#### Bilateral research collaboration with South Asia and Iran 2017 – 2020

# Invitation: Iranian-Swiss Workshop in Isfahan, 9 May 2018

#### Background

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) has commissioned ZHAW as Leading House for the bilateral research collaboration with partner institutions in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

This invitation is extended to researchers (and representatives of international offices, provided they are in charge of research collaboration) in Switzerland who are interested in participating in and actively contributing to a workshop in Isfahan (Iran) on 9 May 2018. The workshop is focused purely on bilateral research collaboration between Switzerland and Iran.

The other aforementioned countries are not within the scope of this invitation.

#### Goals and objectives

#### On 9 Mai, the Leading House for South Asian and Iran (ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences) and the Switzerland Desk (Isfahan University of Technology IUT; <http://iscoweb.iut.ac.ir/en>) will organise a one-day workshop in Isfahan.

The aim is for researchers from both countries to come together to define and develop joint research projects in preparation of calls for seed money grants, bridging grants and innovation partnership grants. These calls will be launched by ZHAW (and matched by IUT) in the course of 2018 and the following years.

#### Workshop Topics

The workshop will focus on the following topics:

1. Industry 4.0 (information technology and robotics in industrial manufacturing, e.g. in the car and ancillary segment; the next level of automation in agriculture; mechanical engineering; material sciences and engineering; electrical engineering; better harnessing of human capital through skills development)
2. Environment (environmental science and sustainability; environmental economics)
3. Privatisation/Entrepreneurship (frugal innovation; frugal business modelling)
4. Medicine (research in human as well as veterinary medicine and science)

The detailed workshop programme will be shared with you towards the end of April.

#### Eligibility & Registration

Researchers in Switzerland who are interested to participate in this workshop in Isfahan on 9 May 2018 (and the optional city tour on 10 May 2018) are requested to register as follows (researchers in Iran will be approached by the Switzerland Desk at Isfahan University of Technology):

* Eligibility: Scientists (and representatives of international offices, provided they are in charge of research collaboration) who are in permanent employment with a Swiss federal or cantonal university, university of applied sciences or university of teachers’ education, or a public research institution. They hold Swiss nationality, permanent residence in Switzerland, residence or cross-border commuter permit for Switzerland, or are in marriage or in a registered partnership with a Swiss citizen. Foreign researchers on academic visit to Switzerland are not eligible.
* Registration address: leadinghouse@zhaw.ch
* Registration deadline: Saturday, 31 March 2018

#### Travel, accommodation & funding

Participants are required to book and pay for their trip to and from Isfahan individually. Please arrive in Isfahan no later than Tuesday, 8 May 2018. The workshop is planned to last for a full day on 9 May 2018 (with a social programme in the evening). In addition, the Switzerland Desk at Isfahan University of Technology will organize an optional city tour and dinner on 10 May 2018. We therefore recommend departure from Isfahan no earlier than 11 May 2018. Please note that the Leading House South Asia & Iran cannot reimburse to you any of your travel cost.

However, the Leading House South Asia & Iran will book for you a hotel room in Isfahan. While you are required to pay for your accommodation individually (in US dollars, Euro or Swiss francs; cheques and credit cards are not accepted), the Leading House South Asia & Iran will reimburse these cost (up to 3 nights) to you if you send us your original receipt along with a filled expense claim form.

Please note that we cannot guarantee that all participants can be accommodated in the same hotel as May is a peak time in tourism to Iran. For this reason it may be that we will book for you a guest room within the facilities of Isfahan University of Technology.

Ground transportation to as well as meals and refreshments at the workshop in Isfahan are generously offered to you by the Switzerland Desk at Isfahan University of Technology.

No fee will be charged for participating in the workshop.

#### Visa

For Swiss citizens (or residents of Switzerland) there are two ways to obtain a visa for Iran: You can obtain a visa at the international airport at the time of your arrival in Iran.

Alternatively, you can obtain a visa in advance from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Please follow the information and instructions at <http://iranembassy.ch/en/176>

For both cases, the Leading House South Asia & Iran will provide you with a letter of reference as well as a letter of invitation from the Isfahan University of Technology that you can attach to your visa on arrival or advance visa application.

In the first week of April, the Leading House South Asia & Iran will send the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran a list of all registered participants and request a smooth visa process. Your visa application will require around one week to ten days’ time for processing.

Please note that having a visa or entry stamp from Iran in your passport may cause problems in case you plan to travel to the USA. We recommend that you request to receive your “visa and entry stamp for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the form of an Inlay sheet” to your passport. However, there is no guarantee that the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran can accommodate this request. – Some Swiss citizens have a so-called “Austauschpass” which they use alternately. Please approach the concerned authority in the canton of your residence for information how to obtain such a passport.

Please note that you might face restrictions in case you have a visa or entry stamp from Israel in your passport.

Please also read the information provided by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/representations-and-travel-advice/iran/travel-advice-iran.html>

#### Contact

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#### Annex: Registration form

#### Bilateral research collaboration with the South Asia and Iran 2017 – 2020

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#### Registration form

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| --- |
| **Personal details and home institution of the applicant in Switzerland** |
| Surname |  |
| First name(s) |  |
| Date of birth |  |
| Gender |  |
| Nationality / Nationalities |  |
| Passport number |  |
| Title |  |
| Academic degree |  |
| Current position |  |
| Home institution |  |
| Address at home institution |  |
| Postcode, city |  |
| Country |  |
| Email |  |
| Phone number(s) |  |

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| [ ]  **I would like to contribute to the following break-out session(s):**The Leading House South Asia & Iran (ZHAW) and the Switzerland Desk (Isfahan University of Technology) undertake to organize as many of the break-out sessions proposed below as possible. We rely on your careful selection of your first and second choices to develop a programme that is both relevant and feasible. |
| Industry 4.0 | Information technology and robotics in industrial manufacturing | [ ]  1st choice [ ]  2nd choice |
| The next level of automation in agriculture | [ ]  1st choice [ ]  2nd choice |
| Better harnessing of human capital through skills development | [ ]  1st choice [ ]  2nd choice |
| Mechanical engineering | [ ]  1st choice [ ]  2nd choice |
| Material sciences and engineering | [ ]  1st choice [ ]  2nd choice |
| Electrical engineering | [ ]  1st choice [ ]  2nd choice |
| Environment | Environmental science and sustainability | [ ]  1st choice [ ]  2nd choice |
| Environmental economics | [ ]  1st choice [ ]  2nd choice |
| Privatisation/Entrepreneurship | Frugal innovation | [ ]  1st choice [ ]  2nd choice |
| Frugal business modelling | [ ]  1st choice [ ]  2nd choice |
| Medicine | Research in human medicine and science | [ ]  1st choice [ ]  2nd choice |
| Research in veterinary medicine and science | [ ]  1st choice [ ]  2nd choice |

[ ]  I already have experience in research collaboration with Iran (if so, please specify here: …).

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| [ ]  **I request assistance to set up meetings with research and faculty in Iran as follows:** |
| Academic area of interest | At a specific university or city in Iran? |
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[ ]  I confirm that I will settle my hotel bill in Isfahan individually and send the original receipt(s) along with a filled expense claim form to the Leading House South Asia and Iran for reimbursement. The expense claim form is available from the Leading House South Asia and Iran.