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EURAXESS LINKS ASEAN

Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to present you the 50th edition of the EURAXESS Links ASEAN e-newsletter.

In our section **EURAXESS Members in Focus** we are zooming in on EURAXESS member **France**.

In this month's **EU insight** section we focus on the European Commission's efforts to increase access to higher education in the European Union.

Our **News, Grants and Fellowships** section contains a round-up of the most important developments and opportunities.

We hope you do enjoy reading our newsletter.

Wishing you a great month ahead!

Your EURAXESS Links ASEAN team



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Please email to asean@euraxess.net for any comments on this newsletter, contributions you would like to make, if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe.

Editor: Dr Susanne RENTZOW-VASU, EURAXESS Links ASEAN, Regional Representative



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1 EU Insight – Increasing Access to Higher Education in Europe

Simply put, more must be done to increase access to higher education in the European Union. This statement succinctly summarises the results of a recently published report by the European Commission—[Modernisation of Higher Education in Europe: Access, retention and employability 2014](#)—the second in a series focused on higher education in Europe. Why this is so has much to do with the role that knowledge, and subsequently education, plays in fulfilling the long-term developmental objectives the European Union has set for itself.

The report

Modernisation of Higher Education in Europe: Access, retention and employability 2014 is based on a study conducted by the Eurydice Network, which looked at 36 different education systems within the Europe (including all 28 EU Member States). The aim of the study was to evaluate the extent to which the European Commission’s modernisation agenda, which “supports higher education systems in Europe in responding to the needs of our increasingly knowledge-based economy and societies”, is being implemented across Europe. The full report plus report brief can be downloaded free of charge at the Eurydice website.

Why access to higher education is important

According to the European Commission, “knowledge [is] at the heart of the Union’s efforts for achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth...and higher education in particular and its links with research and innovation, plays a crucial role in individual and societal development, and in providing the highly skilled human capital and the articulate citizens Europe needs to create jobs, economic growth and prosperity”. Yet even with this lofty goal in mind, the majority of governments within the EU have so far failed to institute proper measures to support access to higher education.

What is behind this outcome?

The report names three distinct factors—an overly narrow focus on quantification, insufficient retainment and transition to labour market—as contributing to the slow pace widening participation in higher education in the European Union has taken so far.

The first of these factors concerns governments’ placing too much emphasis on just increasing numbers, a practice which unfortunately limits access to many social groups and contributes to a lack of diversity. For example, one group not yet addressed by participation widening efforts are young people from disadvantaged families. Additionally, those with disabilities tend not to be included in widening efforts.

The second factor is the lack of sufficient retainment strategies for individuals once they gain access to higher education. Specifically, this refers to the lack of measures to help prevent students from dropping out, in particular those from



underserved and underrepresented groups. Currently, not enough support is offered in terms of the mode of study (part vs full-time), timeframe (how long should it take to complete programme/degree), and information and guidance to those most at risk.

The third, and last, factor is employability. Because employability is a complex concept with more than one definition, this also means that more than one approach exists to how it might be measured (i.e. employment-based vs. competence-based). This lack of clarity in turn blurs understanding of the type of training students actually need in order to obtain jobs following completion of their degree programmes; all too often measures and policies (if they exist at all) confuse or conflate employment for the things (skills, previous work experience, mode of study) which actually account for one's ability to be employed.

However, beyond these factors, perhaps the most crucial reason underlying the problems associated with the widening of participation in higher education is a general lack of *systematic* monitoring processes. According to the report, all EU countries plus the eight additional European countries included in the study do have some type of policy measure in place to support higher education. The problem, unfortunately, is that at the current moment such measures are uneven and “insufficiently developed to provide an evidence-based picture across Europe”.

To date, only one EU member state has truly stepped up to address this challenge—Ireland.

Sources and further information

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EURAXESS Members in
Focus: FRANCE

2 Feature – EURAXESS Members in Focus: France

2.1 France and ASEAN – from Cooperation to Innovation

by Mr André de Bussy



France has a long tradition of foreign scientific policy, targeting dynamic partners with large potential in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation. The core objective of such a policy is not only cooperation for development, but also – mainly – to invest in partnerships with the highest potential for future collaborative projects. With its coming economic integration, growing public and private investments in STI, ASEAN is a long term partner for France scientific policy stakeholders.

French research centers – IRASEC (Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia), EFEO (Ecole Francaise d'Extreme Orient/ French School of Far Eastern Studies) for the social sciences, CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research), Pasteur Institute, IRD (Institute for Research on Development), CIRAD (Center of Agricultural Research for Development), have representatives in several ASEAN countries. Most French “Grandes Ecoles” (French elite schools) and universities send representatives to ASEAN to raise awareness on France’s research excellence and latest innovation trends, as well as to recruit the brightest students.

They have numerous collaborative projects with ASEAN scientists in all fields. Health (epidemiology, vaccines and public health systems), water, food, energy nexus; Geography (oceanography, volcanology, meteorology), Economics and Finances, Engineering and Public infrastructures, ICT, Biodiversity studies are among the most vibrant fields of collaboration. They have fruitful applications to address the main challenges ASEAN faces: rapid urbanization, economic integration, natural hazards and disaster risks, dengue and other epidemics, impacts of climate change and economic development on its exceptional biodiversity, etc.

Cooperation in all areas is not only growingly upgrading its scale and level, from training and expertise transfer to collaborative innovation. It is also upgrading from peer cooperation to institutional dialogue.

The French Regional Delegation for Cooperation – ASEAN, that I represent, has developed its relations with ASEAN Secretariat Socio-Economic Community, headed by Deputy SG Alicia dela Rosa Bala, and ASEAN STI Division, headed by Alexander LIM.

In the future, France–ASEAN scientific partnership will keep moving forward. To this date, applied research tends to dominate, although France has much to offer in the field of fundamental research. Mathematics (France is the country with the highest number of Fields Medals), physics and chemistry are fields of French excellence crucial to ASEAN STI. In applied research, Economics



(Economics 2014 Nobel Prize Jean Tirole is French), Engineering science, Energy, Aeronautics, Biotechnologies, Health among others offer opportunities for more collaborative projects.

In this regard, ASEAN students and researchers benefit from French Embassies' scholarships schemes, advertised on each Embassy website as well as on the [CampusFrance website](#). Researchers can also benefit from ICT-Asia and Bio-Asia programmes. They fund French-Asian research projects involving at least one ASEAN researcher through [a yearly call for proposals](#) issued in June.

I strongly encourage scientists interested in collaborative projects to attend BIO and STIC Asia workshops this month. They offer a rare venue for regional networking and peer dialogue. [BIO-ASIA Workshop](#) is held in Singapore, in partnership with A*STAR and Technology Innovation International, 17-22 May. [ICT-Asia Workshop](#) will be held 25-26 May in partnership with the South East Asia Center for Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), in Los Banos, Philippines.

Last but not least, bringing together science, politics and societies, Climate Change is high on French-ASEAN research agenda. France will be hosting the 21st Climate Conference – COP21 on 7-8 December 2015. It is expected to reach a binding agreement on national contributions to lower their carbon emission. The implementation of the agreement will request a change in economics and social paradigms that science can help to address.

I extend a warm invitation to all ASEAN stakeholders to participate in [Bangkok Regional Forum on Climate Change](#), 1 to 3 July 2015 at AIT (Asian Institute of Technology). It will bring together around 300 participants. With ASEAN-EU Dialogue and ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change meetings as side events, it offers a unique opportunity for the EU and ASEAN to jointly address Climate Change issues – one of the biggest challenges we all face, one of the most crucial areas for scientific collaboration. A 140,000 EUR call for scientific projects will be launched at the end of the Forum.

