


international relations

CONICYT

- 
- A photograph of a rural landscape at night, featuring a small house, a tractor, and several large white hay bales in the foreground. In the background, there are dark mountains under a starry sky. A vibrant green aurora borealis (northern lights) is visible in the upper half of the image, creating a dramatic and ethereal atmosphere.
- New opportunities for UK-Chile research cooperation
 - GLORIA project bringing science closer to the public
 - 10 calls to support scientific cooperation with Chile open for applications
 - CONICYT-IDRC partnership supporting development research in Chile

issue 22 /April 2014

at-a-glance

news clips

european connection

interview

projects

on the move

call for proposals

agenda

Welcome to issue 22 of CONICYT's International Relations quarterly bulletin, with news and information for all stakeholders interested in international cooperation in science and technology with Chile.

In this issue we are pleased to announce the implementation of the Newton Fund in Chile, which reinforces scientific and technological ties between Chile and the United Kingdom, providing scientist in both parts with greater opportunities to collaborate and to achieve better research results.

We also feature the case of GLORIA, a project supported by the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for research, including the participation of the Universidad de Chile, that shows the pivotal role of networking in the development of international scientific collaborations.

Elsewhere in our *European Connection* section, Inge Lamberz De Bayas, from the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) describes a new opportunity for joint research that CONICYT and BMBF have made available for researchers in Chile and Germany as a result of the intensification of cooperation in science and technology between the two countries in recent years.

In *Interviews*, we look at how CONICYT's partnership with the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) provided Dr. Jorge Gordin and his team from Universidad Diego Portales, with the necessary support to implement a project that looks at the management of conflicts of diversity in Latin America, a topic of growing relevance to the region.

In *Projects*, we review 10 calls for international cooperation in science and technology open or about to open for applications, including what scientists have to say about them, with a view to providing researchers details about the various instruments CONICYT has to support their international cooperation endeavors at different levels.

Finally, we introduce *On the Move*, a new section that emphasises the important role that Chilean researchers abroad play in building a bridge between international and Chilean scientists.

We hope you find the content we have prepared for this issue enjoyable and informative.

Please do email us your feedback or ideas for content.

International Cooperation Programme
CONICYT

The International Cooperation Programme welcomes all comments and suggestions from readers. Please email us at relacionesinternacionales@conicyt.cl

Cover photo: Aurora Borealis in Greenland, GLORIA project.
Credit: J.C. Casado.

UK-Chile Newton Fund

Chile and the United Kingdom have established a new partnership in science and innovation through the implementation of the Newton Fund in Chile.

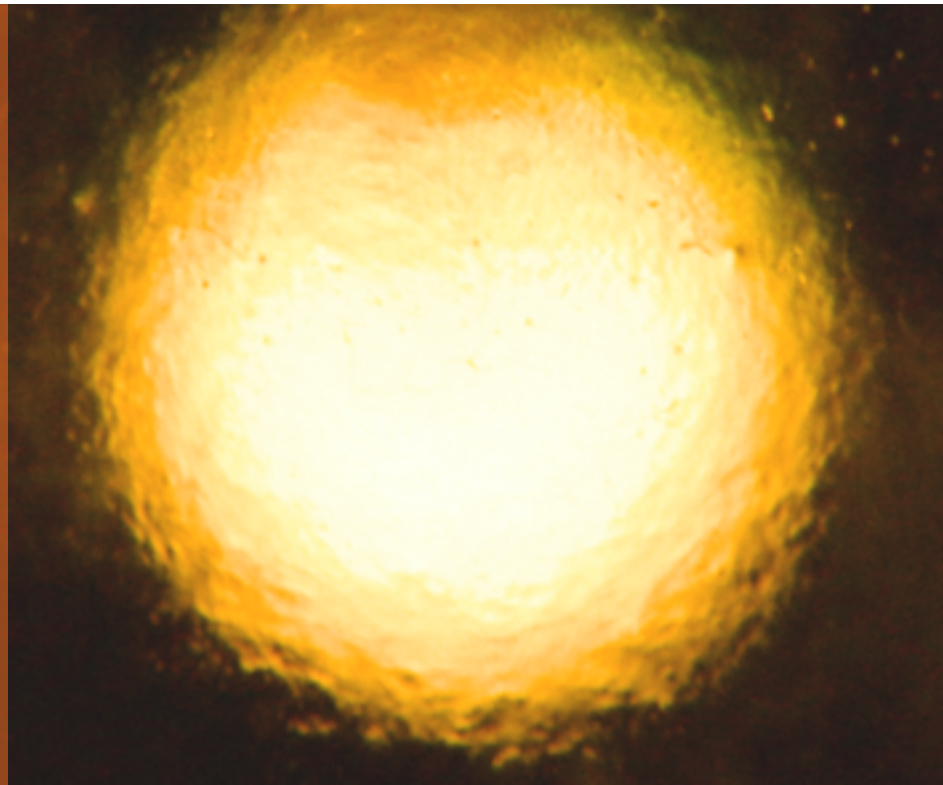


Photo credit: I. Vargas

The Newton Fund, a major new initiative of the British government will invest more than US\$600 million over three years to promote scientific and innovation capacity building in 15 key partner emerging economies.

In Chile, CONICYT has worked with the UK government to implement a portion of this fund to expand cooperation in research and innovation between the two countries. As a result, as of April 2014 the first of several significant new initiatives to support networking between UK and Chilean scientists, joint research and joint innovation projects will be rolled out.

Newton Fund resources will help fund an increased number of network grants to link Chilean and UK research centres - through the existing CONICYT 2014 Call for Proposals in Support of International Networking between Research Centres.

A second initiative will support

for the first time joint research between the UK and Chile through the CONICYT 2014 Call in Support for the Development of International Research Projects. These projects should involve groups of researchers in Chile and researchers in the UK who are developing projects with the support of one of the UK Research Councils.

A further initiative to be introduced this year considers the financing of R&D projects - through CONICYT's Fondef Programme.

These three initiatives represent a first step in this expanded cooperation - with further tools and increased funding planned for the second and third years of the programme.

Words from the British Ambassador to Chile

I am delighted to announce the new Newton Fund to promote co-operation in science and innovation between the UK and Chile. I believe that this will lead to a step change in collaboration between our two countries in a key area of interest for both our governments. Science and innovation is a key priority during my time here as the British Ambassador. I also have a keen personal interest in this area, having worked for 15 years in the British equivalent of CONICYT before joining the Foreign Office.

