Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to present to you the 55th edition of the EURAXESS Links ASEAN e-newsletter.

In this month's EU Insight section we focus on the progress made in setting up the Commission’s new instrument for delivering high quality, timely, independent scientific advice across all policy areas—the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM).

In our EURAXESS Members in Focus series we introduce you to Germany, a global leader in R&D and a strong research partner to the countries of ASEAN.

Our News, Grants and Fellowships sections contain our latest round-up of the most important developments and opportunities.

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter, and welcome your feedback.

Wishing you a great month ahead!

Your EURAXESS Links ASEAN team
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1 EU Insight: Progress in setting up the Commission’s new scientific advice mechanism

Officially endorsed in mid-May by European Commission (EC) President Jean-Claude Juncker, decisive progress was announced in mid-September regarding the set-up of the Commission’s new instrument for delivering high quality, timely, independent scientific advice across all policy areas—the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM). (For more information on the mechanism, refer to the June 2015 EU Insight here.) Coordination of SAM will be the responsibility of an independent high-level group of seven researchers appointed by the European Commission. With over 150 researchers nominated for this group, the set-up of the mechanism is right on track.

“[W]hen we come to make important policy decisions based on scientific evidence – we need independent scientific advice”. (Carlos Moedas, 15 September 2015.)

Speaking to European Parliament in mid-September, Commissioner Carlos Moedas, responsible for Science, Research and Innovation within the college of commissioners, stated that “[t]he role of the new High Level Group will be to make sure that the Commission has the best available scientific advice, wherever it comes from. It should guarantee the quality and independence of the advice provided. It should also help identify topics where independent advice is needed”.

To identify the high-level group members, two steps were taken before the summer: the appointment of an Identification Committee and the launch of an open consultation for nominations.¹ The Identification Committee, which is comprised of three members—Sir David Kind, professor Rianne Letschert and António Vitorino, began consultations in mid-July. With the closing of the consultations on 10 September, more than 150 researchers and scientists have been nominated in total. The next phase in the process will be the selection of potential high-level group members by the Identification Committee. These members will be proposed to the European Commission (by end of October). “It is my firm intention that the Group will be launched and have its first meeting before the end of the year”, stressed Moedas.

Sources and further information


¹ Methodology used for the nominations is based on the approach followed by the European Research Council Scientific Council Identification Committee and can be accessed here.


EURAXESS Members in Focus: Germany – A global leader in R&D

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

Facts & Figures

- Research and innovation are the cornerstones of the future of the German economy. Generous public funding programmes allow German higher education institutions, research institutions and companies to cooperate with foreign partners. Vice versa, excellent research and innovation conditions in Germany attract partners from all over the world.

- Keys to the success of the German R&D system are the autonomy of universities and non-university research institutions in the identification of research topics and methods in the area of innovative basic research, close links to the industry to carry out cutting-edge applied research and the openness to international cooperation.

- The German education system provides English run academic courses in nearly all fields, where students can benefit from teaching enriched by the lecturers own experience in topical research and international networks.

- The public and private sectors have made a significant commitment to spend around three per cent of national GDP per year on R&D activity. This amounted to approximately €79 billion R&D spending in 2012; two-third is spent by the private sector.

Germany’s R&D landscape is characterised by a close cooperation between science and economy. It is based on the dense and decentralised network of more than 420 universities, technical colleges and universities of applied sciences.
In worldwide comparison, Germany holds a unique position thanks to strong research communities in basic and applied research.

There exist more than 300 non-university research institutions, among which the institutes of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, the Helmholtz Gemeinschaft and the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft

• Key sectors of R&D in Germany are defined by the new High-Tech Strategy which was published in 2014, namely “Digital Economy and Society”, “Sustainable Economy and Energy”, “Innovative Workplace”, “Healthy Living”, “Intelligent Mobility” and “Civil Security”.

The new High-Tech Strategy stands for the aim of moving Germany forward on its way to becoming a worldwide innovation leader.

Further information

Research in Germany

The “Research in Germany” portal provides an overview of the German research landscape and funding system along with interesting news from the scientific world. Additionally, practical information supports foreign scientists and researchers in their decision to collaborate with German research organisations or to complete a research stay in Germany.

- Research in Germany Facebook page.
- Brochures for download (e.g. “German Funding Programmes for Scientists and Researchers”, FAQs – Preparing a successful research stay in Germany, About the German Research Landscape, The German Research Landscape - Who does research in Germany?)

PhDGermant – open PhD positions

Database maintained by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) listing job openings / PhD positions for doctoral students.

Research Explorer

The Research Explorer contains over 23,000 institutes at German universities and non-university research institutions, searchable by geographic location, subject and other structural criteria.

List of Research Performing Organisations

Universities, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Helmholtz Association, Leibniz Association, Max Planck Society, Academies of Sciences and Humanities, Federal Institutions, Länder Institutions, Companies & Industrial Research, German Federation of Industrial Research Associations (AiF), Networks and Clusters, Research Infrastructures
In general, collaboration in science, research and innovation between Germany and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) falls under the roof of the “Internationalization Strategy” of the German Government. Since the ten member states of ASEAN – Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam – are far from being a homogenous group of states, the collaboration varies from country to country. The ASEAN member states do not only differ in size, population, urbanization, religion, economic performance or stage of development. Most significant with regard to science, research and innovation most significant are the differences of the quality of the systems of education and science as well as of the R&D and innovation performances. Therefore implementing a one size fits all science, research and innovation policy for all ten ASEAN member states would simply be impossible. To tackle this challenge Germany signed agreements on cooperation in the field of scientific research and technological development with selected member states such as Indonesia in 1979 or Singapore in 1994. Some ASEAN member states – like Thailand or Singapore for example – participate in joint mobility programs aiming at facilitating scientific cooperation or have developed joint research structures and programs which can highlight the collaboration in the field of science, research and innovation with Germany.

Germany and Singapore for example signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of scientific research and technological development in 1994, since the scientific cooperation between Germany and Singapore is a major pillar of the bilateral relations. With TUM Asia, an offshore campus of the Technische Universität München (TUM), Singapore was the first destination for a German university to open a campus abroad. Besides pure scientific cooperation the German collaboration with Singaporean universities also aims at offering dual education courses “Made in Germany” which cater primarily to the needs of the more than 1450 German companies in Singapore.

