Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to present you the 39th edition of the EURAXESS Links ASEAN e-newsletter.

This month’s EU Insight focuses on the newly launched U-Multirank, a multidimensional, user-driven approach to international ranking of higher education institutions based on empirical data.

EURAXESS Links ASEAN has been extremely busy facilitating inter-regional research collaborations. We participated in a workshop organised by The National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) to share best practices in building an effective national Contact Point network to increase the participation of Korean researchers in Horizon 2020, and to strengthen the ties by Korean researchers with counterparts in Europe. We also had the opportunity to present the EURAXESS initiative at the first ASEAN Talent Mobility Workshop organised by Thailand’s National Science Technology and Innovation Office. The objective of the workshop was to discuss policies and mechanisms to promote talent mobility in ASEAN and international brain circulation; and to explore the potential of developing an “ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM)” program as a platform for talent mobility among ASEAN and its partners.

Amongst the long list of events we have lined up for you we would like to draw your attention to the EURAXESS science slam. Submission of video entries will start on 1 June!

Football fans – keep a close look on our website! In time for the kick-off at the Football World Cup we will be launching the EURAXESS Links Football Tipping Contest!

Wishing you a great month ahead!

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

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Please email to asean@euraxess.net for any comments on this newsletter, contributions you would like to make, if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe.

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1 EU Insight – Launch of U-Multirank

A new global university ranking tool, U-Multirank, which assesses the performance of more than 850 higher education institutions worldwide, was launched by the European Commission (EC) on May 13, 2014.

With U-Multirank, the universities are tested against up to 30 separate indicators and rated in five performance groups: teaching and learning, research, international orientation, knowledge transfer and regional engagement.

As a multidimensional ranking tool, U-Multirank demonstrates the diversity of university profiles in the international context for the first time. It provides no composite overall scores, as the adding and weighting of scores to one overall score, leads to a loss of transparency.

The European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou said:

“We are proud of our world-class higher education, but we need many kinds of universities, catering for a wide range of needs; that means strong technical and regional universities just as much as outstanding research universities. U-Multirank highlights many excellent performers that do not show up in current, research-focused, global rankings- including more than 300 universities that have never appeared in any world ranking until now.”

Results show that while over 95% of institutions achieve an ‘A’ score on at least one measure, only 12% have more than 10 top scores. Of the 850 universities in the ranking 62% are from Europe, 17% from North America, 14% from Asia and 7% from Oceania, Latin America and Africa.

U-Multirank is a flexible learning tool for students, academics, policy-makers and administrators looking for information to support decision-making. At this stage it covers four subject areas, namely business studies, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and physics. Fields of study to be included in 2015 are psychology, computer science and medicine. Another target for 2015 is also to increase the number of institutions in U-Multirank to a total of 1000-1100 universities.

The U-Multirank project receives seed funding through the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme (now Erasmus+) for an initial period of two years (2013-2015) totaling €2 million with the option of an extension for a further two years (2015-2017). The goal is for an independent organization to manage the ranking on a sustainable funding model thereafter.

The initiative originated at a conference under the 2008 French Presidency of the European Union, which called for a new methodology to measure the different dimensions of excellence of higher education and research institutions.
in Europe and in an international context. Subsequently, the EC commissioned a feasibility study on a multi-dimensional ranking in 2011.

An independent consortium led by the Centre for Higher Education (CHE) in Germany and the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS) in the Netherlands compiled the new ranking. Other partner organisations include the Centre for Science and Technology at Leiden University (the Netherlands), Catholic University Leuven (Belgium), academic publishers Elsevier, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the student advice organisation Push and software firm Folge 3.

Sources:
[1] U-Multirank website
[5] Presentation on U-Multirank from the European Commission
Dr Phanramphoei Frantz, a virologist working at BIOTEC in Thailand became the very first EURAXESS Science Slammer ASEAN in September 2013. Dr Frantz won over the audience of 160 scientists and researchers at the EURAXESS Science Slam ASEAN finals which were held in Singapore. The Thai researcher captured the audience and the five member strong jury with the rap song “Pigs don’t cry” about her work at the Virology and Cell Technology Lab at BIOTEC where she develops a vaccine to combat Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus. The second place went to Abhijeet Patra, a doctoral candidate with the NUS Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Institute in Singapore.

Dr Frantz aka “Dr Jibby” bagged the first prize of a free trip to Europe. While in Europe she met with the team at Institut Pasteur in Paris, won a Franco-Thai Fellowship shortly afterwards and is currently conducting research in France!

In 2014, EURAXESS Links ASEAN is once again looking for ASEAN’s best Science Slammers. Researchers of any nationality and any discipline currently conducting research in ASEAN are invited to submit a short video of their slam for the chance to get shortlisted for the final event. EURAXESS Links ASEAN will select five finalists who will battle it out for the title of “EURAXESS Science Slammer ASEAN 2014” in the LIVE slam to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 13 November 2014. Once again, the first prize is a free trip to Europe!

Submission of video entries is open from 1 June to 15 September 2014.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Step 1: Get creative and develop an original idea to present your research project to the world: Tap dancing, singing, old-school presentation, scientific equipment – all is allowed.

