

## APPENDIX 3 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

This appendix outlines the highlights of the ARC's international activities during the year 2001-02.

### INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

The ARC has memoranda of understanding (MoU) with 12 overseas research agencies in 11 countries. The memoranda provide an 'umbrella' under which various types of research collaboration can take place. At 30 June 2002, the ARC had memoranda of understanding in place with agencies in eleven countries (Table 41).

**Table 41: Memoranda of Understanding between ARC and Overseas Agencies**

COUNTRY	RESEARCH AGENCY
Austria	Austrian Science Foundation
China	National Natural Science Foundation of China
Czech Republic	Grant Agency of the Czech Republic
France	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
Germany	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft <sup>1</sup>
Indonesia	University Research Council
Italy	National Research Council of Italy
Japan	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
Republic of Korea	Korea Science and Engineering Foundation Korea Research Foundation
Netherlands	Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
Switzerland	Swiss National Science Foundation <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The memoranda of understanding with agencies in Germany and Switzerland also have the National Health and Medical Research Council as a signatory.

The ARC has also decided that a number of countries with which Australia has traditional research links will be treated as though a memorandum of understanding exists. These countries are Canada, New Zealand, India, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The European Union Sixth Framework Program is also treated as though an agreement is in place.

The ARC also has reciprocal research fellowship agreements with four overseas research agencies for the conduct of postdoctoral research (Table 42). In addition, the ARC has an agreement with the Australian Academy of Science and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science that provides for up to ten fellowships per year for Australian researchers to conduct postdoctoral research in Japan. Details are available from the Academy's website at <http://www.science.org.au/>.

**Table 42: Agencies with which ARC has Reciprocal Research Fellowship Agreements**

COUNTRY	RESEARCH AGENCY
France	Ministry of National Education, Research and Technology
Germany	Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
Republic of Korea	Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF) <sup>1</sup>
United Kingdom	Office of Science and Technology

<sup>1</sup> The Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering are partners with the ARC on the agreement with KOSEF.

## PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

### **OECD—Global Science Forum**

Professor Sara, the Chief Executive Officer of the ARC, is Australia's delegate to the OECD's Global Science Forum (GSF) and one of its vice-chairs. In June 2002, Professor Sara attended the seventh meeting of the GSF in Paris. Representatives at the meeting discussed the future work program of the forum, including several proposals from Australia.

### **Asia—Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**

In October 2001, Professor Sara joined an Australian delegation at the Science and Technology Policy Forum held in Malaysia on 'Science, Technology and Innovation for the New Economy: Building Capacity across APEC'. Professor Sara chaired discussions on one of the forum's principal themes—developing science and technology networks.

### **Forum for European—Australian Science and Technology Cooperation (FEAST)**

The ARC is an active participant in the Forum for European—Australian Science and Technology Cooperation (FEAST). FEAST was established in 2001 as an initiative of the diplomatic missions representing the European Union in Australia and major Australian science and technology organisations, to highlight and improve bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The European Union (EU) is Australia's largest scientific partner, mainly through bilateral collaboration with individual member countries, but also through multilateral projects. Through FEAST the ARC has an excellent conduit to EU member governments, agencies and research organisations. The ARC is a member of the Joint Advisory Group and a member of the Collaborative Activities working group and the FEAST 3 organising committee.

### **Asia—Pacific Nanotechnology Forum**

In February 2002, Dr Stephen Walker (Executive Director, Engineering and Environmental Sciences) was invited to the inaugural Asia—Pacific Nanotechnology Forum (APNF) in Japan. Most South-East Asian nations, the United States, Canada and Australia were well represented at the forum and provided a good overview of their existing and planned funding activities for nanotechnology.

## INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

During 2001-02, a number of delegations and individuals from overseas agencies met with the Chief Executive Officer and other senior ARC representatives to discuss a range of issues relating to research and research training.

