



KORANET Newsletter

No. 1 - January 2010

Korean scientific cooperation network
with the European Research Area

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Editorial

It is with great pleasure that we present the first issue of the KORANET Newsletter with information on the activities of our consortium. This first issue offers an overview of the tasks and work of the project and features an interview with the managing coordinator Mrs. Marion Steinberger.

Subsequent pages provide information about past (including reports from the First KORANET Conference in Seoul and the First KORANET Workshop in Istanbul) and future events (notably the upcoming KORANET Pilot Joint Call on Research for Life-long Health).

Aside from serving as a vehicle for the latest news and information on the activities of the project consortium, each issue of the Newsletter will also profile one of the national organisations that make up the consortium. Because the Polish Academy of Sciences is responsible for preparing the Newsletter, this institution has been chosen for the inaugural issue. In

subsequent issues we intend to profile the project coordinator – the International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) at the German Aerospace Agency (DLR), the representative institution from the Republic of Korea – the National Research Foundation (NRF), and the other institutional members of the consortium.

Finally, the closing pages of our Newsletter offer contact information of all project partners.

Janusz Jurczak and
Marek Chmielewski



The KORANET consortium partners at the kick-off meeting in Bonn, Germany



What is KORANET?

KORANET is an ERA-NET funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7).

The overall aim of KORANET is to strengthen the research partnership between Europe and Korea. This will

be achieved through several analytical exercises, the establishment of a joint funding programme as well as jointly organised events.

The project is targeted at national and international stakeholders at policy and programme level, the research community and industry.

Interested in receiving the **KORANET project newsletter** with information on the activities of the KORANET project such as upcoming public events, published reports and other finalised deliverables as well as general news on S&T cooperation between Europe and Korea?

If yes, please send an email to: koranet@dlr.de.

You will then receive the newsletter by email three times a year.

KORANET Objectives

- Improving information exchange and promoting cooperation between Korean and European research communities
- Exchanging best practices as regards the planning and implementation of S&T policies and international S&T cooperation
- Analysing and further developing existing cooperation instruments
- Coordinating bilateral approaches of EU Member States/Associated Countries and Korea
- Identifying priority thematic areas for cooperation
- Establishing an appropriate framework for strategic cooperation
- Developing a one-stop agency for Korean S&T interests
- Learning from completed and ongoing ERA-NETs
- Developing and implementing a concept for a joint funding programme for European-Korean S&T projects
- Increasing Korean participation in FP7

The KORANET Work Packages

KORANET consists of five work packages which will all be implemented simultaneously during the four-year duration of the project (2009-2012).

Four of the work packages are thematic (analyses, foresight, joint funding and joint activities) and one deals with the general management of the project.

WP 1: Analysis, monitoring, review

(WP leaders: National Research Foundation of Korea and British Council)
Mapping of regional approaches including the preparation of reports and specific studies on S&T cooperation as well as an analysis of cooperation instruments and approaches

WP 2: Strategy and foresight

(WP leader: Centre for Social Innovation)
Strategic discussions, setting framework objectives, identification of cooperation areas of common interest

WP 3: Joint funding

(WP leader: Centre National de Recherche Scientifique)

Development and implementation of a pilot joint funding scheme and based on its evaluation a joint funding programme of programme owners

WP 4: Joint activities

(WP leader: Technical Research Center of Finland)

Continuous scientific and policy dialogue (annual conferences, workshops, brokerage and information events, networking activities)

WP 5: Organisation and management

(WP leader: International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) at the German Aerospace Agency)

General coordination of the project

The ERA-NET Scheme

ERA-NETs are one of the main instruments used for activities in the area of International Cooperation of the Capacities programme of the 7th Research Framework Programme. ERA-NETs are a type of coordination action that aims to reduce the fragmentation of the ERA resulting from the coexistence of several national and regional public research programmes by favouring actions supported together by several Member States and the Commission (such as joint calls, joint programmes, etc.).

Under the ERA-NET scheme, national and regional authorities identify research programmes they wish to coordinate or open up mutually. The participants in these actions are therefore programme owners (typically ministries or regional authorities defining research programmes) or programme managers (such as research councils or other research funding agencies managing research programmes).

An ERA-NET can include the following activities:

- Systematic exchange of information and best practices with the aim of enhancing the communication between the project partners.
- Strategically targeted activities that develop an evaluation of the options and barriers for cooperation and lead to the development of complementarities and joint objectives of national and regional research projects. Implementation of joint activities (e.g. clustering of nationally and regionally financed research programmes), utilization of multinational evaluation processes, joint training

measures or the mutual opening of national infrastructures.