Step 2: Make a 3 minute video of your presentation with your camera phone (or equivalent). Make sure the presentation is in English.

Step 3: Post your video on the EURAXESS Links ASEAN Facebook site or send us the link to your video at asean@euraxess.net.
About the EURAXESS Science Slam:

- EURAXESS Science Slam ASEAN 2014 is part of the EURAXESS Science Slam series that takes place annually in the EURAXESS Links locations ASEAN, Brazil, China, India, Japan, and North America.
- The event gives young researchers in ASEAN the chance to showcase their research projects to their peers and the wider public in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere.
- A jury of experts will select 5 finalists from the video submissions. Each of the 5 finalists will present a topic related to their research to an audience of non-experts at the final slam to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 13 November 2014.
- Economy return flights (1 ticket per person) and hotel accommodation (2 nights) will be booked and paid for by EURAXESS Links ASEAN for the 5 finalists not resident in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The slam will be given in English in less than 10 minutes and can be supported by video and audio material, ppt. slides and any other kind of media available, as well as by scientific equipment.
- The performances of the participants will be judged by the audience and the jury based on conceptualization, style and originality.
- The winner will be awarded a round trip to Europe where he or she will attend a scientific meeting along with the winners of the other EURAXESS Science Slams organized in the US and Canada, Japan, India, China and Brazil.
- The event is open to researchers of all nationalities currently based in ASEAN active in all fields of research.

For full details on the terms and conditions please visit the EURAXESS Science Slam website.

*Should the political situation in Thailand not have stabilised until November the slam finals will be moved to a different location in ASEAN.*
3 Spotlight: EURAXESS Links shares best practice on talent mobility programmes with Asian partners

3.1 Building of NCPs Network between Korea and the EU

The National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) organised “The 2nd NCPs Workshop for Building NCPs Network between Korea and the EU” in Seoul and Daejeon, Korea from 28 April – 30 April, 2014. The objective of the meeting was to share best practices in building an effective national Contact Point network, to increase the participation of Korean researchers in Horizon 2020, and strengthen the ties by Korean researchers with counterparts in Europe. NCPs from France, Germany, Finland, Greece, New Zealand, Taiwan, Japan, and Thailand provided detailed information on Horizon 2020, and shared their experience with Korean policy makers on NCP network development and management.

On the second day of the workshops, participants traveled to Daejeon for site meetings at the KARI (Korea Aerospace Research Institute), KRICT (Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology), and KIMM (Korea Institute of Machinery & Materials).

3.2 Building an ASEAN Talent Mobility Programme

International mobility of highly-skilled human resources in science and technology plays a fundamental role in technology creation and diffusion as well as the globalization of knowledge in the 21st century. ASEAN, with its population of 600 million people and a combined GDP of almost 2 trillion US dollars, is a major source of global human capital, and is an increasingly important hub of science, technology and innovation (STI).

However, ASEAN faces a number of challenges in the on-going development of STI in the region including under-spending in R&D, lack of R&D personnel, and limited intra-regional collaboration in R&D. Talent mobility can be used as an instrument to help address some of these challenges, and could strengthen STI cooperation not just within ASEAN but also with ASEAN’s dialogue partners such as the EU. As ASEAN moves towards the creation of an ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, the issue of talent mobility will become increasingly important if the region is to continue to grow and prosper.

In an effort to address these challenges, Thailand’s National Science Technology and Innovation Office organised the first ASEAN Talent Mobility Workshop in Phuket, Thailand March 26-28, 2014. Participants included
representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST), companies and universities from Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam and South Korea.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss policies and mechanisms to promote talent mobility in ASEAN and international brain circulation; and to explore the potential of developing an “ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM)” program as a platform for talent mobility among ASEAN and its partners.

During the workshop, EURAXESS Links ASEAN was given the opportunity to share with the workshop participants key policies and activities in the EU designed to support researcher mobility including the European Research Area, EURAXESS and the Marie-Sklodowska Curie Actions. There was much discussion around the EU experience in removing obstacles to mobility and establishing the EURAXESS information portal.

In conclusion, the ATM Workshop agreed to develop an evidence-based concept paper which would include statistics on current researcher flows in ASEAN, existing programs to support talent mobility both intra-ASEAN, and between ASEAN and other countries/regions. This concept paper would also identify existing barriers to mobility in ASEAN, and propose a number of recommendations to increase mobility both within ASEAN and between ASEAN and its dialogue partners.
4 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Research Fellowships

It is widely accepted that international cooperation in science and technology is crucial in dealing with many of today’s challenges which are of a global and transborder nature, such as environmental and health concerns. Enabling researchers to be mobile and to cooperate with each other across national borders is a key factor in tackling these challenges successfully.

International cooperation including researcher mobility is a key element of the European Union’s current Research & Innovation Programme Horizon 2020 (H2020) which welcomes top-class researchers from Third Countries (i.e. countries that are neither members of the European Union nor associated with it) to work on projects in and with Europe. Included in the "Excellent Science" pillar of Horizon 2020 are the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCAs) which will award EUR 6,162 million over the period 2014-2020.