**Table 43: International Visitors to the ARC, 2001-02**

COUNTRY	AGENCY	REPRESENTATIVES
Germany	German Academic Exchange Foundation (DAAD)	Professor Max Huber, Vice-President (and a delegation of 20 universities representatives)
	Government	Mr Thomas Oppermann, Minister for Science and Culture in Lower Saxony (and a delegation of nine university officials) Dr Wiltrud Kern, First Secretary of the German Embassy
Korea	Korea Science and Engineering Foundation	Delegation
Sweden	Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT)	Ms Mari-Anne Roselund, Program Director
Taiwan	Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Barton, ACT	Delegation
	National Science Council	Dr Joseph Yang, Director General Mr Henry Shan, Program Director of Southeast Asia, Department of International Programs
	Academica Sinica	Professor Yuan T Lee, President
United Kingdom	Wellcome Trust	Dr Mary Phillips, Scientific Programme Manager, Biomedical Science Dr Richard Lane, Head of International Programmes
	Royal Society	Professor Dame Julia Higgins, Foreign Secretary
United States	US Office of Naval Research	Dr Craig Dorman
	National Science Foundation	Mr David Lambert, Program Director, Instrumentation and Facilities, Division of Earth Sciences
Vietnam	Government	Mr Chu Tuan Nha, Minister for Science, Technology and the Environment (and a delegation of six officials)

## INTERNATIONAL VISITS (BY REGION/COUNTRY)

Representatives of the ARC also made presentations at a number of international conferences and meetings held both in Australia and overseas.

### Asia

#### CHINA

From 1 to 3 August 2001, the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC), Beijing, held an International Forum on Science Funding Systems Oriented to the 21st Century to celebrate its 15th anniversary. Heads of both European and Asian research agencies were invited to participate in the forum, which provided an opportunity to exchange information about research funding systems. Professor Sara presented a paper to the forum on 21st Century Science Funding in Australia.

#### KOREA

On 16 May 2002, Professor Sara was invited to attend an international symposium to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Korean Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF). The symposium was entitled 'Perspectives on Global Trends in Science and Technology'.

## SINGAPORE

From 4 to 5 December 2001, the CEO was invited by Professor Lim Kiang Wee, Director, Science and Engineering Research Council, National Science and Technology Board of Singapore (NSTB) to participate in discussions aimed at establishing a long-term strategic alliance between the ARC and the NSTB. The discussions also involved Nanyang Technological University of Singapore, the Institute for Materials Research and Engineering, and the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biotechnology.

## TAIWAN

At the invitation of the National Science Council (NSC), Taipei, Professor Sara visited Taiwan from 18 to 21 May. The purpose of the visit was to showcase the NSC's R&D capabilities and to discuss possible avenues for future cooperation. Arrangements were made for Professor Sara to visit Chiaotung University, the National Nano Device Laboratories, the Industrial Technology Research Institute, and the Science-based Industrial Park, which houses about 350 high-technology companies, universities and bilingual schools. Professor Sara also visited a highly successful small- to medium-size business enterprise, K Laser Technology Inc, which is a world leader in hologram technology.

## The Pacific

### NEW ZEALAND

From 3 to 4 October 2001, the CEO was invited to attend a workshop held by the New Zealand Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MoRST), Wellington. Australian participation in the workshop was coordinated by the then Department of Industry, Science and Resources, and the CSIRO and NHMRC were also invited to attend.

The workshop identified a range of mechanisms to enhance collaboration between Australia and New Zealand, including the conduct of strategic forums at the researcher level; discussions between the Marsden Fund and the ARC using joint centres as a possible magnet for joint activity; participation in other international early-career initiatives involving the National Science Foundation; and establishment of hot links to country-specific web pages.

From 10 to 11 April 2002, MoRST held a second policy round table in Canberra in which the ARC participated.

## Europe

### GERMANY

Professor Sara was invited to Berlin from 6 to 7 May 2002 to attend, and make a presentation to, an OECD workshop on Science Funding in Transition—Changing Paradigms and First Experiences of Implementation. Other countries represented at the workshop included Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. There was general agreement amongst countries for the implementation of the following:

- coordination among government bodies and the setting of government priorities to maximise benefits from scarce resources (with many countries addressing these through single, overarching funding agencies)
- competitive funding as opposed to block or institutional funding as the means of directing government investment to ensure quality and excellence and achieve far more effectiveness and efficiency in the distribution of resources
- robust evaluation methods to test the effectiveness of systems and programs and the need to adjust these systems and programs according to the results of evaluation
- a shift from input to output/outcome emphasis, particularly on the need to evaluate outcomes from priority setting.