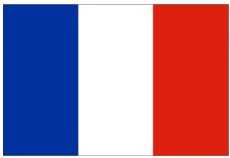
I have no doubt France and ASEAN scientific joint projects, in this field as in others, can contribute to shape a better future for all of us.

André de BUSSY

French Counselor for Regional Cooperation – ASEAN



EURAXESS Members in
Focus: FRANCE



2.2 France – A knowledge based economy with a strong tradition in research and innovation

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by 40 countries, of which we will profile one (each month) in our monthly EURAXESS Links ASEAN e-newsletter. This month, we focus on the Republic of France.



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France is a knowledge-based economy and home to numerous Fields Medals, Nobel Laureates and multinational's CEOs who were trained in the French Grand Ecoles or its Universities. Interlaced in the European Network, France aims to tackle new societal challenges by boosting research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Worldwide, France is ranked:

6th in the number of scientific publications and researchers

4th in the number of Nobel Laureates (61) in all fields

2nd for Field Medals with 11 laureates

French Laboratories welcome more than 1,800 researchers, 2,500 engineers and 1,800 foreign researchers and students every year (Source: CNRS).



Powerful public-sector research bodies drive the country's research strategy.

- The CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research), France's principal multidisciplinary research body, has produced 16 Nobel Prize winners and 11 Fields Medal winners.
- The CEA (French Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies Commission) has 8,500 employees and almost 150 research and experimentation sites.
- The INSERM (National Institute of Health and Medical Research) employs 13,686 people, of whom more than 1,660 are foreign researchers.



France is attractive for its quality of life and its culture, but also for its research institutions which cover a wide range of scientific fields. **France has the third largest amount of foreign students** and the language barrier is fading thanks in large part to an international and European research environment. Led by a **tradition of excellence, cutting edge research and innovation, France is a leading country in fundamental research and has a history in developing breakthrough technologies.**

- 2.23% of the GDP is devoted to R&D, 60% comes from private companies which have a key role in the French R&D
- There are about 420,000 full-time employees in R&D activities with 260,000 researchers who work in enterprises or in one the 30 national public research institutions such as the worldwide known CNRS or the more specialized CEA, INRIA, INRA, INSERM, Institut Pasteur



France's leading industrial sectors are aerospace, automobiles and land transport, electronics and info-communication technology, pharmaceuticals and nuclear power.

France's expertise in these sectors is well represented through **cuttingedge companies based in Singapore** such as Airbus, Veolia, Gemalto, Bouygues, Alstom, Essilor, Thales, ST Microelectronics or Sanofi who all have R&D activities here and collaborations ongoing.

In the next few years, France aims to develop new technologies in 9 societal challenges, defined by France Europe 2020 strategic plan:

- Efficient resource management and adaptation to climate change
- Clean, secure and efficient energy, Industrial renewal
- Life, health and well-being, Food security and demographic challenges
- Sustainable mobility and urban systems
- Information and communication society
- Innovative, inclusive and adaptive societies
- Freedom and security of Europe, its citizens and its residents

For more information please visit www.institutfrancais.sg



About EURAXESS France

The EURAXESS FRANCE network currently consists of 23 service centres located mainly at universities across the country.

The service centres offer free and personalised assistance to researchers and their families helping them to:



Prepare their stay in France: assistance on entry, residence and work procedures (visas, work permits, residence permits)

Help them settle in France: assistance in finding accommodation, health cover, bank account etc..

Help them with the daily administrative procedures: social security, family benefits, taxes, pensions...

Facilitate integration: French language classes, cultural activities, sports, children schooling etc.

For more information please visit the [EURAXESS FRANCE website](#)

EURAXESS Members in
Focus: FRANCE

2.3 Interview with Luc Le Calvez – Head of CNRS@ASEAN



Luc Le Calvez heads the ASEAN regional representative office of the CNRS (French National Center for Scientific Research) since August 2009.

A graduate of the French EDHEC Business School, Luc started his career in 1986 as VSNE in the Indonesian representative office of RHONE-POULENC, then stayed in Jakarta in 1988 to establish the representative office in Indonesia of SFERE, a French consulting company designing higher education schemes under multilateral funding.

After a MBA in San Francisco in 1991-1992, Luc then joined the pharmaceutical GUERBET group as Area Manager for Eastern Europe, Austria, Greece and Africa, then moved in 1996, to bioMérieux, an In-Vitro Diagnostics company, to deploy its ASEAN distribution network.

Back to France in 2007, Luc joined the CNRS, first in its International Relations Office in Paris as the Deputy-Director in charge of Asia-Pacific, then since mid-2009 to head CNRS' Regional Office for ASEAN.

EURAXESS Links ASEAN invited Mr Le Calvez to share with our readers how his office brings the research communities of France and ASEAN to collaborate more closely.

Mr Le Calvez, can you please give us an overview of CNRS ?

The Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (National Centre for Scientific Research) is a public organization under the responsibility of the French Ministry of Education and Research. Founded in 1939, CNRS carries out research in all fields of knowledge, from humanities to mathematics, physics and astronomy. Its works, coordinated through ten institutes at its headquarters,



are closely intertwined with universities and promote interdisciplinary research. CNRS is the largest fundamental research organization in Europe, and it tops international publication rankings such as Scimago Institutions ranking (<http://bit.ly/1uleVHL>) and Nature Index (<http://bit.ly/1uwDmMA>).

CNRS' reach is worldwide with 35 UMI ("Unités Mixtes Internationales" in French, or joint laboratories) and countless collaboration projects, as well as 9 regional representative offices. The ASEAN office relocated from Hanoi to Singapore in September 2014.

As Head of the CNRS ASEAN Office, what are your responsibilities?

The office acts as a bridge between CNRS - and its French partners - and the research institutions of ASEAN countries. My role includes encouraging exchanges between CNRS and ASEAN research institutions, as well as assisting CNRS researchers carrying out research locally when they need it. Another part of my work is to help developing and structuring existing collaborations, at different levels of commitments. For instance: CNRS is part of 11 UMIs in Asia, out of which 4 in Singapore and 1 in Vietnam.

France has a long history in Southeast Asia. What are CNRS' international strategic priorities, particularly as they relate to Southeast Asia, and how are these being implemented?

With 5 joint international laboratories in ASEAN (11 in total Asia and 35 worldwide), ASEAN is now one of the most important regions for CNRS. Though ASEAN countries may appear modest in the face of China or Japan, there are fascinating opportunities in ASEAN, among which I need to mention: young talents motivated by science, unique topography and geology, and fascinating biodiversity (unfortunately often under stress!).

What are CNRS' priorities in terms of science, technology and innovation in ASEAN?

At CNRS, the utmost priority is excellence. Besides, CNRS mostly works on a "bottom-up" approach, hence a different logic to "prioritize". Out of our past and current structured collaborations, chemistry, mathematics and physics constituted a strong base with Vietnam, whereas computer, engineering and systems sciences developed very well all over Asia. In Asia, CNRS puts a clear emphasis on collaborating with industrial companies, with 3 UMIs associating THALES, SOLVAY and SAINT-GOBAIN.

CNRS has established a number of joint labs in various countries in ASEAN. Can you please give us some background as to how these labs were established and how they are being funded?

