

2015
March
Issue 49

EURAXESS LINKS ASEAN

Dear Colleagues,

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

On the occasion of International Women's Day we are focusing on the efforts of the European Union to create gender equality in science and innovation with this month's EU Insight article. To mark the occasion EURAXESS Links ASEAN interviewed six inspiring women from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam on their experience as female scientists.

Our News, Grants and Fellowships section contains a round-up of the most important news, policy developments and research mobility opportunities.

We hope you do enjoy reading our newsletter.

Wishing you a great month ahead!

Your EURAXESS Links ASEAN team



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EURAXESS Links ASEAN Newsletter is a monthly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS Links ASEAN, which provides information of specific interest to European researchers in ASEAN and international researchers who are interested in the European research landscape and conducting research in Europe or with European partners.

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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: Creating Gender Equality in Science & Research

On 8 March 2015, International Women's Day was celebrated around the world. Gender equality is a cornerstone of the European Union and applies to all European policies including research and innovation. The [Strategy for equality between women and men \(2010-2015\)](#), adopted in September 2010, is the European Commission's (EC) comprehensive work programme on gender equality and pursues three objectives, namely: gender equality in careers, gender balance in decision-making and the integration of the gender dimension in the content of research.

Gender equality in the European Research Area (ERA)

To create the very best conditions for researchers and scientists, the 28 member states of the European Union (EU) are working towards the creation of single [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#). Their common goal is to establish a unified research area which is open to the world, and in which researchers and knowledge circulate freely. Creating equal opportunities for women and men is an integral part of ERA, and a key priority since 2012.

To this end, EU member states are invited to remove barriers to the recruitment, retention and career progression of female researchers, address gender balance in decision-making and strengthen the gender dimension in research programmes. The European Commission encourages EU member states to create the appropriate legal and policy environment to incentivise institutional changes.

Funding agencies, research organisations and universities are on the forefront in the implementation of institutional changes, in particular through Gender Equality Plans. Scientists themselves can contribute to change practices: Networking among practitioners and professional associations, platforms of women scientists and other networks play a key role in this context.

Gender Equality in Horizon 2020

Gender is a cross-cutting issue in [Horizon 2020](#). The promotion of gender equality in research and innovation is a commitment of the European Commission. It is enshrined in the core documents establishing Horizon 2020, with the following three objectives:

1. [Gender balance in decision-making](#)

The Commission has set a target of 40% of the under-represented sex in expert groups and evaluation panels. Whereas H2020 Advisory groups have a target of 50% for the under-represented sex in expert groups and evaluation panels. For 2014-2015, there is a 52% representation of women.



2. Gender balance in research teams at all levels

Applicants for funding are encouraged to promote gender balance at all levels in their teams and in management structures. Gender balance in teams will also be taken into account when ranking proposals with the same evaluation scores.

By signing the grant agreement, beneficiaries commit to promoting equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of their action. They also commit to aim, as far as possible, for gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including at supervisory and managerial level.

3. Integrating the gender dimension in the content of R&I

R&I needs to adequately take into account the needs, behaviours and attitudes of both women and men.

In Horizon 2020, the gender dimension is explicitly integrated from the outset in many of the specific programmes. So far, more than 100 topics out of 610 are concerned with gender. These topics are spread across 13 different programmes out of 20. For each of these topics, one or more proposals will be selected. This gives a promising outlook on the number of projects that will be developing a gender dimension and on the new knowledge that they will bring about.

Facts and figures: *She Figures*

What is the proportion of female to male researchers in Europe, and how is this proportion evolving over time? In which scientific fields are women better represented? Do the career paths of female and male researchers follow similar patterns? Are statistics on women in science comparable across Europe? How many women occupy senior positions in scientific research in Europe?

Published every three years since 2003, *She Figures* replies to these questions. This publication presents human resource statistics and indicators in the research and technological development (RTD) sector and on gender equality in science.

The [She Figures 2012](#) show that despite progress, gender inequalities in science tend to persist. The publication provides an overview of the scientific fields where women are better or less represented, and compares the research workforce in different economic sectors (e.g. higher education, government, and business sectors). In 2015, the next edition of *She Figures* will be published.

Sources and further information:

[European Research Area - homepage](#)

[Horizon 2020 - Promoting Gender Equality in Research and Innovation](#)

European Commission's [Strategy for equality between women and men \(2010-2015\)](#)

[She Figures 2012](#)

In 2009, the European Commission published a selection of European women scientists' profiles. "[Women in Science](#)" highlights compelling stories of some of the heroines of European science throughout the ages.

The book can be accessed online and free-of-charge [here](#).



2 Women in Science

2.1 An Interview series with female researchers across ASEAN

To mark the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March, EURAXESS Links went out to talk to female scientists to hear their stories. What made them choose a career in science? Which obstacles are they facing in their profession? What solutions do they see? What ignited their passion for their subject and how are they passing on their knowledge to the next generation of female scientists?

EURAXESS Links ASEAN interviewed six inspiring women from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. Their answers offer a small glimpse at the great contribution female scientists make to research, science & innovation in their respective countries across Southeast Asia. They also allude to the fact that much still needs to be done for great science to become truly gender neutral.



Destination: THAILAND

Dr Patchanita Thamyongkit, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

Dr Patchanita, please tell us a bit about your current roles and responsibilities?

I am an assistant professor at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University and at the same time I serve the university as vice-director of Scientific and Technological Research Equipment Centre since January 2015.

What sparked your interest in science?

I love science because it is a very logical field and is everywhere around us. Science makes me learn new things every single day. All we discover from experiments, no matter if it is failure or success, is precious information because it helps us know what is really going on and why. Most importantly, in the world of science, you have colleagues and friends around the world working with you. How many things in lives are like this?

Did you have any role models when you were growing up?

In my life, my mom is my forever role model. She is a very smart and strong lady who never gives up and strives to be successful and happy. When people say that I am a lively and energetic person, I love that and know exactly where I get this character trait from. In science, my role models are my Bachelor and





Ph.D. advisors. To me, they are generous teachers, bosses and coworkers. They have very artistic, but yet efficient, ways to inspire young scientists to keep up with their research and careers, and at the same time, always remind me to balance my happy life. If I can be half as good as these beloved role models are, I will be very proud of myself.

My hope for the future generation will be the same for both male and female scientists and I hope they keep up with doing great science that is useful for the world community.

**Dr Patchanita
Thamyongkit**

What made you decide to become a scientist?

Since my school time until now, I feel that the more I do science, the more I see how important and useful science is. Therefore, the answer to this question may be the confidence I have in science that it is the powerful tool for driving the world, and I want to be a part of this. Thanks to my parents and siblings who have been giving me the best support, although none of them is a scientist and understands exactly what I am doing.

What were the greatest challenges that you have faced in your scientific career? Do you think those challenges differ from those of your male colleagues?

The greatest challenge I have faced in my career to date has to be the key role I am playing in establishing a multidisciplinary research network within Thailand and with international working groups. I do not think the gender issue will be significant here. All we need for fruitful research collaboration are good intention and science.

How would you describe the gender balance in your field?

I think my field, Chemistry, has a good gender balance in terms of both the number and the recognition of male and female chemists.

