Bilateral Research Collaboration with Asia 2021-2024

2023 Call for Opportunity Grants with East and Southeast Asia

Guidelines

Background

ETH Zurich is the Leading House for the bilateral science and technology cooperation programme of Switzerland with East and Southeast Asia. Mandated by Switzerland's State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), ETH Zurich is in charge of promoting and fostering scientific cooperation with key institutions in the region for the funding period 2021–2024. The funding instruments within the programme are open to researchers of all Swiss universities, universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education, and research institutes.

Goals and objectives

Opportunity grants support bottom-up initiatives of researchers from Swiss universities, universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education, and public research institutes, linked to specific events or incidents in China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, South Korea, Taiwan and ASEAN member States.

These research-based initiatives aim at increasing the visibility of Swiss science, technology and innovation abroad.

Events or incidents eligible for Opportunity Grants can be:

- **Large public happenings** such as the Olympic Games, international or national expositions/biennales.
- **Major environmental events** such as the implications of a typhoon, earthquake or tsunami.
- **Major economic and political developments** such as the geopolitical implications of a presidential visit or a shift of power in a government.
- **Launch of a new public policy** such as new impactful agriculture or migration policies.

The proposal can take, for instance, the form of:

- The **organisation of thematic events for a broader audience**. Those events aim to increase the visibility of Swiss science, technology and innovation. They focus on showcasing Swiss research and are organised in collaboration with local partners.
- The **application of a Swiss technology or research results** for the mitigation of a natural disaster or similar incident in the partner countries, in collaboration with local partners.

The applicants have to explain: 1. how the project is linked to a specific event or incident; 2. how it can generate visibility for Swiss science and technology and lead to a mutually beneficial relation with the partner country or partner institutions in the long run.

Eligibility

The call is open to **all** scientific disciplines and fields of research, including social sciences and the humanities.
Postdoctoral scientists, senior scientists and professors of Swiss federal and cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education, as well as public research institutes, are eligible to apply.

Note to applicants from UAS/UTE: UAS/UTE staff with research responsibility (group leaders, researchers with 5+ years of experience) and in equivalent functions are eligible to apply. If in doubt or in case you are not sure whether your position is eligible to act as a Principle Investigator (PI), please email patricia.heuberger@sl.ethz.ch or elise.nardin@sl.ethz.ch.

A single Switzerland-based scientist or a consortium of Switzerland-based scientists from different research institutions can act as the main applicant. In the latter case, one of the members of the consortium must act as the main applicant. preferably located in Switzerland, in exceptional cases they can be located abroad.

Partnership

The proposal has to include at least one co-applicant from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, South Korea, Taiwan or one of the ASEAN member States. The partner applicant has to be a senior academic researcher affiliated with a university of a public institute in the partner country. Co-applicant(s) will have to provide their own funds (cash and in-kind).

Funding and budgeting

The maximum amount for an opportunity grant is **50 kCHF**. Each yearly call has the budget to fund two opportunity grants. Each grant will be disbursed in two instalments: 80% after signing the grant contract and 20% after approval of the final scientific and financial reports.

A detailed budget must be provided in the Research Proposal Form. Budgeted expenses must be justified and related to the proposed activities. Financial contributions by the co-applicant from the partner country are expected and must be made explicit in cash and in-kind.

The opportunity grants do **not** cover full-fledged research projects, any salary costs, nor the exchange of early career researchers. The proposed projects must also be distinct from scientific symposia or workshops between individual researchers.

Application

The main applicant must be employed at one of the above-mentioned Swiss institutions. Researchers of all nationalities are eligible to apply as main applicant.

The main applicant must apply to ETH Zurich as the Leading House Asia. The submission of the application takes place online:
1. Submission of the application details via the online application form.
2. Upload of the research proposal including the requested appendices in **one single pdf** document via the online application form.

Applications that do not follow the compulsory two steps, and/nor respect the one single pdf document guideline **will be automatically dismissed**.

Timeline

Call launch:	15 February 2023
Deadline for submission:	**15 May 2023**
Evaluation and funding decision:	Mid-May - June 2023
Notification:	July 2023
Project start:	1 August 2023
Project duration:	Up to 12 months

Evaluation and selection

Applications will be assessed by a review panel. The review panel will evaluate the proposals based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technological merit of the project and anticipated outcomes
- Demonstrated link of the proposed activity to a specific event or incident
- Visibility of Swiss science and technology in the partner country
- Potential for long-term collaboration and follow-up activities
- Feasibility of the proposal
- Originality of the proposal
- Expertise and complementarities of the Asian collaborators
- Contributions by all involved partners, including funding and in-kind contributions
- Promotion of early career female researchers

Independent reviewers

Please indicate in the online application form **three** independent reviewers. In order to prevent any conflict of interest, the suggested reviewers should not have collaborated with the applicants nor with her/his team members in the past, nor be affiliated at the same research institution. The reviewers are preferably located in Switzerland, in exceptional cases they can be located abroad.

Reporting

The Switzerland-based main applicant is responsible for managing the funds and reporting. She/he/they must submit a final scientific and financial report one month after the termination of the opportunity grant project.

Export control

Activities conducted under this grant may be subject to export control rules and regulations (see State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO) regarding export, re-export of goods, technology and/or information procured/obtained. These rules and regulations may affect the research activities. The Switzerland-based PI and his/her home institution are responsible for compliance with possible export control restrictions.

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