**Sino Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation Program**

**2013-2016**

**Application Form for Research-innovation Community**

**Research-innovation Community (RiC)**

Total budget allocated: CHF 800’0001.

Deadline:

Pre-proposal: March 30, 2014

Full Proposal: by invitation only; deadline to be specified.

Research collaboration depends heavily on human relationship. For long distance collaborations, such as in the case of China, the human factor and local knowledge are especially important. It is envisioned that Swiss researchers/institutes shall organize themselves into “Research-innovation Communities (RiC)” for the purpose of information exchange, exploring different directions and models of collaboration with Chinese partners, etc. A successful RiC shall define unique strength in Sino Swiss collaboration, explore potential synergy, and ultimately produce results beyond what individual contacts may achieve.

In order to use resource more efficiently and to streamline administrative process, a RiC shall be a self-organizing body with a committee of scientific leads (minimum of 2-3 professors, or research division heads from industries) that allows the participation of researchers from other Swiss universities, research institutes, and enterprises as members. The scientific leads shall formulate important research (or education, or innovation) questions and decide on instruments that shall promote best practices in Sino Swiss collaboration. Standard instruments for bilateral cooperation such as small, research-focused workshops, personnel exchange, may be funded through a RiC. Other more creative instruments should be briefly described in the pre-proposal and clearly elaborated in the full proposal.

In summary, a Research-innovation Community:

* Shall aim at exploring synergy in research and/or innovation through sharing experience and resource of their “China-Knowhow” among members;
* Shall consist of a group of scientists with common research interests/focuses;
* Shall be led by a small group of scientific leaders, which through the engagement of their own teams, acts as the core of the community and sets the direction of the community;
* Shall be member-based. Each member should be willing to make some financial contribution complementary to that of the SSSTC support.

**Eligibility**

Senior researchers holding permanent positions in an eligible Swiss institution (Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, Cantonal universities, Federal and Cantonal research institutes, Universities of Applied Sciences, and other research institutes eligible for receiving federal funding) may apply as project leaders. Support from participating member institutes is, however, essential.

**Grant Information**

The allowable budget depends on the collaboration models. In general, it shall follow the SSSTC funding principles, i.e., reciprocity, limitation on living costs, etc. Examples of funding models are: project focused workshops, short-term exchanges of personnel for pilot experiments, etc. Other well-justified funding models are also possible.

**Evaluation**

Both pre- and full proposals will be evaluated by the LH/ALH plus other scientific and/or administrative advisors when necessary. The evaluation criteria are (not in order of priority):

* Sound management concept, which is necessary for project distribution within the community;
* Demonstration of inclusion for a broad spectrum of Swiss stakeholders of the community;
* Sound justification of the requested budget;
* Clear elaboration of synergy to be gained within the community through collaboration with Chinese partners, or
* Clear elaboration of the need for exploring the opportunity in collaboration with potential Chinese partners.

1: The Leading House reserves the right to reallocate the budgets based on demand.

**Application Instruction**

This application form is meant to be submitted by the Swiss main applicant.

Since this is a new instrument, the applicants are encouraged to discuss with either the Leading House (LH) or the Associated Leading House (ALH) before submitting a pre-proposal.

**Part 1: General information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of the Proposed RiC: |  |
| Focus of the RiC: |  |
| Swiss Main Applicant:(name and academic affiliation, please attach a copy of CV separately) |  |
| Swiss Co-Applicant 1:(name and academic affiliation, please attach a copy CV separately) |  |
| Swiss Co-Applicant 2:(name and academic affiliation, please attach a copy of CV separately) |  |
| Should there be more than 2 Swiss Co-Applicants, please insert additional columns. |  |

Signature of Swiss applicants:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Place, Date | Swiss Main Applicant  |
| Place, Date | Swiss Co-Applicant 1 |
| Place, Date | Swiss Co-Applicant 2 |

**Part 2: Description of the Proposed RiC**

1. Please state the area of focus of the proposed community.
2. Is there a corresponding Chinese partner institute or individual professors? If yes, please state their names and institutional affiliations.
3. Intended instruments within the community.
4. Budget requirement of the community: a rough estimate is sufficient at the pre-proposal stage.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Instrument | Budget per year: please include calculation if possible. | Total |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

(Please add additional lines if necessary.)

1. Management concept. Please include also if there is a plan/need for a separate project manager.
2. Please briefly describe the reasons for the community: the need, the benefit, the potential for synergy, any complementarity between the Swiss and the Chinese participants, and if there might be industrial partners.
3. Financial model: please list contribution from the members of the community and potential contribution from industry.

After receiving the pre-proposal, the LH and ALH may contact the Swiss main applicant for further information and discussion.

**Submission**

Please send your application (both electronically and per post) to

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