The collaboration with Thailand focuses on health science, in particular on infectious diseases, agriculture and engineering. In the field of engineering “The Sirindhorn International Thai-German Graduate School of Engineering” (TGGS), an autonomous International Graduate School of Engineering within King Mongkut’s University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUTNB) can serve as a perfect example for our bilateral scientific collaboration. TGGS is the result of intense cooperation between KMUTNB and Rheinisch-Westfaelische Technische Hochschule Aachen (RWTH Aachen).

In Malaysia, the cooperation between German and Malaysian universities continues to grow and currently numbers more than 80 partnerships. In 2014, an additional element of R&D cooperation was established when the Steinbeis Malaysia Centre was founded. It has signed MoUs with several local R&D institutions and is currently establishing a network with companies active in this field. In more practical terms, the German Malaysian Institute (founded 1992)
EURAXESS LINKS ASEAN

offers mainly technical education to Malaysian students and is part of the Dual Vocational Education program which was started last year by the Malaysian-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AHK).

The Vietnamese-German University was founded in 2008 and covers engineering and natural sciences. Besides these fields, collaboration between Germany and Vietnam narrows the scope on water and environmental technology as well as bioeconomy.

From a German scientific point of view, Indonesia with its unique flora and fauna is of special interest in the field of biotechnology. A particular focus is also directed on tsunami research projects.

This broad spectrum of various scientific fields in the collaboration with the ASEAN member states clearly highlights the fact that the German-ASEAN scientific collaboration is always adapted to the respective ASEAN member state to be most fruitful for both parties.

_Sascha A. Kienzle_

_Head of Science and Technology Department, German Embassy Singapore_
2.2 Pushing the boundaries of Urban Electromobility – TUM Create

Society is changing at a high pace. The change is driven by trends like rapid urbanization, stringent CO₂ and environmental standards and increased congestion in urban areas. This trend is especially drastic in fast growing Asian megacities and is creating the challenge to design not only functional, but human centric structures to enhance the quality of life.

One of the core components for are a working mega city is an excellent transport infrastructure. In industrialized countries, the fraction of energy consumed by transport is about 25%. New technologies like electric cars will be able to reduce CO₂ and particle emissions reduce noise and will support a more sustainable lifestyle. Mobile phone applications will inform commuters how to avoid traffic jams, yet, at the same time, enjoy short commute to work and have a pleasant, more comfortable travel experience.

In 2011 Technische Universität München founded TUM CREATE with the working title “Electromobility in Tropical Megacities” for joint research together with scientists from Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University. The project is funded by the National Research Foundation, an agency of Singapore’s Prime Minister’s Office. Singapore’s sophisticated transport infrastructure and world class science institutes offer an excellent environment for research and test bedding future cutting-edge transport technologies.

There are some technical challenges to implement electric mobility in Singapore due to the hot and humid climate. The research team of TUM CREATE accepted this challenge and developed EVA - the world’s first electric taxi designed specifically for cities with a predominantly hot climate.

Transportation companies around the world typically re-purpose passenger cars as taxis. In Singapore, taxis are responsible for up to 15 percent of the total distance travelled by vehicles, despite representing less than three percent of the overall vehicle fleet. Thus, taxis are responsible for a higher proportion of the overall carbon emissions.

EVA was designed from scratch as an e-taxi implementing Singapore specific results of the interdisciplinary research in the areas of battery capacity, recharging time, energy consumption by air-conditioning. Furthermore a taxi needs to run 24/7 and any downtime due introduction of a new technology cannot be accepted.
150 kg lighter than a conventional taxi of a similar size, the vehicle offers a 200 km driving range and a fast charging battery using wireless technology. The car is equipped with ergonomically designed seats, featuring an integrated system that sucks away moisture and heat from the seat’s surfaces for better passenger comfort.

The climate controls, in-car entertainment, booking and digital payment system are linked via the car’s infotainment system, allowing passengers to control air-conditioning and audio settings wirelessly from their personal, allowing passengers to control air-conditioning and audio settings wirelessly from their personal mobile devices.

Furthermore the EVA taxi is the first car to have been completely manufactured in Singapore. The launch of EVA at the Tokyo Motorshow in 2013 marked a milestone. It is the first time ever a Singapore-based organization is presenting a vehicle in the 59-year history of Asia’s most important automotive tradeshow. Development and design took four years and involved 40 researchers from 20 countries. The Team recruited the best engineering talents from Europe and Asia. A branch of the TUM Graduate School was opened to provide soft-skill training and project in parallel to academic training for the researchers.

The achievements of the team in Singapore were also heard and appreciated in Germany with its sophisticated automobile industry. TUM CREATE was awarded with the 1st prize in the category Innovation and electro mobility at the eCarTec fair, the world’s largest electro mobility fair.

The technological innovations developed for EVA are a great demonstration of how two of the world’s top engineering universities can successfully collaborate to combine their expertise and knowledge to solve the tough challenges of today. NTU with its deep expertise in energy technologies, such as battery systems, in combination with TUM’s strength in automotive and electro mobility, gives the research team a strong platform in which to design and build EVA. The ability to build the robust and energy-efficient electric taxi for use in real world conditions is testimony of the cooperation’s strengths’ in engineering and how it is applied to make a difference.

For the next years TUM CREATE is looking forward to intensify its research into the opportunities autonomous vehicles will bring to the transport sector and how smart mobility will change the way we commute.

*Dr. Thomas Aulig, Corporate Director of TUM Create*

**Further information**
- TUM Create
- NRF CREATE Campus

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess
2.3 Singapore-German research collaboration in Interactive Digital Media – Fraunhofer IDM@NTU

The Fraunhofer Project Centre for Interactive Digital Media (Fraunhofer IDM@NTU) was launched in June 2010 under the auspices of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft – with 66 institutes, around 24,000 staff and €2 billion annual research budget the largest application-oriented research organization in Europe. The Centre is facilitated by the IDM Programme Office and supported by the National Research Foundation, and is part of the research landscape in Singapore.

Thus, Fraunhofer IDM@NTU is providing another bridge between Europe and Singapore as member of the network of the Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research (Fraunhofer IGD) in Darmstadt and Rostock, the Fraunhofer Austria Research GmbH in Graz and their associated university partners the Technische Universität Darmstadt, the University of Rostock and the Graz University of Technology as well as the NTU Singapore.

Fraunhofer IDM@NTU brings industry and public partners to the forefront of innovation by providing expertise and state-of-the-art technologies in Visual Computing. In this way, the Centre envisions transforming the way we learn, live and work.

