

The Robert Bosch Stiftung

is one of the major German foundations associated with a private company. Founded in 1964, the foundation represents the philanthropic and social endeavors of founder Robert Bosch (1861-1942) and fulfils his legacy in a contemporary manner by taking on challenges of modern day society, developing forward-looking concepts, and putting them into practice in exemplary fashion. The foundation works predominantly in the fields of international understanding, education and public health, and the issue of modern science.

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Sustainable Partners – Partners for Sustainability Twinning Chinese and German Research Teams

Invitation for Applications

If your research team is working in the field of sustainable use of renewable natural resources and if you wish to intensify your contact to Chinese colleagues through new research projects, then we kindly ask you to apply. We support German-Chinese research teams in their aim to realize joint research projects in Germany and China, especially those who include their younger scientists.

We offer you a long-term planning horizon for an intense bilateral cooperation. You can apply for a mobility grant that enables you and your partners to become “twinned teams” – two teams connected by continuous and flexible personal exchange over a longer period of time.

We believe that sustained and regular cooperation creates new and stable personal contacts which are the source of the best partnerships and genuinely close cooperation between scientists and institutions from both countries. This is what we are aiming for.

There is an urgent need for research into the sustainable use of natural resources. We hope that both this program and the activities of the twinned teams will contribute to the solution of the difficult problems in this field, as well as help raising awareness of the crucial issues both in China and in Germany.

Who can apply?

The program is directed at research teams from both countries that are planning to work together on a defined research project. We are especially interested in the inclusion of young scientists, such as post-doctorate and post-graduate researchers.

Research must be focused on the impact of the use of renewable natural resources on the biosphere. The scientific objectives are more important to us than the academic disciplines of the researchers involved (such as agriculture and forestry science, biology, environmental science, economics, political and social science, etc.).

How does the Robert Bosch Stiftung offer support?

We support the research teams for several years in their exchange of scientific personnel. Funding can cover

- :: travel expenses, which should preferably be used for the younger scientists within the German team,
- :: accommodation costs and a daily allowance, preferably for the younger scientists within the group,
- :: to a very limited extent (up to 20% of the total grant applied for) material costs and investments.

The Chinese side is expected to contribute to the travel expenses for the Chinese researchers, the cost of accommodation and – if possible – a daily allowance for German researchers during their stay in China. Our financial support may not be used to cover personnel costs. The basic research funding (personnel and

material costs) of the teams must be secured by other sources. If the envisaged project is part of another Chinese-German program, applicants must convince the jury that funding from the Robert Bosch Stiftung would clearly add value to the project. The number of mutual visits should be equal for both sides.

What is the amount of funding?

The maximum grant can total up to 80,000 €. The maximum funding period lasts three years and begins on February 21, 2011 at the earliest.

How can I submit a proposal?

The application deadline is October 8, 2010. The proposal should be submitted by the head of the German research team. He/ she will also serve as the point of contact for the foundation and as the recipient of the funding. The foundation will only accept proposals from teams that have already identified their partner team and will not act as an intermediary.

Further information and application materials can be found at www.bosch-stiftung.de/spps/. Applications must be submitted in English.

How does the foundation make its selection?

The international Advisory Board “Research into the Sustainable Use of Re-newable Natural Resources” of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, chaired by Professor Klaus Töpfer, will decide on the applications in December 2010. The most important selection criteria are:

- :: the quality and relevance of the research project,
- :: the qualification of the research teams involved in both countries,
- :: the involvement of young researchers,
- :: impact of personnel exchange on the research projects of the teams supported,
- :: the contribution from the Chinese side.