The objective of the MSCA is to support the career development and training of researchers – with a focus on innovation skills – in all scientific disciplines through worldwide and cross-sector mobility. For this, the MSCA provide grants at all stages of researchers’ careers, from PhD candidates to highly experienced researchers, and encourage transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility. The MSCA will become the main EU programme for doctoral training, funding 25,000 PhDs.

Endowing researchers with new skills and a wider range of competences, while offering them attractive working conditions, is a crucial aspect of the MSCA. In addition to mobility between countries, the MSCA also seek to break the real and perceived barriers between academic and other sectors, especially business. The MSCA follow a “bottom-up” approach, i.e. individuals and organisations working in any area of research can apply for funding. Several MSCA initiatives promote the involvement of industry etc. in doctoral and post-doctoral research.

Amongst the growing alumni network of this prestigious fellowship scheme are highly talented young researchers from ASEAN – 71 fellows from Vietnam, 36 from Thailand, 32 from Indonesia, 24 Philippines, 21 from Malaysia, 17 from Singapore, two from Myanmar and one from Brunei.

Each month, EURAXESS Links ASEAN invites Marie Curie Fellows from countries within ASEAN to share their experience with our readership. This month we caught up with Thai researcher Dr Patchanita Thamyongkit who works as an Assistant Professor at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

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

I am from Bangkok, Thailand. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree at Chulalongkorn University and received my Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from
Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Germany. After that, I had conducted research at North Carolina State University as a postdoctoral fellow for approximately 3 years. In 2005, I came back to Thailand and got a position at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University. Currently, I am an assistant professor in Chemistry and also serve the university as a vice dean of the Graduate School. My research concerns the development of organic photosensitizing materials for optoelectronic applications, especially organic solar cells and photoelectrochemical catalysts.

Please tell us briefly about the research project you have been doing as a Marie Curie Fellow?

The project was about the synthesis and investigation of porphyrin-based photosensitizers for optoelectronics devices under the collaboration with Linz Institute for Organic Solar Cells (LIOS) at Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria. At that time, my research groups in Thailand took care of the synthesis part under my supervision, while I intensively performed the investigation of photophysical properties and device studies at LIOS.

Why did you choose to apply for this particular project?

As a chemist, I believe that the organic compounds play important roles not only as promising light-harvesting candidates, but also as perfect materials in mechanistic studies to understand more the key factors for successful devices. As a Thai and world citizen, I think it is a global urgent need to provide the proper technology for making use of alternative source of energy, especially the solar energy. Therefore, I have strong intention to extend my knowledge, and to get sustained and fruitful research collaboration in this field. Thanks to my Ph.D. advisor, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hanack, who introduced me to o.Univ. Prof. Mag. Dr. DDr. h.c. Niyazi Serdar Sariciftci who is a director of LIOS and suggested me to write a project together.

Where did you get information about the MC Actions?

Prof. Sariciftci suggested that we should submit our project proposal to get International Incoming Fellowship (IIF). That was the first time I heard about this.

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

I think the committee could clearly see from my project proposal “why” I want to do this, “what” I would like to do and “how” I can drive the project to the goal. My solid research expertise and continuous publication should convince them that the project will be fruitful, while my academic position at the university should make them see my ability and the great possibility of knowledge transfer. Last but not least, the high reputation of the host institute must play a big role for this success as well.
Do you have any advice for other young researchers who are considering applying for a MCF?

There are lots of things you can contribute for your research society. Find the corner fitting you and use your strength to do the best with it. Then, you will be a perfect candidate!

What were the most significant benefits you derived as a MC Fellow?

Prof. Sariciftci is a great collaborator and a very generous boss. I have received a life-long membership from his institution, LIOS. This privilege provides me opportunities to participate in their research activities and visit there for performing experiments whenever I would like to. This is such a kind offer from him that motivates me to do the better research. Furthermore, he always gives me the best support beneficial for my career path.

What do you think were your most valuable contributions to your European host?

Besides awards and publications I have got, I think I created another research point of view in LIOS in terms of “using more chemists/chemistry” in their work. Working with them for two years made our collaboration highly synergistic because we know how to enhance our research outcome by combining the strength from each side. Now they know more how to make use of the chemists!

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

I want to see the research and development in the field of organic optoelectronics in Thailand upgraded to the world standard and to be in the competitive level. I would like to establish my research unit as a research and education center to produce high impact outcome, to create knowledge and to educate young generation to be qualified researcher in this field. I am confident that this is not just a dream.

Thank you very much Dr Thamyongkit!
About the researcher

Dr Patchanita Thamyongkit holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Germany. She conducted research at North Carolina State University, U.S. as a postdoctoral fellow before returning to Thailand to take up a position at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University. She is currently an Assistant Professor in Chemistry while also serving the university as a Vice-Dean of the Graduate School. Her research concerns the development of organic photosensitizing materials for optoelectronic applications, especially organic solar cells and photoelectrochemical catalysts.

Dr Thamyongkit worked as a Marie Curie International Incoming Research Fellow at Linz Institute for Organic Solar Cells.

CALL OPEN NOW!

International Incoming Fellowships (IIFs) are open to experienced researchers moving from Third Countries to EU Member States or Associated Countries and all areas of scientific and technological research that are of interest to the EU. IIF funding is provided for 12-24 months for a research project which will transfer knowledge into the applicant’s host organisation and building or enhancing collaborations between Europe and the rest of the world.