The Centre's research in interactive digital media technology covers a range of key topics under Visual Computing. The principal areas of focus are Realtime Rendering, Data-driven Visualisation, Virtual and Augmented Reality, Medical Computing, Visual Analytics, Visual Haptics, Neuroscience and Neuromarketing as well as Human-Computer Interaction.

These enabling technologies developed at Fraunhofer IDM@NTU provide added value to various industries such as tourism and culture, smart manufacturing, education and future learning, aviation, maritime, advertising, healthcare, science and engineering, and many more. This includes also Visual Computing for Industry 4.0 such as visual interfaces to enhance communication between machines and workers. Industry 4.0 describes the 4th stage of industrial revolution based on Cyber-Physical Systems.

In particular, in a world of information overload, it becomes increasingly important to present big data in a comprehensive way. Tailored Visual Analytics Cockpits with meaningful visuals on intuitive user interfaces help to explore and to better understand complex data spaces and its interrelationships addressing operators as well as managers. The Energy Dashboard, jointly developed with NTU's Energy Research Institute (ERI@N) is such an example; here, sensor data collected from various buildings is translated into concise graphical representations for monitoring energy consumption, further evaluation and decision making.

Another highlight is the new visual solution InfoLand. InfoLand is an intuitive, interactive and engaging branding and visual communication tool. Here,
everything you need to know about an organisation is presented virtually on a multi-touch interface through a visual portal that serves as a one-stop information point and marketing tool to enhance the user experience. This visual journey is filled with information in the form of text, images, videos and 3D models which can be accessed intuitively to better understand and appreciate, for example, the respective organisation and its portfolio. An application example of InfoLand is the Discover Germany installation, which is a one-stop-information point providing an interactive and engaging visual journey through study, research, culture, and business in Germany on a multi-touch interface. This has been realised in cooperation with the German Embassy Singapore where the information point is currently installed. The Centre participates also in Fraunhofer’s Morgenstadt: City Insights research project on today’s cities as future markets for systems innovations towards smart and sustainable cities.

Fraunhofer IDM@NTU is also the coordinator of the Joint PhD Programmes between NTU and Technische Universität Darmstadt and Graz University of Technology. This collaboration promotes and advances international research and developmental collaborations, and helps to nurture a new generation of experts in Visual Computing.

Current activities focus on further strengthening the presence of Fraunhofer and extending the research scope in Singapore to evolve towards a Fraunhofer Institute Singapore with the joint support of NRF, NTU as well as Fraunhofer Society and its driving forces the Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research Darmstadt (IGD), the Fraunhofer Institute for Ceramics Technologies & Systems Dresden (IKTS) and the Fraunhofer Institute for IT Secure Information Technology Darmstadt (SIT).

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfgang Müller-Wittig, Director of Fraunhofer IDM@NTU

Further information
Fraunhofer IDM@NTU
Fraunhofer Germany - Fields of Research, Fraunhofer Institutes and Research Establishments, Career Opportunities
2.4 DAAD Office Bangkok – Interview with Dr Georg Verweyen

The German Academic Exchange Service – DAAD for short – has a long tradition of uniting people and academia. Founded in Heidelberg in 1925 on the initiative of a single student, the DAAD has since become one of the most important funding organisations in the world for the international exchange of students and researchers. It supports over 100,000 German and international students and researchers around the globe each year – making it the world’s largest funding organisation of its kind. The DAAD has an extensive global network of offices and representatives. EURAXESS Links ASEAN met up with the new director of the DAAD office in Bangkok, Thailand, Dr Georg Verweyen.

Georg, you have recently arrived in Bangkok. Can you tell us something about your background?

Let me begin with my choice of studies which is probably the least international choice possible for a German; German Language Studies. But at some point I decided to learn French and study at the Sorbonne University, later to learn Dutch and to get a double degree from Utrecht University before doing my PhD back home at the University of Bochum in Germany. When I learned about the DAAD programme sending German lecturers abroad I was sold, packed family and suitcases and went to Nairobi, Kenya for four years. After a short stay at the international office of the University of Cologne, I decided to go overseas again.

What is the mandate of DAAD, and what will be your responsibilities here in Thailand?

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the world’s largest organisation for academic exchange, yet it is still governed by German professors representing 400 universities in Germany. My job is to help both Thai and German universities to build and maintain good relations. Together with local staff and German colleagues teaching at Thai universities, we inform students and scholars about study and research opportunities in Germany. We also facilitate alumni activities and conduct scholarship appraisals.

Is knowledge of German a pre-requisite for studying in Germany?

No, it is absolutely not. International students can study entirely in English at German universities. There are over 1000 academic programmes taught in English listed at the website http://study-in.de and the number keeps growing. The majority of international programmes so far are graduate programmes but English-taught Bachelor programmes are also available albeit not that many.

Germany does not charge international students fees? Can you tell us why this is the case?

Let me clarify, tuition costs for one academic year at a German university as a matter of fact do amount to somewhere between Euro 5.000 and 45.000.
depending on the subject. However, these costs are not borne by the student but are covered to about 95% by German tax payers. This does not only apply to German nationals or European citizens but to any student enrolled at a German university disregarding his or her nationality. The reason is deeply rooted in Humboldtian ideals and the social-democrat call for equal opportunities. Out of the 16 states that make up Germany, seven initially introduced moderate tuition fees after 2005 but all of them have since taken a U-turn. To call for tuition fees at German universities is still a very unpopular political move and asking only foreign students to pay would send the wrong signal to our international partners.

Do Thai students benefit from subsidized accommodation in Germany?

All students enrolled at German universities can apply for subsidized accommodation but the number of places is very limited and there are usually waiting lists for places in student hostels. There are other inexpensive options available such as shared flats called "Wohngemeinschaft (WG)". An average German student spends a total of 790 Euro per month including housing, food, books, transport, clothing, going-out, insurance etc. so life is affordable in Germany.

How many Thais are currently studying in Germany, and which seem to be the most popular fields of study? Do many of these students stay and work following their degree?

Right now there are more than 800 Thai students enrolled full-time at German universities. If we add in the exchange students the numbers add up to nearly one thousand Thai students in Germany. The highest demand is in engineering and natural sciences, followed by business/economics and architecture. The majority of Thai students in Germany are free-movers, not sponsored by DAAD. However, every year we do support more than 300 Thais going to Germany and slightly less than 300 Germans who are coming to Thailand. The German Academic Exchange Service is actively promoting exchange, so we try to encourage our scholarship holders to be academic ambassadors of Germany once they are back in Thailand. However, we know that many graduates benefit from new legal regulations in Germany which grant the right to residence to any graduate who finds a suitable job within 18 months after graduation.

