International Research Cooperation
Chances and Challenges

Dr. Iris WIECZOREK, Director DFG Office Japan
Tokyo, September 30, 2009
1. The DFG

2. International Strategy of DFG

3. Chances and Challenges of International Cooperation
The central **public funding organization** for academic research in Germany

**Self-governing body** of science and research in Germany, not a government agency

**Legal status**: association under private law

Promoting academic **excellence** on a competitive basis

**Bottom-up** approach

(application-oriented) **basic research**

Serving science and the arts in **all fields**

Advisory activities in **politics**

Special focus on supporting **young researchers**

Promoting **gender equality** in science

Promoting **international** research cooperation

Fostering links between **science and industry**
Annual Budget: 2.1 billion Euro

Sources of Funding

58% Federal States (Bund),
41% States (Länder), 0.4% Others

Funding Volume (2008)

► Nearly 1,000 running programmes
► More than 20,000 projects funded

Natural Science 26.0%

Engineering 21.0%

Biology and Medicine 38.7%

Humanities 14.3%
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DFG Procedures and Programmes - Approvals 2007

- Funding of Infrastructure (Scientific Library Services and Information Systems, Central Research Facilities) €157.0 m
- Coordinated Programmes (e.g. Collaborative Research Centres, Excellence Initiative, Research Training Groups) €1,182.7 m
- Direct Funding for Young Researchers €136.1 m
- Internat. Scient. Contacts (Bilateral Collaboration) €23.6 m (2006)
- Individual Grants €635.4 m
- Prizes (e.g. Leibniz, Copernicus, etc.) €25.2 m
- Committees & Commissions €3.9 m

€2.1bn
International Strategy of DFG

Supporting

► international cooperation and activities of single researchers or whole groups of researchers

by

► opening all DFG programmes for international cooperation
► programmes with an international focus
  (International Research Training Groups, etc.)
► agreements with partner organisations, specific thematic calls
  (to meet demand of scientific community)

* Intensify intra-German cooperation in overall international strategy with e.g. AvH, DAAD, Alliance, Ministry for Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Academies

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The International DFG: Offices Abroad

**Common Aims**
- to promote scientific collaboration
- information centres: to create ideal conditions for the exchange of scientific information
- to build an extensive network of personal and professional links
- to cooperate with other funding agencies
- to organise bilateral symposia and workshops

**Sino-German Centre for Science Promotion**  
Beijing, 2000

**US Liaison Offices**  
Washington DC, 2002  
New York, 2007

**Russian Liaison Office**  
Moskow, 2003

**Indian Liaison Office**  
New Delhi, 2006

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DFG´s Japanese Partners

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
- JSPS liasion office in Bonn http://www.jsps-bonn.de

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- Joint funding scheme for the research field of "Nanoelectronics"
- Joint application, to be handed in both to DFG and JST in parallel
- Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Research Program (15th April 2009)
Initiation and Intensification of Bilateral Cooperation
Germany - Japan

• since January 1, 2009: flexible and modular funding instrument

• Eligibility: Postdocs

• Funding modules
  • Preparatory visits/ research stays
    (up to 3 months at host institute in Germany / Japan)
  • Joint events (bilateral workshops or seminars in Germany / Japan)
  • any number of different modules can be combined

• Funding period: up to 1 year, one extension is possible

• Co-funding: “sending side pays” (e.g. travel, accomodation, allowance, event)
  DFG covers costs for German researchers
  JSPS covers costs for Japanese researchers

• Application: German PI at DFG Headquarter in Bonn
  Japanese PI at JSPS Headquarter in Tokyo
International Research Training Groups
PhD Training and Scientific Cooperation Worldwide

N = 58
(out of 240 RTG)

21 different countries:
- 15 European countries
- 6 non-European countries

USA (7)  China (6)
Belgium/UK (1)  Denmark (2)
Denmark/Finland/Italy (1)  France (4)
France/Switzerland (1)  France/UK (1)
France (1)  Hungary (1)
India (1)  Italy (1)
Austria/Italy/ (1)
Japan (3)  Japan/USA (1)
Norway (1)  Korea (2)
Poland (2)  South Africa (1)
Russia (2)  Sweden (3)
Spain (1)  Switzerland (4)
United Kingdom (2)  Austria/Switzerland (1)
Encourage bilateral cooperation and research training
Joint research programme & study programme
Integration of complementary expertise at centres of excellence
Systematic coordination of bilateral research projects / joint supervision
6-12 month mobility period at partner university
Example for German-Japanese Cooperation
Joint Funding Scheme for “Nanoelectronics”

The Start
• Joint Conference between JST and DFG in 2006

Funding
• Joint Call for Proposals in 2007 - 24 proposals for bilateral projects
• Two following Calls for Proposals in 2008 and 2009
• Joint Call for Proposals for Japanese-German Research Groups (June 2009)
• Joint Evaluation Procedures
International Research Cooperation – Chances and Challenges
(benefits and costs conceptually and empirically unclear....)

Without doubt:
• Increasing international cooperation (also due to ICT use)
• Strong increase in intensity with 'new' partners
• Increasing internationalisation of the scientific
  “next generation” (doctoral students)

Chances/ Benefits
• Knowledge circulation
• Increased research capacity
• Higher competition and higher productivity
• Higher innovation potential
• Lower costs (e.g. international access to research facilities)
• Additional social and intercultural competence, broadening personal horizon
International Research Cooperation – Challenges
(a selection…)

• Competition of countries, brain drain
• Political measures
• Administrative barriers
  (different functioning of innovation systems; different funding systems and standards;
  R&D management is last stage of long decision making process; countries are in different
  phases; hierarchical levels’ mandate differ between countries; legal restrictions)
• Tradition (R&D management structures often have a long history)
• Suitable partners („win-win situation“)
• Researchers motivations (attitudes, needs, values, goals etc.)
• Sufficient information (e.g. about funding programmes) and communication
• Language and cultural diversity
• Trust and understanding
Meeting the Challenges through…

- personal contacts and ICT
- time and openness
- creativity, new forms, operations and procedures
- political encouragement of unconventional ways
- “normalization“ of international collaboration
Thank you for your attention

for further information

› DFG: www.dfg.de, DFG Office Japan: www.dfg.de/japan, japan@dfg.de
› funded projects: www.dfg.de/gepris/
› Research institutions: www.dfg.de/research_explorer/

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DFG Structure and Decision Making Bodies

- Election
- Members
- Cooperation

Executive Committee → Senate → Joint Committee

Executive Board → Head Office

Review Board → Researchers

General Assembly

DFG members (all universities + many research institutes)

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Research Visits to Germany – Mercator Professorships

To enable German universities to invite highly qualified scientists and scholars from abroad

Aims:
- To provide a visible accent of quality in the host university’s activities
- To contribute to the internationalization of Higher Education and research in Germany

Features:
- Applications related to focal points in the university’s scientific profile
- Contribution to
  - Research
  - Research-related educational activities
  - Graduate Research Training at the respective university department
- Intended stay between 3 and 12 months

NOTE: APPLICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE GERMAN HOST UNIVERSITY