



*Promoting and supporting the
Development of cooperation on ICT research between Europe and Korea*

THE COJAK FP7 PROJECT IN A NUTSHELL

The COJAK project, coordinated by Sigma Orionis (see <http://www.sigma-orionis.com>) has been launched in January 2008 with the support of the European Commission through its FP7 funding programme (see <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7>). It is one of the “support actions” in the portfolio of the International relations Unit of the Directorate General Information Society and Media.

One of the main objectives of the COJAK project is, under the aegis of the European Commission and of the Ministry of Knowledge Economy, Republic of Korea, to promote and support the development of cooperation on ICT research between Europe and Korea, particularly under FP7.

COJAK activities include the organisation of cooperation events open to universities, research institutes, large companies and SMEs, etc. from both regions:

- The 2nd “EU-Korea cooperation Forum on ICT research” held on December 1-2, 2008 at the Radisson Royal Hotel in Brussels.
- The “Korea-EU cooperation event” of June 22, 2009 (Daejeon Convention Center, Daejeon, Korea).

All project activities, benefitting from the contribution of the Institute of Information Technology Advancement (<http://www.iita.re.kr>) are presented in detail on the <http://www.eurosouthkorea-ict.org> web portal that offers European and Korean organisations interested in developing joint R&D projects substantial background information, news related to major developments of the EU-Korea cooperation framework, and access to an online community of researchers from both regions (free membership).

For further information, please contact info@eurosouthkorea-ict.org.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

EU - SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS

The relations between the European Union (EU) and the Republic of South Korea are founded on:

- increasingly shared political values,
- strong economic links reflecting larger and larger bilateral trade and investment flows,
- the EU's reiterated support for South Korea's policy of engagement with the North.

In 1995, the EU decided to negotiate a "Framework Agreement on Trade and Cooperation", in recognition of South Korea's increasing role in the Asian and global economy, and of its success in consolidating democracy. This Agreement entered into force in April 2001 and is implemented through an annual meeting of a Joint Committee.



The EU - South Korea dialogue has broadened these last years, namely through "EU-Korea Summits" and regular ministerial meetings. Both parties cooperate closely in a number of multilateral fora, and have close relationship within the Asian Europe meeting (ASEM).

BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS

In 2007, the volume of bilateral trade between the EU and South Korea reached 64 billion euro. South Korea remains the EU's fourth largest non-European trade partner while the EU has become South Korea's second largest exports destination.

In 2007, the EU was the largest foreign investor with around 3 billion euro of foreign direct investment into South Korea, representing over 50% of the total. At the same time the EU remains the largest foreign investor to South Korea in terms of cumulative total since 1962.

Both parties are determined to facilitate two-way trade and investment flows by both multilateral and bilateral actions. Existing bilateral agreements should be notably enhanced thanks to a FTA (Free Trade Agreement), the negotiation of which has been authorised by the European Council in April 2007.

EU-KOREA S&T COOPERATION IN THE ICT AREA

Several South Korean ICT companies (namely large corporations) have established research teams in Europe since quite a long time for most of them. These teams have been, year after year, increasingly involved in collaborative projects funded through European Union's research programmes, including the FP6 IST Programme, which ended in 2006.

However, the participation of Korean organisations based in South Korea (large corporations but also smaller companies, universities, research institutes, etc.) in EU-funded projects in the ICT area has remained quite low over the past years, particularly when compared to the level of participation of organisations from other leading industrialized or emerging countries (see illustration).

This situation should improve in the next years since the ICT theme of the FP7 EU research programme (launched in 2007) opens new perspectives for the development of EU-South Korea S&T cooperation in the ICT area.

Moreover, the S&T Agreement signed in November 2006 between the EU and South Korea will improve the overall cooperation framework and boost the emergence of cooperation projects.

Participation of third countries organisations in the FP6 IST programme
European Commission - January 2007

