

Joint Statement
on
Indo Swiss Joint Research Cooperation

between

**the Federal Department of Home Affairs of the Swiss
Confederation**

and

**the Ministry of Science & Technology of the Government of the
Republic of India**

The Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs of the Swiss Confederation,
Federal Councillor Alain Berset,

and

the Minister of Science & Technology of the Government of the Republic of India,

Vayalar Ravi

held talks in New Delhi on 3rd October 2012 during the Federal Councillor's visit to India. They assessed the results of the cooperation between Switzerland and India under the Indo Swiss Joint Research Programme (hereafter referred to as "ISJRP"), which has been running successfully for the past 7 years, and exchanged respective views on future cooperation. They renewed the commitment of their ministries to work together, to develop new S&T partnerships beneficial to both countries and stated their satisfaction with the steady intensification of collaborative activities in science and technology witnessed in recent years.

Considering the Cooperation 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 in the field of Science and Technology (hereafter referred to as "POC") for the period 2006-2010 signed on 16th November 2006 between the Department of Science & Technology of the Government of the Republic of India and the Federal Department of Home Affairs of the Swiss

Confederation; all subsequent amendments to the POC (2006, 2007 and 2010); and the Joint Statement between the Ministry of Science & Technology of the Government of the Republic of India and the State Secretariat for Education and Research of the Federal Department of Home Affairs of the Swiss Confederation signed on 27 April 2007,

it is stated:

- Within ISJRP 2006-2012, a total of 45 joint research projects, 10 personnel exchange projects, 4 institutional partnership projects, and 1 public private partnership project were supported. They were jointly selected on the basis of scientific excellence, mutual interest and reciprocity, in the fields of information and communication technologies; materials science and nanotechnology; health sciences and medical research; sustainable urban development; and renewable energy. In the same period, grants to support mobility of scientists were also funded under ISJRP.
- Switzerland and India committed themselves to further strengthening, deepening and focusing the ISJRP for the 2013-2016 phase. The Department of Science & Technology of the Government of the Republic of India and the State Secretariat for Education and Research of the Federal Department of Home Affairs of the Swiss Confederation will outline the next cooperation phase in the POC 2013-2016.
- The signatories note with the greatest satisfaction that ISJRP significantly contributes to an overall increase in the number of collaborative activities between Indian and Swiss researchers, research institutions, and programmes.
- Both sides also greatly encourage direct institutional links and bottom-up cooperation between their respective higher education and research institutions.
- With the establishment of swissnex India at Bangalore in 2010, an important platform has been established to help promote and expand cooperation between Switzerland and India in fields that are of interest to both countries. swissnexes are an initiative of the Swiss Government. They facilitate cooperation between higher

education and research institutions, by bringing together scientists, entrepreneurs and policy-makers of both countries.

- It was also noted that the active participation of both sides in the ongoing seventh European Framework Programme has created fruitful collaborations between researchers from our two countries. Further cooperation and projects will be developed and funded through all possible research and development programmes to which the parties are eligible, notably the European multilateral framework.

Both sides are strongly committed to actively encouraging, and thereby further deepening, cooperation in the fields of science and technology. They are extremely pleased with the high quality of ongoing cooperation and they value such cooperation as an important contribution towards addressing complex research issues and global challenges.



Alain Berset

Federal Councillor

Federal Department of Home Affairs
Switzerland



Vayalar Ravi

Minister

Ministry of Science and Technology
Republic of India