The Newton Fund offers £4 million a year for science and innovation cooperation with Chile for three years, with matched local funding. We hope it will become a unique platform to support the economic development of Chile. We expect the programme to contribute significantly towards science and innovation capacity building in Chile.

Chile has been chosen as one of the fifteen countries eligible, from various emerging economies, because of its interest in developing science and its innovation capacity; the good quality of science base; its solid institutions; and the potential for greater knowledge-led economic growth.

The Fund has three pillars: research, innovation and capacity building. In these areas it aims to - support Chilean research capacity through scientific collaborations between Chile and the UK in areas of joint interest and of global excellence; help add value in the Chilean economy through industrial research development and the commercialisation of technology, in collaboration with UK partners; and support the development of relevant human capacity in Chile for research and innovation.

The Fund will engage with a range of partners in Chile. We are very pleased that CONICYT will be one of our key partners. The first calls to be announced under the Newton Fund in Chile are with CONICYT, and will be in academic mobility and joint research. We look forward to announcing further calls in the future.



Fiona Clouder, British Ambassador to Chile.

Massachusetts BioMedicine scientific mission to Chile

CONICYT brought to Chile a delegation of five scientists from Massachusetts with the purpose of strengthening scientific and technological cooperation in an area of increasing focus in Chile. The scientific mission, which took place between the 13th and 17th of January in Santiago, Concepción and Valparaíso, included meetings at some of the main institutions dedicated to research and innovation in biomedicine in Chile, as well as two workshops aimed at young researchers.

All five participants of the Global BioMedicine scientific mission have developed distinguished careers in research and development in the area of Biomedicine representing the different stages of innovation, from fundamental research to patenting and commercialisation. Their visit to Chile provided them with the possibility to expand their knowledge about the Chilean R&D ecosystem and to establish links for future collaboration in three fundamental areas: science-to-science, science-to-business and business-to-business.

According to Dr. Eric Baehrecke from the University of Massachusetts, "the development of science and discoveries in Chile seem to be well supported, perhaps better than in the U.S., but it seems that the gap between these discoveries and their potential application is greater. For this reason one of the things we aimed with this mission was to improve the ability of Chilean scientists to decrease that gap and establish collaborations that take advantage of the quality of the science in Chile and the



strengths we have in the U.S., specifically in Massachusetts."

Lauren Celano, CEO of Propel Careers, a Boston based life sciences search and career development company said that during the mission they "met many passionate scientists who truly want to impact Chilean as well as global scientific challenges. We also met with the National Association of Postdoctoral Researchers (ANIP) and learned about the work they are doing to develop the future generation of Chilean scientists. I am very inspired by the mission and look forward to contributing to initiatives to continue to foster Chile's development."

The scientific mission activities were carried out at the Centre for Genomics and Bioinformatics of Universidad Mayor, Fundación Chile, Universidad de Concepción, Fraunhofer Chile, Fundación

(from left to right) Gonzalo Arenas, CONICYT International Cooperation Programme Director, Gonzalo Jordán, Fondef's Director, Dr. Dana Ono, venture capitalist, Dr. Nancy Levy, Managing Partner of Biohealth Management, Julie Strong, MIT representative in Chile, Lauren Celano, CEO of Propel Careers, Dr. Eric Baehrecke, Professor in Cancer Biology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Dr. Yuly Fuentes, the mission's scientific coordinator, Tomas Niklitschek CEO of Kinostics SpA, and Dr. Ximena Luengo, former Fonis' Director., at CONICYT.

Ciencia y Vida, the Centre for Bioinformatics and Integrative Biology of Universidad Andrés Bello, the Valparaíso Interdisciplinary Centre of Neuroscience (CINV) of Universidad de Valparaíso, the Biomedicine Neuroscience Institute (BNI) of Universidad de Chile, and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

CONICYT reinforces ties with regional partners at CELAC meeting

The Second Meeting of Senior Science & Technology Officials from the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (SOM CELAC) was held between the 1st and 2nd of April in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The aim of the meeting was to reinforce ties between the countries of the region by exchanging good practices in the development of public policies in science, technology and innovation as tools for development and competitiveness.

The main focus of the meeting was on human talent in science, technology and innovation. The meeting also served to define an action plan for strategic issues and to agree on a work methodology. During the second day of the meeting, CONICYT gave a presentation about Chile's experience promoting human



SOM CELAC in Costa Rica

talent in science and technology, including information about the different instruments available in Chile for this end.

Senior officials also defined the strategic topics for the next SOM CELAC, the working groups, and the strategy for political dialogue with other regions in preparation for the IV SOM CELAC-EU held on the 3rd and 4th of April.

CONICYT announces results of 2013 calls for international cooperation

CONICYT announced in February the results of its 2013 Alliances of Excellence Programme, which will support a total of 36 new projects between researchers from Chile and Harvard University, Columbia University, UC Berkeley and MIT. The projects have received support to develop knowledge in a variety of areas, establish scientific links and carry out research visits in academia or industry.

The 2013 Alliances of Excellence Programme received over a hundred applications, and included for the first time the participation of UC Berkeley and Columbia University. Previously, the Under Secretary of Economy for the Ministry for Economy, Development and Tourism of Chile had established alliances with MIT and Harvard in 2011 and 2012, respectively.

Other results announced during the past period April 2014

were those of the VI MATH AmSud Cooperation Regional Programme Call, which selected a total of six projects, two with participation from Chilean researchers, for the exchange of researchers and PhD students from Chile, Brazil and France. Meanwhile, the VIII STIC-AmSud Cooperation Regional Programme Call selected a total of 14 projects, seven with participation from Chilean researchers, for the exchange of researchers and PhD students from Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and France.



UPDATES

**EU-LAC Workshop on ICT**

The ALCUE NET - Latin American, Caribbean and European Union Thematic Workshop on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) took place on the 19th and 20th of March in CONICYT.

The objective of the workshop was to prepare recommendations for the ALCUE NET Concept Note proposed to the EU-CELAC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Costa Rica. The Concept Note recommended ICT priorities for national science, technology and innovation agencies involved in the ERANET-LAC project to fund through new joint calls under development. The two topics recommended were: improving wellbeing through inclusive e-Health and smarter, inclusive and sustainable cities. Both topics were endorsed by the SOM EU-CELAC.

The workshop was also an occasion for key actors from government agencies, research institutions and experts to identify research topics in ICT of mutual interest, in the light of future funding opportunities, as well as exploring the possibilities of greater coordination of research initiatives and national funding instruments.

