

CONICYI Ministerio de Educación

## international relations CONICYT

Gobierno de Chile

> CONICYT and NSF sign new collaboration agreement

- > Chile China collaboration bringing positive results
- > UdeC´s research centres strengthen ties with Germany, China
- > Latest calls for proposals in international cooperation

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editoria news clips

projects

interview

## call for proposals

agenda

t is with great pleasure that we are sending you Opportunities such as these are a result of the inthe first newsletter of 2013. Although we are tense networking we have been doing with internajust in the first quarter of this year, these have tional counterparts. To give a brief glimpse of this been some very eventful and exciting months. work, in the last two months we have organised, participated and lead joint commission meetings with Probably some of our most exciting news is that we Canada, the European Commission and next week now have 10 calls to support international cooperawith the United States. We also just this week cotion on different levels open for application. Just two chaired the Senior Officials Meeting of EU and CELAC of these calls, the 2013 call for proposals supporting in Science and Technology, a meeting that gathers the development of research projects between Chile more than 60 countries from the two regions.

and the United States and the 2013 call in support international networking between research centres, will be awarding over two million dollars! This figure is the largest amount ever to be available at anyonetime to Chilean researchers in support of their international endeavors.

Another highlight of the period has been the impor-Chile has the scientific capacities to be an important tant progress made in terms of our collaboration with partner in international research. China. It was only three years ago that we held the first joint commission with the Ministry of Science and Technology from China to jump-start our collab-We hope you find the information we provide here to oration. This year we are discussing the installation be of great interest and relevance. Please never hesof the first Chinese Academy of Science astronomy itate in contacting us if you would like any additional centre outside of China, a significant step forward material. in our relations with China that is sure to open up a whole new spectrum of possibilities for our two scientific communities.

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We are convinced that the opportunities we can open for researchers in Chile begin at intense networking sessions such as those just mentioned. These examples along with those you will find throughout these pages to come clearly show what we can achieve. Certainly more opportunities will follow, because

> Department of International Relations CONICYT

### GROW NSF graduate fellows to collaborate with researchers in Chile

he Director of the US National Science Foundation (NSF), Dr Subra Suresh, and the President of CONICYT. Dr José Miguel Aguilera, signed before the President of Chile Sebastián Piñera, a Letter of Intent to implement the GROW programme (Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide) in Chile, which will allow science and engineering NSF graduate fellows to access research opportunities in Chile.

Graduate research fellows from the US selected to participate in GROW will receive funding from NSF to travel to Chile alongside funding from CON-ICYT to collaborate with local researchers between 3 to 12 months. During the signing ceremony the President of CONICYT announced the organisational plans to encourage an ever increasing number of NSF graduate fellows to collaborate with research institutions in Chile, adding that "Chile has extraordinary natural laboratories where postgraduate fellows can carry out frontier research".

Chile is the first Latin American country to join the select group of

GROW which includes Denmark, tor plateau, San Pedro Spain, Finland, France, de Atacama, northern Japan, Norway, Singa- Chile. On the occasion, pore, Sweden, Switzerland and South Korea. ed Chile as a strategic

The authorities of CONI-CYT and NSF met during their visit to ALMA (Atacama Large Millimeter/ submillimeter Array), the largest telescope in history inaugurated on the 13th

participants of March in the Chajnan-Subra Suresh highlightpartner in the astronomy field and the role played by CONICYT in promoting diverse initiatives to potentiate the development of astronomy.



Piñera, President of Chile (left), Dr José Miguel Aguilera, President of CONICYT, Dr Subra Suresh, Director of NSF and Alejandro D. Wolff, US Ambassador to Chile, during the signing in March, of the Letter of Intent to

H.E. Sebastián



proposal of a Chile-Chi- tronomy is a na Joint Research Cen- result of the The for Astronomy was 2012 MoU belaunched during a series of tween CONImeetings in Beijing and Santiago in January and March, respectively, between CONI-CYT and the Chinese Academy between Chile of Sciences (CAS) representatives. The Chinese proposal, consisting of an initial invest- tend to food ment of US\$2 million from security with a visit in April CAS, aims at establishing a from a delegation from the joint research centre in astronomy with branches both in ricultural Beijing and Santiago and considers cooperation with other South American countries. The proposed centre for as-