International collaboration between researchers most often start based on personal affinity for common research interests, developed at international conferences, summer schools and seminars. These collaborative activities between researchers or laboratories often are carried out within informal networks. Then, if and when the research reaches a point where complementary skills must be brought in, CNRS organizes "skills consortia" and structures agreements with its foreign partners. These labs are structured



around preexisting collaborations between French and local PIs. They are then jointly funded, and their budget depends on their status. For instance, International Associated Laboratories, that are “laboratories without walls”, use their budget for mobility and small equipment. On the other hand, International Joint Laboratories, that are a full-fledged laboratories based either in France or abroad, also fund their staff.

Where do you see the biggest opportunities for increased science, technology and innovation cooperation between France and ASEAN?

It is quite difficult to say, simply because there are so many “niches” with interesting potentialities. On a regional scale, I hope for a better coordination between ASEAN countries, and possibly a “coming together initiative”. Clearly not easy to start here, as well as it was not easy to initiate the European Research Area (http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm). Recently SEA-EU-NET organized a discussion on a “region to region, ASEAN+EU” joint-funding scheme. I hope ASEAN decision makers will give it a try...

As you know, EURAXESS Links ASEAN supports researcher mobility between ASEAN and Europe. Can you share with us your views on researcher mobility?

Good science knows no border, and we all know that broadening one’s views and pooling resources is the way to better scientific research: excellence is an international pursuit!

What is CNRS doing to support researcher mobility in the region?

CNRS structures its international activities on 4 different types of agreements (PICS, GDRI, LIA and UMI, see: <http://www.cnrs.fr/en/workingwith/toolkit.htm>), all of which provide most of its budget towards mobility. We also coordinate our activities with the French embassies, which in most countries run seeding programs aimed at young talented researchers.

Can more be done to attract young people towards scientific research, education and careers?

Yes, of course! I personally believe in pooling. EURAXESS is doing a good job, and I hope its reach can further develop, connecting talent to ideas and then funding.

What new initiatives are you working on?

CNRS is a partner in 16 research labs (UMI) based in Asia: 6 in computer engineering and systems sciences, 5 in humanities and social sciences, 2 in green chemistry, and 1 in each mathematics, quantum physics and information, and mechanobiology. Some already mature, some more recent. This year, we’ll gather and analyze for “good practices” and other ways to use this network to stimulate interdisciplinary research, reach out to local partners and maybe as access points for French and European partners seeking scientific partners in Asia. ASEAN is a mosaic. CNRS contributes to its scientific activities, and to connect its parts. As does EURAXESS. Thank you!



EURAXESS Members in
Focus: FRANCE



2.4 CIRAD – A leading French research partner in Southeast Asia

CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) is a public industrial and commercial enterprise (EPIC) under the joint authority of France's Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CIRAD works with the whole range of developing countries to generate and pass on new knowledge, support agricultural development and fuel the debate on the main global issues concerning agriculture. CIRAD has a global network of partners and of twelve regional offices, from which it conducts joint operations with more than 100 countries.

In Southeast Asia, CIRAD is working with research organizations and universities in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam to step up scientific exchanges and regionalize research operations focused on common agricultural development issues. Some fifty CIRAD researchers are working at national and regional research centres, higher education establishments and rural development organizations.

Key research fields include:

- **Epidemiology of emerging and trans-border animal diseases** (avian influenza, etc) - [GREASE regional network](#)
- **Conservation agriculture and direct seeding mulch-based cropping systems** (DMC) - [CANSEA regional network](#)
- **Rubber growing and natural rubber technology** - [HRPP consortium](#)
- **Food security, food sanitary quality**, geographical indications and socioeconomic management of food markets and urban-rural relations - [MALICA consortium](#)
- **Biomass energy development and the environment**
- **Starch-based agrifood product processing**
- **Integrated management of natural resources** (water, soils, etc).

In recent years, CIRAD has established partnerships with higher education establishments in France and abroad. These links with higher education institutions and universities have enabled CIRAD researchers to contribute to the development of international Masters and PhD courses, and backs up its PhD training policy with incentive operations and research grants intended for PhD and post-doc students working on topics considered to be of strategic importance. Each year, CIRAD researchers directly supervise more than 300 PhD students, 60% of them from developing countries. Last year, 40 PhD students were awarded research grants by CIRAD. Moreover, 240 benefited from financial support for their work on their thesis. Support is provided in terms



of operating expenses or of a grant to fund a stay in a CIRAD laboratory. In all, CIRAD devotes more than 1.8 million euros to PhD training each year.

In Southeast Asia, CIRAD is heavily involved in training students and junior researchers, and works to build the skills of its scientific partners by receiving their researchers and providing them with professional training.

Priority is given to regional certificate courses, vocational training, PhD schools, workshops, teaching sessions, study trips and other courses.

Some examples of the courses developed by CIRAD in cooperation with partners in Southeast Asia include:

- **Masters in Natural Rubber Production Technology and Management**, a joint degree from Kasetsart and Prince of Songkla Universities in Thailand and CIRAD.
- **"InterRisks", a Franco-Thai International Masters** in the Assessment and Management of Health Risks at the Human, Animal and Ecosystem Interface from Kasetsart University (Thailand), the Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse (France) and CIRAD.
- **Involvement in several Masters offered by the University of Science and Technology of Hanoi (USTH)**: plant biotechnologies, renewable energy, water-environment, information sciences and technologies, informatics.

CIRAD in figures

- ❖ A staff of 1650, including 800 researchers.
- ❖ Joint operations with more than 100 countries.
- ❖ Three scientific departments: Biological Systems (BIOS), Performance of Tropical Production and Processing Systems (PERSYST), and Environment and Societies (ES).
- ❖ 34 research units.
- ❖ Twelve regional offices in metropolitan France, the French overseas regions and other countries.
- ❖ Around thirty collective research tools accessible to partners from developing countries.
- ❖ About 5 million euros spent on PhD courses; 800 researchers and technicians from all over the world received and trained each year.
- ❖ A budget of 197 million euros in 2014.

Further information [here](#)

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EURAXESS Members in
Focus: FRANCE

2.5 The PHC Merlion Programme – supporting scientific research collaboration between France and Singapore through mobility

On 1 June 2015, the 10th edition of the PHC Merlion Programme will be open for application from Singaporean and French researchers who are keen to increase joint research collaborations. Managed by the Institut Français de Singapour, in partnership with Singaporean institutions, the programme has so far funded over 150 bilateral collaboration projects.



EURAXESS Links ASEAN met with two beneficiaries of this bilateral mobility programme to find out about their research collaborations. Dr Sun Handong, a researcher at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University, is collaborating with Prof Massimo Giudic of Institut Non Linéaire de Nice on a project called "Droplet Lasers Coupling for Information Processing Networks". His colleague Dr Yu is a biomedical engineer with the National University of Singapore. He has joined forces with colleagues at France's Université Pierre et Marie Curie and Hope Technik to jointly develop a robotic walker for gait training for patients with gait impairment.

Dr Sun and Dr Yu, how would you describe your research to a non-expert?

Dr Sun: My research explores the underlying physics behind optoelectronic devices. We use optical spectroscopy techniques to understand the physical processes which occur inside the devices. We also construct some devices, such as lasers and optical sensors.

Dr Yu: My current research focus at NUS is the application of robotics and intelligent systems to healthcare. I am developing robotic devices for rehabilitation and minimally invasive surgery.

Dr Sun, your academic career includes stations in Hong Kong, the UK, Japan and now Singapore here in Southeast Asia. Have you always planned to work outside of your home country?



I have worked in different institutes because I want to acquire different research experiences. My rich experience has really broadened my vision and has proven useful for the establishment of an independent group in Nanyang Technological University here in Singapore.