How does Germany compare with other European countries in terms of internationalization?

This year we had more than 300.000 international students enrolled at German universities, which means that one in nine students is coming from abroad. About thirty percent of German students go abroad at least once during their studies, which is a very good rate compared to France for instance where you'd find less than half the numbers. Total numbers of student exchanges confirm Germany's role as the major non-English speaking destination world-wide. Relative numbers show that smaller countries, especially the Netherlands are quite a bit ahead, when it comes to academic internationalisation. With growing numbers of international degree programmes offered in Germany, we are steadily catching up.
Kingdom is still hosting fifty percent more international students than Germany, but we are sending twice as many students abroad. For researcher mobility, numbers are comparable to the students. About eleven percent of academic staff at German Universities come from abroad and more than 17.000 German researcher are on some kind of fellowship abroad. DAAD and our partner organisations are observing annual growth rates of ten percent!

**What are you most looking forward to about your assignment in Thailand?**

I feel very privileged to meet some of the most exciting people in Thailand including curious students who are willing to leave their personal comfort-zone, young researchers who want to take their projects to an international level, and highly educated lecturers and professors with an amazingly broad horizon. Many people really go out of their way just to learn more about Germany, to get in touch, to exchange ideas -- I really appreciate this. And then, of course, Thailand is just an excellent place to spend some time, especially with a family and three children. So I hope to make the best of my stay and see quite a bit of this amazing country.

**Thank you!**

**Georg Verweyen** studied literature, linguistics and philosophy at the universities of Bonn, Paris IV-Sorbonne, and Bochum. In 2001, he graduated with a doctorandus degree from the University of Utrecht (NL) and in 2007, he received a doctorate in German Literature from Ruhr University Bochum.

After postgraduate studies in German as a Foreign Language at University of Düsseldorf, Verweyen was sent to Kenyatta University, Nairobi for DAAD where he acted from 2009 to 2013 as head of the German Section. Since 2013 Verweyen has been working in different capacities for the International Office at University of Cologne.

Since August 2015, he is Director of the DAAD Information Centre Bangkok and lecturer at Chulalongkorn University.
2.5 Thai-German Collaboration in Engineering Education

Located in Bangkok, Thailand, The Sirindhorn Thai-German Graduate School of Engineering (TGGS) is a joint institute founded in 2005 by King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUTNB) and RWTH Aachen University, Germany. It adapts the German engineering educational methodology and standards based on the RWTH Aachen University model of graduate level engineering education.

At TGGS, a multidisciplinary group of lecturers and researchers is working closely with the industry to solve its latest R&D issues. Students are seamlessly integrated into research projects under the guidance of their lecturers and experts from industry from which they acquire technical knowledge and teamwork skills. Through this scheme, companies and students can get to know each other's potential which may result in career opportunities. Students who enjoy the academic environment at the university may also continue their career at TGGS as doctorates afterwards.

Currently there are seven research and academic groups at TGGS. All groups offer Master and Doctoral Degrees:

- Chemical and Process Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering Simulation and Design
- Automotive Safety and Assessment Engineering
- Materials and Production Engineering
- Communications Engineering
- Electrical Power and Energy Engineering
- Software Systems Engineering

For more information about TGGS please visit the school’s website.
2.6 Meet the Researcher: Interview with MSCA Fellow Dr Lai Zon Weng in Freiburg, Germany

Please tell us a little about yourself. Where are you from, and what is your research background?

I was born in downtown Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). Soon after completing my O-level, I moved to Melbourne (Australia) to complete my pre-university study and proceeded to pursue my undergraduate studies. I remained in Melbourne until I completed my doctoral studies as well as my first postdoctoral training. My research background focuses on applying state-of-the-art mass spectrometry platform in clinical setting and the establishment of novel and robust strategies in improving the detection of potential clinical biomarkers and validation.

Please tell us briefly about the research project you are doing as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Fellow?

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth most common internal cancer worldwide and there are annual incidences of over 200,000 pancreatic cancer cases with an annual mortality that is almost equal to the incidence rate. At present, there are limited numbers of biomarkers for pancreatic cancer. In addition, the precise knowledge of their role in pancreatic cancer diagnosis, staging, determining resectability, response to chemotherapy and prognosis is not fully known. In addition, these biomarkers have poor sensitivity due to the false negative rate pancreatic cancer patients who show negative phenotype and high rate of false positives in a variety of pathologic conditions. It is of great interest, therefore, to identify and validate novel pancreatic cancer biomarkers whose functions may represent critical events in pancreatic cancer. My current research project focuses on the development of mass spectrometry-based platform technologies for the discovery and validation of panels of robust biomarkers for the detection and surveillance of pancreatic cancer.

What aspect of the fellowship do you find most valuable for your career development as a researcher?

The international recognition I receive as a MSCA Fellow is very positive. Given that this is probably the most competitive and prestigious award in Europe, it opens up many doors and opportunities to meet and collaborate with some of the big players in my research field. In addition, I have received invitations to speak at renowned international meetings. This year alone, I was given the opportunity to speak at the Australasian Proteomics Society Meeting in Lorne, Australia and will be speaking at the HUPO World Congress in Vancouver, Canada next week.

Why did you choose Germany as your research destination?

My choice for Germany as a research destination was solely based on personal recommendation from my former colleague back in Australia. My former colleague was a co-worker with my current supervisor in Germany. I was told great things about my current supervisor in terms of the excellence in scientific research and technical expertise. For me, it is important to choose a good leader for my professional and scientific growth irrespective of the country.
What are your impressions of the German research environment? Where can Malaysia and Germany learn from each other?

Research funding in Germany comes predominantly from the government granting agencies or from other European Commission funding agencies with strict selection criteria and high deliverable expectations. Thus it is not surprising to see that research ethics in Germany is highly professional, efficient and competitive. The German academic community prides itself for doing high-caliber science and henceforth contributing to the greater community. It is with this mentality that we see German research consistently ranked as one of the highest in the international scientific community.

What is life in Germany like outside the office?

Life in Germany is very exciting. I get to experience new cultures, learning new knowledge and meeting people from diverse backgrounds. During longer weekends or summer breaks, I get to do a bit of traveling to some nearby European cities. To quote Charles Dickens (A tale of Two Cities): “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...”. The fact that being so far away from family and closest friends often makes me feel homesick.

What is your most memorable experience of living in Germany?