The workshop was the last of four thematic workshops organised within the framework of the ALCUE-Net project. Previous workshops focused on renewable energy, bioeconomy, and biodiversity.

SOM EU-CELAC

The fourth EU CELAC Science and Technology Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) took place in San José, Costa Rica on the 3rd and 4th of April.

During the meeting the SOM thematic working groups presented the progress made in the implementation of the Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation (JIRI) since the SOM in Brussels in April 2013, and presented their suggestions for topics to be supported through two competitive ERANET LAC joint calls to be launched in 2014 and 2015.

The science and technology senior officials from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean gathered at the summit endorsed 18 topics in the areas of the working groups, namely, bioeconomy including food security, ICT for meeting societal challenges, biodiversity and climate change, renewable energy, and health. The delegates also decided to include career development and mobility of doctorate students as a new line of work within the cross cutting working group. The next SOM will be held in the second half of 2015 in Brussels.



UPDATES

**Launch of Expert Group in ICT**

A new LAC-ICT Expert Group was launched on 1 of April in San José, Costa Rica, as a permanent mechanism to support cooperation in ICT policies between Latin America and Europe.

The group is an initiative of the LEADERSHIP (Latin America-Europe Advanced Dialogues to Enhance ICT Research and Innovation partnerSHIP) project funded by the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The project aims at supporting political dialogue and strategic alliances to strengthen cooperation in research and innovation between Latin America and Europe in the area of ICT.

CONICYT participated in the LAC-ICT Expert Group kick-off meeting as one of LEADERSHIP partners, coordinator of the new expert group, and co-leader of the ICT working group of the EU-LAC Senior Officials Meeting - SOM, making a presentation about political cooperation and bi-regional projects currently supporting cooperation in ICT. The meeting was also attended by over 20 experts who discussed the expert group's three objectives and action plans of the working groups focused on digital agendas, funding mechanism and regulation frameworks in ICT.

Innovation and Technology Transfer Networks from Chile and Europe exchange experiences

A working visit to Spain and Belgium to promote the exchange of experiences between innovation and technology transfer networks in Chile and Europe, and to look at alternatives for future collaboration, took place between the 24th and 28th of March. The activity was supported by the CEST+I project (Chile-European Union STI Initiative).

The innovation and technology transfer networks that participated in the meetings were: the Network of Technology Managers (RedGT) from Chile; ASTP-Proton, a pan-European association for professionals involved in knowledge transfer between universities and industry; the Business-Universities Liason Office (LIEU) from Belgium; and the Network of Offices for the Transfer of Research Knowledge (RedOTRI) from Spain.

During the meetings, the participants shared their experiences in the areas of innovation and technology transfer, the challenges of collaborating with networks, and the development of a mid-term action plan to promote collaboration.

The working visit was coordinated by IDOM in the framework of the CEST+I project, led by CONICYT. The CEST+I project, financed under the Seventh Framework Programme of the EU, looks among other objectives, to support the creation of networks of Chilean and European researchers, as well as to provide training for stakeholders and researchers groups in areas such as intellectual property rights and patenting.



CASE STUDY

The sky at a click of a mouse

GLORIA is a consortium that includes 12 partners from European institutions and the Universidad de Chile, to grant free and open access to a network of robotic telescopes. Supported by the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), the experience of this project highlights the value of scientific networks to support international cooperation and the truly global nature of scientific enterprise today.

The Chilean involvement in GLORIA (GLObal Robotic Telescopes Intelligent Array for e-Science) began in 2009, two years prior to the formal beginning of the project, when Dr. José Maza, an astronomer and Chilean National Prize winner for Exact Science (1999), attended the First Workshop on Robotic Autonomous Observatories in Malaga, Spain. There, Dr. Maza met Dr. Francisco Sánchez, an industrial engineer from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, and Dr. Alberto Castro-Tirado, an astronomer from the Institute of Astrophysics of Andalucía, who had been discussing the possibility of implementing an ambitious citizen-science project. GLORIA, says Dr. Castro-Tirado “was conceived in Spain in order to grant access to anybody to robotic telescopes all around the world and to broadcast relevant astronomical events so anybody could watch them while the phenomena are going on”.

Dr. Maza recalls that Dr. Sanchez had been to Chile five years earlier and visited the National Astronomical Observatory located on Cerro Calán invited by Dr. Nelson Baloian, his Chilean colleague while studying in Germany and who was interested in robotising a telescope in Calán. “I had never met Dr. Sanchez before, but he approached me at the meeting asking if I was interested in the project. We were about to operate CATA 500, a robotic telescope in Cerro Tololo (Elqui Valley, northern Chile) and I offered to make this available for the project”, says Dr. Maza.

A wholly equal partnership

GLORIA integrates 17 telescopes located in four continents. Among them CATA 500, a robotic telescope of the Universidad de Chile with an aperture of 50 cm, is one of the GLORIA network’s most powerful telescopes, in a privileged



Total Solar Eclipse 2013 in Kenya, Credit: J.C. Casado

CASE STUDY

position, providing access to extremely clear skies.

According to Dr. Castro-Tirado, the value of collaborating with their Chilean partners is “to grant access to a robotic telescope in the South Hemisphere which can be accessed while it is daytime in Europe”. In addition to this, the fields of research also overlap, what it is an added value for both teams”. For Dr. Maza participating in this network has been an opportunity to learn how others have solved problems that are common to robotic telescopes. “Robotic telescopes have to be autonomous in a series of aspects and meteorological problems often occur. One does not want the telescope dome to open in the middle of the rain, so sensors are needed to monitor rain, cloud, wind and humidity conditions. Several technical problems are common and one learns what obstacles others have encountered and how they have been overcome”.

The implementation of their own software platform to operate the telescope in Cerro Tololo has been a source of pride for the Chilean partners of GLORIA. Dr. Maza explains that after experiencing some difficulties, they implemented a platform totally different to the one that had been in use, by making adjustments to commercial software. Eduardo Maureira was the computing civil engineer responsible for making the platform work. “We added a new functionality to a commercial software allowing those involved in the project to request telescope observing time”, he explains.

The system soon proved to be effective. Last October the telescope CATA 500 was operated during a meeting held in Malaga to show the progress of the project to delegates from the European Commission. During the demonstration the telescope observed two galaxies, providing evidence of its efficacy. “We provide access to the other side of the sky that they do not see. We are 13 partners, and the Universidad de Chile is the only one outside Europe. We contribute to give the project an edge that makes it much more attractive. On top of that, our telescope is the first one from the network working fairly well”, says Dr. Maza.