- Transnational research activities, e.g. the formulation of joint strategies and work programmes or the implementation of joint calls for research funding. National funding sources of different Member States can be pooled for this.

Two specific types of ERA-NETs exist:

- **ERA-NETs** that provide a framework for actors implementing public research programmes to coordinate their activities, e.g. by developing joint activities or by mutually supporting joint calls for transnational proposals.
- **ERA-NETs Plus** (usually based on an already successfully finished ERA-NET) for which a common funding pot should be established and additional funding can be obtained from the European Commission ('top-up funding' for joint calls).

The ERA-NET instrument has existed since the 6th Framework Programme (2002-2006), under which 71 ERA-NETs were supported.

Only a few ERA-NETs are horizontal, i.e. international ERA-NETs that target the cooperation with a selected third country.

KORANET is one of these international ERA-NETs; the others being Russia (ERA-NET RUS), India (NEW INDIGO), the Black Sea Region (BS-ERA.NET) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE-ERA.NET Plus).

Links:

For a full list of all ERA-NETs under FP6 see:

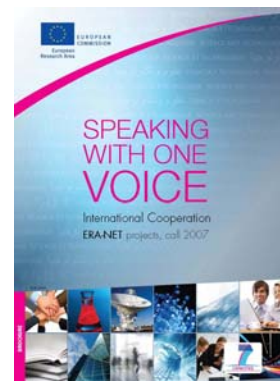
<http://cordis.europa.eu/coordination/projects.htm>

All running ERA-NETs under FP7 are listed at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/coordination/eranet-actions_en.html

'Speaking with one voice' - Information brochure of the European Commission featuring information on all 5 international FP7 ERA-NETs:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/era_net.pdf



KORANET Pilot Joint Call on Research for Life-long Health



At its last meeting, the KORANET consortium committee decided to launch the KORANET Pilot Joint Call focussing on Research for Life-long Health at the beginning of 2010.

Why this topic? In the past decades Europe and Korea have both faced drastic changes in their demographic profile due to an increasingly ageing population. The ageing of the human population represents one of the most significant political, social and scientific challenges of our societies. The study of this phenomenon is therefore vital not only because it relates to the quality of life of older people but also because of its implications for society and its services.

The KORANET Pilot Joint Call aims to bring together European and Korean researchers and scientists to do joint research on the topic of life-long health. It tries to approach the topic of life-long health from a multi- and interdisciplinary point of view to ensure optimum synergies and networking options. Thus, project proposals are welcome as long as they aim to overcome the current constraints on the quality of life of older people in our society and to help them enjoy better quality lives as they age.

The three main sub-categories of the KORANET Pilot Joint Call will be:

- Health (gerontology, medicine, genetics, biology)
- Technology (biotechnology, material science, ICT engineering, robotics, nanotechnology)
- Social sciences (sociology, political science, demography, statistics, psychology, economics).

The KORANET Pilot Joint Call will fund **'Mobility'** (travel and accommodation costs, costs for organising smaller events, smaller other costs) **for up to a maximum of 1 year.**

Project consortia must consist of a **minimum of two partners from two different European countries participating in the KORANET Pilot Joint Call and one Korean partner.**

A maximum of 20,000 Euro in funding is available for each consortium partner. The KORANET Pilot Joint Call will be open in February/ March 2010.

To ensure networking opportunities between European and Korean researchers a **Pilot Joint Call partnering event** is planned for **1/2 February 2010 in Seoul/ Korea**. The partnering event is targeted at researchers who are interested in EU-Korea cooperation and who are active in research related to the KORANET Pilot Joint Call topic. Its aim is to offer a basis for future cooperation and the preparation of joint project proposals for the KORANET Pilot Joint Call.

More information on the KORANET Pilot Joint Call is available from Mrs. Marinela Popa (marinela.popa@cnrs-dir.fr) or Mrs. Marion Steinberger (marion.steinberger@dlr.de).

The KORANET Pilot Joint Call on Research for Life-long Health will be open for proposal submission in February and March 2010!

More information on the Pilot Joint Call and the Partnering Event as well as the call text and the guide for applicants will be available on the KORANET website (<http://www.koranet.eu>) from the end of January 2010 onward.