I live in Freiburg, in the heart of the famous Black Forest. In winter months, as the days become shorter, the entire Black Forest region becomes very magical in which the grounds are covered powdery snows, and Christmas markets soon pop up selling local festive goods. It is definitely my favorite time of the year especially when the closest ski piste is less than 30 minutes away. During the first winter season, I learned to ski. Last winter season I successfully completed my first black run in the Austrian Alps. It is almost the time to bring out the skis again.. Winter is coming!

Where did you get information about the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions?

Internet (haha).

In retrospect, which elements do you think were decisive in you being successful in your application?

The Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship aims to attract top-class researchers from outside the EU with an emphasis on encouraging transfer of knowledge between the researcher and host laboratory. I believe that in order to be a successful grantee, applicants would need to demonstrate their particular
skillset and knowledge through a proven track record, and to engage on a timely and highly-relevant research topic to be carried out in the host laboratory.

**Do you have any advice for other young researchers who are considering applying for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship?**

Have a clear theme and put extra emphases on how your proposed work is important to the current scientific climate. Do not be afraid of proposing high-risk research. I have recently come across this saying by Jim Rohn: “Don’t join an easy crowd; you won’t grow. Go where the expectations and the demands to perform are high.” Good luck!

**As a researcher, which goals and ambitions do you have for your future career?**

In a few years, once I have become more established in my field of scientific niche, I would like to return to my home country and play a part in fostering young researchers and to work alongside with the local scientific community to deliver high quality research.

**Thank you very much!**

**About the Researcher**

After completing my bachelor degree at The University of Melbourne (Australia) in 2004, my first scientific training began with a 10-week summer vacation scholarship in the Monash Biomedical Proteomics Facility at Monash University (Australia), where I have remained until the completion of my PhD in 2010. The significance of my research contributions to the field of membrane proteomics and renin angiotensin system signaling is exemplified by the publication of four first-authored papers in high impact peer-reviewed journals during my PhD candidature. I collaborate widely within Australia, Europe, USA and Malaysia, and have regularly presented my work at both local and overseas conferences. These include symposium presentations at the Australian Peptide Conference, the Lorne Protein Conference in Proteomics, International Proteolysis Society Conference, Human Proteome Project, and EMBO Meeting. After my PhD, I started my first postdoctoral training at the newly formed Clinical Biomarker Discovery and Validation Laboratory at Monash University. In 2012, I received the prestigious Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship and moved to University of Freiburg (Germany).
3 News & Developments

3.1 EU, Member States and Associated Countries

3.1.1 DocPro: a brand new tool to connect doctorate holders and companies

DocPro is an online platform that helps PhDs to highlight their professional and personal skills in front of employers. It may be used by PhDs from all scientific fields, from STEM to Humanities, and from all countries. The tool is available in French and English. The aim is to have companies, doctorate holders and doctoral programmes managers share the same understanding of the skills a doctorate develops.

Further details here.

To create your profile online, visit www.mydocpro.org and open a personal account. It's free of charge.

3.1.2 EU and China launch new Co-Funding Mechanism for research and innovation

The high level Joint Conference in Promoting Excellence through Enhanced EU-China Researcher's Mobility and Cooperation, that took place in Beijing 7 September, promoted a new Co-funding mechanism for research and innovation. The conference was attended by European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Mr. Carlos Moedas who is visiting China accompanied by Mr. Jean Pierre Bourguignon, President of the European Research Council, and Ms. Nuria Sebastian Galles, Vice President of the European Research Council.

The co-funding mechanism is established by the Ministry of Science and Technology on the Chinese side and the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation on the EU side with funding resources on each side. To implement the co-funding mechanism (CFM) highlighted in the Joint Statement of the 17th EU-China Summit, building on Horizon 2020 on the EU side and relevant research and innovation programmes on the Chinese side, during the period from 2016 to 2020, the European Commission expects to continue spending over 100 million Euros per year for the benefit of Europe-based entities in joint projects under H2020 with Chinese participants. China will match corresponding resources and expects to spend 200 million RMB per year for the benefit of Chinese based entities that will participate in joint projects with European ones under Horizon 2020.

Also during the Joint Conference, the recent agreement between the European Research Council (ERC) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) was discussed. This agreement, signed in the margins of the 17th EU-China Summit on 29 June 2015 in Brussels, will stimulate excellence-based, bottom-up collaboration in frontier research by facilitating that high-calibre Chinese researchers come to Europe to join ERC-funded research teams.
3.1.3 Commission invests €70.5 million for innovative SMEs under Horizon 2020 SME Instrument

59 SMEs from 16 countries have been selected in the latest round of Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Phase 2. For each project, the participants will receive up to €2.5 million to finance innovation activities and the development of their business plans.

The companies will also be entitled to benefit from up to 12 days of business coaching.

The European Commission received 962 proposals under Phase 2 by the second cut-off date of 2015 on 17 June. 357 received an evaluation score above the application threshold and 44 or 12.3%, amounting to total project costs of €93.7 million, have been selected for funding.

Full article: European Commission > Research & Innovation

3.1.4 Europe celebrates its top young scientists

The former Milan train factory, Fabbrica del Vapore, buzzed with intense activity over the last few days. 169 young researchers aged between 14 and 20 presented their science projects to an international jury in the hope of picking up one of the prestigious prizes. The honours they were competing for were part of the 27th annual European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS), which concluded with the awards ceremony today (21 September 2015). Aside from the right to count themselves among the best young scientists in Europe, the winners also divided up a total of €56 000 in prize money, as well as other coveted prizes such as science trips to Europe’s top laboratories and the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in the US.

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science said: “My warmest congratulations to the winning young scientists! It’s good to see so much young talent will enrich science generations to come and help us find new answers to challenges of the future.”

Full article: European Commission > Research & Innovation

3.1.5 Commission presents key research and innovation actions contributing to the Energy Union for all EU Member State

The 21 September the European Commission presented in Luxembourg the new Integrated Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan). The SET Plan promotes research and innovation efforts across Europe by supporting technologies with the greatest impact on the EU’s transformation to a low-carbon energy system.
The new SET Plan proposes ten research and innovation actions to accelerate the energy system's transformation and create jobs and growth while ensuring the European Union's leadership in the development and deployment of low-carbon energy technologies. It promotes cooperation amongst EU countries, companies, research institutions, and the EU itself. The SET Plan is the first deliverable contributing to the fifth dimension of the Energy Union strategy which is focused on research, innovation and competitiveness.

In the following months EU Member States and stakeholders shall translate these actions into specific recommendations for new research and innovation programmes and activities at European, national and regional level.