Aurora Borealis in Greenland. Credit: J.C. Casado



Total Solar Eclipse 2012 in Australia. Credit: J.C. Casado



Transit of Venus. Credit: J.C. Casado

CASE STUDY



GLORIA project consortium meeting in Marbella, Spain in September 2013.

Universal science

Besides granting access to a robotic telescope under a privileged sky, the Chilean partners of GLORIA also provide support in other project activities. The first of these activities was the live broadcast on the Internet of the transit of Venus in June 2012. The broadcast provided many people on the planet with their only chance to see Venus crossing the face of the sun, an event that will only to be repeated in more than a hundred years time. The project has also brought people all over the world closer to science by broadcasting Total Solar Eclipses from Australia and Kenya, and the spectacular movements of the Aurora Borealis from Greenland. The Universidad de Chile will also provide support for the broadcast of the next astronomical event: the total lunar eclipse on the 15th of April in Peru.

The support provided by the Chilean team, explains Eduardo Maureira, consists in "giving access to a relay server at the Universidad de Chile that receives the real time video transmission signal making it accessible to computers in the region, so that all the public in Latin America interested in watching the transmission, will do it through this server".

As well as broadcasting relevant astronomical events for anybody to watch live, the GLORIA project will also give anybody with an interest in astronomy, not only astronomers, the possibility to observe and perform experiments. The first of those experiments launched last January was Personal Space, a web based tool that allows the public to make a personal

"THE SKY IS A LANDSCAPE THAT MODERN MANKIND HAS IGNORED. WE BELIEVE THAT WHAT COVERS OUR HEADS IS THE ROOF OF OUR HOUSES, BUT DO NOT REALIZE THAT ABOVE ALL OF US THERE ARE MILLIONS OF BEAUTIFUL STARS THAT ARE PART OF OUR OWN SPACE"

CASE STUDY

connection to the universe by linking significant events in their own life with what was above them in the sky at that moment. "The sky is a landscape that modern mankind has ignored. We believe that what covers our heads is the roof of our houses, but do not realize that above all of us there are millions of beautiful stars that are part of our own space", explains Dr. Maza.

Later this month, GLORIA will launch another two experiments. The Solar Activity Experiment, where the public will help experts studying solar activity by using a mobile phone application that provides sun images, and another experiment on the brightness variation of the stars. "The idea is that experiments bring questions to people's minds and make them interested in better understanding the phenomena in front of their eyes. There are many eye-catching astronomical events whose explanation leads us to fundamental physics phenomena. By taking a playful approach one can bring science closer to the public and get them to understand a little bit more about science, the importance of logical thinking and the process of scientific discoveries", explains Dr. Maza.

In the future this telescope network is expected to bring in more collaboration with Chile. Dr. Castro-Tirado says that they "expect to continue the collaboration in the years to come as Dr. Maza's group is very interested in supernovae research. In fact, the supernovae to be discovered by his CATA 500 telescope could be confirmed in hours by the BOOTES-3 telescope in New Zealand. Furthermore, in collaboration with Dr. Maza, we expect in 2015 to install another 60 cm BOOTES telescope in Chile, to complete the BOOTES-3 observations and to establish synergies with CATA 500". "Astronomy, highlights Dr. Maza, is a universal science. There is not Chilean or Argentinian astronomy, only astronomy. If you look at what others are doing, the problems they are facing and how they are approaching them there is always an opportunity to learn. This is my first time participating in an international project such as this and the experience has been a good one. My attitude has been that of sharing my experience, telling the other participants that we have failed five times but succeed on this other front, and that is the attitude I like to see in others when taking part in a forum".



CATA 500 Dome

"...THERE ARE MANY EYE-CATCHING ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS WHOSE EXPLANATION LEADS US TO FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICS PHENOMENA. BY TAKING A PLAYFUL APPROACH ONE CAN BRING SCIENCE CLOSER TO THE PUBLIC AND GET THEM TO UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT SCIENCE, THE IMPORTANCE OF LOGICAL THINKING AND THE PROCESS OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES."

More information:
<http://gloria-project.eu/>
personal-space.eu/

What benefits will the enhanced CONICYT-BMBF partnership bring to researchers?

The new international joint research programme to be launched later this month by CONICYT and the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) marks the beginning of a new phase in the scientific and technological cooperation between Chile and Germany. Inge Lamberz De Bayas from BMBF describes the opportunities that this new initiative will bring for researchers in both countries.

The long lasting relationship of cooperation between BMBF and CONICYT is getting a new impulse with the International Joint Research Programme being introduced by both institutions this year. The backdrop to this new initiative is the Programme for International Scientific Cooperation (PCCI for its Spanish acronym) developed by both BMBF and CONICYT some twenty years ago. This programme supported researcher mobility to link projects in Chile and Germany by funding travel activities (flights and daily allowance) for scientific projects for two years with a view to assisting bilateral mobility projects develop into joint research projects supported by other programmes and organisations like the EU.

The main thematic areas of scientific cooperation between Germany and Chile considered under this programme were: biotechnology (especially nutrition), renewable energies, sustainable development of natural resources, environmental research, marine and polar research, and photonics. Since the start of the Programme for International Scientific Cooperation in the early 90's up until the latest call in 2013, a total of 124 projects have been funded.

The intensification in the last three years of scientific cooperation between Germany and Chile has made it necessary to scale up cooperation offering scientists the possibility to



The new CONICYT-BMBF joint research call will include sustainable mining as one of the thematic areas.

develop not only mobility but also joint research projects.

Deeper scientific cooperation

The new and bigger programme to support bilateral cooperation in science and technology between Chile and Germany began to be discussed by BMBF and CONICYT in 2013.

The aim is to support not only new but also existing cooperation projects. The emphasis of the new bilateral call will be on scientific excellence. In the case of German research teams, they may also include the participation of smaller and medium-sized enterprises with research departments.

The main thematic areas of this new call are: biotechnology, sustainable mining and raw materials, environmental research and environmental technologies (including renewable energies and marine and polar research).

The duration of the projects to be funded is three years. Support will be provided for personal costs, travelling and daily allowance, workshops, consumables and laboratory material. The total budget will be around 480.000 Euros (240.000 Euros for the German and the Chilean scientist group respectively) per

project. CONICYT and BMBF want to finance five new projects per year.