For detailed information as well as announcement on forthcoming and open calls please visit the website of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCAs)
5 News & Developments

5.1 European Union

5.1.1 A global forum for food and fuel forestry

The Kyoto Protocol was one of the first major international treaties that focused on human caused climate change. Signed in 1997 by 192 countries, it came into effect in 2005 with a set of legal requirements for industrialised nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. One aspect of the Protocol is the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which enables developed nations to reach their emissions targets by sponsoring emissions-reducing projects in the CDM countries - namely China, India, Brazil and most of Africa.

One of these emissions-reducing initiatives was the European Union (EU)-funded BENWOOD project. Project Coordinator and Director of Energieautark Consulting in Vienna, Thomas Lewis, perceived a “lack of exchange” between agroforestry scientists and practitioners of Short Rotation Forestry (SRF) in Europe and elsewhere. Combining crops with trees and shrubs, agroforestry improves yields and biodiversity and it is practiced worldwide.

Read more: European Commission

5.1.2 Developing high-efficiency lasers to manufacture solar panels

As the world continues its efforts to combat climate change and to move away from its dependence on fossil fuels, solar energy looks set to become an important technology for the future.

The manufacturing of solar energy panels is therefore likely to grow into a significant industry, offering large rewards for whoever can establish an advantage. The aim of the European Union (EU)-funded ALPINE project was to develop new laser techniques which would enhance the manufacturing of solar energy panels, making them more efficient and less expensive than anything currently available.

The project could have multiple benefits – not only boosting Europe’s leadership position in lasers and in the photovoltaic (PV) industry, but also delivering environmental benefits through the development of improved methods for harnessing solar energy.

Read more: European Commission
5.1.3 Factories of the future: assembly-line machines do their own 'thinking'

A major consumer of time and money in the manufacturing of aircraft, motor vehicles, electronic equipment and other products is adapting assembly lines to produce different sizes, shapes and styles of such complex items. Work must stop along the line while machines are reconfigured to change how raw materials are cut, holes are drilled, and rivets are punched into place.

Each machine in a factory needs to be equipped with specific instructions – a sort of recipe – to carry out a certain task in a certain way. This decades-old technique could be on the verge of changing. An EU-funded project has developed assembly-line machines that can do their own “thinking.” Peschl coordinated the XPRESS project - short for “Flexible Production Experts for Reconfigurable Assembly Technology.”

Read more: European Commission

5.1.4 Help for failing eyesight

The EU-funded CREST project is tackling the debilitating effects of age-related macular degeneration, a condition that affects a high proportion of older citizens. But the results could have far-reaching implications for the normally sighted as well, enabling what some have called 'super-vision'.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a medical condition involving damage to the retina. It is the leading cause of blindness in the developed world, usually affecting older adults. “Nutritional pigments at the back of the eye are central to understanding AMD,” explains Professor John Nolan of the Waterford Institute of Technology. In 2011, he was awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant for the CREST project, aimed at measuring the impact of these substances on vision.

Read more: European Commission

5.1.5 The telltale blood of schizophrenics

It can take a long time for schizophrenia sufferers to receive the treatment they need – partly because diagnosis is not necessarily straightforward. Many of the symptoms could just as easily be caused by other disorders. A revolutionary blood test developed by EU-funded researchers helps doctors to make the right call.

The EU-funded SchizDX project has developed the world’s first blood test for schizophrenia. This breakthrough dramatically reduces the time needed to confirm suspected cases and provide treatment. Finding the best combination of drugs for individual patients is another key challenge in the treatment of this disorder. Currently, the process can take months or even years. In time, SchizDX’s results could help speed this up as well.

Read more: European Commission
5.1.6 Helping premature babies breathe normally

Premature newborn babies frequently suffer from difficulties in breathing during their first weeks of life, a condition known as respiratory distress syndrome. In such cases, they are normally given oxygen therapy with the aid of an airway pressure machine or a ventilator.

However, this treatment can stop the normal lung development and can trigger a major complication known as bronchopulmonary dysplasia, or BPD. In the United Kingdom the overall incidence of BPD is reported at about 20% of ventilated newborns; in the US it is estimated to cost over $ 2.4 billion per year.

To address the BPD problem, the European Union (EU)-funded NEUROSIS project, led by Tübingen University Hospital in Germany, is conducting one of the largest randomised and controlled studies of the breathing problems of premature babies ever done in Europe.

Read more: European Commission

5.1.7 Making buildings more sustainable to improve health and comfort

How buildings can affect a person's health is often overlooked, despite the fact that people spend an average of 90 per cent of their time indoors—whether in homes, offices or other spaces.

Though often taken for granted, healthy and comfortable indoor environments are in the interest of everyone – families, employees and children alike. To further these goals, the European Union (EU)-funded project Clear-up has developed designs for healthy homes and workplaces that also deliver environmental benefits.

When inside, a person's primary needs are ample amounts of daylight and fresh air as well as exposure to the right temperature. For society at large, sustainability is also identified as a key priority. The Clear-up project team developed techniques to fulfill all these needs affordably while also reducing energy consumption and using environmentally sustainable materials.