Full article: European Commission > Research & Innovation

3.1.6 One more step towards an EU-CELAC common research area

Maria Cristina Russo, the Director for International Cooperation of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation participated in the meeting of Science and Technology Ministers and High Level Officials of CELAC in Quito on 14 and 15 September. The visit to Ecuador took place during the Ecuadorian presidency of CELAC, at the invitation of Mr. Ramirez, Secretary of State for Education, Science and Technology, to ensure a follow-up discussion with CELAC STI Ministers on the June 2015 EU-CELAC Summit decision to move towards a Common Research Area (CRA). At the Ministerial meeting Ms. Russo presented the concept of an EU-CELAC CRA and discussed with them the next steps towards achieving this objective.

In addition to this meeting, the creation of an EU-CELAC Common Research Area was discussed also with the Minister of Development Cooperation, Ms. Rosero, the Vice-Minister of Human Talent, Mr. Rubén Leòn and the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mrs. Silvia Espindola.

More information
- EU-CELAC information leaflet

Full article: European Commission > Research & Innovation

3.1.7 ERC leaders and 18 grantees take part in World Economic Forum’s Annual Meeting of the New Champions

This is the fourth year that the ERC takes part in the World Economic Forum’s Annual Meeting of the New Champions (AMNC) meeting, also known as the “Summer Davos”. The ninth AMNC takes place in Dalian (China) under the theme “Charting a New Course for Growth”. More than 1500 participants, leaders in business, government, research and media sectors from over 90 countries will be part of the three-day debates dedicated to the search of new economic growth engines.
The ERC takes part with ERC President Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, ERC Vice-President Prof. Núria Sebastian Galles and 18 ERC grant holders, which makes it the strongest ERC delegation at AMNC so far. Most of the grantees are young researchers – 12 are part of the AMNC’s Young Scientists Programme, which is around one third of all Young Scientists

Full article: European Research Council

3.1.8 Over 150 scientists in the frame for new EU science advice panel

Over 150 scientists have put their names forward to join the EU’s new science advice panel, the Commissioner for Research Carlos Moedas said this week.

Moedas announced the new Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM), a seven-member panel of experts to oversee the process of how the Commission gets scientific advice on controversial issues like shale gas or genetically modified organisms, in May.

He enlisted a three-person team, headed by the UK special representative for climate change, David King, to help pick the final panel. King and two others, the chair of the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences Rianne Letschert and former Justice Commissioner António Vitorino, will filter the submissions and propose a shortlist to Moedas by the end of October.

“It is my firm intention that the group will be launched and have its first meeting before the end of the year,” Moedas said.

Full article: Science | Business

3.1.9 EU hiring rules could catch out universities

Universities could lose up to a quarter of European Union research funding if they fail to comply with new rules designed to promote fair recruitment, a Brussels official has warned. Under the six-year €80 billion (US$90 billion) Horizon 2020 settlement agreed in May, UK universities are expected to receive roughly £2 billion (US$3 billion) in EU funding over the next two years.

But institutions could see large amounts of money clawed back by the EU if they do not adhere to new conditions attached to Horizon 2020 funding, said Irmela Brach, policy officer at the European Commission’s directorate-general for research and innovation.

Speaking at the Vitae Researcher Development International Conference in Manchester, which took place from 8 to 9 September, Brach said that breaches of the new framework’s article 32 – designed to stamp out sexism, nepotism, localism and cronyism when hiring researchers – could lead to severe financial penalties for those who have won European Research Council awards. Termination or suspension of research payments would be possible under the
rules outlined in Horizon 2020, which came into effect last November, Brach explained.

Full article: Times Higher Education

3.2 ASEAN

3.2.1 Singapore appointed ASEAN’s First International Patent Authority

Singapore has joined China, India, Japan and Korea as an international patent authority recognized by the World Intellectual Property Organization. From 1 September 2015, local and global businesses and inventors may fast track their applications for patent protection in multiple markets via Singapore, as the nation begins operations as ASEAN’s first International Patent Search and Examination Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). Administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the treaty enables innovators and businesses to seek patent protection in 148 countries through a single international patent application. Singapore is the fifth in Asia (after China, India, Japan and Korea) and joins a select group of 19 IP offices worldwide that have been appointed as International Authorities for the PCT.

Source: Asian Scientist Magazine

3.2.2 The race of Singapore to become the next IP hub of Asia

As the global economy is becoming more innovation centric, today thinking about growth has become almost impossible without considering IP. Singapore, where the growth of IP sector is quite apparent, is moving in a direction to cement itself as the IP hub of Asian region. The Singapore govt. , for that matter, has announced an Intellectual Property Hub Master Plan to create a hive of IP activities in Singapore.

Full article: Greyb Services

3.2.3 US awards $1.6 million for research partnerships with Indonesia

The US government has awarded over US$1.6 million through “Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research” (PEER) grants that will help sustain marine biodiversity, protect the environment and promote education in Indonesia.

The PEER initiative links National Science Foundation-funded scientists in the US with USAID-funded scientists in Indonesia to increase research collaboration between the two nations on key development issues.

Full article: The Jakarta Post
3.2.4 New diagnostic kit differentiates between dengue and chikungunya viruses

Researchers in Singapore have developed a diagnostic kit that quickly differentiates between the Chikungunya and the dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) viruses during early stages of infection.

Source: NRF

3.2.5 Tariff impedes Philippines’ new love affair with solar

Growth in solar energy in the Philippines faces many challenges and chief among them is arguably the unexpectedly low “feed-in tariffs” (FiT), a policy measure that requires power companies to purchase renewable energy at higher rates from anyone who wants to produce it.

Full article: SciDevNet
4 Grants & Fellowships

4.1 Germany – DAAD research grants

DAAD research grants provide foreign doctoral candidates and young academics and scientists with an opportunity to carry out research or continue their education in Germany. There are funding programmes for various qualification phases and stages in a career. The grants also promote the exchange of experience and networking amongst colleagues.

Varying deadlines.

Details here.

4.2 Germany – DAAD-Leibniz Research Fellowships

The Leibniz Association (WGL) and the DAAD offer recent international postdocs the opportunity to conduct research at a Leibniz Institute in Germany of their choice.