What could be done to encourage women to choose a scientific career and to help them progress in this career?

In my opinion, the fact that women play equally important roles in scientific career compared to men nowadays makes more women consider to join scientific society. Other than basic requirements for living, such as maternity leave, childcare service and some flexibility at work to balance one's life, I do not think women need special encouragement, in particular for choosing a scientific career or to do good science. To progress in one's career, everyone wants equal and sufficient opportunities and support. I am confident that once an opportunity comes along, women will quickly step up to grasp it and they can accomplish the goal...just like men.

Do you think that women could play a specific role in the popularization of science in Southeast Asia?

Absolutely. I strongly believe that if one can accomplish something good and significant, the impact of his/her contribution will lead to acceptance and admiration from society. Nowadays, in some situations, successful women may be even more well-known than men with equal accomplishment. Why? Sexism does exist in our society and people may tend to pay more attention to



accomplishments by women as they may consider this to be unusual. The success of these women will receive extra attention until, one day, society will accept it as normal. In a gender-balanced society, people will be satisfied with the contribution from women because that has followed the direction they always want their society to go to. Therefore, in any of these two cases, women can certainly help popularize science in any society, not only in Southeast Asia.

Is there any good initiative to promote gender equity from Thailand that you would like to highlight?

I used to be asked by a journalist where gender equity in Thailand comes from, given that there is no significant support programme or policy provided by the government. This is an interesting question that I am still trying to find a good answer to. So far, my explanation has been that Thai people have been brought up to respect women for being of the same gender as their mothers, the ones taking care of their babies and holding the family together. Although perfect gender equity may not exist in our society, this thought should play a role in alleviating sexism in Thailand, more or less. Therefore, a good initiative to promote gender equity from Thailand would be our happy and sustainable society, where gender equity grows naturally. This may sound abstract, but several people who see me as a happy, successful scientist can understand.

In your experience, how important is mobility for researchers' careers and how feasible is this for female researchers?

I had wonderful experiences and gained lots of benefits from research mobility because multidisciplinary collaboration and fully-equipped high-standard facilities, which are not easily accessible in Thailand, are required in my field of research. Working with colleagues abroad gives me opportunities to update and upgrade my knowledge. While several good new ideas about research are generated when we brainstorm, our friendship also grows. I think research mobility is feasible for both male and female researchers who can manage to organize their lives during the mobility period. However, it may be very difficult for female researchers who have commitments, e.g. family, kids and so on. Although mobility may not be possible in these cases, knowledge transfer and collaboration can still happen through many practical ways, such as student exchange and online discussion, etc.

Are there any specific measures that you believe can encourage international mobility of female researchers and scientists?

Forums specifically for women in science may help. The forums should include female scientists who have been mobile internationally and who can share their experience or give suggestions on how to handle particular challenges that arise during that time. Moreover, it would be best if the forums are organized by grant agencies and/or national authorities who can give necessary information and respond to female researchers and scientists' needs during the mobility period.



What are your hopes for the future generation of female scientists?

My hope for the future generation will be the same for both male and female scientists and I hope they keep up with doing great science that is useful for the world community.

How do you pass on your passion for science to your own daughters or nieces?

I do not have any daughter and my niece is studying in a non-scientific field. However, I always show to my niece that science is everywhere around us, what the significant impacts of science nowadays are, and that she does not have to be a scientist to reach science.

Destination: INDONESIA

Dr Sri Fatmawati, Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember, Surabaya

Please tell us a bit about your current roles and responsibilities?

I am a lecturer (assistant professor) at Laboratory of Natural Product and Chemical Synthesis, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Mathematics and am responsible for my doctoral students. I am a mother of three children (8 yr, 3 yr and 0 yr).

What sparked your interest in science?

What I am now all began with "Jamu", an Indonesian traditional herb I experienced during my childhood. Having been born into a low-middle class family in Indonesia, Jamu was part of our life to keep us healthy. Especially when I was a child, being hospitalized would have been too expensive because the insurance system was not yet well established. The most common diseases I suffered from were fever and skin diseases that could all easily be cured with Jamu. These experiences inspired me to deepen my understanding of what Jamu really is. This led me into the field of chemistry to examine the efficacy of herbal medicine as an herbal remedy for health sciences. This is what ultimately intrigues and motivates me.

Did you have any role models when you were growing up?

My mother, my father and prominent Indonesian scientist Prof.Dr.Ing. BJ. Habibie.

What made you decide to become a scientist?

The opportunity finally came when I was a college student and then became a lecturer in the field of chemistry. In that time, the desire to pursue a career in science had begun to materialize. My family is very supportive of my desire to develop my potential in the field of chemistry especially concerning natural products for health science. Without realizing it, I thought that science is very

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fun and challenging. Therefore, when I talk about science, I feel like sowing the seeds of science. Hence, with the support of all parties, I am very confident to keep fighting in pursuing my career in science.

Give them space to do their research as well as being a mother. I know many female scientist colleagues who have the same passion as me, but they don't have enough energy to invest in furthering their career once they have children.

Dr Sri Fatmawati

What were the greatest challenges that you have faced in your scientific career? Do you think those challenges differ from those of your male colleagues?

The biggest challenge in pursuing my career in science is to manage my time between my family and my career. Due to my role as a wife and mother, I cannot be replaced when my family needs me. Sometimes, I have no time for research and work because I need to look after my children when they are sick. To address this problem, the support of my family is very important in my career. My husband, who is also lecturer and researcher in the same department at my university, always supports me. He looks after the children when he has finished work. Besides, my parents are very supportive and spend their time looking after my children. The head of my department, the head of my laboratory and also my colleagues in Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember also always support and encourage me to finish my work. I believe that every woman can develop her skills to the utmost without neglecting her family.

Men and women will never change their strengths and weaknesses. In ancient systems, women were neglected which made them seem unimportant. Women's contributions to technological development have been ignored. Recently this system has changed and women have similar opportunities than men in all areas in the world, especially in science.

Actually fighting for the rights of women in science is not necessary, because naturally woman are part of science. Learning about science is a human right not only for men but also for women. Women are the source of knowledge especially for their children, because the learning process starts when the fetus is still in the womb. Women are the greatest scientists who are needed for exploring science itself.

Another big challenge for women in science is the community in which she is active. Which opportunities does the community offer her and how does it support her career and her commitments towards her family?

How would you describe the gender balance in your field?

Most woman researchers want to pursue their careers to become professors. In my faculty, we have only one woman professor. This shows that women can reach the top of the career ladder in science even though this is very rare, below 10%. Actually, gender equality in higher education has been one remarkable accomplishment of this century, but still female scientist need more space.



What could be done to encourage women to choose a scientific career and to help them progress in this career?

Some of them leave their jobs and some of them find their career just gets stuck.

Which initiative could promote gender equity in Indonesia?

Give female researcher more flexibility in taking maternity leave and improve the preschool system, because mothers can focus better on their research when they know that their children are being safe and well-looked after.

In your experience, how important is mobility for researchers' careers and how feasible is this for female researchers?

It's very important but seems too hard once we have children. Usually I bring my children wherever I am. If not, I cannot focus on my research.