Main Past Activities and Events

- Bonn, 16/17 February 2009: **Kick-off meeting of the KORANET project** (consortium meeting, general assembly and steering committee meeting).
- Berlin, 24/25 June 2009: **Mapping workshop** on S&T cooperation policies, initiatives and programmes and **Joint call funding workshop**.
- Seoul, 12-16 October 2009: General assembly meeting, consortium and steering committee meeting; **Conference on Green Technology** – Sustainable energy solutions; Scientific visit to several research institutions.
- Istanbul, 20 October 2009: **Workshop on Green ICT**.

Main Future Activities and Events

- Seoul, 1/2 February 2010: **Korean partnering conference for the KORANET Pilot Joint Call on Research for Life-long Health** incl. brokerage event and official launch of the Pilot Joint Call
- Vienna, April 2010: **Expert panel meeting for foresight exercise**; Consortium committee meeting
- Budapest, September 2010: **European conference on Research for Life-long Health** (incl. kick-off of projects funded in the frame of the KORANET Pilot Joint Call); General assembly meeting, consortium meeting and steering committee meeting
- Brussels, January/February 2011: **Dissemination conference to present the analytical results of the KORANET project**

Download the KORANET fact sheet, flyer, poster and press releases at:
<http://www.koranet.eu/en/115.php>



KORANET
 Korean scientific cooperation network with the European Research Area
 An initiative to intensify and strengthen regional S&T cooperation between Korea and the ERA

Contact
 Project coordinator: Dr. Gerald Heusch (gerald.heusch@dlr.de)
 Managing project coordinator: Marion Strohger (marion.strohger@dlr.de)
 International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) Research Area ST 1, 33271 Bonn, Germany
 Phone: +49 228 3825 473
 Fax: +49 228 3825 444
 koranet@dlr.de
 www.koranet.eu

KORANET Consortium Partners

- > International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Centre, Germany
- > Centre for Social Innovation, Austria
- > VDIWZ Innovation + Technik GmbH, Germany
- > National Research Foundation of Korea, Korea
- > British Council, United Kingdom
- > Technical Research Center of Finland, Finland
- > Veritas Innovazione I p.a., Italy
- > National Centre for Scientific Research, France
- > Polish Academy of Science, Poland
- > Hungarian Korean Technical Cooperation Center, Hungary
- > The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Turkey

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KORANET Background Information
 KORANET aims at strengthening the research partnership between Europe and Korea. This will be achieved through several analytical exercises, the establishment of a joint funding programme as well as jointly organised events. The project is targeted at national and international stakeholders at policy and programme level, the research community and industry.

KORANET Objectives

- > Improving information exchange and promoting cooperation between Korean and European research communities
- > Exchanging best practices on research planning and implementation of S&T policies and international S&T cooperation
- > Analysing and further developing existing cooperation instruments
- > Coordinating bilateral approaches of EU Member States/Associated Countries and Korea
- > Identifying priority thematic areas for cooperation
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- > Learning from completed and ongoing ERA-NETs
- > Developing and implementing a concept for a joint funding programme for European-Korean S&T projects
- > Increasing Korea's participation in FP7

KORANET Work Packages

- WP 1: Analysis, monitoring, review – preparation of analytical studies and reports on different aspects of European-Korean S&T cooperation, establishment of a database of research institutions and S&T cooperation opportunities
- WP 2: Strategy and foresight – formulation of policy recommendations on future cooperation areas and funding programmes, setting of framework objectives
- WP 3: Joint funding – development, implementation and evaluation of a joint funding programme for European-Korean research projects
- WP 4: Joint activities – organisation of conferences, workshops and exchange events for the research community in Europe and Korea
- WP 5: Organisation and management – administrative and financial management of the project, quality assurance of project deliverables



Interview with Marion Steinberger (DLR), managing coordinator of KORANET

What kind of international project is KORANET?

Marion Steinberger: KORANET is a project running under the international cooperation (INCO) activity of the Capacities programme of the 7th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The INCO activity offers the chance to engage in projects that directly target specific third countries that are neither members of the EU nor associated to the Framework Programme. The overall aim of these projects is to enhance S&T cooperation with the respective third countries and to increase the mutual knowledge of the R&D system and the funding structure as well as to identify strengths and weaknesses and future potential areas of cooperation.