Read more: European Commission

5.1.8 Self-healing concrete lives longer

Small cracks in concrete are hard to avoid. These tiny fissures are no immediate threat to safety, but they can affect a building's durability: water seeping in can corrode reinforcements, for example. Millions of euros could be saved every year in maintenance if concrete could be designed to repair itself. EU researchers are working on it.

Healcon set out in 2013 to select and improve promising techniques for the production of concrete that will automatically fill any small cracks forming throughout its lifetime. One year on, the team has already found ways to tackle
several of the complex challenges associated with the chosen experimental approaches.

Read more: European Commission

5.1.9 How fish DNA tests can trace illegal catches

Several fish stocks are at risk of collapsing almost everywhere around the world and a large part of the problem is down to illegal catches.

But a recent research project, funded by the European Commission, found a way to improve control and enforcement of regulations against these practices by using genetic markers to trace the exact location where the catches were pulled out of the sea. The project, FishPopTrace, offers a cost effective and reliable DNA test that could give the authorities the means to identify illegally caught fish. Started in 2008, the project built a forensics database for Europe’s four important exploited species: cod, hake, sole and herring.

Read more: European Commission

5.1.10 Advising researchers on how to balance science and ethics

Although science is often seen as a discipline concerned with hard facts, it can be difficult to separate research from its ethical, social and political setting. Researchers struggling to balance science with ethics can now count on advice from a European project, EGAIS, that looked at how best to handle the wider ethical context. EGAIS researchers identified ethical governance approaches after they examined the EU’s monitoring of ethical aspects of emerging technologies, including ICT research projects. The team then made suggestions on improving ethical governance by taking account of rules, values and contexts related to each new technology in a multi-faceted approach.

Read more: European Commission

5.1.11 Finalists gear up for European Inventor Award 2014

Fifteen inventors of ground-breaking technologies will gather in Berlin next month to vie for prizes at the European Inventor Award 2014. Finalists include top scientists, engineers and inventors in the fields of biotechnology, construction, environment, mechanics, medical technology, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications and traffic safety. An international jury has whittled down the original 300 candidates to 15 inventors and inventor teams. All of the finalists have developed technologies that contribute towards social, technological and economic progress. Presented by the European Patent Office (EPO), the European Inventor Award honours inventive individuals and teams whose pioneering work provides answers to the challenges of our age and contributes to social progress, economic growth and prosperity. EPO President Benoît Battistelli notes, ‘The genius of these inventors underlines Europe’s role
as a prime hub of innovation, fostering the successful deployment of new technologies from all over the world.’

Vote online for your favourite inventor to win the ‘Popular Prize’.

More information: European Patent Office

5.1.12 ‘Science Hub’ – the new portal bringing together scientific knowledge for Europe

The newly launched ‘Science Hub’ brings together, on one single platform, all scientific knowledge produced by the European Commission’s in-house science service - the Joint Research Centre (JRC) - and its research institutes across Europe. The Science Hub enhances the transparency and openness of the European Commission's in-house science service and facilitates the open access policy of our scientific research. The Hub is a gateway to ten science areas and a variety of related research topics.

Access to the new website: JRC Science Hub

5.1.13 Updated Horizon 2020 country factsheets

The Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation European Union country factsheets have been updated with the latest figures including new data on: Innovation Output Indicator position | SME participation | The number of ERC Principal Investigators | The number of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Fellows | Top 10 beneficiaries in each country

These fact sheets give an overview of the research & innovation landscape of the 28 EU member states. It includes country profiles and featured projects in each country.

Read more: Horizon 2020

5.1.14 Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions: Pocket guide

Considering a doctoral degree? Looking for partnerships between academic and non-academic organisations or staff exchanges? Keen on outreach activities? There is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie action for you. The EU's Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions fund all kind of opportunities for researchers from Europe and beyond. This starter booklet gives you the needed information to make the right first choice.

Guide available for downloading or on-line reading here

One suggested event at European level:

| Info Day on “Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation Calls in Horizon 2020” by the European Commission | Brussels, Belgium | 3 July 2014 |

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5.2 ASEAN

5.2.1 Vietnam celebrates first S&T Day

On May 18, 2014 Vietnam celebrated its first National Science and Technology Day. The event was designed to honor scientists, raise society’s awareness about the role of S&T and encourage the young to become involved in scientific research in order to contribute to the development of the country.

Source: NASATI

5.2.2 Indonesia needs almost 200,000 researchers says LIPI Chief

Indonesia, with a population of more than 240 million, still needs around 191,400 researchers until 2030, Chief of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) Lukman Hakim stated. “The number of researchers is still small, and so is the amount of research funds.” Based on the World Bank standard, the ideal number of researchers is four thousand to five thousand for every one million, he stated, adding that the number of national researchers is far from the international standard. He underscored the need for the country to promote the development of science and technology including researches now that the present economic growth is based on consumption."This must be changed so that our scientific and technological capability will support the economic growth. Indonesia is rich in natural resources but most of them are exported in unprocessed form. This must be changed to give added value to our commodities," he explained. LIPI is also making an effort to encourage young researchers and innovators through different contests, he stated.