What are your hopes for the future generation of female scientists?

I hope more and more girls develop an interest in science. I hope that they can reconcile their scientific careers with their family commitments. I hope they get support from the government to do research without having to neglect their family.

How do you pass on your passion for science to your own daughters or nieces?

I am doing "home science" with my daughters, such as cooking together and making a cake. They enjoy "science in the kitchen", that is why I have a blog about baking and cooking. I also bring my daughters to my laboratory, or let them see what I do in my laboratory activities on video. I let them have fun with my students and sometimes I bring them along to conferences or to events where I have been invited as speaker.

Destination: MALAYSIA

**Professor Dr Rofina Yasmin Othman
Director, University Malaya Centre for Innovation & Commercialisation (UMCIC), Kuala Lumpur**

Please tell us a bit about your current roles and responsibilities?

I'm currently Director of the University of Malaya Centre for Innovation and commercialisation which manages the university's intellectual property portfolio, incubators, start-ups and technology transfer activities. I also head an active plant science research group focusing on utilising plant biotechnology approaches to improve traits in selected crops and to train human capital in this area.





What sparked your interest in science?

Biology fascinated me from school and I was always curious about how minute organisms that was made up of molecules unseen by the human eye could impact life so significantly. My school at that time had a very hands-on approach to science which fed my curiosity and built my interest. It led me on to take a degree in microbiology and later on to a career as a plant virologist.

Did you have any role models when you were growing up?

My parents were very instrumental in shaping my attitude in life and instilled in me the belief that I could achieve anything if I strived for it.

What made you decide to become a scientist?

The turning point was my final year in university when I had a chance to work on a real life application putting to use skills I had learned in the classroom. I had an inspirational virology lecturer who also pushed us to question and to constantly look at a problem from different viewpoints. This in turn opens up different possibilities on how we look for solutions and I realised then that, although it might sound very cliché, that discoveries were really accelerated when one begins to think outside of the box.

What were the greatest challenges that you have faced in your scientific career? Do you think those challenges differ from those of your male colleagues?

The greatest challenge was ensuring continuity in research be it funding or human capital. I feel we must constantly reiterate that science is a long term quest and requires commitment both in terms of policy as well as funding. In this context these were common problems that transcends gender.

How would you describe the gender balance in your field?

In Malaysia there is a healthy number of women in my field and in research in general. However, internationally its seems that may not be the norm. In Malaysia at the entry level there certainly seem to be no real barriers for women in biological research positions. However, the numbers in top management of science and research could certainly still be improved. And there is still an issue of well qualified women leaving the workplace early. In industry there is

[We need to ensure] the same benefits of family support be given to spouses and family of female scientists in any offer for mobility. This includes favourable terms for men to have flexible job options to enable them to follow their wives to international postings.

Professor Dr Rofina Yasmin Othman



certainly a picture where there is room to expand women's roles. A review of Malaysian biotechnology companies and their top management would certainly show that the statistics still do not reflect women's contribution in this field.

What could be done to encourage women to choose a scientific career and to help them progress in this career?

It has to start from good school foundation and encouragement then. Good career support is of course essential. But perhaps simply increasing the visibility of role models of women scientists in both the public sector and especially in industry would create better awareness of the opportunities available.

Do you think that women could play a specific role in the popularization of science in Southeast Asia?

Definitely. There are many ways we could leverage on women in this respect. Role models, as I mentioned above, and secondly the recognition that the influence of parents in particular of the mother regarding a young person's careers options is very important in Southeast Asian culture. We should leverage on this, and the issue of women leaving the science workplace to return to raising the family could be used to our advantage in promoting science education from the home.

Is there any good initiative to promote gender equity from Malaysia that you would like to highlight?

Malaysia has a great programme called "women in leadership" run by Talentcorp which seeks to address the gender inequity issue in top management.

In your experience, how important is mobility for researchers' careers and how feasible is this for female researchers?

Mobility opens opportunities of course. It's always a challenge when family is an important consideration. The dynamics of the family is changing in Southeast Asia and certainly there is more awareness and flexibility for career decisions to be made based on either spouse's needs. The economics of the matter would perhaps be the a deciding factor in today's climate.

Are there any specific measures that you believe can encourage international mobility of female researchers and scientists?

Ensuring the same benefits of family support be given to spouses and family of female scientists in any offer for mobility. This includes favourable terms for men to have flexible job options to enable them to follow their wives to international postings.

What are your hopes for the future generation of female scientists?

For women to be acknowledged in the mainstream as part of the driving force in scientific endeavours be it in education, discovery or enterprise.



How do you pass on your passion for science to your own daughters or nieces?

I hope I can share with them the immense range of opportunities that are out there on how we can pursue a career in science and finally to appreciate how much of a difference scientific discovery can make to humanity.

Destination: VIETNAM

Dr Pham Nga Thi Phuong, National Academy of Public Administration of Vietnam, Hanoi

Please tell us a bit about your current roles and responsibilities?

My name is Nga Pham. I have been working as a lecturer at the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) of Vietnam since 1997. My main teaching subjects are Environmental Management; Resettlement Management, and Rural & Urban Public Management. I also do research on public management focusing on training management issues, and spending time at other Vietnamese universities, such as the Vietnam University of Fine-Arts, as a visiting lecturer.

What sparked your interest in science?

My family background sparked my interest in science. When I was a child, I had the opportunity to read many kinds of books, journals, or newspaper that I found on my family's book shelf. I wanted to understand the science behind things and from then on science has been my passion. It provides me a satisfaction in my life and allows me to discover so many new things.

Did you have any role models when you were growing up?

My mother, a school teacher, was my role model.

What made you decide to become a scientist?

Thanks to my family background I developed a passion for science when I was growing up. It made me decide to become a scientist.

How would you describe the gender balance in your field?

Unlike most male scientists, I have to find a balance between taking care of my family and spending time on my research – that usually takes all my time and energy. In my opinion, that is the greatest challenge for female scientists.

Dr Pham Nga Thi Phuong



In my field, male scientists can go for long field trips or research stays abroad while female scientists usually cannot follow suit.

What could be done to encourage women to choose a scientific career and to help them progress in this career?

Increase mobility opportunities to do research. Education scholarship should give priority to women.

What would be a good initiative to promote gender equity in Vietnam?

I would welcome a programme that teaches children from kindergarten age onwards about gender equity. This would be particularly useful to teach boys that their classmates, their sisters, their mothers, their grandmothers need to be respected and that men need to do their equal share of work at home and in the family.

What are your hopes for the future generation of female scientists?

Female scientist need to be honest, professional and passionate. My hope for the future generation of female scientists is to be recognized for the important role they play in Vietnam's national development.

How do you pass on your passion for science to your own daughters or nieces?

I buy scientific toys and stories and books for them. I also try to facilitate the same easy access to reading material that sparked my own passion for science during my childhood. I nurture their passion for discovery and inquisitiveness.

Destination: THAILAND

Dr Nitsara Karoonuthaisiri, National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Bangkok



Please tell us a bit about your current roles and responsibilities?