Dr Yu, after research stays in China and the US you are now a researcher at the National University of Singapore. Has mobility always been on your agenda?

I didn't particularly plan my movement. I followed my passion and interest in my research. I grew up and finished my engineering education in China. I came to Singapore when a good job opportunity was presented to me. I went to MIT to pursue my PhD and came back to Singapore to work in the defence R&D sector. I moved to academic research at NUS to focus on biomedical robotics a few years ago.

How has mobility shaped your research career and your life?

Dr Sun: Mobility facilitates research collaboration with diverse institutes.

Dr Yu: I believe my experience in different research areas and environments has a positive impact on my research career. My exposure to different cultures in life and work has definitely broadened my view and has probably also shaped my thinking and lifestyle.

Dr Sun, your department is currently collaborating with the Institut Non Linéaire de Nice. Can you tell us a little about this research project?

My department (Division of Physics and Applied Physics, School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences) is collaborating with the Institut Non Linéaire de Nice in several directions through UMI Majulab. I myself am collaborating with Prof. Massimo Giudic on a project called "Droplet Lasers Coupling for Information Processing Networks" which is supported by MERLION. This Merlion project is devoted to implement coupling between Droplet Lasers for Information Processing Networks. Accordingly, the first step to realize in this project is to couple light out from the Droplet Lasers. This task consists of obtaining a light output channel from the droplet laser which will allow to characterize laser dynamics and which will enable the coupling between distant Droplet Lasers. As this is an interdisciplinary project, combination of complementary expertise is necessary.

What do you see as the long-term gains of this collaboration between Singapore and France?

We have pinpointed the respective research strength of the two institutes. That is, NTU is strong on photonic materials and devices while INLN is



strong on nonlinear dynamics. Some new research projects like quantum information processing and complex networks may come up through the close collaboration.

Dr Yu, you are also engaged in a French-Singaporean collaborative research project involving the National University of Singapore and the Université Pierre et Marie Curie and Hope Technik.

In this collaboration with Hope Technik, we are jointly developing a robotic walker for gait training for patients with gait impairment due to neurological disorders such as stroke and Parkinson's Disease. Engineers from Hope Technik implemented the design and control of the system and built the prototypes of the robot, while our PhD students and research fellow developed the system concept and control methodologies and conduct the testing of the system. Through the Merlion Programme, we are collaborating with colleagues at UPMC to investigate different sensing and control methods for such devices as UPMC is developing very similar devices. We are also exploring the joint clinical trials of the devices.

What do you see as the long-term gains of this collaboration?

This collaboration has facilitated intimate interactions between my group and many colleagues in the robotic institute at UPMC. This will enable us to have wider and longer term collaborations in many areas. As a matter of fact, I met another colleague working in the areas of computer vision at ISIR during my visit last November and we are now working on two collaborative projects funded by different funding agencies in Singapore. My students and postdocs will also get good exposure to the French research and culture during their visits and make friends, which will benefit their future career.

Dr Sun and Dr Yu, the research collaboration projects between your departments and the colleagues in France are supported by the Merlion programme. How did you find out about it?

Dr Sun: This collaboration is very helpful. Firstly, the PIs from the two collaborating institute can exchange ideas regularly, which will extend the research scope of respective departments. Secondly, some PhD students and junior researchers can benefit in widening their vision and knowledge.

Dr Yu: I first met with the colleague at UPMC during my visit to UPMC in 2010 and developed mutual interest in collaboration. The Merlion programme is an excellent vehicle for me and the UPMC professors as well as our students at both universities to have deeper interaction and exchange of ideas in this research area.



Thank you very much!

Researcher Profile



[Dr SUN Handong](#) is Associate Professor at the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University



[Dr YU Haoyong](#) is Assistant Professor at the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the National University of Singapore.



3 News & Developments

3.1 EU, Member States and Associated Countries

3.1.1 European Commission launches scientific debate on how to feed the planet



The European Commission has launched an online consultation on how science and innovation can help the EU ensuring safe, nutritious, sufficient and sustainable food globally. The discussion is linked to the theme of this year's Universal Exhibition (Expo Milano 2015) "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", which aims to go beyond cultural activities and open a real political debate on

The paper was presented on 13 April in Brussels by Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, and responsible for the JRC, together with Franz Fischler, Chairman of the Expo 2015 EU Scientific Steering Committee.

Commissioner Navracsics said: *"The European Union has a vital role to play in tackling the challenges associated with food and nutrition security and sustainability. Expo 2015 offers us a great opportunity to showcase what the EU is already doing in this field. I hope it will also breathe new life into our efforts and further foster international collaboration. I commend the work of the Joint Research Centre and look forward to working on these issues closely with my colleagues, in particular my fellow Commissioners in charge of agriculture, health, research, environment and development."*

Chairman Franz Fischler said: *"I believe that science and innovation are crucial if we are to guarantee access to safe and nutritious food for all, produced in a sustainable way. We have worked hard to ensure that Expo 2015 has a strong scientific dimension. I hope that the consultation and the discussion paper will steer a global debate."*

The consultation will underpin the debate on a future research agenda to help tackle global food and nutrition security challenges. It will focus on the areas where the EU's research efforts can have the strongest impact, such as how to improve public health through nutrition, increase food safety and quality, reduce food loss and waste, make rural development more sustainable, increase agricultural yields through sustainable intensification, as well as how to better understand food markets and increase access to food for people around the world.

The consultation is available online for input by all interested stakeholders until 1 September. The results of the consultation will be published on 15 October, ahead of World Food Day, and will contribute to shape the EU's legacy for Expo 2015. They will complement the scientific programme taking place at the EU's Expo Pavillion, which will bring together experts and decision makers from around the world.

Source: [Joint Research Centre](#)



3.1.2 European Commission launches €3m prize to improve air quality in cities



A prize of €3 million will be awarded to the person or team that develops the best material to reduce the concentration of particulate matter in urban areas, the European Commission announced on 16 April. The aim is to improve air quality in cities and reduce the serious health risks posed by particulate matter (PM), the **air pollutant** which has the most severe impact on health.

The Horizon Prize on materials for clean air aims to stimulate innovative thinking to find a material-based solution to the problem. The material can be made from any chemical substance (e.g. plastic, concrete, asphalt, etc.) capable of reducing PM concentration in the air (e.g. by capturing it).

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: *"Poor air quality is a major problem for health and the environment. Air pollutants kill half a million Europeans every year. Under Horizon 2020, we are continuing to invest in key enabling technologies, such as advanced materials, to reduce particulate matter in the air for the benefit of everyone."*

The prize is open to established scientists as well as other innovators. It leaves applicants total freedom to come up with the most promising and effective solution. The award criteria just require the solution to be affordable, sustainable, innovative and well-designed.

As of today, the rules of contest are available **online**. Contestants will be able to submit their entries from 26 January 2017 until 23 January 2018.

Source: [European Commission](#)

3.1.3 European Inventor Award finalists 2015: inventors behind 15 ground-breaking innovations selected



Ivars Kalvins, inventor of mildronate heart medication and others

Their inventions make day-to-day life easier, create economic value and generate employment. They sometimes even save lives. The European Patent Office (EPO) announced on 21 April the 15 finalists for the European Inventor Award 2015. With this prestigious annual award, the EPO honours scientists and engineers in five categories whose inventions have been patented by the EPO and have contributed to technological progress, social development and economic growth. The 10th edition of the award will be held in Paris on 11 June, when the winners will be announced at a ceremony attended by prominent representatives of the worlds of politics, business, research and industry. Once again the public will select the winner of the **Popular Prize**, which will be decided by online voting in the run-up to the ceremony.