One type of INCO project are the so-called international (or horizontal) ERA-NETs. The initial ERA-NET scheme targets selected thematic research areas such as environment, energy or chemistry. The international ERA-NETs, on the other hand, are thematically open but target important third countries. KORANET is one of these international ERA-NETs. In comparison to the existing more than 70 thematic ERA-NETs, there are still only a handful of international ERA-NETs. KORANET is the first horizontal ERA-NET to target South Korea, an industrialised country in East-Asia.

Could you explain the role of the coordinator of an ERA-NET?

M.S.: The role of an ERA-NET coordinator is manifold. First of all, the coordinator is in charge of making sure that all tasks mentioned in the work programme of the respective ERA-NET are fulfilled. This ranges from organising project meetings and preparing minutes, keeping in touch with the other ERA-NET partners and supporting them in their work to trying to find solutions to unexpected problems that might come up. The coordinator is also responsible for the overall financial management of the ERA-NET's budget and reporting the project developments and results to the European Commission. Of course, the most interesting and rewarding part of being a coordinator is staying in direct contact with the project partners, discussing the work progress and experiencing positive work results.

What about the other European partners of the project?

M.S.: The KORANET consortium consists of a total of 11 project partners from 10 different countries (Germany, Korea, Poland, Austria, France, Hungary, the United Kingdom, Finland, Italy and Turkey). Those project partners do the actual project-related work, e.g. compiling analytical reports that will be useful for policy-makers, funding and research institutions or they organise public events. In addition, we have invited six observers to follow and support our work and set up a steering committee including representatives of research ministries that gives recommendations concerning our future work.

Are Korean partners also involved in the project?

M.S.: Yes, because we consider the full participation of the target country to be vital in an international ERA-NET. Our Korean partner is the National Research Foundation (NRF), which was newly established in June 2009 by merging the three then existing funding institutions that were responsible for science/engineering, humanities and international cooperation activities. This merger led to the creation of an integrated Korean R&D management system and thus the NRF is our ideal partner.

What are the so-called work packages of the projects?

M.S.: The project work that is undertaken in the frame of KORANET is divided into five work packages, which in turn are divided into separate tasks. One work package is related to the management and administration of the project; the other four define the actual work to be undertaken by the project partners.

Two of the work packages are devoted to analytical tasks, e.g. analysing the current R&D situation in Korea and the existing cooperation between the EU countries and Korea, identifying drivers and barriers of cooperation as well as priority areas and devising future strategies for cooperation. Most of our reports will be made public on our website (www.koranet.eu) once they are finalised.

The organisation of joint events such as conferences and workshops is the task of another work package. For example, we organised a big conference on Green Technology in Seoul in October 2009. Around 90 researchers, programme owners and policy-makers participated in the event, which also marked the first public appearance of the KORANET consortium in Korea.

The fourth work package deals with the core of the KORANET project: the Joint Funding. In an ERA-NET, the project partners are supposed to set up a new funding scheme between European countries and the target third country in a thematic area to be determined by the participating funding countries. In the case of KORANET, we will start with a pilot joint call in the area of 'life-long health' because the question of how to deal with an ageing population is high on the agenda in both Europe and Korea. With this pilot joint call we want to support research projects aiming at establishing or deepening cooperation between at least one Korean and two European partners. We will mainly fund mobility (travel expenses, living costs, expenses for the organisation of small scientific events and certain other costs). After having analysed the experiences of our pilot joint call we would then like to establish a full sustainable funding scheme between European countries and Korea.

Who finances the KORANET project itself and who the research projects of the Pilot Joint Call?

M.S.: The KORANET project itself is mainly financed by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme. The consortium partners have to secure minimal top-up funding from national sources to ensure that all costs are covered. However, the research projects funded in the frame of the KORANET Pilot Joint Call are fully financed by national sources, e.g. the research ministries or funding institutions. Therefore, the preparation and implementation of the pilot joint call is a very challenging business because we need to ensure that national funding regulations are respected. But on the other hand, this also has a good effect because we learn how R&D funding works in other European countries. Another issue that complicates the task of setting up the Pilot Joint Call is that we work with a virtual common pot following the *juste retour* principle. This means that although we fund joint research projects, each participating funding country funds its own researchers only. To work with a common pot where funding is distributed regardless of the researchers' background would actually make things a lot easier.

What about the long-term impact of KORANET on the research landscape?