I have been working as a researcher at National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC, Thailand) since 2004. Recently, I have taken an additional role as Director of Biosensing Technology Research Unit. This new directorial position requires me to manage not only my own lab but additional two labs to conduct R&D on biosensing technology. Therefore, my responsibility is a mixture of driving my own research capacity and taking parts in executive duties.

What sparked your interest in science?

Love for math and sciences since I was a kid led me to explore opportunities in science-related education. While I was doing my bachelor degree in Chemical



Engineering, I had opportunities to be a part of research teams and I fell in love with scientific research then.

Did you have any role models when you were growing up?

Yes, role models are a big part of my life. The first role model would have to be my mom who was a math teacher in a high school. Her passion for teaching surpasses any passion I see in the world. Even now that she is retired, her teaching spirit is still in her that she would help teach kids around the house if they have any math problem. Witnessing her teaches me that one needs passion in life to be happy.

Growing up, most of my role models have been my teachers and mentors. To name a few, Prof. Camilla Kao who was my PhD advisor, Prof. Morakot Tanticharoen, Dr. Kanyawim Kirtikara who are my mentors since I returned from the US, and Prof. Nateetip Krishnamra who is willing to share her experiences of balancing family and work while excelling in sciences.

What made you decide to become a scientist?

Since I fell in love with research during undergraduate years, I couldn't see any other careers that would fit me better. The fact that your research will one day be applied to the real world, to solve problems for other, and to make impacts is the best reward one can have.

What were the greatest challenges that you have faced in your scientific career? Do you think those challenges differ from those of your male colleagues?

I think the greatest challenges for me were those early days when I had just returned from the US after I finished my PhD. It was the mix of problems from re-acclimating myself to Thai culture, from the differences of research infrastructures and from establishing my own research program. I personally don't think these challenges were gender-specific.

How would you describe the gender balance in your field?

I've never really thought much about gender balance. To be honest, in biotechnology field, gender inequality is not a problem. As a matter of fact, I feel that there might be more women in this field.

What could be done to encourage women to choose a scientific career and to help them progress in this career?

I think having female role models is the key! Fortunately, most of my mentors and role models are women. I can learn a lot from observing how they've succeeded in their career and still remained happy. I think seeing that these wonderful women can stay in this challenging career makes me realize that it is possible.

Do you think that women could play a specific role in the popularization of science in Southeast Asia?

„...all I want the next generation of women to learn is to find their passion whether it is for science or not, that does not matter. One should be able to follow her/his passion and live her/his life to the fullest.“

**Dr Nitsara
Karonuthaisiri**



Of course, I think both genders can contribute to the popularization of science, not just women. However, I think sometimes women, having maternal instinct, tend to be able to communicate clearly and mentor others with kindness and sensitivity. I think this might also help nurture the next generation to consider this career.

Is there any good initiative to promote gender equity from Thailand that you would like to highlight?

In addition to the fortune that Thai society provides equal opportunities to both genders in all career paths, we also have many awards that recognize accomplishments of women. These recognitions help encourage the awarded women to keep achieving more and more, and at the same time, also raise awareness from society that women can go to the same distance as men.

In your experience, how important is mobility for researchers' careers and how feasible is this for female researchers?

I believe in mobility programs. I myself was fortunate to be able to spend 10 years in the US for my undergraduate and graduate education, and after I returned to work in Thailand for 7 years, I took 2-year sabbatical under Marie Curie Fellowship at Queen's University Belfast, UK. These experiences allow me to grow professionally, to extend my research collaboration network, and to make many new friends around the world. I would definitely say that mobility is a must for scientific career. And of course, I think it is very feasible for female researchers too. I did it while preparing for my wedding and spending those sabbatical years away from my newlywed husband, but I think the partners of female researchers know what they are getting themselves into. I believe that a good couple needs to be happy both personally and professionally. When we realized that, we could accommodate each other's needs with wholehearted willingness. That's life ☺

Are there any specific measures that you believe can encourage international mobility of female researchers and scientists?

I think the challenge of international mobility is how the home institute values this type of program. If the home institute does not value this experience for its researchers, it will be a big hurdle for the researcher to leave. I think the best way to encourage international mobility is that all parties involved must feel that the mobility is a win-win situation. For example, the researcher must know what she/he would like to accomplish during the mobility while she/he must align her/his needs to the visiting and home institutes' benefits. If these desires and objectives can be aligned, the mobility will result in the most rewarding experience for all three parties.

What are your hopes for the future generation of female scientists?

I hope that the future generation of female scientists will enjoy their career and keep nurturing their successors. Pass it forward!



How do you pass on your passion for science to your own daughters or nieces?

I would basically do what my mom did. She expressed her passion for teaching by doing things. I, too, would not force my passion upon anyone, but I would do what I love to do, and hopefully, my passion will reveal itself. And all I want the next generation of women to learn is to find their passion whether it is for science or not, that does not matter. One should be able to follow her/his passion and live her/his life to the fullest.

EURAXESS Links ASEAN would like to thank all our interviewees for their much appreciated and very inspirational contributions!



Gender Equality in Europe

Promoting Gender Equality in Science & Innovation across Europe

To create the very best conditions for researchers and scientists, the 28 member states of the European Union are working towards the creation of single [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#). Their common goal is to establish a unified research area which is open to the world, and in which researchers and knowledge circulate freely. **Creating equal opportunities for women and men is an integral part of ERA.**

The [Strategy for equality between women and men \(2010-2015\)](#) is a comprehensive framework committing the European Commission to promote gender equality into all its policies. It pursues three objectives, namely: gender equality in careers, gender balance in decision-making and the integration of the gender dimension in the content of research.

Relevant Links:

European Commission Strategy Gender in Research and Innovation, [Overview](#)

[Gender equality in Horizon 2020](#)

[The Helsinki Group on Gender in Research and Innovation](#)

[SHE Figures](#) (Statistics and Indicators, Gender in Research and Innovation)



2.2 EU Launches 3rd edition of Women Innovators Prize

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the European Commission has launched the third edition of the EU Prize for Women Innovators to reward three women who have achieved outstanding innovations and brought them to market. The prize aims to raise awareness of the need for more female entrepreneurs and to inspire other women to follow in their footsteps. The first prize is worth €100 000, the second prize €50 000 and third prize €30 000.

The prize has been launched during a working lunch with outstanding women in academia, research, industry and media, hosted by the European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas. The event reflected on how to increase the participation of women in research and innovation and their share of top positions in the industry and academia. Participants to the lunch included female rectors, previous winners of the EU Prize for Women Innovators, leaders of EU initiatives on gender equality, as well as both senior and young scientists.

Commissioner Moedas said: *"There may have been some improvement in recent years but, in Europe, female researchers and entrepreneurs remain a minority. Whether economically, intellectually or socially, we cannot afford to continue missing out on this vast pool of untapped talent. The EU Prize for Women Innovators recognises women entrepreneurs for their valuable achievements, inspiring both men and women alike."*

"Gender equality is not only a moral imperative but it also makes economic sense", said Věra Jourová, European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. *"Diversity is good for innovation and entrepreneurship, because it brings new talent and fresh ideas. The EU Prize for Women Innovators showcases female talent and can encourage other women to pursue careers in science and entrepreneurship where women are still underrepresented."*

The contest is open to all women who have founded or co-founded their company and who have at some point of their careers benefitted from EU's research and innovation funding. Contestants will be able to submit their applications until 20 October 2015. A high-level jury will evaluate and select the three winners who will be announced in 2016.