CYT and CAS. During 2013 cooperation China will also ex-

and

Chinese Academy of Ag-Mechanization Sciences (CAAMS) and a call for expression of interest open to researchers in Chile. Eventually, next

#### **CELAC-EU**

### Senior Officials discuss Joint Initiative for research and innovation

to review the progress made since the SOM in Concepción, Another activity held around Chile, held in March 2012 to the SOM meeting was the identify synergies with oth- workshop "ICT for better er ongoing initiatives in the living: increasing wel-CELAC-EU context and to dis- fare of the societies in cuss and agree on the next Europe, Latin America steps for the future develop- and the Caribbean" orment of this Joint Initiative. ganised by CONICYT and

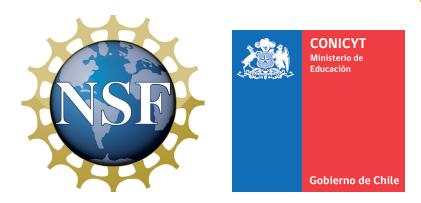
mented by thematic bi-re- with the support of the gional working groups on AMERICAS project, on bioeconomy including food se-

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he CELAC-EU Science and curity, ICT for meeting societal 15th of April. The Latin Amer-Technology Senior Offi- challenges, biodiversity and ica, Caribbean and European cials Meeting (SOM) took climate change, and renewa- Union Network on Research place between the 16th and ble energy. Two new suggest- and Innovation (ALCUE-Net) the 17th of April in Brussels and ed working groups on health project, meanwhile, prepares was co-chaired by CONICYT and career development and to hold its kick off meeting and the European Commission. mobility of doctorate stu- on the 18th and 19th of April dents were presented and also in Brussels. ALCUE-Net is The aim of the meeting was created during the meeting. a support instrument for implementing the SOM activities.

Finland as co-leaders of The Joint Initiative is imple- the ICT working group,

implement GROW





CONICYT delegation meeting with CAS representatives

September a scientific mission will take place in Beijing.



CELAC-EU SOM in Brussels

#### news clips

### CONICYT and EU launch 2013 joint action plan

ONICYT and the European Union, represented by the Directorate General of Research and Innovation, held the annual meeting to monitor the implementation of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between Chile and the EU on the 11th of March in Santiago. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss proposals to boost co-operation in science and technology through partnering initiatives and twinning programmes, and to define a joint plan of action for cooperation during 2013 in areas related to green mining, natural disasters management and polar research.



CONICYT and the EU signed the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement in 2002

CONICYT's President, Dr José Miguel Aguilera, highlighted that "Chile has the capabilities, resources and natural conditions needed to open its doors to international research initiatives in strategic areas, adding that, our country has one of the most open S&T systems, financing foreign researchers and having specific instruments to attract experts and prestigious universities from around the world, all of which demonstrates that we are interested in improving international cooperation, a key tool for the country s



the Delegation

he EU to Chile

development".

Meanwhile, Sigi Gruber, the head of the Delegation of the European Commission, said that the Commission "wants to evaluate how to take advantage of the excellent projects that we both have in the EU and Chile, establishing connections that in the future can benefit researchers in both regions".



Chile and European Union representatives during their annual meeting in Santiago

#### CEST+I

## Launch of CONICYT-EU project to strengthen cooperation in S&T and innovation

he Chile-European Union Science, Technology and Innovation Initiative (CEST+I), launched on the 12th of March at CONICYT, is a three year project aimed at contributing to strengthening cooperation in S&T and innovation between the EU and Chile. CEST+I will continue the work done by the CHIEP II project and is framed within the implementation of the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI) between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the EU.



matic areas (Antarctica, climate change, sustainable mining and energy) identified as common social challenges. This initiative is based upon four fundamental pillars: policy, networking between Chilean and European researchers, innovation and the promotion of EU Framework Programmes.

