

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE KOREA SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FOUNDATION (KOSEF)  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
AND  
THE DEUTSCHE FORSCHUNGSGEMEINSCHAFT (DFG)  
GERMANY  
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER  
(IRTC)**

## **1. Background**

DFG and KOSEF consider international collaboration to be an essential feature of scientific progress and encourage exchange and co-operation between scientists from Germany and Korea and their colleagues abroad. Accordingly, both organizations offer a range of schemes to facilitate international contacts.

However, DFG and KOSEF feel that it is useful and desirable to add to these existing means by creating a special focus on relations between researchers from both Germany and Korea.

Cooperation between these countries can offer practical and effective opportunities to combine forces, for example in relation to the study of issues of mutual interest, the development and expansion of high quality research centers, and the training of future research talent.

Therefore, DFG and KOSEF are prepared to make resources available for programmatic cooperation between research groups in Germany and in Korea. In order to enhance well structured and long-term partnerships, this funding scheme will focus on:

- cooperation between research groups forming a Research Training Center in Germany and in Korea, aimed at the training of doctoral students in both countries;
- cooperation between German und Korean research groups in joint research programmes, aimed at the development of German-Korean groups of competence

Such cooperation may be initiated jointly by German-Korean partners.

## **2. Outline of German-Korean International Research Training Centers**

### **2.1. Strategic Aim**

The aim of the scheme is to cooperate in the training of graduate and doctoral students in both countries, within the framework of a research programme which is jointly established and implemented by researchers in both countries and which offers doctoral students in both countries excellent opportunities to develop their talents in the context of a joint doctoral training programme.

### **2.2. Forms of cooperation**

- a. The German and Korean partners should jointly formulate a high quality research and training programme to be implemented by researchers on both sides of the border;
- b. the programme should provide for regular exchanges of academic staff and doctoral students for the purpose of joint research and joint training;
- c. during their PhD-project doctoral students should spend at least six months all together in the other country for research and training;
- d. doctoral students should have both a Korean and a German supervisor;
- e. theses should be assessed by a joint doctoral board before the award of the doctorate proceeds in accordance with national regulations;
- f. DFG and KOSEF will provide means for:
  - doctoral students
  - post-docs
  - visiting researchers
  - workshops
  - summer schools
  - conferences
  - specific additional research costs
- g. The duration of graduate studies in the partner country lasts maximally one year.
- h. The duration of support for the center is 4,5 years (one cycle).

### **3. Criteria**

- The research groups on both sides should possess a high international reputation;
- the proposed research programme in which the groups wish to cooperate should be of the highest quality;
- the participation of both groups should be of such significance – in terms of both content and size – that the joint programme can be expected to develop into a German-Korean center of competence of the highest academic quality.

#### **4. Research Areas**

In principle, any research area is eligible. However, either party, DFG or KOSEF, may also suggest specific research topics of common interest to the other party for the future IRTCs in the annual meeting.

#### **5. Applicants**

##### **Germany:**

- Group of researchers (min. 5), doctoral students and post-docs at a German university

##### **Korea:**

- Group of researchers (min. 5), doctoral students and post-docs at a Korean university with postgraduate programme
- non-university institutions as associates

#### **6. Support mechanism**

It is mutually understood that the respective host institution takes the responsibility for funding the accommodation of instructing/teaching professors from the partner institution for short-term visits, lectures or workshops in the partner country, whereas the international travel costs are covered by the sending institution – given the availability of funds on both sides.

It is also mutually understood that each host institution takes the responsibility for providing supplementary fellowships for the graduate students of the partner institution – in order to enable them to conduct the research work for the cooperative program in the host country, whereas the international travel costs are covered by the sending institution – given the availability of funds on both sides.

#### **7. Proposal Evaluation**

The German coordinator applies to DFG; the Korean coordinator applies to KOSEF with a joint application regarding the research and study programme but separate budget requests. Both parties share the results of evaluation and support the group which is approved by both parties.

#### **8. Budget**

It is understood by both parties that each is working to a budget determined annually in advance and that any variation in their budgets can effect the volume of exchange activity covered by this Memorandum. The DFG and KOSEF agree to consult each other if such variations arise, in addition to the annual meeting.

## 9. Commencement

This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon signature. It shall remain in force for five years or until it is terminated by either party giving six months notice in writing to the other. At that time, the existing visits or commitment will be brought to an orderly conclusion. The Memorandum may be amended by mutual written agreement of the parties.

Done in Bonn on September 27th, 2005

For the Korea Science and  
Engineering Foundation of the  
Republic of Korea

For the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft  
(DFG)  
German Research Foundation

Oh-Kab Kwon  
Chairman & CEO  
KOSEF

Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker  
President  
DFG