Both partners want to intensify the German-Chilean scientific cooperation with this new programme and give scientists from both countries the possibility to work together in research projects. Research groups developing projects under this new programme can use the results obtained to prepare for bigger cooperation projects in other programmes, namely, the EU, BMBF, DFG or Chilean programmes at CONICYT, CORFO, and others.

The new CONICYT-BMBF partnership supports Chilean researchers to enter in German and European investigation programmes and innovation. With this partnership Chile gets closer to achieving its aim of performing a leading role in research in Latin America and the world.



Inge Lamberz De Bayas.

“THE INTENSIFICATION IN THE LAST THREE YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN GERMANY AND CHILE HAS MADE IT NECESSARY TO SCALE UP COOPERATION OFFERING SCIENTISTS THE POSSIBILITY TO DEVELOP NOT ONLY MOBILITY BUT ALSO JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS”.



Dr. Jorge Gordin

In 2013 the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) teamed up with CONICYT to support development research for the Americas in Chile. As a result, Dr. Jorge Gordin, an associate professor at the School of Political Science of Universidad Diego Portales, received IDRC's support to explore the effects of institutional design on conflict management in Latin America. We asked Dr. Gordin to explain what the contribution of his project could be to the development agenda.

Can you tell us what the main focus of your research project is?

The main focus is the connection between institutional design and conflict management. The main thesis of this project is that conflicts of diversity, understood as conflicts of identity, such as ethnicity, or distributional solved types of institutional mechanisms, some of which could be designed over time. So, the assumption is that by adopting good institutional design it is possible to attain good outcomes with regards to the management of those conflicts. On the one hand, we focus on identity conflicts, which is especially the case of the aboriginal minorities in Chile and Bolivia, and on the other hand, we take the case of Brazil and Mexico, which are countries with

large territories where we see a great deal of important gaps with regard wealth and the distribution of financial resources.

What could be the contribution of this project to the international debates on development issues?

Some people disagree on the significance of institutions for sorting out identity problems. They believe that they can be exclusively solved by educational means for example, and not by adopting certain institutional arrangements. With this project we aim at contributing to this particular debate by conducting empirical studies on specific features of institutional design that can effectively be used to solve diversity conflicts. A major part

of the analysis carried out within the development agenda is of a structural nature which means that sometimes they tend to take place on a very macro level overlooking small arrangements that can be made in the institutional domain to advance the development agenda. If you want to close the gap among regions and reach development goals, maybe you do not need a revolution, or to make structural changes, but to adopt certain institutional features, certain types of arrangements, or maybe to introduce changes to the electoral system.

How has the collaboration with the University of Brasilia contributed to the development of the project?

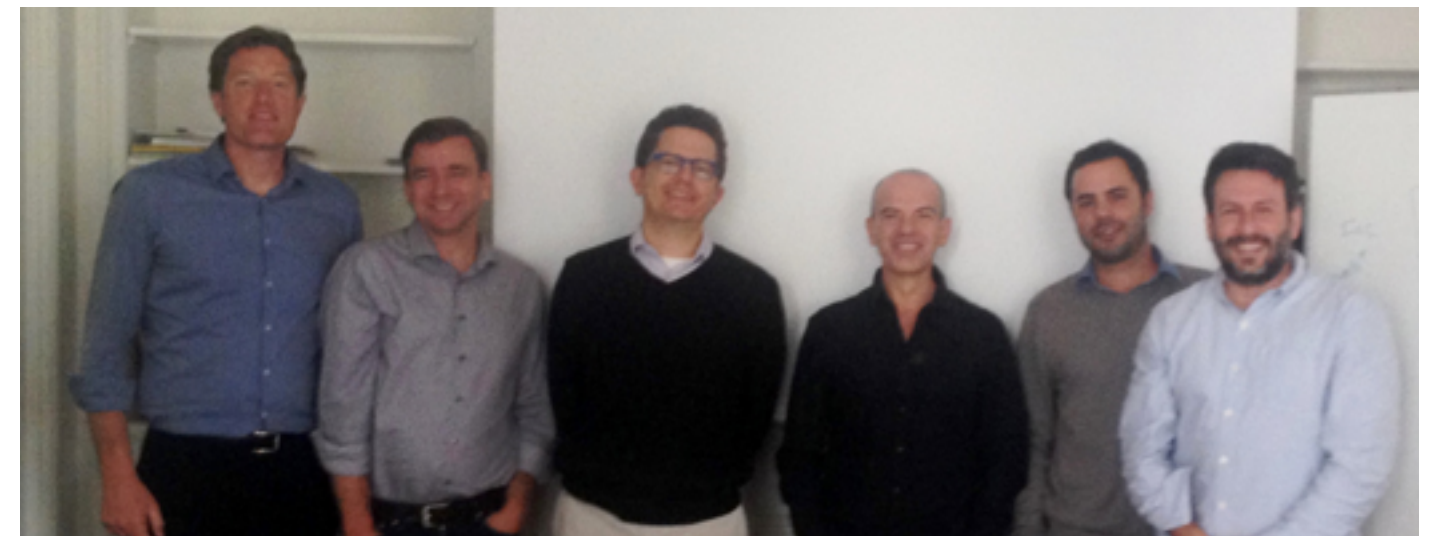
For intellectual and practical purposes the University of Brasilia is a fully associated member of the project. We have an ongoing collaboration with the University of Brasilia, through Prof. Lucio Renno who is an associated researcher in this project. I have been in touch with Prof. Renno for years and it is wonderful that considering I am in Chile and he in Brazil we can

continue developing our common research agenda. The goals of the project were developed jointly with Prof. Renno and we also have organised two international workshops in Santiago. In the first workshop, which took place at the beginning of April, we produced, in collaboration with world-class scholars in institutional design, such as Marcus Kurtz, David Samuels, among others, the theoretical underpinning which will serve as a base for the empirical part of the project.

Can you describe what your plans are beyond this project?

We plan to continue collaborating with our partners in this project, Sergio Toro from Temuco and Prof. Renno from University of Brasilia and to try to attract further funding, because we believe that, considering this project is being carried out in a year, even if we make significant advances the idea will be to keep the project open and going.

"IF YOU WANT TO CLOSE THE GAP AMONG REGIONS AND REACH DEVELOPMENT GOALS, MAYBE YOU DO NOT NEED A REVOLUTION, OR TO MAKE STRUCTURAL CHANGES, BUT TO ADOPT CERTAIN INSTITUTIONAL FEATURES, CERTAIN TYPES OF ARRANGEMENTS, OR MAYBE TO INTRODUCE CHANGES TO THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM".