Who can apply?
PhD students, who finish their PhD degree until 16 March 2015; postdocs, who completed their doctoral studies no more than two years ago

What is supported?
Research fellowships for international postdocs

Duration of funding
12 months

Further details

4.3 Germany – DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships

„DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships“ is a programme implemented by the ‘German Aerospace Center’ (DLR) and the ‘German Academic Exchange Service’ (DAAD). DLR is Germany’s national research center for aeronautics and space. Its extensive research and development work in Aeronautics, Space, Transportation and Energy is integrated into national and international cooperative ventures. As Germany’s space agency, DLR has been given responsibility for the forward planning and the implementation of the German space program by the German federal government as well as for the international representation of German interests. Approximately 7,400 people are employed in DLR’s 33 institutes and facilities at 16 locations in Germany.

Who can apply?
This special programme is intended for highly-qualified foreign doctoral and postdoctoral students as well as senior scientists. DLR-DAAD Fellowships are
defined and awarded on an individual basis. Each fellowship announcement will indicate the specific qualification requirements and terms of visit.

Details and current offers [here](#).

### 4.4 Germany – Gerda Henkel Foundation: Research Scholarships

Scholars of post-doctoral or professorial level from the historical humanities are invited to apply for the research scholarships by the GHS, independent of their nationality or place of work. The funding is granted to candidates wishing to carry out an independent research project alone. Post-doctoral scientists receive a scholarship base amount of EUR 2,000 each month, the grant for scientists with a post-doctoral lecture qualification is worth EUR 2,700. There are additional benefits, such as allowances for accompanying children or, i.e., to cover printing costs, if necessary. Please note that income from employment and scholarship income are mutually exclusive. The funding period ranges from 1 to 24 months.

Details [here](#).

### 4.5 Germany - Georg Forster Research Fellowship

If you are a researcher with above average qualifications, and would like to carry out long-term research of your choice (6 to 24 months) at a research institution in Germany together with an academic host you have chosen yourself, consider the Georg Forster Fellowship. As many as 80 Georg Forster Research Fellowships can be granted annually. In the last few years, about one third of applications were successful.

Applications are accepted year-round.

More information [here](#).

### 4.6 Germany - George Forster Research Award - Open to ASEAN scientists

The Georg Forster Research Award is granted in recognition of a researcher's entire achievements to date to academics of all disciplines whose fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had a significant impact on their own discipline and beyond and who are expected to continue developing research-based solutions to the specific challenges facing transition and developing countries.

Nominees must be nationals of a developing or transition country (excluding People’s Republic of China and India; cf. detailed list of countries). Furthermore, at the time of nomination, they must have had their main residence and place of work in one of these countries for at least five years.
The deadline for nominations is 15 January of each year; the selection meeting is scheduled for summer. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation particularly encourages the nomination of qualified female researchers.

More information here.

For more information on research opportunities in Germany of with German research partners please visit the website of EURAXESS GERMANY.
4.7 H2020 – 2016 Calls soon to be announced

First draft work programmes for 2016-2017 have been made available by the European Commission. Those documents are ‘pre-publication’ versions, have not yet been endorsed by the EC and therefore do not have any legal value. However, they provide potential participants with the currently expected main lines of the work programme 2016-2017, including intended deadlines.

The official work programmes are expected to be published in mid-October 2015.

The draft programmes are accessible here.

To find out more about EU funding opportunities for your research or innovation project, and about the 2016 Calls, please visit the European Commission’s Participant Portal where all calls will be published.

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

4.8 European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grants

ERC Starting Grants aim to support up-and-coming research leaders who are about to establish a proper research team and to start conducting independent proven potential of becoming independent research leaders. It will support the creation of excellent new research teams.

ERC Starting Grants in brief

- For researchers of any nationality with 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD (or equivalent degree) and scientific track record showing great promise
- An excellent research proposal
- Research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation (known as a Host Institution/HI) located in one of the EU Member State or Associated Countries
- Funding per grant: up to EUR 1.5 million (in some circumstances up to EUR 2 million)
- Duration: up to 5 years

Sole evaluation criterion: scientific excellence of researcher and research proposal

Application deadline is 17 November 2015

More information here
4.9 National EURAXESS portals

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

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

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

4.10 UK Newton Fund Institutional Links Grants Open to Researchers in Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines

Newton Institutional Links aims to build UK-partner country research and innovation collaborations centred on shared research and innovation challenges which have direct relevance to social welfare and economic development. This programme is designed to establish links beyond the level of the individual researcher and innovation practitioner, opening up opportunities for more sustainable, solution-oriented collaborations between academic groups as well as with the private and third sector (e.g. SMEs, NGOs, technology transfer offices and other not-for-profit organisations).

*Size of grant:* £50,000 - £300,000

*Priority areas:* Partner countries may specify priority areas and will only accept applications within these. Priority areas are listed in the Guidelines document (Downloads section).

*ODA requirement:* All applications must meet the required relevance to economic development or social welfare (see Guidelines for further information) of the partner country.

In 2014, 89 of 242 eligible applications (37%) to Newton Institutional Links were funded.

*More information* [here](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess).
**4.11 EMBO Short-Term Fellowships Open to Researchers in ASEAN. Three-month research visits to labs in Europe.**

EMBO Short-Term Fellowships fund research visits of up to three months to laboratories in Europe and elsewhere in the world. The aim is to facilitate valuable collaborations with research groups applying techniques that are unavailable in the applicant's laboratory.

Applications are accepted throughout the year.

More information here.

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**4.12 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 for 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 organiser with the design of a poster, set-up of a website and registration system, and with promotion of the event.

Further details.

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**4.13 European University - Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowships**

The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) offers one-year Jean Monnet Fellowships (renewable for one more year) to scholars who have obtained their doctorate more than 5 years prior to the start of the fellowship, i.e. 1 September 2015 for the academic year 2015/16. The Fellowship programme is open to post-docs, tenure track academics and those wishing to spend their sabbatical at the Robert Schuman Centre. The Centre offers up to 20 Fellowships a year.

Deadline is 25 October 2015.

More information here.

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**4.14 Singapore-Israel Joint Research Programme Call**

The Israel Science Foundation (ISF) and the National Research Foundation of Singapore (NRF) are launching a new programme of joint funding for research proposals based on cooperation between Israeli and Singaporean researchers and Singaporean scientists. Each foundation will finance the principal investigator of its country according to its rules. Grant budget will be equivalent
or up to US$100,000 per year for three years for each of the principal investigators (Singaporean and Israeli).

More information here.

4.15 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 programme is designed for people whose previous scientific record demonstrates that they are highly independent as researchers, and warrants that they will conduct world-class quality research.

Applications accepted on a rolling basis

Details here.