Source: Antara News

5.2.3 ASEAN gears up for 9th Science & Technology Week

The ASEAN S&T Week (ASTW) is a flagship project of the ASEAN COST, in order to showcase major S&T achievements both in ASEAN Member Countries and Dialogue Partner countries with relevance to the region's goal of achieving a knowledge-based economy. The ASTW is conducted triennially on a rotational basis amongst ASEAN Member Countries. Its main purpose is the promotion of S&T Development in Southeast Asian Countries.

With a theme of “innovations from the most dynamic region to earth”, the 9 ASTW will be celebrated in conjunction with the 19 National Awakening Technology Days (Hakteknas) of the Republic of Indonesia in the period of August 2014, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia.

Source: SEA EU Net
5.2.4 Climate Change a Priority for EU-ASEAN Cooperation

READI (Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument) supported the EU and ASEAN in organising the second ASEAN-EU Roundtable on Climate Change, which was held in the Indonesian capital Jakarta in early May. Senior officials in charge of environment and climate change from ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat met with senior EU officials in charge of the global climate negotiations and representatives of the EU Delegation in Jakarta. Mr. Peter Wehrheim, Head of the Unit for Climate Finance and Deforestation at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Climate Action, led the EU’s delegation to the roundtable and presented the EU’s Climate and Energy Framework for 2030. Participants exchanged views and information on the forthcoming UNFCCC climate change talks, REDD+ and the proposed 2015 agreement. Participants also discussed funding modalities for national mitigation and adaptation efforts, in agriculture and forestry and others. The EU and ASEAN participants expressed their hope that the dialogue would continue in 2015, then perhaps for a full day and including a section on a specific technical issue relevant to ASEAN and EU.

Source: READI
6 Grants & Fellowships

6.1 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.

6.2 H2020

The European Commission has launched the first calls under Horizon 2020. Calls in the 2014 budget focus on the three key pillars of Horizon 2020:

- Excellent Science: Around €3 billion, including €1.7 billion for grants from the European Research Council for top scientists, and €800 million for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships for younger researchers.

- Industrial Leadership: €1.8 billion to support Europe’s industrial leadership in areas like ICT, nanotechnologies, advanced manufacturing, robotics, biotechnologies and space.

- Societal Challenges: €2.8 billion for innovative projects addressing Horizon 2020’s seven societal challenges, broadly: health; agriculture, maritime and bioeconomy; energy; transport; climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials; reflective societies; and security.

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

International researchers are also invited to join the database of independent experts for European research and innovation. Distinguished specialists are strongly encouraged to join the database of independent experts, through which they can participate in the evaluation of project proposals and monitoring of actions, submitted under Horizon 2020.
6.3 British Council: Early-career researchers wanted for workshops in Thailand

British Council is looking for early-career researchers to participate in workshops in Thailand - all expenses covered. In order to be eligible for these workshops, applicants must be an early-career researcher residing in either the UK or Thailand. Early-career researcher is defined as being a PhD holder (or equivalent experience) with less than 10 years post-doctoral research experience.

“Genetic improvement to reduce photooxidative stress in rice”, 2-5 June, 2014
UK coordinator: School of Biosciences, University of Nottingham
Thailand coordinator: Rice Science Center, Kasetsart University

“Collaboration for language preservation and revitalisation in Asia”, 20-23 May, 2014
UK Partner: SOAS University of London
Thailand Partner: Mahidol University

Further details.

6.4 New Funding Instrument for Research Collaboration with UK to start soon

The Newton Fund will cover 3 broad categories of activity:

1. People: improving science and innovation expertise (known as 'capacity building'), student and researcher fellowships, mobility schemes and joint centres
2. Programmes: research collaborations on development topics
3. Translation: innovation partnerships and challenge funds to develop innovative solutions on development topics

The following countries are eligible: Brazil, Chile, China: Newton UK-China Research and Innovation Partnership, Colombia: Newton-Caldas Fund, Egypt, India: Newton-Bhabha Fund, Indonesia, Kazakhstan: Newton-Al Farabi Partnership Programme, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, South Africa and wider Africa, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam

Details of how to bid for research funding under the Newton Fund will be released in the next couple of months.

Further details.
6.5 Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Industry Fellowship Programme 2014

Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) is pleased to launch the Industry Fellowship Programme 2014 to develop and support academic partnerships with industry.

The purpose of the Industry Fellowship Programme is to facilitate exchanges between academia and industry to stimulate excellence through knowledge transfer and training, thereby building critical mass in areas of strategic importance for Ireland and enabling economic and societal challenges to be tackled.

Fellowships can be awarded to academic researchers wishing to spend time in industry worldwide and to individuals from industry anywhere in the world (including Ireland) wishing to spend time in an eligible Irish Research Body.

Fellowships can be for between 1 and 12 months in duration if full time or for up to 24 months if part time. The maximum Industry Fellowship award amount is €120,000 direct costs.

Application deadline is 10 June 2014.

Further details.

6.6 Green Talents Competition of German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) invites young researchers from all over the world every year to take part in the "Green Talents - International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable Development".

Since 2009, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has held the prestigious "Green Talents - International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable Development" to promote the international exchange of ideas regarding green solutions.