Zachary Elkins from the University of Texas at Austin (left), Marcus Kurtz from the Ohio State University, David Samuels from the University of Minnesota, Jorge Gordin and Fernando Rosenblatt from Universidad Diego Portales, and Lucio Renno from University of Brasilia.

Take advantage of 2014 international cooperation opportunities!

10 calls to support international cooperation on different levels are open or are about to open for applications with total funding available from CONICYT of nearly US\$4 million. Learn about what they have to offer and make sure you do not miss out on the opportunity to add an international edge to your research ideas.

1 Programme for international scientific cooperation

Want to effectively develop your ideas with a view to building a collaborative agenda for the long term? The Programme for International Scientific Cooperation offers the opportunity to take the first step with a project involving the exchange of researchers, PhDs and postdocs between Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Germany, Mexico and France. The duration of projects funded is between 1 and 2 years.

Dr. Marcela Cruchaga, from Universidad de Santiago, who has successfully developed mobility projects with France in the area of materials engineering, says that "without this support we had been unable to perform any action. Having this funding for exchange helps to establish relationships and start developing themes that complement your national projects. On that base, people get interested in participating in joint projects, to get to know each other and to establish work methodologies".



2 ECOS-CONICYT scientific cooperation programme

Researchers from Chile and France have the opportunity to scale up existing collaboration projects or start developing new ones by taking advantage of this opportunity that involves scientific cooperation between both countries through the exchange of researchers, PhDs and postdocs during a period of 3 years. The programme considers the publication of research results by the end of the period.

Details for how to apply to these & the other programmes follow on page 24.

3

Alliances of Excellence

This programme supports projects promoting thematic networks between researchers in Chile and Harvard University, Columbia University, UC Berkeley and MIT. Successful applicants may receive up to US\$30,000.

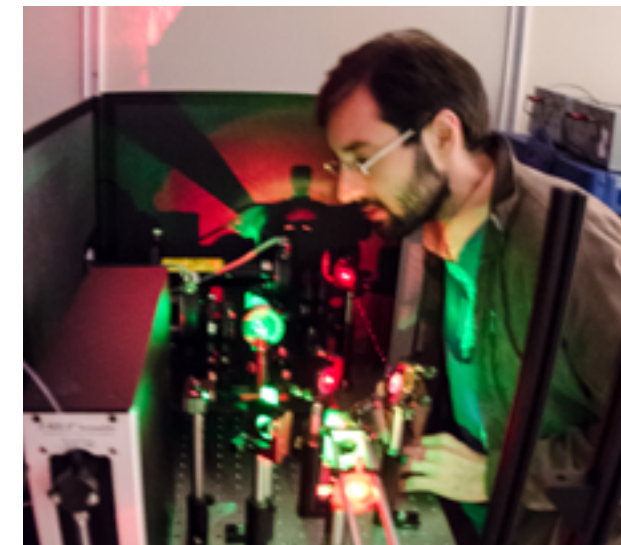
Dr. Christian Wilson of the Universidad de Chile, who is developing a project in collaboration with Dr. Carlos Bustamante of UC Berkeley in the area of single molecules manipulation, says that this opportunity "is vital to effectively develop many ideas, helping to consolidate research groups and acting as a catalyzer for Chile's development". Besides, the project says Dr. Wilson, "will allow us to bring cutting-edge equipment to Chile and enable students from Chile to visit Dr. Bustamante's laboratory, and then transfer their knowledge to other colleagues in South America".

4 & 5

STIC & MATH AmSud cooperation regional programmes

Research groups from the field of Information and Communication Technologies and Mathematics, can take advantage of these programmes to consolidate their international collaboration network. The programmes are open to groups of researchers in Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and France.

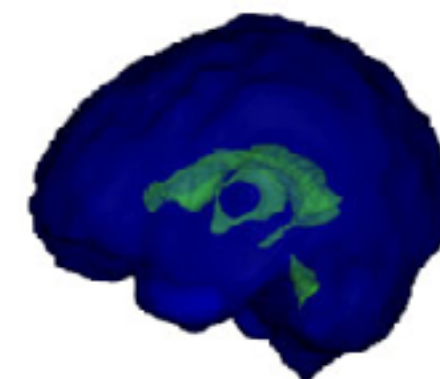
Dr. Nancy Hitschfeld, from Universidad de Chile coordinated the Chilean team of the PLOMO project funded by the STIC AmSud Regional Programme. According to Dr. Hitschfeld, this programme "gives researchers a great opportunity to initiate a collaboration between researchers from France and South-America. That is why seven years ago I decided to apply for funds together with researchers from France and Brazil, to build a research network and to develop a framework for the construction of physical models of soft tissues from medical images. We organized several research meetings, which allowed us to coordinate and consolidate our research collaboration. We generated several publications and co-guided PhD students. Thanks to the PLOMO project, I was able to start a new and productive research collaboration that holds until today".



6

Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide

FONDECYT Regular and FONDAPE researchers can benefit from this call by having the opportunity to establish ties with potential U.S. scientists in the early stages of their career. The call is open to National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellows from the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) making satisfactory progress towards their PhDs and who have the support of the lead researcher of a current FONDECYT Regular or FONDAPE project to carry out a research visit for up to 10 months in Chile.





7 International networks between research centres

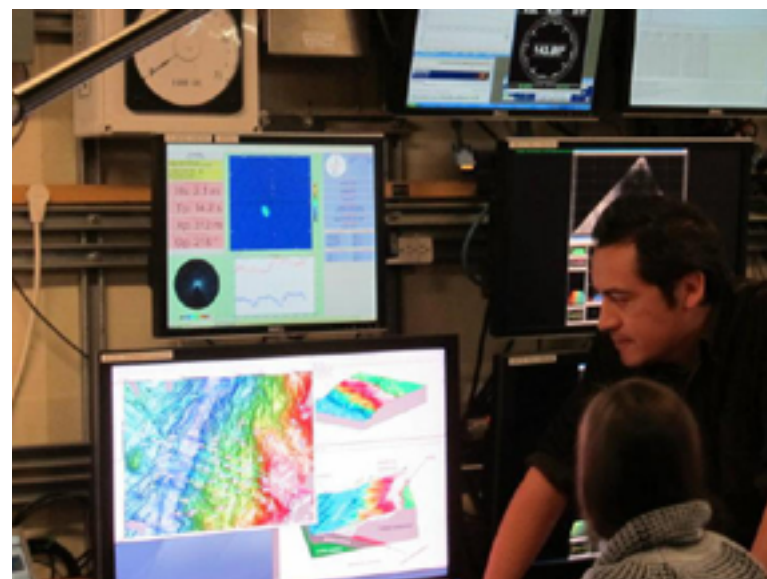
Networking between researchers is a necessary condition for the establishment of a sustainable scientific and technological collaboration. It is through scientific and technological networks that information among researchers is shared and areas of synergy identified. This call offers an excellent opportunity to consolidate international collaboration networks. Successful applicants may receive up to US\$34,000 for projects that can include short visits, seminars and other joint activities.