The project, funded by the 7th Framework

Programme of the EU, will address four the-

#### **CONICYT-AKA**

## Supporting Non-conventional renewable energies joint research

ONICYT in partnership with the Academy of Finland (AKA) awarded around CLP ✓ 2,000 million (circa USD 4 million) to five joint research projects on non-conventional renewable energies (NCRC) to be developed by research teams in Chile and Finland.

CONICYT-AKA 2012 call for joint research projects on NCRC<sup>-</sup>s aim is to encourage scientific and tech-**ACADEMY OF FINLAND** nological research collaboration between Chile and Finland through the funding of research projects carried out in both countries. The initiative is part The awarded projects are in the area of solar energy of CONICYT's policy of participating actively in and algae technology and will be developed over programmes and international associative projects a period of three years. The maximum amount of that contribute to the development of high quality funding for each project was CLP\$150 million (cirresearch in Chile, as well as giving local researchers ca US\$315,789) to fund incentives for researchers, the opportunity to participate in frontier research travel, internships, equipment, outreach and operaabroad. tional costs.

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The launching of the CEST+I project in March

CEST+I will be developed in partnership with the German Aerospace Center (DLR), IDOM, a Spanish engineering and consultancy company, and the French Institute of Research for Development (IRD).





# International Networking

## for Better Science

## How the Universidad de Concepción (UdeC) strengthened its international networks with important research centres in Germany and China with the support of CONICYT.

eveloping international research networks in science and technology is not only essential for generating strong STI national systems, but also for finding solutions to a country's social and economic development challenges, as well as contributing to the development of advanced human capital that is able to produce knowledge leading to economic and social development. Conscious about this fact. in 2012 over fifty research centres in Chile applied to CONICYT's call for proposals in support of international networking between research centres. This year's call

is now open for application and will grant over US\$1 million to the awarded projects. We spoke to two of the successful applicants from last year's call, Professor Jorge Rojas, from the EULA centre and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Dr Regis Texeira from the Biotechnology Centre, both from the UdeC, to learn about their experiences participating in networking projects with Germany and China respectively.

#### Going the extra mile

The Environmental Sciences Centre EULA began its activities more than

20 years ago as a result of an international collaboration project between the UdeC and Italian universities during the early 1990s. Nowadays, the EULA Centre has its own physical infrastructure as well as equipment and personnel mainly acquired and educated during the development of that particular collaboration project.

About five years ago the EULA Centre began studying climate change, from a multi and interdisciplinary perspective, and establishing international scientific networks with Latin American countries. However, the EULA centre viewed the International Relations Department (DRI) of CONICYT's 2012 call for proposals in support of international networking between research centres, as an opportunity to take international networking on climate change one step further.

In 2009 Professor Rojas visited the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) invited by the Chilean Embassy in Germany. During that visit, Professor Rojas, learned about PIK's research areas and the important work on climate change carried out by its 300 researchers from the natural and social sciences. The Anillos project (SOC-28) entitled "Social and environmental impacts of climate change in the Bio-Bio region: a challenge for the sustainability of the XXI century", made it possible for the PIK to send a researcher to a climate change seminar that took place at the UdeC in 2009, "but there was not much contact with PIK then as it has been now thanks to the international networking project", says Professor

DRI's international network project, according to Professor Rojas, allowed his research team to consolidate their scientific relation with PIK, "when you have a professor such as Dr Jürgen Kropp, (Deputy chair of the climate impacts and vulnerability department at PIK) coming not just to participate in a seminar but also to lecture at the centre s Doctoral and Master's programme, the benefits are huge". The project, continues Professor Rojas, allowed them to establish a personal and scientific relationship with Professor Kropp and this, he says, strengthened their international network.

A specific proposal that resulted from the project was a possible 6 months visiting lectureship of Dr Kropp at the UdeC, which Professor Rojas thinks would have a massive impact on the education of new researchers, "we are interested in having new researchers on climate change, and an international networking project is very useful for achieving this". Another issue discussed within the network was the possibility of supporting research projects to study local impacts and adaptation to climate change. In Europe, Professor Rojas explains, "a lot has been done on global impacts and adaptation to climate change, but not much on what happens at a local level, and that is something that the PIK is very much interested in".

