

## **Thai-German S&T Cooperation**

### **Researcher Mobility Scheme**

#### **Call for Proposals 2011**

The International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany, the National Science and Technology Development Agency in Thailand (NSTDA), and the following Thai universities: Chiang Mai University, Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, Khon Kaen University, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Mahidol University, Prince of Songkla University, Thammasat University, and Suranaree University of Technology agree to support bilateral research and development projects in fields of common Thai-German interest.

The objective of this Researcher Mobility Scheme is, on the one hand, to allow research teams to form new collaborations and on the other hand it should allow the teams to seek more substantial research funding schemes from other national and international funding schemes. The Mobility Scheme facilitates bilateral cooperation between the scientific communities of Thailand and Germany by supporting the development of joint research projects, through funding of bilateral workshops/seminars, exchange visits of scientists, visits of composite (scientific and industrial) delegations.

#### **1. Funding purpose and legal basis**

##### **1.1. Funding purpose**

The National Science and Development Agency of Thailand (NSTDA), Chiang Mai University, Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, Khon Kaen University, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Mahidol University, Prince of Songkla University, Thammasat University, Suranaree University of Technology are the implementing agencies on the Thai side. The International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (IB-BMBF), Bonn is the implementing agency on the German side.

The funding on the German side is provided by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF); the IB-BMBF is the implementing agency of the Ministry's international cooperation activities.

On the Thai side funding will come from the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and from Chiang Mai University, Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, Khon Kaen

University, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Mahidol University, Prince of Songkla University, Thammasat University, and Suranaree University of Technology .

The funding is to support the mobility of researchers between Germany and Thailand to strengthen existing collaborations and to develop joint research projects.

## 1.2 Legal basis

In Germany, project funding will be awarded on the basis of private-law funding contracts in accordance with the present announcement, BMBF standard terms and conditions for grants on expenditure or cost basis, and the administrative regulations under sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO). There is no legal entitlement to funding. The IB-BMBF will make a decision on funding after due assessment of the circumstances and within the framework of budget funds available.

In Thailand, project funding will be granted in accordance with NSTDA and participating university guidelines.

## 2. Funding Priorities

Proposals in the following areas will be given priority:

- Neglected Infectious diseases
- Food and Agriculture Research
- Environment and Renewable Energy
- Logistics and Mass transportation

## 3. Eligibility

### 3.1 On the German side:

Research proposals may be submitted by German research institutions, universities and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).<sup>\*</sup> For German scientists from private sector, only travel costs are available for small and medium size enterprises (for definition of SME ref. to 2003/361/EC)

Research establishments which receive joint basic funding from both the Federal Government and the Länder may be granted project funding for additional expenditure on top of their basic funding under certain conditions only. Partners from the private sector are encouraged to be part of the overall project

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<sup>\*</sup> According to the EU's definition of SMEs: The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises consists of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 people and which have either an annual turnover not exceeding €50 million, or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €43 million. **Within this category, the following definitions apply:** Small enterprises are defined as enterprises which employ fewer than 50 persons and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed €10 million. Micro enterprises are defined as enterprises which employ fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed €2 million. In general, most SMEs are **autonomous** since they are either completely independent or have one or more minority partnerships (each less than 25%) with other enterprises (see 2.3.1, p. 16). If that holding rises to no more than 50%, the relationship is deemed to be between **partner enterprises** (see 2.3.2, p. 20). Above that ceiling, the enterprises are **linked** (see 2.3.3, p. 23).

Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise\\_policy/sme\\_definition/sme\\_user\\_guide.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/sme_user_guide.pdf)

proposal but it is expected that the private sector participants should cover most of their own costs. Financing from the Mobility Scheme for the private sector is limited.

### **3.2 On the Thai side:**

Research proposals may be submitted by researchers from NSTDA and from the following universities: Chiang Mai University, Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, Khon Kaen University, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Mahidol University, Prince of Songkla University, Thammasat University, and Suranaree University of Technology .

Participation of young researchers is one of the most important selection criteria. Small and Medium Sized Enterprises are encouraged to participate but must cover their own costs.