Dr. Mario Paredes, who headed an international networking project between INIA Chile (National Institute for Agricultural Research) and EMBRAPA Brazil (Brazilian Enterprise for Agricultural Research) says that the project allowed his team to “not only gain a better knowledge of the activities carried out by different actors in Brazil involved in the growing of three agricultural products relevant for both countries (potatoes, fruits and rice), but also the technologies and methodologies used in that country in the area of genetic resources, biotechnologies and genetic improvement”.

8 Support for the development of international research projects

International scientific collaboration is strongly encouraged by this call that funds 3 year research projects between Chilean researchers and researchers supported by international counterparts. This year the call involves the participation of the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and the UK Research Councils. Research areas considered for projects between Chilean researchers and NSF supported researchers are: oceanography, polar research, natural disasters, ecology and biodiversity, social sciences and the humanities, big data and glaciology. All the areas of the 7 UK Research Councils will be considered for projects between Chilean researchers and researchers supported by the UK Research Council. Successful applicants may receive up to US\$300,000.

Dr. Eduardo Contreras from Universidad de Chile is developing a research project in the area of marine geophysics in collaboration with researchers supported by NSF from Oregon State University (OSU) and the SCRIPPS Institution of Oceanography (SIO), UC San Diego. Dr. Contreras and his team saw in this call the opportunity



to strengthen scientific cooperation with their U.S. colleagues and to train postgraduate students within the framework of an international research team. The support received allowed the team to broaden the scope of the cooperation restricted until that moment to the design, field work and collection of geophysical data. “Now we can also analyze the data and give students the possibility to be trained both as researchers of the Universidad de Chile as well as from OSU and SIO”, explains Dr. Contreras.



9 CONICYT-BMBF International Scientific Research Projects

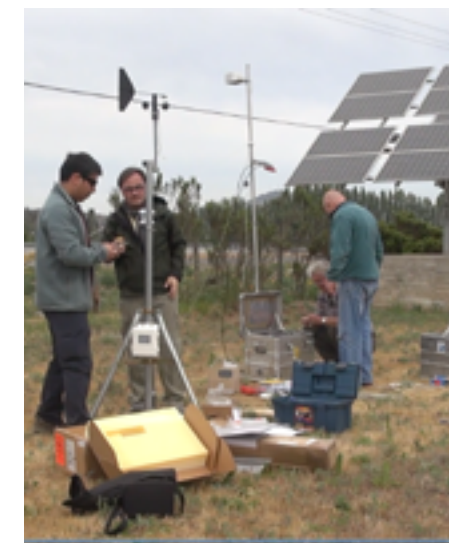
This new opportunity for international collaboration between scientists from Chile and Germany builds upon CONICYT and BMBF's successful Programme for Scientific Cooperation (PCCI) during the last 20 years that has promoted the creation and development of lines of research in specific areas of expertise by supporting the exchange of researchers, doctoral and postdoctoral students from both countries. With this new initiative, both CONICYT and BMBF aim to support scientists to develop truly collaborative 3 year research projects in the areas of sustainable mining and raw materials, biotechnology and environment, ensuring a strong level of commitment from both parts in pursue of their research objectives. Successful applicants may receive up to US\$500,000.

Previous similar calls have involved the participation of other foreign institutional counterparts. Dr. Roberto Urrutia from the Universidad de Concepción, who participated in a CONICYT-SER call for international collaboration with the University of Bern (Switzerland) on climate change and the dynamics of fresh water ecosystems in southern Chile, recognizes that developing this project was “a great opportunity for our research group to develop and strengthen scientific research in the field of climate change, as well as reinforcing our collaborative ties with our scientific counterpart Dr. Martin Grosjean. He has continued collaborating with us up until today by participating in summer courses organized by our team, and supervising theses of researchers who participated in our research group and are now completing postgraduate studies at the University of Bern”.

10 Abate Molina Prize

This unique opportunity offers research institutions in Chile the possibility to give recognition to outstanding foreign researchers or experts who reside outside Chile for their contribution to science and technology advancement in any field of research, enabling them to carry out a 4 months stay in Chile to develop research projects. The award carries with it a grant of around US\$46,000.

The 2013 Abate Juan Ignacio Molina Prize for Excellence in Science was awarded to the German scientist Dr. Jost Heintzenberg, who has collaborated with researchers at the Centre for Environmental Technologies (CETAM) of the Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María (USM) for more than 18 years. Dr. Francisco Cereceda says that the award allowed Dr. Heintzenberg to participate in international workshops and various other activities organized by CETAM, as well as in monitoring campaigns. Furthermore the prize, says Dr. Cereceda, “hugely reinforced the possibility of future collaboration based on the laboratory and field research conducted during Dr. Heintzenberg's stay”.



Chilean Networks Around the World

A great deal of international cooperation in science and technology involving Chilean researchers is the result of connections established within Chilean networks around the world.

These networks gather researchers at different stages of their careers, from Masters students to experienced researchers working at foreign universities, who are on the move to facilitate the exchange of ideas, experiences and information among Chilean researchers abroad, as well as to support international scientific collaboration between Chile and the countries they operate in.

We introduce this new section of our newsletter which in the coming months will feature collaborative research projects involving the participation of Chilean researchers abroad by providing an overview of the activities carried out by some of the most active Chilean networks around the world.



Red Inveca operates officially in Germany since 2012 with members distributed all over the country, plus a broader network of contacts including Chilean and German research institutions. Currently, Red Inveca is focused on incorporating to the network German researchers with an interest in Chile as well as establishing partnerships with relevant institutions in both countries. During 2014 Red Inveca's plans are to hold meetings with other networks of Chilean researchers around the world, organise a joint event around renewable energies with German universities, and to hold their third annual conference in Bamberg next October.



In France, the network EchFrancia has since 2006 organised seven academic seminars providing researchers a multidisciplinary space to share the progress of their theses to more experienced researchers. The proceedings of the seminars have been made available to a broader audience through the network's electronic publication "Coloquios EchFrancia". During 2014 EchFrancia will be focused on the organization of thematic seminars and their VIII annual conference in November at Sorbonne University.