## Common interests, common benefits

The Biotechnology Centre at UdeC was created in 2002 as a response to the 2000-2006 Development Strategy for the Bio-Bio Region. The activities of the centre are focused on five research areas: aguaculture, biofuels, phytochemistry, environmental microbiology and forest. Dr Regis Teixeira, from the biofuels research area, joined Dr Sofia Valenzuela, from the forest genomics area and Dr Jaime Rodriguez, Director of the Biotechnology centre, to apply to the 2012 call for proposals in support of international networking between research centres having the Beijing Forestry University (BFU) as their international counterpart.

The interest in strengthening ties with the BFU, explains Dr Teixeira, was mainly focused on genomics and forest molecular biology,

Rojas.

#### projects



Dr Jürgen Kropp, Deputy chair of the climate impacts and vulnerability department at PIK

we are interested in having new researchers on climate change, and an international networking project is very useful for achieving this



Climate Change Seminar at UdeC in March 2013

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#### projects

which aims at genetically improving characteristics of trees for the benefit of the national forest industry. The idea of the networking project from the Biotechnology centre came through a contact from Dr Sofia Valenzuela with a colleague in the United States, who had studied with Dr Xiangning Jiang from the BFU. In addition to Dr Valenzuela's contact, the networking project was motivated by the fact that the Biotechnology centre shares a lot in common with the BFU, "We have many similar research areas, trees biomass production, bioenergy, selection and genetic improvement, bioprocesses for the production of biofuels, and a natural resources conservation area", explains Dr Teixeira.

One of the activities carried out within the project, was a 10 day visit to the BFU in June 2012 by the three researchers involved in the networking project. During this stay, the networking project team met the BFU's Rector and Director of International Relations, whom expressed their interest in broadening the BFU's collaboration with South America, and in particular with the UdeC, in order to promote joint research projects and the exchange of both academics and students. Following these initial meetings, thanks to the networking project, in September 2012 a student from the Forest Sciences Master Programme at UdeC carried out a study visit in Beijing for two months. Finally, this month Dr Jiang visited UdeC to participate in a seminar organised by the Biotechnology Centre.



(Left) Professor Jorge Rojas at PIK.

(Below): Suling Gan from Jiangsu Vegetable Investment (left), Dr Regis Teixeira, Dr Sofía Valenzuela and Dr Jaime Rodríguez from UdeC, and Dr Xiangning Jiang and Dr Bolin Zhang from BFU



eira, as the ba-"served developing sis for а document for future more specific research collaborations in areas of common interest. Collaboration between the two institutions will not be limited to these two visits. There will be more specific collaborations to come. In fact, we have agreed to send two more students to Beijing and the BFU has committed to find funding to bring a PhD student to Chile. They showed great interest in the characterisation of forest species that we do, comparatively we have developed this specific area more than they have and therefore can contribute to their work". Dr Teixeira added that, "the BFU has developed some molecular biology techniques that we have recently started to develop and collaborate with them could make the process of learning these techniques smoother".

"THE VISIT OF DR JIANG SERVED AS THE BASIS FOR **DEVELOPING A DOCUMENT** FOR FUTURE MORE SPECIFIC **RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS** IN AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST. COLLABORATION **BETWEEN THE TWO INSTITUTIONS WILL NOT BE LIMITED TO THESE TWO** VISITS. THERE WILL BE **MORE SPECIFIC COLLABORATIONS TO** COME.

The 2013 Call for proposals in support of international networking between research centres is open until 16th May 2013

> For more information contact Marlene Vargas at <u>mvargas@conicyt.cl</u>

#### interview

## name Reiner Arnold line of research Public Law institution University of Regensburg



How did your cooperation with Chile begin?

My first research visit to Chile was in 2003 through a CONICYT project with the Universidad de los Andes about the reform of the judiciary system in Chile. Two years ago I came back, also for a CONICYT project, this time about the applicability of the proportionality principle. I am concerned with comparative law, in particular within the framework of the European Union, the supranationalisation of internal law, and how sovereignty is relativized. It is a great honour having received the Abate Molina award and to be able to deepen cooperation with Chile.