M.S.: With the KORANET Pilot Joint Call we directly target researchers. In addition, our other project activities aim at other stakeholders in the research area such as political decision-makers and funding/research institutions. We therefore hope that with the KORANET project we will positively influence the cooperation among Korean and European researchers and build a solid background for future activities after the end of the KORANET project in 2012. The mutual benefit for and closer links between the KORANET partners is another of our main targets. In addition, we also would like to ensure a higher participation of Korean researchers in the EU Framework Programme; so far, less than two dozen projects funded by the Framework Programme have a Korean partner. I think that if the cooperation that we have established through KORANET – for example through the establishment of a sustainable funding scheme – continues after the end of its lifetime, then the KORANET project has been a success.

Reports from the KORANET Events of October 2009: Seoul Conference on Green Technology and Istanbul Workshop on Green ICT

The KORANET consortium has organised its first two public events in October 2009.

The **first annual KORANET conference** took place on 14 October 2009 in Seoul/Korea. It focused on the topic of '**Green Technology - Sustainable Energy Solutions**' that is currently high on the agenda in both Europe and Korea. The conference was split into two sessions dealing with 'Renewable Energy' and 'Next-generation battery / Energy Storage and Conversion'.

Issues such as current and emerging technologies in green energy (renewable energy sources, alternate fuel technologies, energy usage reduction technologies and horizontal aspects in green technologies (certification, standardisation, and IPR compliances) were discussed.



Around 80 participants from Korea and Europe attended the conference. They included researchers, policymakers and programme owners from the EU and Korea involved in green technologies as well as the



partners of the KORANET project.

Participants were welcomed by distinguished speakers such as Prof. Chan-Mo Park, President of the National Research Foundation Korea, Dr. Eun-Woo Lee, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology as well as by the EU ambassador to Korea HE Brian McDonald.

The KORANET conference was preceded by two days of working meetings of the KORANET partners and followed by a **scientific visit to different Korean research institutions**, i.e. Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Korea Institute of Energy Research (KIER), HYNIX semiconductor and Korea Advanced Nano Fab Center (KANC).

A few days after the conference, the **first KORA-**



NET workshop was held on 20 October 2009 in Istanbul/Turkey with a focus on '**Green ICT Solutions**'. The objective of the KORANET workshop was therefore to bring together researchers, ICT academics and industry to learn about best practices in Korea's international cooperation activities in the Green ICT field, to examine the current novel approaches to environmentally friendly ICT solutions and to evaluate the international opportunities to raise awareness of the environmental impact of ICT. This is in line with the European Commission recommendation on mobilising ICT to facilitate the transition to an energy-efficient, low-carbon economy that was presented just a few days before the event.

The agendas and reports of the conference and the workshop will soon be available on the KORANET project website (www.koranet.eu).

Polish Academy of Sciences

The Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) is the leading scientific institution in Poland, founded in 1952. The roots of the Academy stretch back to the tradition of the Enlightenment period – to the Society of Friends of Science established in 1800 by the outstanding Polish scholar and statesman Stanisław Staszic (1755-1826), among other leading scholars of the time.

The Polish Academy of Sciences is a nation-wide scientific institution continuing and cultivating the most exemplary traditions of Poland's scientific organizations. Its activities rest on the legal footing provided by the Parliamentary Act of April 25, 1997.

The Presidium of the Academy issues declarations, takes stands on policy issues, and makes statements in public matters it considers significant. Recent examples include:

- Climate change
- The possible imposition of value added tax (VAT) on books and journals
- The proper role of research in Poland's spatial development
- Polish power industry development
- Polish science and higher education reforms
- The model of professional promotion within the Polish research

community

- Debate on the theory of evolution
- The Polish Academy of Sciences as policy advisor:

- organizes informative sessions for members of the Polish Parliament entitled *Science for Poland*.
 - issues opinions on parliamentary bills submitted by various ministries when such proposed laws bear upon education and research.
 - plays a major role in supporting the promotion of Polish science and its industrial dissemination abroad by actively taking part in seminars and conferences.
 - runs Poland's National Contact Point for the EU FP projects and operates the Polish Scientific Contact Agency in Brussels.
 - plays a leading role in the project entitled *National Foresight Programme – Poland 2020*.
- The international relations of the Polish Academy of Sciences are based on:
- 76 bilateral agreements with foreign academies and learned societies from 45 countries (including KOSEF – Korea Science and Engineering Foundation);
 - memberships in 110 international scientific organizations.

In each issue of the KORANET Newsletter, we will present you one of the KORANET consortium partner organisations. In this issue, it is the Polish Academy of Sciences.