## **4. General Terms and Conditions**

### **4.1 Project Duration**

The projects selected under this call for proposals will generally last two years, support for the second year being subject to progress made in the first year.

Funding will be provided by either NSTDA or the nine participating universities listed above for the Thai part of the project and by the International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (IB/BMBF at the DLR) in Bonn for the German part of the project.

### **4.2 Funding**

Financial support is available from the respective implementing agencies from the two sides for the exchange visits under the approved projects component only as per the financial terms given below

- Maximum 15 projects funded – minimum of 1 Thai and 1 German researcher per project/ maximum of 3 trips per side per project
- Travel max 45 trips to Germany by Thai scientists @ 80,000 baht per trip = 3.6 million THB. This amount includes the following:
  - Return economy airfare to Germany from Thailand
  - Domestic travel in both Germany and Thailand
  - Visa costs
  - Travel and health insurance
  - Airport transfers in both Thailand and Germany
- Maximum of 90 days allowances per side per project i.e. one researcher from Germany or Thailand could travel to the other country for up to a maximum of 90 days, or this could be broken down into smaller travel times, e.g. 3 Thai researchers travelling to Germany for a maximum of 30 days each, or 3 German scientists coming to Thailand for a maximum of 30 days each

### 4.3 Travel Costs

NSTDA or Chiang Mai University, Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, Khon Kaen University, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Mahidol University, Prince of Songkla University, Thammasat University, Suranaree University of Technology will bear the total cost of Thai researchers travelling between Thailand and Germany including economy airfare, visa fees, airport travel, airport taxes and overseas medical insurance.

For German scientists travelling to Thailand. IB-BMB will cover the costs for international flights (economy), travelling to and from the German airport of departure, and visa fees. Other travelling costs, e.g. insurances and departure taxes (if applicable) are borne by the sending institute or company.

### 4.4 Allowances

The receiving side shall provide living expenses connected with the agreed schedule of the visit. In general visits should not exceed 3 months.

	Short-term (up to 30 days)	Long-term (max. 3 months)
<b>Thai scientists to Germany:</b>	<b>104 Euro per day (1 to 22 days); max. 2.300 Euro for 23 to 30 days (in case of free accommodation per diem would be 26 Euro)</b>	<b>2.300 Euro per month</b>
<b>German scientists to Thailand:</b>	<b>2,000 THB per day inclusive of accommodation</b>	<b>60,000 THB inclusive of accommodation</b>

It is expected that participating institutes themselves support in general for equipment, manpower, consumables, etc. Reasonable and limited support may be available for PI's from public institutions.

## 5. Application Procedure

The deadline for applications is **October 31, 2011**. This deadline is effectively a cut-off date (i.e., any proposals submitted after its expiration will be excluded by default).

All applications must be submitted through the Thai-German Researchers Mobility Scheme on-line portal <https://www.pt-it.de/ptoutline/application/thaigermancoop>

Proposals will only be considered if they have been **submitted as a joint project**.

Evaluation of submitted project proposals will include external experts and will be based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to German and Thai national programmes and multinational programmes (e.g. EU-programmes)
- Preparation of new projects in applied fields of mutual benefit and justification for collaboration
- Quality and originality of research approach
- Qualification of applicant and availability of infrastructure
- Proposals should include young scientists
- Expected results and outcomes

Based on this assessment, a funding decision will be taken after final evaluation of the proposals. It is anticipated that all applicants will be notified in writing about the selection decisions until November 31 2011.

On behalf of the BMBF, the IB will conclude private-law grant agreements with successful applicants.

Approval and payment of and accounting for the funds as well as proof and examination of proper use and, if necessary, revocation of the award and reclaiming of the funds awarded are governed by the administrative regulations pertaining to section 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO).

### **5.3 Intellectual Property**

Any research results or intellectual property generated during the course of a funded project shall be jointly owned by the participants.

### **5.4 Schedule**

Deadline for the submission of applications – **October 31, 2011**

Notification of applicants about funding - **Dec 15, 2011**

Start of project/funding – **January, 2012**