



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Pretoria

Highlights of GER-SA Collaboration on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation

Workshop: ESASTAP Plus

Pretoria, 19 July 2013

Maja Clausen,
Head of Education, Research, Science and Innovation
German Embassy Pretoria

Germany's Strategy for the Internationalization of Science & Technology (2008)

Four main priorities

1. Strengthening research cooperation with global leaders

2. International exploitation of innovation potentials

3. Intensifying the cooperation with developing and emerging countries in education, research and development on a long-term basis

4. Assuming international responsibility and mastering global challenges

Governmental Programme 2009 – 2013

„**Education** and **research** will become a priority in our cooperation with emerging countries and developing countries“

German - South African Collaboration on Research & STI

- Based on an **intergovernmental agreement** on “Bilateral Cooperation in Science, Research and Technology” between **BMBF and DST from 1996** (same year as EU-SA agreement!)
 - (bi-)annual Joint Committee Meeting (linked to BNC)
 - annual call for proposals for bilateral research projects
 - long-term projects (e.g. IWRM, Inkaba yeAfrica, ENERKEY etc.)
- Increasing number of **regional and multilateral activities** with SA plus other SADC/African partners (e.g. SPACES, SASSCAL, The Future Okavango etc.)
- Emphasis on “**global challenges**” such as *biodiversity, climate change, energy security, resource management, health, urbanisation etc.*



German - South African Year of Science (April 2012 to April 2013)

- Key objective: **deepen and strengthen** this cooperation and tackle global challenges together
- Emphasis on **diversity and excellence** of GER-SA cooperation in research & STI as well as **exchange/involvement** of young scientists
- Overarching Theme:
“Enhancing Science Partnership for Innovation and Sustainable Development”
- **Joint call** for proposals (41 projects selected for funding); **joint scientific events** (conferences, workshops, symposia etc.) **in both countries.**

Topics

- Astronomy
- Bioeconomy
- Climate change
- Health innovation
- Human capital development
- Humanities and social sciences
- Urbanisation/megacities



2012 | 2013
German-South African
Year of Science
Deutsch-Südafrikanisches
Jahr der Wissenschaft



What next? – The way forward...

- GER-SA Year of Science „**Legacy Project**“: **Bilateral Research Chair** at a SA University in an area of mutual strategic interest (currently under negotiation); to be established by the **end of 2014**
- **Joint call for proposals** (research projects): to be published in **last quarter of 2013**
- **Extended networks** and **new partnerships** between universities and other research institutions from both countries leading to new initiatives and ideas (still evolving, often beyond the bilateral level)
- **MoU between ASSAf and German National Academy of Sciences – Leopoldina**: to be signed in August 2013 (based on collaboration over past 8 yrs)
- Linking bilateral activities with regional & multilateral initiatives: **using leverage effects & synergies**



Conclusions

- Joint Year of Science has **reinforced** long-lasting, well-established **STI partnership** between GER-SA and created new opportunities
 - positive experience: South Africa as a **competent and committed partner** in bilateral cooperation
 - **advanced knowledge and expertise** in certain areas and professional engagement & management
- At the same time: South Africa as a **hub** for the African continent
 - opportunity to **create broader networks** of cooperation across various research areas (not necessarily limited to one field of action)
- Example: the involvement in ESASTAP Plus provides GER **access to a network that has already been established**
 - helps to position bilateral activities **in the European context**
 - linking to existing network activities **enhances the visibility** of German involvement in South Africa



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Pretoria

**Thank you
for your attention!**