



ETH-RAT

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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SCIENTISTS FROM ETH DOMAIN VISIT SINGAPORE TO EXPLORE PARTICIPATION IN THE CAMPUS FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL ENTERPRISE (CREATE)

At the invitation of Singapore's National Research Foundation (NRF), a team of 13 distinguished scientists and academics from ETH Domain visited Singapore from 8 to 13 October 2006.

2. The visit by the scientists was a follow-up to Chairman NRF, Dr Tony Tan's trip to Switzerland in April 2006, during which ETH's participation in CREATE was broached. CREATE, endorsed by the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council (RIEC) in July 2006, aims to foster joint research programmes between the world's top research universities and Singapore-based research institutions.

3. To explore the potential for the ETH Domain to be a member of joint research programmes under CREATE, the team of scientists visited educational and research institutions in Singapore, including the Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, research institutes, the Centre for Advanced Water Technologies and the NEWater Visitor Centre.

4. The delegation comprised the President of the ETH Board, Professor Alexander J. B. Zehnder; the Vice-Presidents of ETH Zurich, Gerhard Schmitt and Dimos Poulikakos; as well as experts in the fields of energy, environmental science and water technologies, biomedical sciences, and information technology. The delegation also included the Directors of the Paul Scherrer Institute and of the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology Eawag.

5. President of the ETH Board, Professor Alexander Zehnder said, “The members of the ETH delegation are overwhelmed by the warm welcome from all the people they met in Singapore. We are extremely impressed by the great quality of the education, and science and research institutions in Singapore. The personal contacts with leaders, faculties, researchers and students have brought us and Singapore much closer. After this visit, we are convinced of the superb potential of a partnership between the education, science, and technology institutions of Singapore and the institutions of the ETH Domain. We will now rapidly advance our discussions and planning with our Singaporean partners concerning the set-up of a research facility in CREATE.”

6. Chairman NRF, Dr Tony Tan, said, “We are heartened by the ETH delegation’s visit to Singapore to discuss its potential participation in CREATE. ETH, widely recognised as one of the best universities in the world for science and research, will greatly strengthen Singapore’s capabilities with their presence here. The possible set-up of an ETH research facility in CREATE will undoubtedly elevate the concept of CREATE to another level.”

7. The NRF and ETH have agreed to set up a Joint Steering Committee headed by Professor Alexander Zehnder, President of the ETH Board, and Mr Teo Ming Kian, Permanent Secretary, National Research & Development, to work out the details for the setting up of an ETH research centre in Singapore.

ETH

The ETH Domain at a glance:

- ETH Zurich
- EPF Lausanne
- Paul Scherrer Institut PSI
- Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape WSL
- Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research EMPA
- Swiss Federal Institute for Aquatic Science and Technology EAWAG

NRF

Singapore’s National Research Foundation (NRF), set up on 1 January 2006, is a department under the Prime Minister's Office.

The NRF will integrate the research, innovation and enterprise policies and initiatives in Singapore and invest in strategic R&D-driven industries to generate economic benefit. It coordinates the research done by various agencies within the larger national framework to provide a coherent strategic overview and chart the direction for national R&D. It also develops policies and plans to drive the national R&D agenda.

The NRF provides secretariat support to the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council (RIEC), chaired by Singapore's Prime Minister. It will implement the national research, innovation and enterprise strategies approved by the RIEC, and fund initiatives and programmes that meet NRF's strategic objectives and grow our economy. Three key strategic growth areas have been identified – Environmental and Water Technologies, Interactive and Digital Media, and Biomedical Sciences.

For more information, please visit <http://www.nrf.gov.sg>

LIST OF ETH DELEGATES

- Prof. Dr. Alexander J.B. Zehnder, ETH Board
President, ETH Board
- Prof. Dr. Ralph Eichler
Director, Paul Scherrer Institute for Natural Sciences and Technology
- Prof. Dr. Hans-Björn (Teddy) Püttgen
Professor and Chair of Energy Systems and Director, Energy Center, EPF
Lausanne
- Prof. Dr. Urs von Gunten
Eawag and ETH Zurich
- Prof. Dr. Alfred (Johny) Wüest
Eawag
- Prof. Dr. Willi Gujer
Professor of Urban Water Management, ETH Zurich
- Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kinzelbach
Professor of Hydromechanics, ETH Zurich
- Prof. Dr. Marc Brendan Parlange
Professor, School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and
Director, Environmental Engineering Institute, EPF Lausanne
- Prof. Dr. Josef Zeyer
Full Professor of Soil Biology at Institute of Biogeochemistry and Pollutant
Dynamics, ETH Zurich
- Prof. Dr. Domenico Giardini
Professor of Seismology and Geodynamics, ETH Zurich
- Prof. Dr. Janet Hering
Director of Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science & Technology (EAWAG)
wef 1 Jan 07
- Prof. Dr. Dimos Poulidakos
VP Research ETH Zurich
- Prof. Dr. Gerhard Schmitt
VP Planning & Logistics ETH Zurich

FACT SHEET ON ETH

THE ETH BOARD

is the strategic unit elected by the Swiss Federal Council to manage the ETH Domain. In its function, it can be compared with a Board of Directors of a holding company. It determines the domain's strategic direction and allocates the funding provided by the Swiss Confederation to the six institutions. It secures the necessary executive Management capacity, nominates the six institutions' presidents and directors for election by the Federal Council and appoints professors for both ETH Zurich and EPF Lausanne.

