



EU Institute in Japan, Kansai

"ERC goes Global"

- Its Funding Principles and Granting Mechanism for Top Researchers outside EU-

Date: July 2nd, 2012

Time: 15:00:-16:30

Co-organized with EU Institute in Japan, Kansai

Venue: Osaka University Nakanoshima Center

Map: http://www.onc.osaka-u.ac.jp/others/map/img/map_en.pdf

The EU (European Union) is composed of 27 member states located in Europe, which are working together in S&T under the Framework Programme. "FP 7" (the **Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development**) is the EU's chief instrument for funding research over the period 2007 to 2013 in the EU and 13 associated countries. **FP7 is also open for researchers from Japan from the public and the private sector**

As a flagship component of FP7, the European Research Council (ERC) is the first European funding body set up to support investigator-driven frontier research. ERC grants are awarded through open competition to projects headed by starting and established researchers, irrespective of their nationalities, who are working or moving to work in Europe - the sole criterion for selection is scientific excellence.

Prof. Dingwell is the Secretary-General of ERC since September 1st 2011. He has been highly active in science awareness within national and international societies. He has held office within several academic and professional societies and currently serves as the President of the European Geoscience Union.

Today, he is presenting the ERC, which after 5 years of existence is already highly regarded on the world stage. Prof. Dingwell is presenting the principles of this new funding organisation and some of the early accomplishments in terms of calls and its two core funding schemes: 'ERC Starting Grants' for younger, early-career top researchers and the 'ERC Advanced Grants' for senior research leaders, which are open to top researchers from all over the world.

Programme

- 15:00-15:05 Introduction by EU Institute in Japan, Kansai**
- 15:05-15:25 EU-Japan S&T Agreement and Opportunities for Japanese Researchers**
Dr. Barbara Rhode, Head of S&T Section, Delegation of EU to Japan
- 15:25-15:55 The European Research Council in the Global Research Landscape**
Prof. Donald Dingwell, Secretary-General, ERC
- 15:55-16:25 Q&A**
- 16:25-16:30 Closing by EU Institute in Japan, Kansai**

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Thursday June 28th, 2012

Background Information

Prof. Donald B. Dingwell, Ph. D

Current position: ERC Secretary General from 1 September 2011

Dingwell's principal research interest is the physico-chemical description of molten rocks and their impact on volcanic systems. His research work has been supported by grants from the ERC, Carnegie Institution, NSERC, German Research Society (DFG), Alexander-von-Humboldt-Stiftung, European Commission, NATO, and several other research agencies as well as selected industries. The fruits of that research (ca. 300 articles and over 7000 citations) have been recognised by scientific awards and fellowships of the German Mineralogical Society (DMG), the German Research Society (DFG) the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the European Geosciences Union (EGU) and the Institute of Scientific Information (Highly Cited researcher). He is an elected member and Chair of the section of Earth and Cosmic Sciences of the Academia Europaea, and a member of the Royal Society of Canada.

The Concept of "ERC goes Global"

The ERC's mission is inter alia to contribute to the attractiveness of Europe for the best researchers from outside the European Research Area. However, the first eight calls (2007 – 2010), attracted a rather low number of applications from researchers who reside in countries outside the European Research Area.

The ERC aims to - not only retain the excellent human research capital in Europe - but also attract the best research talent worldwide to perform their research in Europe. The grants are thus open to top researchers of any nationality and based anywhere, provided they will carry out their ERC-funded research in Europe.

In addition, through the openness of its funding schemes, the ERC also wants to promote "brain circulation" between Europe-based research teams and those established outside Europe.

The "**ERC goes Global**" campaign aims to raise global awareness of the ERC funding opportunities and attract top research talent to Europe. It is a key element of the ERC international strategy.

The global campaign targets over 15 countries and runs until 2014. It was launched in Canada in February this year and the ERC Secretary General has since also visited South Africa. The next stops of the tour are Asia, Russia, Mexico and the West Coast of the United States.

The ERC two core funding schemes are the 'ERC Starting Grants' for younger, early-career top researchers and the 'ERC Advanced Grants' for senior research leaders. Last year, two smaller initiatives were added, namely the 'ERC Proof of Concept' scheme and the 'ERC Synergy scheme' (targeting small groups of principal investigators working together on one project).

The ERC operates according to an "investigator-driven", or "bottom-up", approach, allowing researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research. Since its launch, the ERC has funded over 2,500 frontier research projects throughout Europe and has become a "benchmark" of the competitiveness of national innovation systems as it complements existing funding schemes at national and European levels.

The ERC has a total budget of €7.5 billion from 2007 to 2013. It is composed of an Executive Agency and a Scientific Council. The latter sets the ERC scientific strategy and consists of 22 top scientists and scholars. The ERC is led by President Prof. Helga Nowotny and the Scientific Council is represented in Brussels by Secretary General Prof. Donald Dingwell.