KORANET contacts at the Polish Academy of Sciences:

Mr. Janusz Jurczak, Email: wydzial3@pan.pl

Mr. Marek Cyprian Chmielewski, Email: chmiel@icho.edu.pl

Polish Academy of Sciences, Plac Defilad 1, 00-901 Warszawa, Poland

Internet: <http://www.pan.pl>



Korea-Poland Joint Symposia on Organic Chemistry

The decision to organise joint conferences on organic chemistry was made in 1997 when a delegation from the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF) visited Warsaw to meet with the authorities of the Polish Academy of Sciences to discuss how to intensify mutual collaboration. Prior to this, contacts between organic chemists from the two countries were more of an occasional nature, limited to international conferences. It was obvious to both partners that fostering fruitful collaboration would require the two sides to get to know each other better, to become better acquainted with each other's scientific programmes. The symposia were conceived of as a vehicle facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience between both sides, and the diversity of approaches represented by Korean and Polish partners was expected to enhance their scientific potential.

Responsibility for organising the symposia was assumed on the Polish side by the Institute of Organic Chemistry (IOC) of the Polish Academy of Sciences and on the Korean side by the Korea Institute of Chemical Technology (KRICT).

The **first** Joint Symposium was held in Daejeon on 14 and 15 December 1998, and was attended by Polish scientists exclusively from the Institute of Organic Chemistry plus a broad representation of Korean organic chemists not only from Daejeon, but also from the Seoul area. The Organising Committee was represented by the Director of the KRICT, Dr. Suh Bong Rhee, and his colleagues Dr. Sung-eun Yoo and Dr. Young Key Shim, who has been the crucial Korean organiser of all subsequent events. The Polish group was headed by the IOC's Director, Prof. Mieczysław Mąkosza, and Deputy Director, Prof. Marek Chmielewski. The scientific programme of the event was followed by sightseeing in the Daejeon area, the cities of Busan and Seoul.

The **second** Joint Symposium was held in Zakopane on 30 September and 1 October 1999, with broad representations of organic chemists taking part from both countries. The symposia consolidated their character as meetings drawing together a significant number of different scientific institutions represented by the distinguished researchers, which has become representative for all subsequent events. The Korean participants of

the Symposium visited Krakow, the Wieliczka salt mine and Tatra mountains. The second event initiated closer collaboration and exchange of scientists between the IOC and KRICT, particularly in the field of applying very high pressure to organic synthesis and porphyrinoids synthesis. The main benefits from the cooperation between KOSEF and the Polish Academy of Sciences derive from the complementary character of research in both countries. Whereas the Polish side is geared towards more fundamental research and generic type pharmaceuticals, the Korean side develops new trends in health care and offers applications and broad possibilities of testing the synthesized compounds.

The **third** Symposium was held in Seoul on 20 and 21 April 2001, as a section of the Korean Chemical Society Annual Meeting. After the Symposium the Polish group visited Seoul and then was taken to the north-eastern part of Korea to Mount Soraksan National Park to witness the beauty of Korea's mountains.

The **fourth** event was held in Warsaw at the IOC, on 10 and 11 October 2002. After the event the Korean group visited the magnificent Malbork Castle and the carefully reconstructed city of Gdańsk, becoming better acquainted with the especially complicated history of this part of the country.

The **fifth** Symposium was organised by Prof. Young Key Shim and Inje University on 9 and 10 December 2004. The Polish group headed by Prof. Marek Chmielewski and Prof. Sławomir Jarosz visited the beautiful seashore of the Busan area, Hallyeo Maritime National Park, the Daewoo Shipyard and the Samsung car plant, where they had the opportunity to witness modern and effective ship and car production methods.

The **sixth** Symposium was held in Poznań on 5 and 6 April 2006. The burden of organisation was shouldered by Adam Mickiewicz University, represented by Prof. Henryk Koroniak. The Korean delegation visited the cities of Poznań and Wrocław and the Sudety mountains.

The **seventh** Symposium was held in Chuncheon, Kangwon National University on 28 and 29 October 2008 and was organised by Prof. Chang-Hee Lee. The Polish group visited the Chuncheon area, the Hite brewery, the Village Museum near Seoul and city of Seoul.

