

TAIWAN-ISRAEL JOINT RESEARCH COOPERATION

Call for Project Proposals

2017-2019

A. AREAS OF COOPERATION

Within the framework of the Agreement between the Economic and Cultural Offices of Israel and Taiwan, Taiwanese and Israeli research teams are hereby invited by the Israel Ministry of Science, Technology and Space ("MOST-IL") and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Taiwan ("MOST-Taiwan") to submit joint research proposals in:

- 1. Human Nutrition and the Gut Microbiome**
- 2. Low Temperature Quantum Physics**

B. MODE OF COOPERATION

Cooperation may take the form of:

- Joint research activities where interdependent subprojects of a single project are conducted in the Taiwanese and the Israeli laboratories;
- Complementary methodological approaches to a common problem;
- Joint use of research facilities, materials, equipment and/or services by cooperating scientists;
- Joint planning of research and evaluation of results.

C. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND PROJECT DURATION

The total maximum project funding for all research projects approved under this Call is up to US\$480,000 from each side, for the two year period. The allocation for each specific research proposal that is approved will up to US\$80,000 (320,000 NIS) from both sides for the two year project period.

It is the intention of the program's sponsors to support **up to 6** joint projects. However, the final number of projects to be sponsored will be determined based on such factors as scientific merit and budgetary considerations. Research projects should be planned on a **two year basis**. Contracts will be signed for the implementation of the project accordingly.

Funding for the approved projects is subject to the availability of funds in both countries for 2017.

D. Eligibility

1. Projects must be conducted by collaborating Taiwanese and Israeli scientific research teams.
2. Each research team must be led by a Principal Investigator from each country.
3. The Principal Investigator on each side must be affiliated with an academic institution, meaning – in Israel – a staff member of an Academic Institution; or a professor emeritus (who continues to keep in touch with the institution through which he made the research or teaching after retirement).

For the purposes of this Call an "Academic Institution" means:

- i. An accredited institution of higher learning in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958.
- ii. A Research Institute recognized as such by the Israel Science Foundation (ISF).
- iii. A Research Institute which is a nonprofit organization.
- iv. A Research Institute which is a government company or a unit of government.

For the purposes of this Call a "Research Institute" means a research institute which a significant portion of its activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, which possesses appropriate infrastructure and equipment, and which employs researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading scientific journals in the world, and who present their research at international symposia.

Industrial partners are able to participate in research teams, as long as they are headed by Principal Investigators from an Academic Institution.

4. Each Principal Investigator and affiliated institution is accountable to MOST-Taiwan or MOST-IL, respectively, for the execution of the project.
5. Each project will include exchange visits of the cooperating scientists, both senior and young ones, in accordance with the needs of the joint research program.
6. Proposals for which funding is approved, which include experiments with animals, must submit the approval of the relevant Committee for Experimentations on Animals before the project can commence. In Israel-submit the approval of the relevant Council for Animal Experimentations.
7. Proposals for which funding is approved, which involve human beings, must, before the project can commence. In Israel-submit the approval of the relevant Helsinki Committee.

D1. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

It is required that the Taiwanese and Israeli research teams and their institutions Enter into agreements regarding intellectual property rights prior to the start of collaborative activities.

D2. SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The proposals must be submitted by December 22, 2016.

For Taiwanese research teams:

Taiwanese Principal Investigators should submit proposals by the deadline to the MOST-Taiwan via the online research application system, using the grant application form (in Taiwanese or English) and the attached Application Form (in English). The institution shall also deliver the official applications (applicants list) to the MOST-Taiwan.

For Israeli research teams:

Israeli Principal Investigators should submit proposals in English by email using the attached Application Forms to the following Email address: Taiwan@most.gov.il (in "pdf" format duly signed, along with a working copy in "doc" format without signatures). **The proposals must actually reach the abovementioned email address by Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 23:59 (Local Israel time), and will not be accepted under any circumstances after the specified date and hour.**

Because of technical constraints, an email over megabytes will not be received. IF the email and its attachments exceed 8 MB, it must be split. Shortly after submitting the email the applicants should receive an automatic reply acknowledging its receipt. IF an email confirming receipt is not received, the applicant must approach MOST contact persons detailed below to make sure the email was duly received. **It is solely the sender's responsibility** to receive confirmation that the email was received, whether by automatic reply or personal confirmation. As technical problems are possible, **it is strongly recommended to submit the application well in advance of the application deadline.**

A valid project application consists of the Application Form **duly filled in and signed**, together with all the necessary application documents required from each side of a joint research team, submitted respectively to MOST-Taiwan and MOST-IL. **IF the applications are not duly received by both MOST-Taiwan and MOST-IL by the date and hour indicated above, the project will not be accepted.**

In addition, Israeli Principal Investigators **should send also 2 hard copies** of their proposals by **Monday December 27** to the following MOST-IL:

Avi ANATI
Deputy Director General for Planning & Control
Ministry of Science, Technology and Space
"Call for Proposals for Israel –Taiwan 2017-2019"
Clermont Ganneau St., Begin Government Offices
Building 3, 3rd Floor, Room 309
Jerusalem

A valid project application consists of the required application materials from BOTH sides.

E. FUNDED EXPENSES

Funding provided within this Call is intended to enhance joint collaboration

between the Taiwanese and Israeli participants in a joint research project. Funding will therefore be provided mainly in support of collaboration activities and of local research necessary for the collaboration.

For Taiwanese researchers teams, funding can be provided by **MOST-Taiwan** for the following types of expenses:

- (1) Personnel costs;
- (2) Consumables;
- (3) Small equipment;
- (4) Travel and visiting costs;
- (5) Joint seminars and workshops;
- (6) Overhead expenses.