Background:

The EU Prize for Women Innovators Prize was launched in 2011 to give public recognition to outstanding women entrepreneurs who brought their innovative ideas to the market and to inspire other women to follow in their footsteps. The **winner of the two previous editions** are Saskia Biskup (Germany), Laura van't Veer (The Netherlands), Ana Maiques (Spain), Gitte Neubauer (Germany), Fabienne Hermitte (France) and Ilaria Rosso (Italy).

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**More information:**

[EU Prize for Women Innovators](#)

[Statistical Data on Women Entrepreneurs in Europe 2014](#)

2.3 Prof. Dame Carol Robinson, ERC Grantee, & first female Professor of Chemistry at the University of Oxford, Receives L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Award



A video of Prof. Dame Carol Robinson discussing her research can be seen [here](#).

At the 17th Annual L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards ceremony held in Paris on March 18, Prof. Dame Carol Robinson, the first female Professor of Chemistry at the University of Oxford and an ERC grantee, was named the 2015 European Laureate.

The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Award celebrates the outstanding achievements of women in science and is recognised as one of the premier international science awards.

Professor Dame Carol Robinson, a world leader in mass spectrometry, has been honored for creating a revolutionary method for studying how proteins function, particularly membrane proteins, and establishing a whole new scientific field: gas phase structural biology. The award recognises her pioneering work, which could have a significant impact on medical research.

Prof. Dame Carole Robinson was honoured for creating a revolutionary method for studying how proteins function, particularly membrane proteins, and establishing a whole new scientific field: gas phase structural biology. Her pioneering work could have a significant impact on medical research.

“Your path doesn't matter. What is important is not how you start but where you get to. Together with my fellow Laureates, we represent many different paths, interests and fields, and I hope it will inspire the next generations.” Prof. Dame Carol Robinson



3 Focus: ASEAN-EU STI Days 2015 – Exceeding Expectations

The ASEAN-EU Science, Technology and Innovation Days 2015 took place in Paris, France March 17-19 under the overarching theme: “Excellent science in ASEAN.” The second edition of this forum-like event attracted a wide range of stakeholders engaged in international science cooperation, scientific research or innovation.

The event was attended by almost 300 participants, which exceeded the expectations of the event organisers. Many countries were represented at the STI Days. In addition to wide participation by European Union Member States, all the countries of the ASEAN region, as well as scientists from China, Central Asia and the Eastern Partnership region were represented at the event.

The three-day event was organised at the impressive Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in Paris. The host, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), did an excellent job both in terms of organisation and content. Participants could choose from a wide range of scientific workshops covering the domains of food, water and health, roundtable policy discussions with high-level speakers, and a number of site visits.

During the opening of the conference, participants heard from three distinguished speakers: Mr. Kostas Glinos (Head of Unit, DG RTD, European Commission), Dr. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon (President, European Research Council) and Dr. Alexander Lim (Head of Science and Technology Division, ASEAN Secretariat). In their opening addresses these speakers discussed the future alignment of EU and ASEAN science, technology and innovation policies, research cooperation to address global challenges, and the pursuit of scientific excellence.

The opening of the exhibition space with posters and booths followed the opening of the conference from 24 exhibitors ranging from research institutions to innovative enterprises. The two winners of the Poster competition also had the chance to present their research on Food Security and Safety and Water Management to the wide audience.

On Wednesday morning visitors could choose from two more scientific oriented sessions, one on the Water-Energy-Food nexus, and another on Health Research strategies. In parallel were two policy sessions focused on the evolution of the ASEAN Economic Community and the importance of Intellectual Property Rights in the region. In the afternoon participants had the option of visiting three outstanding scientific institutions: Eau de Paris, the National Agency for Research on Aids and Hepatitis, and Institut Pasteur, to give them a more tangible experience and get an insight in the excellent French facilities.



Mr Kostas Glinos, Head of Unit, DG RTD, addressing the 300 participants at the EU-ASEAN STI Days 2015 in Paris, France



Thursday began with an early morning visit to Rungis Marché International, one of France's 19 wholesale food markets. The series of scientific workshops continued amongst others with Climate Change and Water Management, Science for Development, Health Research, Mycotoxins in an even more international perspective – linking European researchers and policy makers not only with colleagues from Southeast Asia but also with colleagues from Central Asia and the Caucasus and China. In parallel a high number of researchers from both regions were involved in matchmaking sessions aimed at building new scientific networks and establishing cooperation, while policy makers and representatives of EU and ASEAN funding organisations were working towards the setting up of a joint funding mechanism between the two regions.

During the closing ceremonies on Thursday afternoon, three young South-East Asian scientists, the winners of the best paper award introduced their scientific topics to the audience. Dr. Gaby Gorsky, Director of CNRS' Observatoire de Villefranche/mer then delivered a breath taking presentation on the Tara marine expeditions which have been studying the impact of climate change and the ecological crisis facing the oceans.

The STI Days are an annual forum designed to bring together ASEAN and EU scientists, policy makers and innovative companies to discuss policy, engage in scientific dialogue and build research and innovation partnerships. The next STI Days are scheduled for Hanoi, Vietnam in March/April 2016. More information on the STI Days can be found [here](#).

Further reading

[“A will, and maybe a way, to joint innovation with Asia”](#), article by Inga Vesper of SciDevNet



4 News & Developments

4.1 EU, Member States and Associated Countries

4.1.1 High-Level Event on Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development

As part of the [EYD2015](#) events, to highlight the importance of women and girls as central actors in moving towards sustainable development and to combine proposals for unlocking women's full economic potential in context of post-2015 framework, a high level political event was organized in Riga on March 2 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with the European Commission, the Latvian government, and in close cooperation with civil society, specially women's movement and private sector.

our world
our dignity
our future

Girls and women over the world are eager to contribute to research and innovation in their respective country. How long will they have to wait until their rights to education and equal pay for the same job are part of the reality and their - *our* - dream fulfilled? What about facilitating access of female reseachers? EURAXESS Links Network is committed to putting its share on it. We take seriously supporting female researchers too.

Read more: [European Year for Development 2015](#) and [EURAXESS Links](#)

4.1.2 EU European Parliament takes an important step towards gender equality

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution which supports the fight for wage impartiality, parental leave proposals and promote educational policies that encourage women to make their careers in science, technology and ICT sectors.

Read more: [European Parliament](#)





4.1.3 European Commission's Report on Equality between Women and Men – 2014



"The present report outlines the progress achieved in 2014 in the six priority areas of the Commission's 2010-15 strategy for equality between women and men. It is a way for the Commission to review EU and Member State action on gender equality and identify remaining challenges and gender gaps, on the basis of updated information and statistics.