Overall, in spite of the great physical distance between the two countries, the Korea-Poland Joint Symposia successfully gather together all the important leaders in the field of organic chemistry from both countries, allowing them not only to meet their partners from the other country, to discuss common research programmes, but also to visit the most attractive parts of both states. This has generated unique opportunities to acquire greater knowledge and insight about the complicated history of both states. All the events have consistently been characterised by a warm, pleasant atmosphere. The hosts have always accompanied the guests on their sightseeing programmes, which has aided in fostering truly friendly contacts. As a consequence of

such close relations, selected organic chemists from both countries have been invited to deliver lectures at other conferences organised by the partner side.

The greatest problem faced by the Joint Symposia is that only a small group of scientists, up to ten persons, has been able to attend events in the other country, as the travel costs limit the number of visitors exclusively to the leaders of research groups. The exchange of young scientists would be able to start at a later stage of collaboration, when common programmes are established. All in all, we are certain that we are headed in the right direction.

M. Chmielewski

Contact information of KORANET consortium partners

Germany: International Bureau of the BMBF at the German Aerospace Agency (DLR)

Heinrich-Konen-Strasse 1, 53227 Bonn, Germany

- Mr. Gerold Heinrichs (coordinator),
gerold.heinrichs@dlr.de
- Mrs. Marion Steinberger (managing coordinator),
marion.steinberger@dlr.de

Austria: Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI)

Linke Wienzeile 246, A-1150 Vienna, Austria

- Mr. Dirk Johann,
johann@zsi.at
- Mrs. Hanna Scheck,
scheck@zsi.at

Germany: VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH (VDI/VDE-IT)

Steinplatz 1, 10623 Berlin, Germany

- Mrs. Sophie Fourmond,
fourmond@vdivde-it.de
- Mr. Peter Hahn,
hahn@vdivde-it.de

Korea: National Research Foundation (NRF)

Global Network Development Team, Center for International Affairs

25 Heolleungno, Seocho-gu, Seoul, Korea, 137-748

- Mr. Jong-Deok Kim,
jdkim@nrf.go.kr
- Mrs. Mijin Chung,
mchung@nrf.go.kr

United Kingdom: British Council (BC)

Spring Gardens 10, SW1A2BN London, United Kingdom

- Mr. Lloyd Anderson,
Lloyd.anderson@britishcouncil.org
- Mrs. Yun-kyung Whang,
Yun-kyung.Whang@britishcouncil.org

Finland: Technical Research Center of Finland (VTT)

Kaitovälyä 1, Oulu 90571, Finland

- Mr. Markus Sihvonen,
markus.sihvonen@vtt.fi
- Mr. Topi Pulkkinen,
topi.pulkkinen@vtt.fi

Italy: Veneto Innovazione S.p.A (VenInn)

Via della Libertà 12, 30175 Marghera, Italy

- Mr. Ivan Boesso,
ivan.boesso@venetoinnovazione.it
- Mrs. Maria Sole D'Orazio,
mariasole.dorazio@venetoinnovazione.it



Contact information of KORANET consortium partners (contd.)

France: Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)
Direction des Relations Internationales
3, Rue Michel-Ange, 75794 Paris-Cedex 16, France

- Mrs. Marinela Popa,
marinela.popa@cns-dir.fr

Poland: Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN)

Plac Defilad 1, 00-901 Warszawa, Poland

- Mr. Janusz Jurczak,
wydzial3@pan.pl
- Mr. Marek Chmielewski,
chmiel@icho.edu.pl

Hungary: Hungarian Korean Technical Cooperation Center (HKTCC)

1111. Budapest, Egry József u. 1., Hungary

- Mr. Gyorgy Szokol,
gyorgy.szokol@vivamail.hu

Turkey: Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)

Ataturk Blv. No: 221 06100 Kavaklıdere, Ankara, Turkey

- Mrs. Gulsun Eryilmaz,
gulsun.eryilmaz@tubitak.gov.tr
- Mrs. Burcak Cullu,
burcak.cullu@tubitak.gov.tr

KORANET steering committee

- Germany: Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
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Imprint

International Bureau of the BMBF at the German Aerospace Agency (DLR)

Heinrich-Konen-Strasse 1, 53227 Bonn, Germany

Mr. Gerold Heinrichs (coordinator), Email: gerold.heinrichs@dlr.de

Mrs. Marion Steinberger (managing coordinator), marion.steinberger@dlr.de

Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), Plac Defilad 1, 00-901 Warszawa, Poland

Mr. Janusz Jurczak, wydzial3@pan.pl

Mr. Marek Chmielewski, chmiel@icho.edu.pl

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