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Argentina - strong partnership for collaborative research

Argentina is highly active in the field of scientific research and development. The country's research and development structure is well integrated in international collaborations.

CONTINUING SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH COOPERATION WITH ARGENTINA



Dr. Lino Baraňao, Argentinian Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation and Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka, German Federal Minister of Education and Research at the 4th STC Commission meeting in Berlin 2013, ©pr-bild

Continued development of the scientific and technological cooperation (STC) between Argentina and Germany was the topic of the 4th STC Commission meeting between the two countries. The German delegation was led by Professor Dr. Johanna Wanka, Federal Minister of Education and Research, and the Argentinian delegation was led by Dr. Lino Baraňao, Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation. Within the context of the meeting, high-ranking political representatives as well as research, funding and mediating organizations from both countries came together to discuss the principles of future cooperation and to plan joint activities. Participating institutions presented their activities and prospects in the realm of scientific and technological cooperation. Individual working groups discussed the topics of bioeconomy, biomedical science, environmental research and engineering sciences. The next STC meeting is to take place in Argentina in 2015.

POLITICAL FRAMEWORK FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION IN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Alongside Brazil and Chile, Argentina is one of the Latin American countries with which Germany has been engaging in bilateral scientific and technological cooperation for many years.

The 1969 intergovernmental agreement between Germany and Argentina forms the basis of bilateral cooperation in science and technology. The cooperation partner in Argentina is the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT), which was established in December 2007.

The key areas of scientific and technological cooperation (STC) are determined by a Mixed STC Commission, which last met in Buenos Aires in November 2008. The next STC Commission meeting will take place in Germany in May 2013.

KEY AREAS OF GERMAN-ARGENTINE COOPERATION

Germany and Argentina cooperate very intensively in various fields of biotechnology, particularly for medical and agricultural applications.

Climate-relevant Antarctic research is a significant and active area of cooperation. On the German side, this is largely thanks to the initiative of the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research. Core areas of cooperation include joint expeditions on the vessel Polarstern and work undertaken at the Argentine Antarctic Station Jubany and its Dallmann laboratory. In addition to Argentina and Germany, the Netherlands is also involved in this work. A follow-on contract for scientific collaboration at the Dallmann laboratory was concluded on 5 April 2006, further extending the partnership established in 1994.

The Pierre Auger Observatory, which is located in the Argentine Pampas, is the world's largest facility for the measurement of highest-energy cosmic rays. In addition to the Karlsruhe Research Centre at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), the Universities of Aachen, Karlsruhe, Siegen and Wuppertal and the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn are also involved in the Pierre Auger project. The inauguration ceremony for the Pierre Auger Observatory took place in Malargüe, Mendoza, from 13 to 15 November 2008. High-ranking government representatives and scientists from 17 countries (including Germany) took part.



The German and Argentinian delegations at the BMBF in Berlin for the 4th STC Commission meeting, ©pr-bild

HIGHLIGHTS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION

The DAAD-funded "International Master Program in Biomedical Sciences" (IMBS) of the Albert-Ludwig-Universität Freiburg and the

University of Buenos Aires was launched in August 2008. The official opening event took place on the occasion of the first "German-Argentine Week of Scientific and Technological Cooperation".

The Science Week took place in Buenos Aires in mid-November 2008. The bilateral government commission for scientific and technological cooperation met as part of this Science Week. Further events included a seminar to present the bilateral collaborations of the past ten years, an innovation forum on climate protection through sustainable technologies as well as further events of the DAAD and the German-Argentine Chamber of Commerce (AHK).

The bicentenary festivities also included an exhibition of the Science Tunnel of the MPG in Buenos Aires in March and April 2010, which was supported by the BMBF and MinCyT. More than 45,000 people visited the science exhibition, including many school classes from Buenos Aires.

A BMBF innovation forum on environment and sustainability was held in Buenos Aires in June 2010, focusing on water protection and renewable energy. A total of 39 joint future cooperation projects were planned at the forum.

The idea of forming a German-Argentine University Centre (DAHZ) was promoted by the German Embassy in Buenos Aires during the bicentenary celebrations, which were followed by the signing of a declaration of intent on 8 March 2010 by Minister Westerwelle together with the Argentine Ministry of Education (MinEdu), Research Ministry (MINCYT), German-Argentine Science Foundation (ACTAA) and the DAAD.

The first stage of development of the DAHZ has since been implemented in the form of the founding of coordination offices in Argentina and Germany. In September 2010, the coordination office in Buenos Aires was opened under the management of Dr. Graciela Humbert Lan (Ms), and in January 2011 Dr. Reiner Mühlisiegler took over management of the German coordination office of the DAAD in Bonn. Since 1 August 2012, Dr. Spitta has been in charge of matters from Buenos Aires in his role as Interim Director. The next foundation council meeting is scheduled for December 2012.

In an initial tender phase, universities were able to submit project applications for the initiation of joint study programs (application deadline: 10.05.2011). In July 2011, 15 projects were approved from the 39 applications. Project work got underway in autumn 2011. A second tender phase is planned for spring 2012, in which project ideas for initiating further joint study programs and for establishing binational study programs can be put forward.

On 6 October 2011, the MPG partner institute for biomedicine was ceremoniously opened in Polo Científico Tecnológico in Buenos Aires, making it the world's third MPG partner institute. State Secretary of the BMBF Dr. Helge Braun took this opportunity to travel to Buenos Aires and held a number of government talks on the topics of education and research.

ADVANCEMENT OF COOPERATION WITH ARGENTINA

Bilateral scientific and technological cooperation (STC) with Argentina has evolved continuously since 1999. Current topics of mutual interest include environmental research and technology, marine and Antarctic research, biotechnology, medicine, nanotechnologies and information and communication technologies.