#### Which project will you develop with this award?

The idea is to create a Chilean-German journal that will possibly extend to other countries in

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Latin America, in English, Spanish and Portuguese. This journal will include articles about topics of common interest or a particular interest, but also information and reflection about

the developments in the jurisprudence of the constitutional tribunal in Germany, Chile and the tribunals in Strasbourg and Luxembourg. This because in Europe constitutional developments are more connected than ever with the supranational power of the EU. It is also possible to create a series of Chilean-German monographies, as well as increasing opportunities for German PhDs students, who can speak Spanish and are interested in the structures of Chile, to carry out comparative studies.

Where does the interest in carrying out comparative studies between Chile and Germany lie? Law comparison, in particular in the constitutional sphere, is interesting because the problems are basically the same from one country to another. It is also important to open up the intellectual ca-

The visit of Dr Jiang, says Dr Teix

Abate Juan Igacio Molina Prize for Excellence in Science 2012

pacity to be able to reflect on a thematic of another country. Lecturers and PhD students in Chile show a great interest in constitutional and public law in Germany and other European countries. What happens in Latin America is not well known in Europe, the focus is always on the US or Europe, but it is necessary that we learn more about the developments both in Chile and Latin America.

#### How these comparative studies contribute to finding applications to Chilean and German law?

Comparing public, constitutional or administrative law is quite a new phenomenon. The supranational and international tribunals, particularly the Strasbourg tribunal, that is concerned with the application of the European Convention on Human Rights to 47 European states, has greatly impacted upon the constitutional jurisprudence of the European Council members, and has had a certain impact on the jurisprudence of the Inter-American tribunal and indirectly on Chile's constitutional law. It is important to study this transferring, not just the bilateral one, but also the transferring from Chile towards the Inter-American jurisprudence, which in turn has an impact on Europe. Comparative law involves not only a comparison of norms, but also a comparison of roles. This comparison helps learning about the culture of different countries and continents, as well as facilitating the understanding of your own country s law, for it supposes certain intellectual integration in the culture of the other country.

### International networking between research centres 2013

who can apply? Scientific and Technological Research Centres in Chile formally established or recognized

> disciplines All areas of expertise

funding to CLP\$16.000.000 or CLP\$25.000.000 (circa USD\$34,000 or Up USD\$50,000) depending on country of foreign counterpart centre

> deadline 16th May 2013

## Abate Juan Ignacio Molina Prize for Excellence in Science 2013

who can apply? German researchers with a proven track record of high quality scientific or technological research who have been nominated by a university, institute and/or research centre in Chile

## disciplines

All areas of expertise

funding CLP\$18.000.000 (circa USD\$39,000) plus airfares for the awarded researcher deadline 30th April 2013

#### Terms of reference and application at

www.conicyt.cl/dri/ For further information contact Marlene Vargas (56 - 2) 2365 4426 mvargas@conicyt.cl

call for proposals

## **CONICYT-ECOS Scientific Cooperation Programme Exchange Project**

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 13th June 2013

## CONICYT-STIC/AmSud Cooperation Regional Programme

Research laboratories and units, public or private, linked to higher education institutions, educational organisations or companies.

Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies

#### Terms of reference and application at

http://www.conicyt.cl/dri/ For further information contact Cecilia Velit (56 - 2) 2365 4425 cvelit@conicyt.cl

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

#### who can apply?

### disciplines

funding Airfares and expenses

#### deadline 15th May 2013

## **CONICYT-MATH/AmSud Cooperation Regional Programme**

who can apply? Research laboratories and units, public or private, linked to higher education institutions, educational organisations or companies.