More than 300 individuals and teams of inventors were proposed for this year's award, 15 of whom have been selected as finalists by the independent international jury. The 2015 finalists are from 11 countries: Austria, Australia, China, France, Japan, Latvia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the US. Their inventions cover a wide range of technological fields including biochemistry, civil engineering, energy, electronics, industrial chemistry,



material science, medical technology, nutrition and physics.

"These ground-breaking inventions showcase Europe's role as a prime technology region and a hub of innovation for inventors from all over the world," said EPO President [Benoît Battistelli](#). "The European patent system not only provides appropriate conditions to inventors from around the world for realising their creativity but also incentivises investors and entrepreneurs to strengthen their R&D activities and thus contribute to the economic prosperity of a region of 600 million people. These inventions once again show that the development of the European economy lies in its innovative capacity."

Source: [European Patent Office](#)

3.1.4 A new Wave of Scientific Transatlantic Cooperation

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney T.D. joined on 16 April 2015 with Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, and Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries in Brussels, along with Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Gail Shea, to announce the first trans-Atlantic mapping survey to take place under the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.

The Irish research vessel, RV Celtic Explorer will undertake a mapping expedition between St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada and Galway in Ireland in June of this year, as scientists from the Marine Institute, Ireland will be joined by a multi-national team made up of USA, Canadian and European ocean mapping experts. This is an important step following the agreement reached at Galway in May 2013 and is an example of scientific diplomacy in action.

The announcement was made at the European Commission hosted event, "The Atlantic – Our Shared resource. Making the Vision Reality", which was a follow-up to the May 2013 signing of the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Research Cooperation between the EU, Canada and the United States of America.

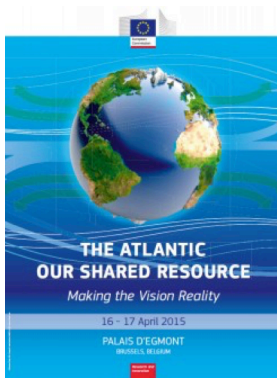
This event is the launch pad for all the Galway Statement follow-up projects funded with the first Horizon 2020 Blue Growth calls - the main financial instrument on the EU side implementing the Galway Statement commitments.

With a view to translating commitments into investments, the European Commission has earmarked around € 70 million in calls under Horizon 2020, the EU Research and Innovation Programme for the period 2014-2015.

Source: [European Commission](#)

3.1.5 Foresight 2025: integrated and fast-evolving standards key to innovation

A JRC foresight study suggests the European standardisation system should accelerate and rely on an integrated strategy. The study argues this is the only way standardisation will be able to keep pace with technological developments





and societal challenges, stimulating innovation and fostering competition.

In an ever-more globalised economy with increasingly fierce competition, European industry will need to rely more on new, advanced manufacturing systems and technologies, for which new or upgraded standards will be needed on a regular basis to ensure quality and performance throughout the production and distribution system.

The study focuses on a 2025 vision and identifies five priority areas: integration, which aims at having standards that can cope with converging technologies and infrastructures, and assure interoperability and interconnectivity; environmental sustainability, focused on resource efficiency, zero waste and energy neutrality; quality and performance; services, meaning that consumers' demand for high-quality services as part of any product package will need to be addressed and "de-risking", referring to having standards that provide confidence towards innovative solutions and ensure protection from potential risks to health, security, safety and privacy.

The foresight study was carried out at the request of the European Commission's Directorate-General for internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs and with the participation of the Directorate-General for research and innovation. It was presented on 21 April at StandarDays - Your chance to discover the world of European Standards, held in Brussels.

The study also provides a template to identify standardisation needs so that they can be addressed earlier and in a more systematic way.

Source: [Joint Research Centre](#)



3.1.6 Cheap and renewable electricity anywhere

Most wind energy comes from turbines 150 metres above ground level. Winds at this altitude are however weak and intermittent, with most wind farms operating at only 25 - 30% of their capacity. EU-funded researchers have developed a prototype wind energy system that works at much higher altitudes, where winds are stronger and more constant, increasing electricity production dramatically. A commercialised product is in the pipeline.

Read more [here](#).

3.1.7 European Commission Foresight fiches : "Global Trends to 2030"

The set of European Commission Foresight fiches, analysing global trends to 2030, which was developed in the preparation of 'The Future of Europe is Science' report, is now available. This report was presented by the President's Science & Technology Advisory Committee (STAC) at the "Future of Europe is Science" conference in Lisbon in October 2014.

At a time when the new European Commission announced that it will



concentrate on bold initiatives, it is important to recall that any policy decision has complex ramifications. Indeed, an increasing number of decisions affect several policy portfolios, and they need to take into account an increasing number of parameters, like geo-politics, economics, finance, security, health, environment, climate change, sociology, urbanisation, ageing society, and integrate fundamental European social values such gender equality and ethics. In addition, the technological breakthroughs are accelerating as never before in history and social innovation (e.g. social media) augments the speed of information gathering and dissemination.

Because societies become ever more complex, collaborative long-term anticipation must replace the "silo" thinking habits and the short-termism that has characterised many aspects of policy-making in Europe.

Foreseeing is not sufficient anymore because it is only a tactical extrapolation of current trends; it is the future of the past. Foresighting however is strategic because it is based on more disruptive views; it is about the future of the future. But foresight needs also to become more integrated and collaborative, using coproduction of knowledge by means of "concurrent design" approaches. These will foster anticipatory and more consistent policies and thus lead to more visionary governance. 'The rougher the seas the more connected watch-towers are needed'.

Europe invented the modern World despite a resource poor continent because we used the most precious resource we have: our brains. Europe's real strength lies in its diversity that is a powerful driver of innovation. Where different minds meet, there is inspiration. This is why the network of foresight experts has such a great potential. It is an excellent way to obtain a comprehensive analysis that integrates the various scientific, technological, but also social aspects. This is encompassed in the concept of what is Responsible Research and Innovation.

Related Documents:

[Foresight Fiches 2014](#)

Source: [European Commission](#)

3.1.8 Smart grids in Europe: outlook and large scale application

On 1 April 2015, the JRC released two reports in the area of smart grids, which look at how smart grids research and innovation can help achieve the Energy Union's targets of secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy.

The first report, entitled "Smart Grids Laboratories Inventory 2015" is a first edition of a periodic report that will gather and disseminate information on the smart grid laboratories active in Europe and beyond. The report presents the results of a survey carried out to obtain a complete overview of smart grid technologies operational at laboratory level in order to identify trends and gaps in smart grids research and innovation.





The report highlights that the surveyed smart grid laboratories, which invested on average around EUR 1 million to set up their facilities, are mainly serving industrial customers, followed by utilities, academia and governments.

The JRC, along with the report, has also launched a webpage with information from the participating laboratories. In the future, it will be merged with the existing inventory of smart grid projects in Europe. The objective is to create an interactive platform to share best practices and knowledge on smart grid activities, facilities, technologies and standards.

In the second report, "A Smart Grid for the City of Rome", the JRC investigates whether smart grid technologies can be profitably scaled up to a large city scale. To this aim, the JRC in collaboration with ACEA (Rome's Electricity Distribution System Operator) applied, for the first time, its Smart Grid Cost-Benefit Analysis to a full-scale smart grid urban project. This scale-up would entail expanding the impact area from a thousand consumers to more than 1 million. The central result is that the overall outlook for the extension to Rome of the smart grid project is positive from both the private investor and the societal perspective.