Nexos Chile-USA was officially established in the Washington D.C area in 2010 with members from the National Institute of Health (NIH), University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University. Following their first meeting Nexos Chile-USA increased its membership to include Chilean researchers in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Colorado, Arizona, and more recently Texas.

Nexos Chile-USA members gather annually in a conference to present the progress of their research, and discuss issues of interest to the Chilean scientific community. Another initiative taken forward by the members of this network has been the dissemination of a series of documents and interviews about life in the USA, how to apply for doctoral and postdoctoral programmes and to foster Chilean researcher's scientific activities in the USA. In 2014 Nexos Chile-USA will be expanding its activities to the Chicago-Michigan area, and holding its annual conference in October at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.



RedInche was officially established in Spain in 2013, though researchers based in Barcelona had been exchanging information since 2009 and even held the I Conference of Chilean Researchers in Barcelona in

2010. The following year the network published the book *Socializing Knowledge* including the papers presented at the conference. Now RedInche includes researchers from different parts of Spain including Madrid, Cadiz, Bilbao, Tarragona and Valencia. During 2014 the network will be organising thematic seminars and will launch a second proceedings book including research papers presented at the II Conference of Chilean Researchers in Spain held in Barcelona in 2013. The III Conference of Chilean Researchers in Spain will take place in May 2015.



In Canada, Redlcec brings together Chilean researchers in Canada since April 2013. The network is focused on promoting and strengthening connections between multidisciplinary researchers in both countries with a view to identifying and maximising collaboration opportunities in all scientific fields. In 2014 the network will be holding its II Colloquium Redlcec, at the Liu Institute for Global Issues of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver (October 4) where over 100 participants are expected to attend. Additionally, academic, professional and social forums are being held in different provinces across Canada and Chile, in order to maintain Redlcec members engaged and recruit new members.

International Networking between Research Centres 2014

who can apply?

National science and technology research centres formally established in Chile

disciplines

All areas of expertise

funding

Up to CLP\$16.000.000 (circa US\$34,000)

deadline

29th May 2014

Abate Molina Prize 2014

who can apply?

Nominations may come from a university, institute or a public or private research centre in Chile

disciplines

All areas of expertise

funding

CLP\$23.000.000 (circa US\$46,000)

deadline

23rd May 2014

Terms of reference and application at:

www.conicyt.cl/pci

CONICYT-ECOS Scientific Cooperation Programme
Exchange Projects

who can apply?

Researchers from universities, not-profit research centres or institutes, public or private, in Chile and France*

disciplines

All areas of expertise

funding

Airfares and expenses for scientific missions and stays in Chile and France

deadline

4th June 2014

CONICYT-STIC AmSud
Cooperation Regional Programme

who can apply?

Public or private research laboratories and units, linked to an institution of higher education, research organisations or private companies from one of the participant countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and France).

disciplines

Information and Communication Technologies

funding

Airfares and expenses

deadline

15th May 2014

*Researchers in Chile need to apply to CONICYT and researchers in France to ECOS.

CONICYT-MATH AmSud Cooperation Regional Programme

who can apply?

Public or private research laboratories and units, linked to an institution of higher education, research organisations or private companies from one of the participant countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and France)

disciplines

Mathematics

funding

Airfares and expenses

deadline

15th May 2014

CONICYT-BMBF International Scientific Research Projects

who can apply?

Researchers sponsored by a public or private non-profit institution in Chile jointly with researchers from Germany.

disciplines

Sustainable mining and raw materials, biotechnology and environment.

funding

Up to CLP\$150.000.000 (€240,000)

deadline

30th June 2014

Terms of reference and application at:

www.conicyt.cl/pci

International Scientific Cooperation Programme
Exchange Projects

who can apply?

Researchers form public or private non-profit universities, research centres or institutes in Chile jointly with researchers from Chile, Germany, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and France.

disciplines

Varies depending on the foreign counterpart

funding

Airfares and expenses for researchers, and doctoral or postdoctoral students.

deadline

4th June 2014

Call for proposals supporting the development of international
research projects

who can apply?

Research teams in Chile sponsored by one or more Chilean institutions, public or private, engaged in scientific research and development. Applicants must also be able to demonstrate the commitment of one or more researchers supported by either the US National Science Foundation (NSF) or the UK Research Council to participate in the project.

disciplines

CONICYT-US projects: oceanography, polar research, natural disasters, ecology and biodiversity, social sciences and the humanities, big data and glaciology.

CONICYT-UK projects: all the areas of the 7 UK Research Councils

funding

Up to CLP\$150.000.000 (circa US\$300,000)

deadline

5th June 2014

Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW) for NSF-GRF

who can apply?

National Research Foundation Graduate Research Fellows who have completed at least one year of their graduate programme at the time of application. Only PhD seeking fellows may be able to apply.

disciplines

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

funding

Airfares and monthly allowance

deadline

Dates are published at <http://www.nsf.gov>

Alliances of Excellence Programme

who can apply?

Researchers from Harvard University, Columbia University, UC Berkeley or the MIT jointly with researchers with a permanent affiliation with a Chilean research institution or institution of higher learning.

disciplines

All areas of expertise

funding

Up to US\$30,000

deadline

Varies according to the university.

April



16

Info Day on International Cooperation Opportunities in S&T – Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (Valparaíso, Chile)

24

Talk on Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar (UAVSAR) – of the NASA Airborne Science Programme (Santiago, Chile)

24

CONICYT-AKA Project closure seminar: (Santiago, Chile)

24

Info Day on International Cooperation Opportunities in S&T – Universidad Católica del Norte (Antofagasta, Chile)

29

Open Day: How to submit my proposal for international cooperation (Santiago, Chile)

May



5- 6

ALCuENET Capacity Building and International Networking Event (Montevideo, Uruguay)

8

CONICYT-AKA Project closure seminar: Advances in the psychology of reading in transparent languages – the Chilean and Finnish Experience (Santiago, Chile)

26-28

3rd Annual Meeting of the Global Research Council (Beijing, China)

June



2-3

5th INCO Conference: Addressing Future Challenges (Athens, Greece)

4-6

India-Chile Joint Workshop on Big Data (Goa, India)

5-6

EU-LAC Funding Agencies Meeting (Spain)

the IR team

Director

Gonzalo Arenas

Director's Secretary

Ingrid Tapia

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