governmental agreement signed on 10th November 2003 between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of India on cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology, the Indo-Swiss Executive Programme of Cooperation for the period 2006-2010 signed on 16th November 2006, the Addendum to the Executive Programme of Cooperation signed on 13th November 2007, and the Revised Addendum to the Executive Programme of Cooperation signed on 4th October 2010,

REITERATING the desire to further strengthen the cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology on the basis of scientific excellence, reciprocity and mutual benefit and thereby deepen the relationships between the two countries and create a cooperation tradition,

the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research (henceforth: "the parties") have agreed upon the following Executive Programme of Cooperation (henceforth: "POC") for the period 2013-2016.

I. Organisation and Management of ISJRP

i. Steering Bodies

The Indo-Swiss Joint Committee (henceforth: "JC") is the supreme body of the ISJRP. It defines the strategic goals and orientations of the programme and takes the final funding decision regarding the Joint Research Projects.

Both sides ensure an appropriate working level dialogue between themselves in the period between the Joint Committee meetings.

ii. General Management of ISJRP

The main coordinating organisations for the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme (henceforth: "ISJRP") are:

- The Department of Science & Technology (henceforth: "DST"), Ministry of Science & Technology, on behalf of the Government of India;
- Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (henceforth: "EPFL") in its capacity as Leading House on behalf of the State Secretariat for Education and Research (henceforth: "SER"), Federal Department of Home Affairs of the Swiss Government. The EPFL works closely with the University of Lausanne (henceforth: "UNIL") in its capacity as Associated Leading House;
- The Swiss National Science Foundation (henceforth: "SNSF") as the principal agency in Switzerland for the promotion of basic research, which will manage the Joint Research Projects on the Swiss side (see point II below) on behalf of the SER.

iii. Funding Agencies

The ISJRP is financed by the DST on the Indian side and the SER on the Swiss side. The total fund commitment by the Swiss and Indian governments for bilateral cooperation activities with scientific partners may also be complemented by contributions from other cooperating partners, all decided upon criteria of the respective funding organisations.

v. Principal Investigators for Joint Research Projects

Each proposal for a JRP must have at least a main applicant based in Switzerland and a main applicant based in India; they are the Principal Investigators (PIs) on the Swiss and Indian side respectively. The SNSF eligibility criteria apply to applicants requesting funding in Switzerland. Each applicant can only apply for one project at a time under the same call for projects. Furthermore, private sector partners are welcome to participate but will not be eligible for funding.

II. Funding Instruments

– Joint Research Projects

Additional instruments may be introduced upon mutual agreement of the Indo-Swiss Joint Committee, such as:

- Pilot Programme for Innovation, Knowledge- and Tech Transfer, and Entrepreneurship
- Seed Funds and Conferences
- Personnel Exchange Programme (PEP)

All instruments are to be funded within available budgets from respective sides.

III. Priority Research Areas for Joint Research Projects

The following areas of cooperation are identified for the support of joint research projects:

- Translational biomedical research and medical technology

- Renewable energy research

Any other area of cooperation may be introduced upon mutual agreement by both sides through mutual discussions.

IV. Launch of Joint Calls for proposal

The parties agreed to launch a call for Joint Research Projects in second half of 2013. All operational aspects of this call (preparation and opening of call, eligibility check, evaluation, elaboration of final funding suggestion to JC, communication of decision to applicants, life-time management of funded project) shall be discussed and mutually agreed upon by DST and SNSF.

Calls that are launched in the framework of the other instruments will be decided upon by the respective coordinating agencies i.e. DST and EPFL according to the specific national rules and regulations.

V. Implementation of Joint Research Projects

The PIs shall be liable for an appropriate scientific approach and due diligence with respect to the implementation of the joint project. Furthermore, they shall not make any warranty with regard to facts or rights in connection with the joint project and shall not be liable for use of the results of the joint projects by the other project partners or by third parties.

VI. Monitoring

The following documents and reports shall be submitted by the Swiss PI to the Swiss National Science Foundation and by the Indian PI to the DST:

- Annual joint progress report containing information about the progress of work, resource employed, departure from the work schedule, and results
- Annual financial report
- Final report covering all the work, objectives, results and conclusions.

The Swiss and Indian project investigators will report separately to SNSF and DST respectively. Scientific and financial reports are to be submitted at the end of each financial year of respective side. SNSF and DST will prepare a common template for the scientific report, so that the consortia will only need to prepare one report to be submitted to both organisations.

In Switzerland:

The Swiss PI will be responsible for the reporting to SNSF. Both for the scientific and financial reports, the standard SNSF regulation will apply. However, scientific reports are to be submitted yearly. They include a qualitative (template provided) and a quantitative part (output data).

In India:

The Indian Project Investigator shall submit technical/ scientific progress reports and financial documents to DST at the end of each financial year in the prescribed format to be made available by DST.

VII. Financial Framework

The budgets for the next four-year-cooperation period are as follows:

- JRP proposals contain two separate budgets: one budget in INR for the Indian applicant(s) (paid by DST according to DST's rules) and one budget in CHF for the Swiss part (paid by SER/SNSF according to SNSF's rules).
- The Swiss side earmarks money for funding between 20 and 26 Joint Research Projects in the period 2013-2016. Typically, the funding per project is sufficient for each side to support the salary of a PhD-student for three years or the salary of a post-doc for two year as well as consumables, some equipment and the travel costs related to the project. Financial commitments on the Swiss side are subject to the budgetary approval by Parliament.
- The Indian side commits, in principle, to provide necessary support to the mutually agreed upon projects during the validity of the POC 2013-2016. Generally, the funding available from Indian side would be the salary of a PhD-student for three years or the salary of a post-doc for two year; some chemicals / consumables, minor equipment and the travel costs related to the project, typically 2-3 visits per year from each side covering international travel of Indian project participants to visit Switzerland and local hospitality for the Swiss scientists for their visit to India.

VIII. Intellectual Property Rights

As for intellectual property rights, each country shall apply its own rules as well as applicable international standards and as per the provisions of the IPR agreement signed by both sides as Annex-3 of the Executive POC (2006-2011). Any dispute pertaining to IPR will be referred to the bilateral Working Group in accordance with the IPR agreement between the collaborators.

Both sides express their satisfaction and are pleased with the warm relationship between the two countries and are confident that the ISJRP will significantly contribute to further enhance the S&T cooperation between both countries in the future.

This Executive POC shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by both sides and remain in force until 31st December 2016.