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focus

BUILDING THE EUROPEAN-AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COMMUNITY
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Australia's new Prime Minister used his first speech in Brussels to draw attention to the existence of the Forum for European–Australian Science and Technology cooperation (FEAST)

Australian research going global

As the Prime Minister noted, Europe is Australia's major research partner, illustrated by the number of academic publications. According to our dataset, the early 1990s marked a point of divergence between Australia's research collaboration with Europe and the USA. The number of collaborative publications with European researchers has grown faster than the number with US collaborators. Not surprisingly, the number of collaborative publications with China has been increasing since 1997, far more than that with India. Furthermore, FEAST's analysis reveals that most of the growth in Australia's research publications is associated with international collaboration rather than purely domestic efforts. The output of purely domestic papers is growing by around 200 per year whereas papers with international authors are growing by roughly 600 per year.

There are several factors responsible for these trends. International research col-

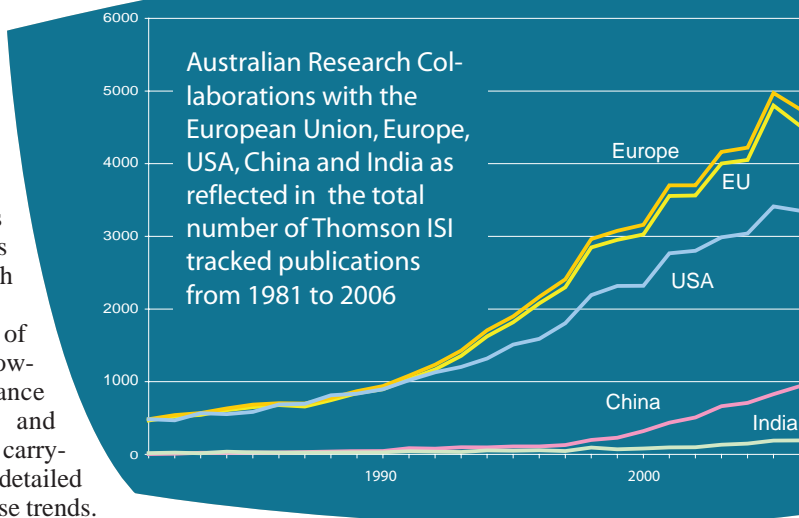
laborating is broadening geographically as well as deepening. What is clear at this is that research engagement with Europe is of major, and growing, significance to Australia and FEAST will be carrying out more detailed analyses of these trends.

In regard to strategy and policy, we recommend that international engagement should be treated as part of the 'core business' of doing research – not as an optional extra requiring targeted funding. From our perspective, the rules and regulations surrounding research funding that restrict scope for international collaboration are a key impediment preventing researchers from building these relationships. The reason is simple. Restrictions on the use of funding for travel and other costs of

international collaboration limit the scope for conducting internationally engaged research. A more permissive approach to research funding would allow international collaborative relationships to be configured 'bottom up' in line with researchers' collective aims [...]

*Dr. Mark Matthews,
FEAST Executive Director*

You can read more about these results at www.feast.org/?article&ID=934 and the FEAST submission to the Innovation Review at www.feast.org/?article&ID=936



Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology Cooperation

www.feast.org
info@feast.org
building 67a

The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Australia

Training in petrology

Senator the Hon. Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and His Excellency Mr Bruno Julien, Ambassador of the European Commission to Australia and New Zealand opened the EURISPET summer school in Canberra on the first day of February 2008. The EUROpean Intensive Seminars of Petrology (Eurispet) is a Marie Curie Series of Events funded by FP6. The Marie Curie Conferences & Training Courses aim to provide short-term training opportunities

www.feast.org/?article&ID=929

Europe Strategy Days 2008

With partners from Europe, Victoria and Sydney, the FEAST secretariat hosted two conferences in Sydney and Melbourne on the 18th and 19th March. The aim of these free workshops was to expose businesses and academic researchers to the opportunities that are emerging to intensify research and innovation cooperation with Europe. The Europe Strategy Days provided an opportunity to consider how Australia and Europe benefit from mutual S&T cooperation both directly and indirectly in terms of business innovation and policy innovation.