It strengthens the EU's accountability and lays the ground for evidence-based policies. Although gender gaps have narrowed in recent decades, inequalities within and between Member States have grown overall and challenges remain in critical areas such as:

- Men drop out of school more often and perform less well in reading. Women are more likely to have a higher education degree but are significantly under-represented in STEM studies and careers, in research and in senior posts at all levels of education, including higher education;

Find out other critical areas and the Full Report here: [European Commission](#)

4.1.4 10 years of commitment to better working conditions for researchers



On 3rd March, the first two hundred Deans and Rectors from universities and research institutes to have implemented the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers received the 'HR Excellence in Research Award' for their efforts to create attractive working conditions for researchers in Europe. These two tools are at the core of [EURAXESS Rights](#) component within EURAXESS-Researchers in Motion.

To mark the event, the European Commission hosted a conference to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Charter and Code, celebrating the creation of an attractive, open and sustainable labour market for researchers in Europe.

"I congratulate the 206 Deans and Rectors who were the first to take up the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers. Attracting and keeping the best minds in Europe is essential for competitiveness," said Research, Science and Innovation Commissioner Carlos Moedas. "The Charter and Code have done well in making working conditions for researchers far more appealing. We want Europe to remain a popular destination for the most talented researchers to pursue their careers. It's very encouraging that more than 1500 research institutions and funders from 40 countries in Europe have endorsed the Charter and Code to improve their human resources policies. This is building a strong foundation of research excellence from which we will benefit long into the future."



Researchers relentlessly highlight the importance of mobility for their careers: at EU level, 80 % of internationally mobile researchers believe mobility has strongly increased the advancement of their research skills and 62 % believe mobility has had a positive impact on the quality of their research publications

Read more: [European Commission](#) and [EURAXESS](#)

4.1.5 European Research Council backs additional 47 top researchers in 2014 Starting Grant call



In addition to 328 early-career scientists awarded ERC Starting Grants in December, the European Research Council today announces another 47 winners as part of this 2014 call. They will receive funding, worth up to €2 million per project, to build their own research teams and pursue their best ideas at the frontiers of knowledge.

ERC Starting Grants are intended for the best junior researchers to help them fully develop their potential and become a new generation of European research leaders.

ERC funding is part of the EU Horizon 2020 framework programme for research and innovation.

Read more: [ERC Press release](#)

4.1.7 Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, Nobel Laureate, confirmed as President Elect of the Royal Society UK



Sir Venki Ramakrishnan has been confirmed as President Elect of the Royal Society. Sir Venki studies how genetic information is translated by the ribosome to make proteins, and the action of antibiotics on this process. He received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2009 with Tom Steitz and Ada Yonath and was awarded a knighthood in 2012.

More [here](#).

4.1.8 Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) blog with FAQ

[Net4Mobility](#) is managing a blog with Frequently Asked Questions on MSCA actions (IF, ITN, COFUND, RISE). Net4Mobility is the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions National Contact Point project with the objectives to increase the knowledge among the NCPs.

This blog can also be useful to individual mobile researchers, especially the IF (Individual Fellowships) section.

Access the blog: [here](#)



4.1.9 Positive role models are key to gender equality

Female role models are an important way to promote gender equality among senior scientists, according to Professor Caroline Dean, a plant biologist at the John Innes Centre, in Norwich, UK.

Prof. Dean is the winner of the 2015 European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) Women in Science Award for her work in plant biology and working to promote women in science.

Read full interview: [Horizon-The EU Research and Innovation magazine](#)

4.1.10 The 17th edition of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards

Although not a European Union award, with the inclusion of the announcement of the latest edition of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards, EURAXESS Links Network wants to contribute to the recognition of the contribution to science and society of five exceptional women honoured for their ground-breaking discoveries in the physical sciences. The five scientists were selected in the 5 *regions* of the world by an independent International Awards Jury made up of 12 prominent international scientists who were personally chosen by the President of the Jury and 1999 Nobel Prize winner, Prof. Ahmed Zewail.

These five exceptional (women) researchers are:

AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES: Prof. **Rajaâ Cherkaoui El Moursli** - *High Energy Physics and Nuclear Physics*. Professor, Mohammed V- Agdal University, Rabat, MOROCCO

ASIA / PACIFIC: Prof. **Yi Xie** – *Inorganic Chemistry*. Professor, University of Science & Technology of China, Hefei, CHINA

EUROPE: Prof. **Dame Carol Robinson** - *Physical Chemistry - Mass Spectrometry*. Professor, University of Oxford, UNITED KINGDOM

LATIN AMERICA: Prof. **Thaisa Storchi Bergmann** – *Physics and Astronomy*. Professor, Federal University of Rio Grande Do Sul, Porto Alegre, BRASIL

NORTH AMERICA: Prof. **Molly S. Shoichet** – *Polymer Chemistry*. Professor of chemical engineering and applied chemistry, chemistry and biomaterials & biomedical engineering, University of Toronto, CANADA

Read more: [L'Oréal](#)

4.1.11 Women in Science | Horizon | The EU Research and Innovation Magazine

Where are the women?





Regarding women in science, some countries are leading with more than 30% of women holding full academic positions, while others are way below. More women are reaching senior levels in science and engineering, however gender equality is not yet fulfilled in the EU. Addressing this situation is a priority for the European Commission.

Women In Science is one of the four key themes under Horizon magazine, being the other three Bioeconomy, Horizon 2020 and Innovation Union.

Read more: [Horizon | Women In Science](#)

4.1.12 Inadequate Childcare Policies Affect Scientists' Careers

European Platform of Women Scientist (EPWS) Vice-President Prof. Claudine Hermann has been interviewed for a recent article on Euroscientist - Inadequate Childcare Policies Affect Scientists' Careers.

It is not due to science but due to the cultures of the different countries that the problem of childcare is more on the shoulder of women than men. But the role models and the family models are changing slowly and that affects scientists and other high educated women," says Claudine Hermann, vice-president of the European Platform of Women Scientists, retired professor of physics at the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, France, with three children.

Hermann claims that scientific institutions should invest more money to support female and male scientists with children to compensate the fact that the number of scientists with children varies much from country to country."

Read full article: [Euroscientist](#)

4.1.13 Massive migration from the steppe was a source for Indo-European languages in Europe

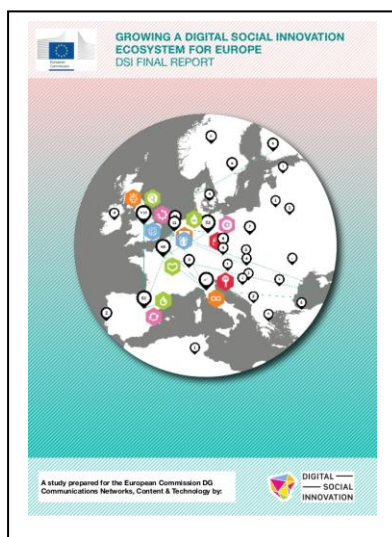
[Article available to be read from the source on the screen]

Read full article: [Nature](#)

4.1.14 Report: Growing a Digital Social Innovation Ecosystem for Europe

According to Fabrizio Sestini, European Commission Directorate-General Communications Networks, Content & Technology, this report is like an open window looking out onto a wholly new, and largely unexplored, world. The emerging applications that we globally call "digital social innovations" are fascinating examples of how humans can find new ways to collaborate in amazing manners, overcoming geographical, cultural and social barriers, and reinventing the way society can thrive in a world with ever decreasing availability of natural resources.