In pursuit of its vision, the ETH Board dedicates its energies to promoting the excellence of the ETH Domain, addressing both internal and external issues, and to fostering its international reputation. It also encourages dialogue between students, lecturers, researchers, society at large, the business world and government to:

- Provide top quality teaching, research and services in line with international standards, to create an environment conducive to excellence for faculty, researchers and students;
- Collaborate with other universities, universities of applied sciences and research institutions, to engage in bilateral and multilateral collaboration worldwide;
- Facilitate knowledge and technology transfer, and
- Systematically promote young scientific talent with equal opportunities for both men and women.

Composition

In addition to President Alexander J.B. Zehnder and Vice President Ernst Buschor, nine prominent representatives of science, industry and politics also sit on the ETH Board. The ETH Domain itself is equitably represented by the presidents of the two institutes of higher education and the director of one of the research institutions. Another board member proposed by the two institutes of higher education ensures that the interests of the ETH and EPF Assemblies are also taken into account.

THE ETH DOMAIN

plays a pioneering role in Switzerland as a centre of academic activity, combining in-depth knowledge with outstanding expertise in leading-edge technologies. The ETH Zurich, EPF Lausanne and four research institutions collaborate closely with the cantonal universities and universities of applied sciences.

The ETH Domain's origin can be traced back to the foundation of the ETH Zurich in 1855, when the Swiss federal government decided to establish its own institute

of higher education for the natural sciences and engineering in addition to the cantonal universities. The ETH Domain as a whole and its member institutions were granted extensive autonomy in 2000.

There are more than 19,000 students and 570 professors in the ETH Domain, which has a total budget, including funds from private sources, of CHF 2.3 billion and employs the equivalent of 12,000 full-time staff.

www.ethrat.ch

Strategic planning

The primary objectives of the ETH Board's strategic planning for 2004-2007 are to reform tertiary level teaching and make it more dynamic and to secure leading positions in research. The strategic planning of the ETH Board forms the basis for the performance mandate conferred by the Swiss Federal Council and for the internal performance agreements within the ETH Domain. It defines specific targets, describes how the achievement of the agreed targets is to be measured and specifies the requirements that the institutions must meet.

Performance mandate

The Federal Council assigns the ETH Board a four-year performance mandate. The ETH Board in turn manages the six institutions in its care with four-year performance agreements. The academic objectives are as follows:

Research

Switzerland wants to rank among the very best research centres worldwide. Within the ETH Domain, therefore, priority is given to excellence in research with a strong claim to leadership in selected future-oriented technologies. The focus is on environmental science and engineering, nanotechnology, communications technology and the life sciences. What all these activities have in common is the interest in sustainable development.

Science and technology transfer

The ETH Domain provides services at the highest possible level. The institutes and research institutions provide the international scientific community and industry not only with leading-edge research facilities that are costly both to build and to run, but also with outstanding scientific expertise. The ETH Domain attaches great importance to the acquisition of patents and licences and to the establishment of new companies to exploit the results of the institutions' own research work. The aim is to ensure them a presence in promising, future-oriented fields of development and to create new jobs for researchers and people in associated professions and services.

Education

Thanks to their excellent reputation throughout the world, the ETH Zurich and EPF Lausanne both attract professors of global standing as well as the very best students. The high standard of education and high scientific quality of the

courses on offer lay the foundations for many outstanding careers in the high-tech industries. Doctoral candidates are able to work under excellent conditions in the very front line of research. Supervising doctoral candidates is an important task for the four research institutions in the ETH Domain, all of which pursue applied research at a very high level.

ETH ZURICH

Excellence in both pioneering research and engineering is one of the greatest strengths of the ETH Zurich. While currently in the process of reforming its curricula in compliance with the Bologna Declaration, it is also forging ahead with its expansion of the strategically important faculties of Life Science and Medical Engineering, Computational Science, Information Science and Financial Science.
www.ethz.ch

EPF LAUSANNE

With its five faculties of Basic Sciences Engineering Sciences Technology, Construction, Architecture and the Environment, Information and Communication Systems Life Sciences and its Collège des Humanités, the EPF Lausanne is a centre of education and research that meets the very highest international standards.
www.epfl.ch

PSI

The Paul Scherrer Institute in Villigen is a multidisciplinary research institute for the natural sciences and technology. With its large-scale experimental research facilities, it provides the international research community, universities, universities of applied sciences and industry with a unique combination of complementary methods for structural research and spectroscopy. Its core competences are in life sciences, materials and energy.
www.psi.ch

WSL

Land use, management and conservation coupled with research into natural disasters are the main focus of the research conducted at the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research. Priority is given to the scientific analysis of land use in Switzerland, landscape management in Switzerland's heavily urbanised environment and disaster research.
www.wsl.ch

EMPA

EMPA is one of the world's leading research institutions in the field of sustainable materials and materials systems. As part of its Nanotechnology, Adaptive Material Systems, Technosphere-Atmosphere, Healthy Man and Materials for Energy Technologies programmes, it develops and tests products, processes and systems for both industrial and consumer goods.
www.empa.ch

EAWAG

Concerned above all with sustainable urban water management, aquatic ecosystems and the minimization of risks in the handling of chemicals, the Swiss Federal Institute for Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag) is very much in tune with the technical, environmental and economic challenges currently facing us. It also provides further training at all levels and places its research findings at the disposal of decision-makers in both industry and society at large.

www.eawag.ch

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