This analysis, which is based on data coming from daily grid management and real demonstration testing, helps evaluate the costs and benefits of developing a smart grid. In particular, the report makes an effort to monetise the several effects of interventions on software and physical infrastructure aimed at improving operation automation, constantly monitoring the health status of the grid (reducing the risk of failures and the consequent costs), and allowing for integration of more distributed generation (such as solar and wind power), thereby decreasing fossil-fuelled generation and CO2 emissions.

Both reports have been presented at Innogrid, the European Research & Development conference for electricity transmission and distribution grids taking place on 31 March-1 April 2015 in Brussels, by JRC Director, Giovanni De Santi. The conference was attended by experts from the industry, associations, EU institutions, projects, NGOs and EU Member States contributing to the exchange of information and debates on the development of future electricity grids.

Source: Joint Research Center

3.1.9 [U-Multirank 2015 edition](#)

The European Commission global university ranking tool, U-Multirank, which assesses the performance of more than 850 higher education institutions worldwide, recently released its second set of results.

Particularly interesting for students and PhD candidates, the tool allows to compare performance of more than 1,200 higher education institutions, 1,800 faculties and 7,500 study programmes from more than 83 countries.

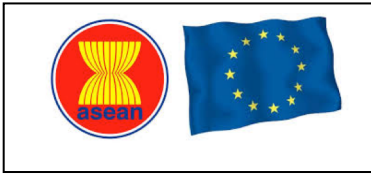


Read the [EURAXESS Links EU Insight focused on U-Multirank](#) that was published in May 2014.



3.2 ASEAN

3.2.1 The European Union and ASEAN cooperate to harmonise ASEAN Higher Education



The EU and ASEAN are embarking on a new initiative which contributes to the harmonisation of higher education in ASEAN. The new programme is called SHARE or “European Union Support to Higher Education in ASEAN”. The EU and a consortium of higher education institutions – led by the British Council – have signed an agreement for the implementation of the programme which will be launched shortly for a duration of four years.

“The key idea is to share the EU’s experience with ASEAN. We want to support ASEAN in their efforts to improve standards. ASEAN Higher Education Institutions will draw on the experience of the EU’s Bologna process and the single European Higher Education Area (EHEA)”, said Colin Crooks, the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to ASEAN.

“SHARE will contribute to the harmonisation of ASEAN higher education standards, the mutual recognition of certificates and diplomas and hence the mobility of students. The programme will further develop the ASEAN Qualification Framework and Quality Assurance. Students will be able to easily move between universities and colleges, through the ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS) and the ASEAN-EU Credit Transfer System (AECTS). Scholarship schemes for student exchanges will also be available”, said Mr Crooks.

Deputy Secretary General for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), Alicia dela Rosa Bala said: “SHARE serves as a vehicle to strengthen the ASEAN-EU partnership, while at the same time supporting ASEAN’s goals of integration, community building and ASEAN connectivity. SHARE helps to underpin the ASEAN Community by 2015 and beyond”.

Source: Uni Eropa Journal

3.2.2 EU-ASEAN collaboration on Intellectual Property Right continues

The third meeting of the Project Steering Committee of the EU-ASEAN Project on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (ECAP III) was held in, back to back with the 46th session of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation in Brunei Darussalam on March 12. .



The Project Steering Committee, who is the body responsible to oversee and validate the overall direction and policy of the project, adopted the ECAP III Phase II Annual Work Plan 2015 and approved the project Activity Report 2014. The Annual Work Plan 2015 comprises a total of 21 key activities to be implemented across the ASEAN region between March 2015 and February 2016.



The Project Steering Committee meeting was co-chaired by Mr TAN Yih San, Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, Chair of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation, on behalf of ASEAN and Mr Antonio Berenguer, Head of Trade and Economic Section, European Union Delegation in Bangkok, on behalf of the European Union. The meeting was attended by representatives of the ten ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, the European Union Delegation in Bangkok and the EU Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) in its capacity as project implementing agency

3.2.3 ASEAN Food Safety Policy – Enhancing Food Safety in an integrated ASEAN market



The EU's food safety policy is widely recognized as the gold standard. To help ASEAN pushing their own policy, a workshop gathering experts from agriculture, health and trade, together with specialists from ARISE reviewed the ASEAN food safety policy.

Establishing such a policy in ASEAN shall serve as a common basis for safety measures in Member States applicable throughout the food chain from primary production to processing, storage and distribution. Such a policy shall guide the development and implementation of regulations in a harmonised manner. Thus, it will enable the free movement of safe food products within the ASEAN community.

The content of the policy is derived from principles established in Codex guidance documents, the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement, and the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. It takes into account ASEAN's unique priorities and references the ASEANs initiatives on risk assessment and on the alert systems. The ASEAN food safety policy will be the basis for the planned ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework allowing for free movement of safe food in ASEAN.

More information can be accessed on the [ARISE website](#).

3.2.4 EU-ASEAN: how to advance regional integration?



To promote greater understanding of the benefits of regional economic integration, the European Union Delegation in Singapore academics, business leaders, diplomatic community and government organisations to discuss issues around regional integration. The debate was very timely given that ASEAN is about to launch the AEC later this year and ASEAN Heads of Government meet later this month. The motion for debate was "this house believes that for the true benefits of economic integration you need enforceable multilateral agreements".

Following a lively debate, the majority of the audience agreed with the motion that enforceable multilateral agreements are important. Issues raised included that enforceability is important for the creation a certain business environment



that encourages investment, harmonisation of rules and regulations that promote intra-regional trade and commerce, and the upgrading of national enforcement mechanisms.

[Details](#)





4 Grants & Fellowships

4.1 In Focus: Merlion Programme supports researcher mobility between Singapore and France

The PHC Merlion Program is a joint French-Singaporean collaboration, managed by the Institut Français de Singapour, in partnership with Singaporean institutions to encourage and support new scientific research development between French and Singaporean laboratories, through funding the scientists' trip exchanges. There are three different funding opportunities:

Merlion Project:

- Funding of missions between France and Singapore for researchers, post-doctoral and doctoral students involved in a joint research project. Up to €30,000 over two years

Merlion Workshop:

- Co-organising a workshop based on a common theme, to be held in either France or Singapore, with the aim of eventually leading to a bilateral research agreement. Up to €30,000

Merlion Ph.D:

- Funding of stays in France of up to 6 months per year (maximum 3 years) for Ph.D students from a Singaporean partner laboratory and up to 3 years. Up to €23,000 over three years

Eligibility and composition of the team:

1. A research team affiliated with a research organization in France;
2. A research team affiliated with one of the following Singaporean partners:
Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI), Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)
3. Optional : An industrial partner to form a tripartite collaboration.

The 2015 Call will open on 1 June 2015.

Further information can be accessed [here](#). Please do contact Mr Florent Beau (florent.beau@diplomatie.gouv.fr) if you require assistance.



4.2

H2020

The European Commission has launched the first calls under Horizon 2020. Calls in the 2014 - 2015 budget focus on the three key pillars of Horizon 2020:



- **Excellent Science:** Around €3 billion, including €1.7 billion for grants from the European Research Council for top scientists, and €800 million for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships for younger researchers.
- **Industrial Leadership:** €1.8 billion to support Europe's industrial leadership in areas like ICT, nanotechnologies, advanced manufacturing, robotics, biotechnologies and space.
- **Societal Challenges:** €2.8 billion for innovative projects addressing Horizon 2020's seven societal challenges, broadly: health; agriculture, maritime and bioeconomy; energy; transport; climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials; reflective societies; and security.