For Israeli research teams, funding can be provided by MOST-II for the following types of expenses:

- (1) Stipend or salary for PhD students, post-doctoral fellows, technicians and/or laboratory workers (i.e. a temporary position up to 2 years) retained specifically for the purpose of the project, not including salaries for permanent staff and PI's;
- (2) Consumable Materials. In case they exceed 1,000 USD, a detailed explanation regarding their necessity and quantities is required ;
- (3) Small scale equipment which is only needed for the specific research project; MOST will enable purchase of computers or laptops only in special cases in which the computer or laptop is part of the research project or are of unique capacities needed for the specific research;
- (4) Travel expenses of the Israeli researchers and visiting costs for the Taiwanese partners. Accommodation charges in Taiwan will be provided by Taiwanese side.
- (5) Joint seminars and workshops;
- (6) Overhead expenses up to 15% of the total amount of the research project inclusive of the funds provided on the basis of this Call.

For Taiwanese and Israeli research teams: Each budget item or expenditure for which reimbursement is requested must conform to the respective national rules of each researcher.

F. MUTUAL VISITS

Participating researchers are encouraged to spend an extended period of time visiting their counterparts' institution. Travel and living expenses for researchers visiting abroad should be included in each research team's project budgets. The visits most take place in Taiwan or Israel only. Visits to third countries will not be financed by project funds. The costs of flights and accommodation will be covered by the sending side.

G. PROPOSAL REVIEW

After the proposals are evaluated by each of the program sponsors separately, MOST-Taiwan and MOST-IL will jointly decide which projects will be funded and in what amounts based on the results of their independent evaluation and ranking.

Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Conformity of research area of this Call

2. Capability of Principal Investigators

The Principal Investigators should have the experience, appropriate expertise and ability to manage the collaboration and carry out the project goals within the two-year project period.

3. Significance and potential impacts of the project

Proposals should include the explanation of significance of the problem being addressed and the potential impact of the proposed approach on solving it.

4. Scientific merit

The project should have originality and novelty in the research area.

5. Clarity and quality

The proposal should explain clearly and have an enough quality about the research topic, research objectives, methodology, and detailed program.

6. Feasibility

The plan for research and mutual visits should be feasible.

7. Practical applicability

Achievement should have innovative aspects and the specific advantages compared to other existing technologies.

8. Synergetic effect

The project should have synergy as joint research activities between Taiwan and Israel.

9. Effectiveness and continuity of the exchange

The proposal needs to contain activities to enhance sustainable research exchange.

Relevant examples include:

- Fostering young researchers through exchanges.
- Sustainable development of the initiated knowledge exchange
- Expanding the international research networks over the research project
- Improving the presence of Taiwanese or Israeli science and technology respectively in the counterpart country.
- Exchange each knowledge, know-how and skills of one partner can maximize the utilization of the other partner's unique applications.

10. Justification of project budget

H. CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND REPORTS

1. The expected starting date for approved projects is **September 1st, 2017**. The expected completion date is two years after the starting date of the approved projects.

2. Contracts

Upon approval of a particular project, separate contracts will be signed between MOST-Taiwan and the institution of Taiwan Principal Investigator and between MOST-IL and the institution of Israeli Principal Investigator.

3. In principle, the project period is two years. However MOST-Taiwan and MOST-IL reserves the right not to fund a second year of research for scientific-professional, administrative, budgetary or policy reasons.

For Israeli researchers: An application for the continuation of research funding for the second year must be submitted by the institution of Israeli Principal Investigator to MOST-IL on the appropriate forms at least two months prior to the end of the first year. An annual scientific report must be appended to each application.

4. Payments

Payments will be made by MOST-Taiwan and MOST-IL to the institution of each Principal Investigator, respectively, and, in keeping with the provisions of the contracts referred to above, according to the regulations and practices in force in each country.

5. Reports

a) Financial Reports

Financial reports will be submitted to MOST-Taiwan or MOST-IL, respectively, by the institutions of each Principal Investigator as specified in the research contract.

b) Scientific Reports

Within two months after the conclusion of the project, each Principal Investigator will submit a full final report to MOST-Taiwan or MOST-IL, respectively, in accordance with the contract or the regulations in force in his/her country. The Principal Investigators will also submit a joint summary of the final report both to MOST-Taiwan and MOST-IL in English.

Additional interim progress reports may be required, according to the practices and regulations of each country, as specified in the research contracts.

In Israel: A interim scientific report must be submitted to MOST-IL two months prior to the end of the first year of the project, together with the application for continuation of research funding (see Paragraph 3 above).

I. SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING THE ISRAELI APPLICANT

All procedures and activities under this Call or the projects approved hereunder, including the eligibility of institutions via which applications must be filed, are subject to the standard MOST-IL Procedures Regarding International Collaborative Scientific Projects and Scholarships Funded by MOST-IL and to the MOST-IL Standard Contract for Scientific Projects (both documents referred to hereinafter as "the standard terms").

Applicants are required to familiarize themselves with the standard terms before filing an application under this Call; filing an application constitutes a declaration that the applicant has done so and agrees to be bound by the provisions thereof.

J. SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING THE TAIWANESE APPLICANT

All procedures and activities for the Taiwanese applications must be confirmed to the Taiwanese notification, regulation and legislation.

K. INFORMATION

TAIWAN:

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Program Director

Department of International Cooperation and Science Education

Ministry of Science and technology

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ISRAEL:

On administrative matters:

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Deputy Director General for Planning & Control

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On Scientific matters:

Human Nutrition and the Gut Microbiome

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Low Temperature Quantum Physics

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