4.16 CERN Postdoctoral Fellowships

CERN offers the CERN's Non-Member State Fellowship Programme in Theoretical Physics (except nationals of CERN member countries). Eligible applicants must hold a PhD in theoretical physics and a maximum of 10 years of postdoctoral experience. The fellowships cover monthly stipend and travel expenses, are granted for a two-year period and can in exceptional cases be extended to a third year.

Deadline: 15 October

Further information here.

4.17 Turkey: TÜBİTAK Fellowships for Visiting Scientists

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) grants fellowships for international scientists/researchers who would like to give workshops/conferences/lectures, or conduct R&D activities in Turkey. Three types of visits are granted within this programme: Short-term (up to 1 month), Long-term (up to 12 months) and Sabbatical Leave (from 3 months to 12 months). All types of grants cover monthly stipend and travel costs.

Applications accepted on a rolling basis

Further information: here.
5 Jobs

There are currently 5288 research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe and partner countries and in all disciplines) accessible via the EURAXESS Jobs database.

CROATIA (Zagreb): Post-doc researcher in the science and higher education to work on the project Models and Methods of Innovation Management in Complex Engineering Systems Development (funded by Croatian Science Foundation).

Details

DENMARK (Copenhagen): The Niels Bohr Institute Faculty of Science at University of Copenhagen is offering a PhD scholarship in High Performance commencing 1 January 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Details

FRANCE (Lannion): The FOTON Laboratory is offering an 18-month post-doctoral position in the area of all-optical parametric signal processing for high bit-rate optical communication systems.

Details

GERMANY (Darmstadt): The Department of Biology at TU Darmstadt is recruiting two assistant professors in the areas of “Computer-aided synthetic biology” and “Protein engineering of ion conducting nanopores”, with starting date January 1, 2016.

Details

Examples of Jobs supported by Marie Curie Actions Research Fellowships

Early Stage Researcher / Developer in GPU assisted lightfield data processing with Holografika in Budapest, Hungary.

Details

PhD position in for Novel thin layer composite membrane for gas separation by Poly Electrolyte Complexes with Fujifilm in the Netherlands.

Details

PhD position in Germany for a researcher in plant biochemistry

Details
6 Events

6.1 3rd EURAXESS Science Slam still open for submissions

Scouting for the winners of the third instalment of the global science communication competition of the EURAXESS Links network is well under way. EURAXESS Science Slams will take place this autumn in Brazil, China, India, Japan, North America and ASEAN. Each EURAXESS Links hub will host a live final to crown their respective champion. The six winners will win a trip to Europe for the chance to network with researchers at any research institute in the European Union.

In 2015, EURAXESS Links ASEAN is partnering with the Indonesian Ministry of Science and Technology (RISTEK), the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia (MOSTI), the National Science and Technology Development Agency Thailand (NSTDA), and the National Centre for Scientific and Technological Information Vietnam (NASATI). The official partner of EURAXESS Science Slam ASEAN 2015 in Singapore is the Graduate Students’ Society at the National University of Singapore (NUSGSS).

The winner of each national event will compete for the title of EURAXESS Science Slam ASEAN winner 2015 at the live finals in Bangkok, Thailand on 3 November 2015.

Singapore has been the first partner to chose its contender for the title of ASEAN’s best science slammer. Ms. Fatma Gözde Çilingir, a PhD student from the National University of Singapore, will represent Singapore, won the national qualifying event and will compete in the live event in Thailand.

Submissions for the national qualifying events in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam are still open. For details please visit the EURAXESS Science Slam ASEAN event page.
### 6.2 EURAXESS Links ASEAN Events September to November 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Hub</th>
<th>Title of Event/Activity</th>
<th>Date/Venue</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Link to the Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>EURAXESS Science Slam ASEAN 2015</td>
<td>5 national qualifying events in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (5 September – 5 October 2015) Live finals on 3 November 2015, Bangkok (Thailand)</td>
<td>Researchers of all disciplines</td>
<td>The EURAXESS Science Slam ASEAN 2015 is a unique platform for researchers of all disciplines to compete for the title of ASEAN’s best science communicator. 5 national finalists will compete for the first prize of a trip to Europe in the live finals.</td>
<td>Click <a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>EURAXESS Links ASEAN @ Study in Europe</td>
<td>10 October 2015, Singapore</td>
<td>Researchers interested in learning about research opportunities in Europe</td>
<td>EURAXESS Links ASEAN will have a booth at the popular annual higher education fair of the EU member states in Singapore.</td>
<td>Click <a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>EURAXESS Links ASEAN alumni workshop</td>
<td>19 &amp; 20 October 2015, Bangkok (Thailand)</td>
<td>By invitation only</td>
<td>This event will bring together alumni of European funding programmes to set up a regional alumni network. This event is co-organised with SEA EU NET.</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>EURAXESS Share “Science Communication Workshop”</td>
<td>30 October 2015, Jakarta (Indonesia) 2 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>By invitation only</td>
<td>A series of workshops on successful science communication for potential applicants to European funding programmes. This event series is co-</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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EURAXESS LINKS ASEAN

| (Malaysia) | organised with the EU Delegation to Indonesia (Jakarta), Young Scientists Malaysia Network (Kuala Lumpur), and NSTDA (Bangkok). |

Not listed are presentations on EURAXESS Links and European mobility schemes at research institutions held by the Regional Representatives upon invitation across ASEAN. If you would like for our team to visit your research organisation please email us at: asean@euraxess.net

6.3 Singapore International Energy Week, 26 – 30 October 2015, Singapore

The Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) is an annual week-long platform for energy professionals, policymakers and commentators to discuss and share best practices and solutions within the global energy space.

Details here.

6.4 Systems Analysis 2015, 11 – 13 November 2015, Laxenburg, Austria

Today’s world is characterized by increasing globalization, shifts of economic and political power, taxing environmental challenges, and unpredictable social conflicts, as well as by massively broadened and accelerated flows of information. Systems analysis is one of the few research tools that has both the breadth and depth to identify smart pathways through the complex nexus of these processes to reach a world that accommodates the needs and aspirations of different groups and respects the limits imposed by the planet itself.

The conference Systems Analysis 2015 will highlight recent advances, current lacunas, and untapped disciplinary potentials in the field of systems analysis, with the aim of demonstrating the unique prowess of systems thinking for navigating a swiftly changing and increasingly complex world.

Details here.
7 Resources

H2020 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
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/
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
Research Jobs in Germany: Research-in-Germany.de
Scholarship Database of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
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.