To find out more about EU funding opportunities for your research or innovation project please visit the [European Commission's Participant Portal](#) where all calls will be published.

International researchers are also invited to join the [database of independent experts for European research and innovation](#). Distinguished specialists are strongly encouraged to join the database of independent experts, through which they can participate in the evaluation of project proposals and monitoring of actions, submitted under Horizon 2020.

4.3 European Research Council (ERC) Grants

4.3.1 ERC Advanced Grants

ERC Advanced Grants allow exceptional established research leaders of any nationality and any age to pursue ground-breaking, high-risk projects that open new directions in their respective research fields or other domains. The ERC Advanced Grant funding targets researchers who have already established themselves as independent research leaders in their own right.

Deadline for application is 2 June 2015.

More info [here](#).

Additionally, ERC grant holders can apply for top-up funding ([Proof of Concept Grant](#); PoC) to explore the innovation potential of their research results.

Call now open.

Deadlines: 28 May 2015, 1 October 2015





4.4 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Call for Individual Fellowships is now open

Are you an experienced researcher thinking about your next career move? Individual Fellowships fund researchers looking to enhance their career development and prospects by working abroad. These Fellowships offer ASEAN researchers an opportunity to spend up to two years working at a university, research institute or company in Europe.

More info [here](#).

4.5 EMBO Courses and Workshops

EMBO offers the largest number of life science events in Europe. EMBO Courses & Workshops funds approximately 80 events attracting more than 8,000 participants every year. Funding is available to organize [conferences](#), [EMBO | EMBL Symposia](#), [workshops](#), [EMBO | FEBS Lecture Courses](#), [Global Exchange Lecture Courses](#) and [practical courses](#), as well as for [keynote lectures](#). [Travel grants](#) support the attendance of participants from countries with less-developed scientific infrastructures. EMBO assists the organizer with the design of a poster, set-up of a website and registration system, and with promotion of the event.

The consistent high quality and novelty of EMBO Courses & Workshops is ensured through a [committee of EMBO Members](#), which selects the events that EMBO funds. Dedicated scientific organizers guarantee the long-term success of the programme to share research results and train scientists at all career stages.

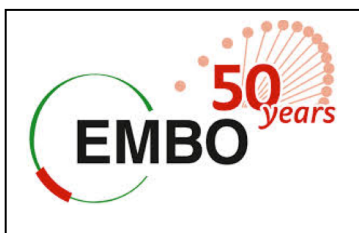
Further [details](#).

4.6 National EURAXESS portals

The latest information on open calls for national grants and fellowships in the **40 member countries of the EURAXESS network** can be accessed on the respective national EURAXESS portal.

[Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Bosnia-Herzegovina](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Croatia](#), [Cyprus](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Denmark](#), [Estonia](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [FYRoMacedonia](#), [Germany](#), [Greece](#), [Hungary](#), [Iceland](#), [Ireland](#), [Israel](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Malta](#), [Montenegro](#), [Netherlands](#), [Norway](#), [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Romania](#), [Serbia](#), [Slovakia](#), [Slovenia](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#), [Switzerland](#), [Turkey](#), [UK](#).

Besides providing information on funding opportunities for incoming international and European researchers, staff at the EURAXESS Service Centres offer individual assistance on all aspects of researcher mobility.





4.7 Austria: Lise Meitner Programme for Scientists from Abroad

This programme targets highly qualified scientists of any discipline who could contribute to the scientific development of an Austrian research institution by working at it. It funds 12 or 24 month postdocs with an annual personal allowance between EUR 62,500 and EUR 68,700.

Requirements: completed doctoral studies, record of international scientific publications, invitation from an Austrian research institution and co-application with an Austrian researcher. No age limit.

Applications continuously reviewed.

Further information can be found [here](#).

4.8 Belgium: Federal Science Policy Office – Postdoc fellowships to non-EU researchers

The stimulation of international mobility and the attraction of researchers from abroad is one of the priorities of the European Research Area. In this context, and intending to stimulate S&T cooperation, the Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) implements a fellowship scheme for highly qualified non EU researchers (i.e., postdoctoral level or equivalent experience), granting them an opportunity to work 6 to 18 months in a Belgian research team.

More information [here](#).

4.9 France – Germany: Joint Bilateral Grant Call of Singapore's National Research Foundation and France's Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)

This is a national level collaboration between Singapore and France for French-Singapore collaborative research projects. The grant call seeks to strengthen the collaboration between French and Singaporean research communities in areas of mutual interest in order to achieve world-class scientific and technical results, leading to new and innovative technologies.

Selected projects must reflect a high degree of collaboration between both the French and Singaporean partners in planning, development and execution. Collaborating investigators must be mutually engaged throughout the course of the project.

Deadline: The closing date for the inaugural grant call has been re-scheduled to 27 April 2015, 1900hrs (Singapore Time)

Details [here](#)



4.10 Germany: Green Talents Competition 2015

Participate in the fully funded two-week science forum and take advantage of the unique access to top science and research institutions in Germany. Present yourself and your research in person during individual appointments with experts of your choice

Tap the potential of a fully funded research stay at an institution of your choice in 2016.

Deadline for application is 2 June 2015

More information [here](#).

4.11 Germany: Alexander von Humboldt Foundation - Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES)

Top opportunities for researchers from developing countries who fulfil the following criteria:

- Researchers with above average qualifications in a developing or transition country (see [list of countries](#)),
- Intention to carry out long-term research of own choice (6 to 24 months) at a research institution in Germany together with a chosen academic host,
- Research outline includes aspects that are important for the continued development of applicant's home country or region of origin and
- Desire to contribute to the exchange of knowledge and methods between Germany and country of origin.

As many as 80 Georg Forster Research Fellowships can be granted annually. In the last few years, about one third of applications were successful (see also [positive selection decisions](#) since March 2013).

In addition, the Humboldt Foundation grants up to four [Georg Forster Research Awards](#) every year to leading researchers from developing countries.

Further [details](#)

4.12 Germany: Helmholtz Association

The [Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren](#) currently offers over 150 open positions for international PhD students, Postdocs and researchers in various research fields. Here you will find all job vacancies.

More information [here](#).





4.13 Poland: Foundation for Polish Science: IDEAS FOR POLAND

The objective of the programme is to encourage young, brilliant researchers from all over the world to choose Poland as the place to carry out their research projects submitted for the ERC competition. The program is designed for people whose previous scientific record demonstrates that they are highly independent as researchers, and warrants that they will conduct world - class quality research.

Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

Details [here](#).

4.14 Thailand: BIOTEC Post-doctoral Fellowship Announcement

Thailand's BIOTEC is seeking 4 positions for post-doctoral researchers in area of Molecular biology, Genetics, Cell biology and Computational Chemistry, Molecular Modeling, Crystal Structure.

More [here](#).

4.15 Thailand and the UK Medical Research Council Joint Call in Infectious Diseases and Cancer

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is working with National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and Thailand Research Fund (TRF) to support research within the remits of both Thai funders to tackle disease areas of critical importance to the Thai population.

Deadline is 2 June 2015.

More information [here](#).

4.16 UK: Wellcome Trust-MRC Newton Fund Collaboration (Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand)

The Newton Fund is a new UK government initiative intended to strengthen research and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging knowledge economies. In partnership with the Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust will deliver Newton Fund research activities within its funding remit in South-east Asia.