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There is only one natural resource that is now available in larger amounts than in the past: humans. Connecting them, in novel, pervasive, widespread and affordable manners, is perhaps the biggest breakthrough enabled by digital technologies.

Several names have been given to this: network effects, collective intelligence, hyperconnected societies. This hyperconnectivity is generating a new currency, more sustainable and ethical than money: data – open data. Open data increases awareness and coordination, creates new opportunities for innovation, and strengthens inclusion, participation and, ultimately, human well-being.

Society, economy, and even human psychology itself are undergoing an irreversible change, which we as citizens and policymakers are still struggling to understand. This understanding is key to anticipating possible developments, while at the same time to maximising the positive impacts on society, as well as averting the risks of misuses that inevitably accompany any step of human evolution.

This study has been prepared for the European Commission DG CONNECT by [Digital Social Innovation](#). **Read full report: [NESTA](#)**

4.1.15 Report: Statistical Data on Women Entrepreneurs in Europe – 2014

This report presents the key findings of an analysis of available data on women entrepreneurs in 37 countries, which include the 28 EU Member States, Albania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Iceland, Israel, Turkey, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway and Serbia. This group of countries is referred to as Europe-37.

The study objective was to collect, analyse, and systematically present the most recent data on women entrepreneurs in Europe-37. These data will be used to develop evidence-based policy and actions, and thus include number of women entrepreneurs, the type of entrepreneurship, the sectors in which women entrepreneurs are mainly active, age cohort and educational level.

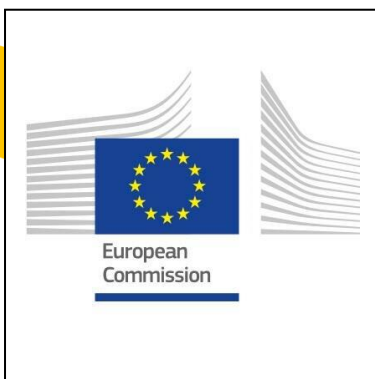
Full report: [European Commission](#)

4.2 ASEAN

4.2.1 Red tape blamed for hindering Asian innovation

South-East Asian governments should simplify patenting and boost regional collaboration to support incubators and university spin-offs.

Countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are on the cusp of becoming global innovation centres, but their small businesses need a better





entrepreneurial environment, speakers said. This includes providing start-ups with more information on available funding and existing networks, and issuing them with incentives to patent inventions and collaborate regionally, delegates heard. This call for action was made at the second ASEAN-EU Science, Technology and Innovation Days event, which took place in Paris, France, last week (17-19 March). The conference explored collaboration opportunities between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union (EU), but flagged up several obstacles preventing small, innovative companies from reaching their potential.

Full article: [SciDevNet](#)

4.2.2 Three Asians Bestowed L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards

Five leading women scientists and 15 promising young researchers were honored at the 17th L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Ceremony on March 18, 2015 in the historic Grand Amphitheatre of the Sorbonne University in Paris. This year's winners from Asia include the Asia-Pacific Laureate Professor Xie Yi from China and international rising talents Drs. Chan Yoke-Fun and Tran Ha-Lien Phuong from Malaysia and Vietnam, respectively.

Source: [Asian Scientist](#)

4.2.3 MSD (MERCK) joins A*STAR ICES R&D Consortium to enhance process innovation

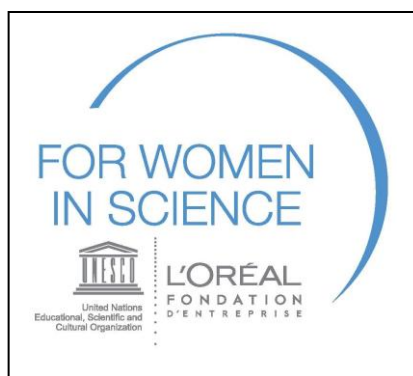
MSD International GmbH (Singapore Branch), one of the top five leading pharmaceutical companies globally, has joined A*STAR's Innovative Processing for Specialties and Pharmaceuticals Programme (iPSP). This consortium is led by A*STAR's Institute of Chemical & Engineering Sciences (ICES), and brings together pharmaceutical and specialty chemicals industry players to address an increasingly urgent need to access emerging next generation manufacturing technologies that provide quantum change improvements in cost, quality, environmental impact and process robustness in high value chemicals manufacturing processes.

Source: A*STAR

4.2.4 Manila sees more S&T research opportunities with ASEAN Economic Community

The Department of Science and Technology is expecting more opportunities in science and technology research to open up in the region following the scheduled formation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) this year.

"Establishing a unified network within the ASEAN will undoubtedly enhance the capabilities of the region for technological innovation, create opportunities for science & technology development by founding new partnerships with





international institutions and support open transfer of technology and knowledge to sustain an integrated economic community,” said DOST Secretary Mario Montejo.

Source: [Interaksyon](#)



5 Grants & Fellowships

5.1 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.

New video explaining the European Research Area



This is a great video explaining the concept of the European Research Area, a unified area open to the world, in which scientific knowledge, technology and researchers circulate freely. You can watch it [here](#).



5.2 European Research Council – ERC Advanced Grants



Advanced Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements.

Applicant Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal. This action is open to researchers of any nationality who intend to conduct their research activity in any Member State or Associated Country. The ERC's frontier research grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities.

The call 'ERC-2015-AdG' consists of one call with a single deadline applying to each of the three main research domains:

Physical Sciences & Engineering (Panels: PE1 – PE10),

Life Sciences (Panels: LS1 – LS9),

Social Sciences & Humanities (Panels: SH1 – SH6).

Deadline: 2 June 2015

Details [here](#)

Complete Guide to European Research Council (ERC) Grants

The ERC aims to support the best and most creative scientists to identify and explore new opportunities and directions in any field of research (Physical Sciences and Engineering, Life Sciences and Social Sciences and Humanities), without thematic priorities. **You can download the guide [here](#).**

5.3 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](#).

5.4 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Individual Fellowships

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions offer the opportunity for Experienced Researchers (PhD holders or those with four years of research experience) to secure their own funding via Individual Fellowships to support their research training and career development.

Any Experienced Researcher, from a recent PhD graduate to an emeritus professor, can apply for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship to be hosted at a research-performing organisation from any sector (public, private, non-profit, etc.).

The scheme also supports the return and reintegration in Europe of researchers who have previously worked here, and the restarting of the research careers of those researchers who have recently taken a break from their career.

The generous annual budget includes funding for salary, mobility costs, research costs, and a contribution to the overhead costs of their host organisation.

As mobility is key to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, an applicant cannot apply for a fellowship in a country where they have lived for more than 12 months in the 3 years before the Call deadline.


There are two types of Individual Fellowships:

1. European Fellowships

Held in the EU or associated countries 

Open to researchers either coming to Europe or moving within Europe.

2. Global Fellowships

Fund secondments outside Europe for researchers based in the EU or associated countries 

There is a mandatory one-year return period.

European and Global Fellowships can also include a **secondment period** of up to 3 or 6 months in another organisation in Europe, where this would boost the impact of the fellowship.