The award honours 25 young researchers from around the world each year. The winners come from various scientific disciplines and are recognised for their outstanding achievements in making our societies more sustainable. The Green Talents 2014 will be selected by a high-ranking jury of German experts and are granted unique access to the elite of the country's sustainability research field.

This includes:

- An invitation to Germany in 2014 to participate in the fully funded two-week science forum. While touring Germany, top locations will open their doors to the Green Talents and offer them an exclusive insight into their facilities and projects.
- A chance to present themselves and their work in personal discussions held as part of individual appointments with experts of their choice (during the two-week science forum).

- A second invitation to Germany in 2015 for a fully funded research stay of up to three months. At an inspiring location of their choice, the Green Talents will gain new experiences and advance their professional careers while establishing long-lasting partnerships.

- Exclusive access to the "Green Talents Network"

Application deadline is 16 June 2014.

Further details.

6.7 European Fellowships Open to Participation by Researchers from ASEAN

On March 12, 2014 the European Commission opened the call for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF) which offer an opportunity for individual researchers and research institutes across Europe.

The grant usually covers two years' salary, a mobility allowance, research costs and overheads for the host institution. Individual researchers submit proposals for funding in liaison with their planned host organisation. Proposals are judged on their research quality, the researcher's future career prospects, and the support offered by the host organisation.

These Individual Fellowships also offer an opportunity for European researchers to spend up to 2 years working in universities and research institutes in ASEAN.

Deadline for application: 11 September 2014

Further details.

6.8 European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS) Fellowship Programme

The European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS) Fellowship Programme is an international researcher mobility programme offering 10-month residencies in one of the 16 participating Institutes: Berlin, Bologna, Budapest, Cambridge, Delmenhorst, Edinburgh, Freiburg, Helsinki, Jerusalem, Lyon, Marseille, Paris, Uppsala, Vienna, Wassenaar, Zürich.

EURIAS Fellowships are mainly offered in the fields of the humanities and social sciences but may also be granted to scholars in life and exact sciences, provided that their proposed research project does not require laboratory facilities and that it interfaces with humanities and social sciences. The diversity
of the 16 participating IAS offers a wide range of possible research contexts in Europe for worldwide scholars.

Applicants may select up to three IAS outside their country of nationality or residence as possible host institutions.

The Programme welcomes applications worldwide from promising young scholars (postdoc) as well as from leading senior researchers.

For the 2015-2016 academic year, EURIAS offers 44 fellowships (22 junior and 22 senior positions).

All IAS have agreed on common standards, including the provision of a living allowance (in the range of € 26,000 for a junior fellow and € 38,000 for a senior fellow), accommodation (or a mobility allowance), a research budget, plus coverage of travel expenses.

The deadline for application is June 5th, 2014.

Further details.

6.9 EMBO Funding for Courses & Workshops

Biannual selection by a committee of members of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) ensures the consistent high quality and novelty of EMBO-funded courses, workshops and conferences. The commitment of the scientific organizers guarantees the long-term success of the programme to inform and train researchers at all career stages. With over 80 meetings attracting more than 8,000 participants every year, EMBO offers the largest number of scientific training events in Europe. Funding is available for conference series, workshops, practical courses and symposia as well as plenary lectures. EMBO assists organizers with websites, posters and registration.

Further details.
7 Jobs

There are currently 7416 research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe and partner countries and in all disciplines) accessible via the EURAXESS Jobs database.

NEWS: EURAXESS has signed a Job Exchange Agreement with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The job exchange procedure will commence shortly bringing additional job opportunities to the EURAXESS network.

AUSTRIA (Vienna): Postdoc position in the Computational Physics Group, Faculty of Physics, University of Vienna

Details

DENMARK (Odense): PhD Scholarship in Statistics, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Southern Denmark

Details

FINLAND (Turku): 3 tenure track Assistant Professorships or Professors of computer science in the fields of Machine Learning, Language Technology, and Interaction Design, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Turku

Details

FRANCE (Reims): PhD in Planetary Science, University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne

Details

Examples of Jobs supported by Marie Curie Actions Research Fellowships

→ PhD positions at the research group Neuroplasticity at the Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology in Magdeburg, Germany

Details

→ Post doc position in the MEDOW (Multi-terminal DC grid for offshore wind) Marie-Curie Initial Training Network at Cardiff School of Engineering, UK

Details

→ Post Doc position in Bio-photonic research and development in laser dentistry at the University of Leeds, UK