The Newton Fund welcomes applications that fall within the remit of the Newton Fund for the following schemes:



- Collaborative Awards in Science
- Collaborative Awards in Medical Humanities
- Collaborative Awards in Society and Ethics
- Portfolio Awards

Applications under this initiative should address research priorities which will meet the health needs of vulnerable communities in Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam or Thailand.

Deadline: 20 May 2015

More information [here](#).

5 Jobs

There are currently **8323** research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe and partner countries and in all disciplines) accessible via the [EURAXESS Jobs database](#)

AUSTRIA (Leoben): Montanuniversität Leoben has a vacant position for full-time Senior Scientist at the Department of Economic and Business Management (Chair of Economic and Business Management) expected from June 2015 in a permanent employment relationship.

[Details](#)

DENMARK (Copenhagen): University of CopenhagenThe Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen, invites applicants for a position as Associate Professor in the field of Development and Resource Governance, Institutions and Conflict.

[Details](#)

NORWAY (Oslo): The Norwegian PSC Research Center (NoPSC) at the Oslo University Hospital (OUH) and the University of Oslo (UiO) offer a Post doctoral positio in genomics or computational genomics.

[Details](#)

United Kingdom (Bedford): Cranfield University is seeking a postdoctoral Research Fellow to undertake research in environmental and chemical risk assessment as part of an EPSRC multidisciplinary grant that will involve co-ordinating input from a number of different academic institutions.

[Details](#)

[Examples of Jobs supported by Marie Curie Actions Research Fellowships](#)





15 Early Stage Researcher (ESR) positions are available in the Marie Curie European Training Network (ETN) EUROPOL at **Birmingham University in the UK.**

[Details](#)

Industrial PhD positions on Software Engineering in Enterprise Cloud Application Systems (SENECA) in Athens, Greece.

[Details](#)

15 PhD positions at ECRYPT-NET in France. This is a European research network in advanced cryptographic techniques and implementations for the Internet of Things and the Cloud.

[Details](#)

6 Events

6.1 EURAXESS Links ASEAN Events April to June 2015

Country	Title of Event/Activity	Date/Venue	Audience	Objectives
Thailand	Advancing Your Research Career in Europe: Inauguration of Mobility Ambassadors for Southeast Asia	24 June 2015 Bangkok, Thailand	Southeast Asian researchers that have benefited from the Marie Curie Actions and ERC Grants	To establish a regional alumni network
Malaysia Thailand	Advancing Your Research Career in Europe: Funding and Fellowship Opportunities for Southeast Asian Researchers	22 & 23 June 2015 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 25 & 26 June 2015, Bangkok, Thailand	Southeast Asian researchers, research administrators, policy-makers	Information event offering detailed information on European funding opportunities for Southeast Asian Researchers
ASEAN	Inauguration of the SEA	24 June 2015, Bangkok,	MCAA members	Inauguration of regional chapter





	MCAA Chapter	Thailand	from/in ASEAN	of a Marie Curie Alumni Network
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* Not listed are presentations on EURAXESS Links and European mobility schemes at research institutions held by the Regional Representatives upon invitation across ASEAN. If you would like for our team to visit your research organisation please email us at: asean@euraxess.net

6.2 France and Singapore to co-host Bio-Asia Conference 2015, Singapore, 10 – 22 May 2015



Bio-Asia 2015 aims to strengthen cooperation in the bio sciences between France and Asian countries to develop joint and sustainable research projects. Held from 20 to 22 May 2015 at Matrix @ Biopolis in Singapore, Bio Asia Conference 2015 is packed with an exciting lineup, thanks to our invited speakers from France and all of Asia.

More [here](#).

6.3 France and AIT Co-organising Regional Forum on Climate Change, Bangkok, 1 – 3 July 2015



Organized by the Asian Institute of Technology in collaboration with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, ASEAN Secretary General, and the European Union, the Forum seeks to propose interventions that would influence climate policy in the region, and inspire ASEAN position for climate change negotiations at the global scale.

More [here](#).

6.4 Sixth EMBO Meeting, Birmingham (UK) 5 – 8 September 2015



The EMBO Meeting is an annual event held in Europe to promote the life sciences and the exchange of scientific results. The meeting encourages scientists to look beyond their own fields, engage with the international scientific community and explore interdisciplinary approaches to research in the life sciences. Participants experience new perspectives on topics that cover the entire range of the life sciences - from studies of molecules and the cell all the way up to investigation of larger, complex biological systems.

More info [here](#)



6.5 Infoday: Science with and for Society 2015, Brussels (Belgium), 22 May 2015



The information day and brokerage event is targeted at all stakeholders interested in the Science with and for Society Programme of Horizon 2020. Science with and for Society will help build effective cooperation between science and society, to recruit new talent for science and to pair scientific excellence with social awareness and responsibility.

The main objective of the Science with and for Society networking event is to provide, in the first session, first-hand information by the European Commission officials about the first Horizon2020 Science with and for Society 2014-2015 calls, launched on the 10th December 2013, and to bring in the second half of the day all stakeholders together (universities, research institutions, civil society organisations, SMEs, public bodies, Science Centres etc.), in order to meet potential coordinators and partners in a fruitful networking environment.

The networking event will be of particular interest and relevance to members of the Science with and for Society research community who are looking for networking and funding opportunities within Horizon 2020. It will be mainly targeted at the researchers and other stakeholders preparing for the first and second calls of Horizon 2020 relevant to the Science with and for Society.

This event is organized by SiS.net2, the international network of National Contact Points (NCPs) in the field of Science with and for Society in Horizon 2020 in cooperation with the European Commission

Further details [here](#)

For more information on research events across Europe and across all disciplines please visit the European Commission managed page "[What's New in European Research](#)"



7 Resources

Latest Calls

Here you can find the latest calls on the newly set up [Research Participant Portal](#).

International Cooperation Activities

Access the [portal of the European Commission's International Cooperation Activities](#) here.

Other Research Career Sites

The Chronicle of Higher Education Careers Service: <http://chronicle.com/jobs/>

Find A Postdoc: <http://www.findapostdoc.com/>

Find Scholarships in Europe: <http://www.scholarshipportal.eu/>

Find PhDs in Europe: <http://www.phdportal.eu/>

Academic Jobs EU: <http://www.academicjobseu.com>

Euro Science Jobs: <http://www.eurosciencejobs.com/>

The European Job Mobility Portal: <http://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp?lang=en>

EMBO excellence in life sciences: <http://www.embo.org>

EuroBrussels: <http://www.eurobrussels.com/>

Jobs at ITER: <http://www.iter.org/jobs>

Nature.jobs: <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/index.html>

Jobs.ac.uk: www.jobs.ac.uk

Research Jobs in Germany: [Research-in-Germany.de](http://www.research-in-germany.de)

[Scholarship Database of the German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\)](#)

Research Jobs in the Netherlands: <http://www.academictransfer.org/>

Brainpower Austria: <http://www.brainpower-austria.at/>

About EURAXESS Links ASEAN

EURAXESS Links ASEAN is a network of European and non-European researchers, scientists, and scholars working in or commuting to ASEAN. This multidisciplinary network includes members at all stages of their careers. It allows them to connect with each other and with Europe, ensuring that they are recognized as an important resource for European research, whether they remain in ASEAN or return to Europe. For further information and to sign up for membership in our network, as well as in the virtual SINAPSE community of European and non-European researchers abroad, please go to our [website](#) and



click on the [Join the EURAXESS Links ASEAN community hyperlink](#) on the right-hand side of the page.