

The FUTUR program, with a view to broad-based dialogue on the future, will use the Internet to provide, retrieve and use varied streams of knowledge available on the subject within Germany and internationally.

5. Germany's International S&T Activities

International S&T collaboration in Germany, both in the private and public sectors as well as in academia is highly regarded. The German government believes that:

"research results and new technologies are developed in international networks of research institutions and enterprises, in a mixture of competition and cooperation... international research networks not only increase efficiency, they also strengthen political coherence and understanding and support the integration of developing and newly industrialised countries into the global economy."

There is a wide range of German organizations which fund R&D and international exchanges: Government funding programs of federal and Laender governments, German Research Council (DFG), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation, Confederation of Industrial Research Associations (AiF), and private foundations like Volkswagen Stiftverband for German Science, and the Robert-Bosch Foundation.

Germany is the largest funding contributor to the Fifth Framework Research Program of the European Union. Similarly, considerable government resources are devoted to managing bilateral international cooperation S&T programs. Germany has formal bilateral S&T Cooperation Agreements with over 35 developed and developing countries.

Germany's Federal Ministry of Research and Education (BMBF) has the lead in the management of International S&T Cooperation with two Branches, one for the European Union and the second for other countries. In addition, its work is facilitated by an International Bureau, a government project management agency that ensures the operation of projects under specific bilateral S&T Agreements. In 1998, the International Bureau received a budget of 7.02 million Euros to administer the programs related to individual expert visits, scoping/exploratory missions, workshops etc. for promoting international cooperation. For Canada, in 1998, the Bureau had a budget of 205,200 Euros to facilitate mobility of German researchers to help catalyse bilateral R&D projects.

Germany has an extensive network of 17 S&T Counsellors posted in Embassies abroad including Brasilia, Jakarta, London, New-Delhi, Paris, Beijing, Tel Aviv, Tokyo, and IAEA. There is one in Moscow and two each in Washington and Brussels.

6. Canada's Science and Technology Counsellor in Germany

As a member of the Commercial and Economic Division at the Embassy, the S&T Counsellor's work is centred on the full life-cycle of the products of scientific research from the idea/invention phase to the development of a marketable product. Technology development duties are interfaced with two Technology and Business Development Officers (TDOs who report to the Counsellor), engaged in technology acquisition, partnering, and technology trade/investment promotion and prospecting in selected sectors. In addition, there are two support staff