Details
## 8 Events

### 8.1 EURAXESS Links ASEAN Events May – July 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title of Event/Activity</th>
<th>Date/Venue</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>RGJ-Ph.D. Congress XV – “International Research Network (IRN)” Meeting</td>
<td>28-29 May, Pattaya, Thailand, <a href="http://www.trf.or.th">www.trf.or.th</a></td>
<td>Researchers involved in the international research networks supported by Thailand research Fund</td>
<td>Introduce EURAXESS - overview of the MSCA and ERC opportunities under H2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>EURAXESS Science Slam</td>
<td>Submission of video entries is open between 1 June and 15 September (finals to be held on 13 November 2014 in Bangkok)</td>
<td>Researchers of all nationalities and all academic disciplines currently conducting research in ASEAN</td>
<td>To give researchers in ASEAN the chance to showcase their research projects to their peers and the wider public in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>BIO-ASIA &amp; ICT-ASIA Regional Workshop “ICT- Asia, BIO-Asia and post-2015 Challenges in Asia: Scientific Research and Policy Making”</td>
<td>June 4-6, Jakarta, Indonesia, <a href="http://www.ambafrench-id.org/Delegation-Regionale-de,1628">http://www.ambafrench-id.org/Delegation-Regionale-de,1628</a></td>
<td>Asian and French research units in the fields of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) and natural substances studies</td>
<td>Introduce EURAXESS - overview of the MSCA and ERC opportunities under H2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Seminar on EURAXESS</td>
<td>June, Singapore,</td>
<td>Researchers and Research</td>
<td>Introduce EURAXESS -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Date and Location</td>
<td>Target Group</td>
<td>Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>“APAC Research Intelligence Conference”</td>
<td>10 &amp; 11 June, Singapore, NTU</td>
<td>Researchers and Research Administrators</td>
<td>Introduce EURAXESS - overview of the MSCA and ERC opportunities under H2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Horizon 2020 info Day and Workshops - co-organised by NSTDA, EURAXESS Links ASEAN and the SEA-EU-NET and INCONTACT projects</td>
<td>7 – 8 July, NSTDA, Bangkok, Thailand</td>
<td>Researchers, research administrators and Thai funding agencies</td>
<td>Introduce EURAXESS - overview of the MSCA and ERC opportunities under H2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Horizon 2020 info Day and Workshops - co-organised by NSTDA, EURAXESS Links ASEAN and the SEA-EU-NET and INCONTACT projects</td>
<td>9 - 10 July, NASATI, HMC, Vietnam</td>
<td>Researchers, research administrators and Viennames funding agencies</td>
<td>Introduce EURAXESS - overview of the MSCA and ERC opportunities under H2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>SEA-EU-NET Alumni Network Meeting</td>
<td>14 – 15 July, Vientiane, Laos PDR</td>
<td>Regional European alumni groups, researchers and policy makers</td>
<td>Discuss role of regional alumni groups in supporting EU-ASEAN researcher mobility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8.2 France: 13th European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB’14), 7 – 10 September 2014

ECCB’14 is the key European computational biology event in 2014 gathering scientists working at the intersection of a broad range of disciplines including computer science, mathematics, biology, and medicine. New challenges are emerging today in these fields with the recent advances in low-cost ultra-fast sequencing, bio-imaging and big-data approaches. Databases and software are evolving especially rapidly. Nonetheless, new algorithms are still required to improve computing with massive biological or biomedical data. Indeed, multi-scale integrative analyses are struggling to deal with the enormous complexity of biological systems modeling and the "data deluge" that results from next-generation sequencing technologies.

Participation at ECCB’14 will be the prime opportunity to keep pace with cutting-edge research in such exciting topics, and to network with other members of our community. ECCB’14 is the 13th edition of the ECCB conference series, which in 2014 will take place in the historic city of Strasbourg in the north-east of France.

Further details

8.3 Germany: Progress in Biogas III, 10 – 11 September 2014

More than 80 experts on biogas from almost 30 countries representing all continents will discuss the achievements and developments on: - Domestic biogas plants, - Agricultural biogas plants, - Environment, methane-emissions, - Process control, modelling of the biogas process, - Innovative fermentation and digester construction methods, - Digestation application and management, - Biogas generation from industrial, communal and municipal bio-waste, - Flexibility of biogas production and use, - Process inhibition, - Technical economical and social cooperative structures of decentralized small scale biogas systems, - Pretreatment technologies, among others.

During the conference a practitioners forum, an Oral-Poster-Session with more than 20 speakers, posters sessions and an exhibition will take place. In the exhibition, companies and organizations will present their products, services and technical innovations to the international audience experts. We expect to have about 400 participants. Additionally, there will be the opportunity to take part in an agricultural or a research field trip.

Further details.
8.4 Singapore: APAC Research Intelligence Conference, 10 – 11 June 2014

The conference is designed for Vice President of Research, Research Managers and Research Administrators or the equivalent of research institutions to share and build on valuable information to support their long-term research management efforts.

Presenting an array of leading International speakers, this conference aims to examine the evolving expectations, available solutions, measurements and best practices associated with the optimization of research strategies.

Key areas to be addressed in depth:

- Measuring research impact
- Expanding international and industry collaborations
- Promoting excellence through national research assessment exercises
- Demonstrating societal impact of research
- Maximizing funding award success, and more

Further details.

8.5 Spain: 3rd International Conference on Antimicrobial Research (ICAR2014), 1 – 3 October 2014

ICAR2014 will be a forum to communicate current research priorities and progress, and to identify new approaches and research opportunities in antimicrobial research.

Further details.

For more information on research events across Europe and across all disciplines please visit the European Commission managed page "What's New in European Research"
9 Resources

Latest Calls
Here you can find the latest calls on the newly set up Research Participant Portal.

International Cooperation Activities
Access the portal of the European Commission's International Cooperation Activities here.

Other Research Career Sites
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
Jobs.ac.uk: www.jobs.ac.uk
Research Jobs in Germany: Research-in-Germany.de
Scholarship Database of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Brainpower Austria: http://www.brainpower-austria.at/