MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE DEUTSCHE FORSCHUNGSGEMEINSCHAFT (DFG)
GERMANY
AND
THE NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF KOREA (NRF)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

ANNEX II: IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR JOINT SUPPORT OF
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH TRAINING GROUPS (IRTG)

1. Background
As agreed upon in ARTICLE 2 of the Memorandum of Understanding, DFG and NRF
(hereafter called “the Parties”) will cooperate in supporting the training of graduate
and doctoral students in both countries. Training shall take place 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 competencies in the context of a joint doctoral
training programme. Such programmes may be initiated jointly by German-Korean
partners. The cooperation scheme is open for applications from the entire spectrum
of science and engineering.

2. Structure of German-Korean International Research Training Groups
Jointly supported doctoral training programmes (hereafter called “German-Korean
IRTGs”) will conform to the International Research Training Groups programme
offered by DFG. In particular,

a. each German-Korean IRTG should be run by two teams of professors, of
   sufficient team size (at least 5 and up to 10 members on each side) and with
   proven expertise both in the IRTG’s main research topic and in providing
   outstanding supervision to early-career researchers;

b. each team should be based at a university in Germany and Korea respectively;

c. the German and Korean teams should jointly formulate a high quality research
   and training programme to be implemented by researchers on both sides;

d. the programme should provide for regular exchanges of academic staff and
   doctoral students for the purpose of joint research and training;

e. doctoral students should spend a period of at least six months and up to one
   year during their PhD-project at the respective partner institution for research
   and training;

f. doctoral students should have both a German and a Korean supervisor;

g. doctoral theses should be assessed by a joint doctoral board before the award
   of the doctorate proceeds in accordance with national regulations.
3. Available funding and support mechanism

3.1 Available funding
DFG and NRF will support German-Korean IRTGs with funds for:
- doctoral students
- postdoctoral researchers
- visiting researchers
- workshops
- summer schools
- conferences
- specific additional research costs

DFG and NRF will, on the basis of positive evaluations on both sides, support German-Korean IRTGs for a potential maximum of 9 years.

3.2 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 sending institution takes the responsibility for providing the international travel costs and supplementary fellowships for its graduate students – in order to enable them to conduct the research work for the cooperative program at the partner institution in the host country.

4. Applications
Both Parties will accept joint proposals by German-Korean initiatives only. All joint applications are to be prepared according to the DFG guidelines for International Research Training Group applications and will contain separate budget requests for the German and the Korean side.

4.1 Establishment Proposals for German-Korean IRTGs
German-Korean initiatives will first submit a joint IRTG pre-proposal to DFG. DFG will evaluate these pre-proposals according to its established procedures for Research Training Groups. Positively evaluated initiatives will be invited to submit full proposals. DFG will inform NRF on the results of evaluations.

Full proposals are then submitted in parallel, by the German host university to DFG and by the Korean coordinator/university to NRF, according to the dates set by the Parties.

4.2 Renewal Proposals for German-Korean IRTGs
Renewal proposals are submitted in parallel, by the German host university to DFG and by the Korean coordinator/university to NRF, according to the dates set by the Parties.
5. Review and Decision process
The Parties will independently organize scientific reviews and funding decisions according to their normal procedures. They will share the results of evaluations and agree to support IRTGs approved by both Parties.

DFG and NRF may decide to include experts from the respective other country in its review panels where appropriate. Each party will accept recommendations for participation of particular reviewers identified by the respective other party. It is also mutually understood that the inviting party takes the responsibility for covering the international travel and accommodation cost of the reviewers.

6. Intellectual Property Rights
The Parties have no claims on the intellectual property rights arising from the selected projects. Rules and regulations regarding the results of work generated within the scope of the IRTG’s (including inventions) shall be agreed upon between the partners from the German and the Korean side prior to the funding of the specific IRTG.

7. 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 affect the volume of exchange activity covered by this Annex. DFG and NRF agree to consult each other if such variations arise.

8. Commencement
The Implementation Guidelines shall come into force upon signature of the MoU. They will remain in force throughout the validity of the Memorandum of Understanding between DFG and NRF signed on 27 May 2013, unless they are terminated by either party giving six months’ notice in writing. Termination of this MoU will not affect activities that have already been approved or are in progress under the terms of these Guidelines. The Implementation Guidelines may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

For the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) For the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)

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