www.feast.org/strategy2008

Partner your organisation through IRSES

The European Commission has released a new Marie Curie scheme, the Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES). IRSES provides support for Australian and European research organisations to establish or reinforce long-term research co-operation through a joint programme of staff exchanges. The 2008 call received a number of applications from Australia.

www.feast.org/?article&ID=852

Australian Associate Membership of EMBL

On 1 March 2008, Australia officially became the first associate member of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), the leading European life sciences research organisation. The NHMRC will support the establishment of an Australian research group at EMBL.

www.feast.org/?article&ID=910

FEAST-Germany

The first chapters of the Germany-Australia research network were launched in Sydney and Canberra. FEAST-Germany will highlight research links between the two countries with the support of local contacts, FEAST and the German Embassy in Canberra.

www.feast.org/germany

Scientific Visits to Europe

The Australian Academy of Science is inviting applications for grants for short-term scientific visits (14–40 days) to Europe in 2009, to foster collaborations between Australian and overseas researchers. Deadline for applications is 27th June 2008.

www.feast.org/?opportunity&ID=1167

Mosquitoes have new frontier

International collaboration in the fight against Malaria is set for a welcome boost thanks to a new agreement between Australia's Research Network for Parasitology and the EU's Network of Excellence on the Biology and Pathology of Malaria (BioMalPar). Under the new Memorandum of Understanding the two networks will join forces to form the largest ever global network of acclaimed scientists to set the scientific basis for prevention and new treatment of the vector-borne infectious disease Malaria. According to Professor Nick Smith, Convenor of the Network and chief investigator at Sydney's UTS Institute for the Biotechnology of Infectious Diseases, the alliance will promote collaboration between individual scientists and research groups. "It will also result in improved coordination of relevant research programmes in the EU and Australia in an effort to defeat malaria," he said.

www.feast.org/?article&ID=900

Diary

Asnapshot of Australian and European activity.
www.feast.org/?diary

Bilateral networks:

- ARIA
www.scientificambitalia.org.au/aria.asp
- FEAST France
www.feast.org/france
- FEAST Germany
www.feast.org/germany

Australian Government announces review of national innovation system

On 22 January 2008, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, announced a wide ranging review of Australia's national innovation system to be conducted by an expert panel chaired by Dr Terry Cutler. A Green Paper will be received from the panel by the end of July 2008, and this will be followed by a White Paper response from the Government. Submissions were open until the end of April, and are now available for review, including a submission from FEAST.

www.feast.org/?article&ID=877

Profile of a Go8 European Fellow

Monash University is a very long way from his home town of Gdansk but this endocrinologist from Poland and Group of Eight Fellow says he feels a strong connection to Australia because its people are so open and friendly. Dr Dominik Rachon arrived in Melbourne in late 2007 as one of four inaugural Go8 European Fellows who will spend up to six months working in a Go8 university. The Go8 European Fellowships provide travel costs and a living allowance for up to six months and are currently open to eligible researchers from Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland.

www.feast.org/?article&ID=889

Affordable Low Emission Energy and Water

A one day roundtable hosted by the French Embassy and FEAST, to be held in November 2008, will provide an opportunity for industrialists, policy-makers and academic researchers to meet to consider options for intensified French-Australian cooperation in low emission energy and water technologies. In addition to awareness raising and networking, a key output will be the drafting, following the roundtable, of an agenda for French-Australian cooperation in affordable low emission energy and water solutions.

www.feast.org/france



FEAST

is the only organization having an official mandate from the Australian government and the European Commission to foster co-operation in research
www.feast.org



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Science and Training



European Commission

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