> disciplines Mathematics

funding Airfares and expenses

> deadline 15th May 2013

Terms of reference and application at http://www.conicyt.cl/dri For further information contact Cecilia Velit

(56 - 2) 365 4425 cvelit@conicyt.cl

QUIMAL Astronomy Fund for the Development of **Technologies for National Astronomy** 

> who can apply? Chilean or foreign researchers working at a National Institution

## disciplines

Astronomy, with special emphasis in the design and construction of astronomical instruments and the development of technologies to carry out frontier research in the field of astronomy

funding Up to CLP\$180.000.000 (circa USD\$380,000) per project for 3 years

> deadline 22nd April 2013

#### Terms of reference and application at

http://www.conicyt.cl/dri For further information contact Loreto Izquierdo (56 - 2) 2363 2625 lizquierdo@conicyt.cl

## ALMA-CONICYT Fund for the Development of the Chilean Astronomy

who can apply?

Applications can be put forward either jointly by a national institution and a researcher, or by a researcher with institutional sponsorship

> disciplines Astronomy

funding Up to CLP\$38.000.000 (circa USD\$80,000) depending on the classification of the funded project

> deadline 29th April 2013

## **CONICYT-GEMINI** Fund National Programme for the **Development of Astronomy and Related Sciencies**

Applications can be put forward either jointly by a national institution and a researcher, or by a researcher with institutional sponsorship

Up to CLP\$38.000.000 (circa USD\$80,000) depending on the classification of the funded project

Terms of reference and application at http://www.conicyt.cl/dri For further information contact Loreto Izquierdo (56 - 2) 2363 2625 lizquierdo@conicyt.cl

### who can apply?

## disciplines

Astronomy

#### funding

deadline 6th May 2013



## Supporting the development of research projects between Chile and the United States 2013

### who can apply?

Teams of researchers in Chile, who can confirm the sponsorship of one or more Chilean institutions, public or private, and an affiliation with either an NSF-supported US research team or a US research team working at a public university and/or public research institution of the State of Massachusetts.

#### disciplines

Oceanography, Polar Research, Natural Disasters, Ecology/Biodiversity, Social Sciences

and the Humanities, Biotechnology and related areas		25 - 26	Chile-USA fo technology (
<b>funding</b> Up to CLP\$50.000.000 (circa USD\$100,000) annually, over a period of three years			teennotogy
deadline 9th May 2013		TRC	Massachuse
		TBC	
Exchange projects		17 - 19	INCONTACT o
International Scientific Cooperation Programme 2013	June 🖈	20 - 21	Kick-off mee Republic)
who can apply? Researchers from universities, non-profit research centres or institutes, public or private, in Chile*		TBC	Scientific mi
disciplines Varies depending on the foreign counterpart		26	CYTED progr and instrume
funding Airfares and expenses for researchers, and doctoral or postdoctoral students		27 - 28	CYTED progr Aires, Argent
deadline 13th June 2013			
*Researchers need to apply simultaneously the same proposal to the international counterpart			
Terms of reference and application at			
http://www.conicyt.cl/dri	And the second second		
For further information contact Angela Viola			
(56 - 2) 2363 2625			
aviola@conicyt.cl			

#### agenda

Signing of MoU with University of California, Berkeley (USA)

Kick-off meeting for the ALCUE-Net project (Brussels, Belgium)

Signing of MoU with Columbia University (New York, USA)

CAAMS delegation visit (Santiago, Chile)

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18 - 19

22

24

April 🖈

burth joint committee meeting on science and (Santiago, Chile)

etts scientific mission in Biotechnology (Chile)

conference (Marseille, France)

eting for the ENSOCIO-LA project (Prague, Czech

ission in food security (India)

ramme evaluation commission and review of areas ents meeting (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

ramme extraordinary general assembly (Buenos tina)



## the IR team

Director (a.i.) **Gonzalo** Arenas **Director's Secretary Ingrid Tapia** International Cooperation Unit Coordinator **Rodrigo Monsalve** International Cooperation Programme Coordinator **Cecilia Velit** International Cooperation Programme Coordinator **Marlene Vargas Neira** International Cooperation Programme Coordinator Catalina Palma International Cooperation Programme Coordinator Angela Viola-Glapinska ALMA - GEMINI - QUIMAL Funds Coordinator Loreto Izquierdo Astronomy Budgeting and Management Officer Andrea Zuñiga Executive Secretary to the Astronomy Programme Paola Jarpa

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