Details [here](#)





Application details [here](#)

Deadline: 10 September 2015

5.5 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – RISE

The RISE is one of the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) under Horizon 2020, the European Framework Program for Research and Innovation

The RISE aims at international and inter-sector collaboration through promoting research and innovation exchanges of staff. RISE will support short-term mobility of research and innovation staff at all career levels, from the most junior (post-graduate) to the most senior (management), including administrative and technical staff.

RISE is open to partnerships of universities, research institutions, and non-academic organisations both within and beyond Europe. Universities, research institutes can apply, not individuals.

Any research field may qualify for RISE funding, apart from areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty.

A RISE partnership is composed of at least three independent participants established in three different countries. Proposals should highlight networking opportunities, sharing of knowledge and the skills development of staff members.

The funding covers secondments of staff members from one month to one year as well as funding to support research, training and networking activities. Funding for a RISE project can last up to four years.

Application details [here](#)

Deadline: 28 April 2015

5.6 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.





5.7 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](#).

5.8 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](#).

5.9 France – Singapore: 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](#)

5.10 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.

AvH offers

- a monthly fellowship of 2,650 EUR for postdoctoral researchers (doctorate completed within the last four years) or 3,150 EUR for experienced researchers (doctorate completed within the last 12 years),
- a flexible starting date and - for experienced researchers - the option of splitting the fellowship up into a maximum of three stays,
- individual mentoring during the sponsorship period,
- intensive German language course for fellows and their marital partners prior to the fellowship,
- additional financial support for accompanying family members, for example, or for items like travel expenses or pension plans and
- comprehensive alumni sponsorship once the research stay has come to an end, such as a Return Fellowship or further stays in Germany.

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](#)





5.11 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](#).

5.12 Thailand – UK: Thailand and the UK Medical Research Council announce joint health research 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 to tackle disease areas of critical importance to the Thai population. These include dengue and malaria as well as various types of cancer. Researchers planning to submit to this scheme are asked to submit an Expression of Interest including the names of the leading UK and Thai investigators and a preliminary project title by Friday 1 May 2015.

Full applications must be submitted by the "UK Principal Investigator" to Medical Research Council or MRC (on behalf of the UK-Thai research partnership) via the Je-S application system by 4pm, Tuesday 2 June 2015. The application must be JOINTLY prepared. **Deadline for full applications is Tuesday 2 June 2015.**

More information [here](#).

5.13 Spain: 15 Ikerbasque Postdoctoral Research Postions

Ikerbasque offers 15 contract positions for postdoctoral researchers, within any of the [Basque Research Institution](#) (Universities, BERC - Basque Excellence Research Centres, CIC - Cooperative Research Centres, Biomedical institutions and Technology Corporations, among others). Specific information on [Research Groups](#).

Deadline: 15 April 2015.

Application details [here](#)





6 Jobs

There are currently **11395** research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe and partner countries and in all disciplines) accessible via the [EURAXESS Jobs database](#)

AUSTRIA (Graz): Professor of Energy and Resources Innovation at the University of Graz and the University of Applied Sciences FH Joanneum – Kapfenberg.

[Details](#)

DENMARK (Copenhagen): At the Department of Learning and Philosophy, The Faculty of Humanities, a position as Associate Professor in Health, Learning and Education is available from 1 September 2015, or as sooner.

[Details](#)

FINLAND (Espoo): Aalto University School of Engineering, Department of Civil and Structural Engineering invites applications for a Professor in Wooden Structures which will be filled on the Aalto University's tenure track system.

[Details](#)

GERMANY (Erfurt): The Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies (Max-Weber-Kolleg) and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Erfurt, Germany are seeking to appoint a professorship for the History of Science

[Details](#)

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

PhD positions at Aarhus University in Denmark as part of the project TargetCaRe targeting cartilage regeneration in joints and intervertebral disc diseases.

[Details](#)

Postdoctoral positions at Universita' degli studi di Palermo in Italy in the area of sustainability assessment of current and developing railway infrastructures.

[Details](#)

PhD positions at the Swiss National Laboratory in Material Science and Technology (EMPA)/ELEOSS in Switzerland.

[Details](#)





7 Events

7.1 EURAXESS Links ASEAN Events March 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	10 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	8 & 9 June 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 11 & 12 June 2015, Bangkok, Thailand	Southeast Asian researchers, research administrators, policy-makers	Information event offering detailed information on European funding opportunities for Southeast Asian Researchers

* 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.



7.2 Thailand, France and AIT Co-organising Regional Forum on Climate Change, Bangkok July 1-3, 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.

Details [here](#)

7.3 TII and BioAsia Conferences 2015, Singapore, 18 – 22 May 2015

In 2015, TII will once again take its annual conference outside of Europe to one of the most dynamic innovation hotspots in the world – Singapore. Consistently ranked in the top ten most innovative countries, our programme will offer an opportunity to see first hand the initiatives, resources and experiments that have helped Singapore become best in class in the international innovation leagues.

Innovation is recognized as a key contributor to countries' growth and competitiveness. Yet creating the environment for sustainable innovation that has economic and social impact is difficult and costly. At the TII 2015 conference we intend to take a fresh look at innovation – hence the title "Innovating Innovation" – to highlight new trends and developments which improve innovation outcomes for the benefit of science, business and society.

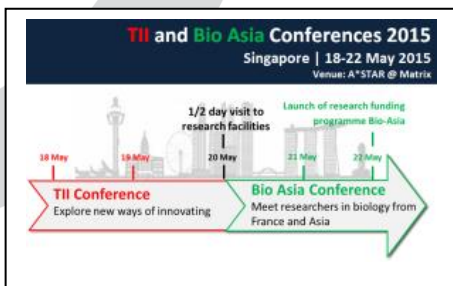
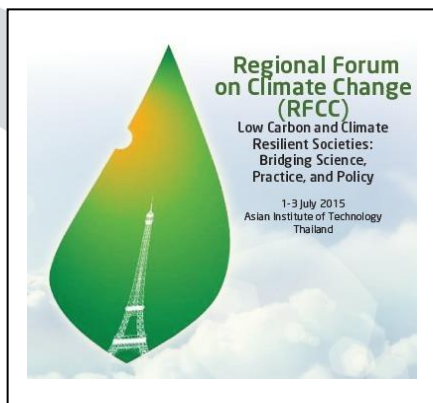
Peter Droell, Acting Director, Innovation Union and European Research Area, of DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission has been confirmed keynote speaker.

[Call for abstracts](#) now open

Further details [here](#)

Bio-Asia 2015 is organized by *Institut Francais de Singapour*. Conference theme: Tackling Challenges beyond Borders. Scientific conference and funding opportunities in Biodiversity, Biotechnologies, Biochemistry, Food, Green Chemistry, Biomedical and Health.

Further details [here](#)





7.4 Annual Conference European Association for Southeast Asian Studies, Vienna (Austria), 11 – 14 August 2015

The annual European Association for Southeast Asian Studies conference will take place in Vienna (11 - 14 August) this year!

Deadline for paper submission: 1 May 2015

Check all information here: <http://www.euroseas.org/content/conference>

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](#)"



8 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.