

EU-Singapore Research & Innovation Cooperation

Deputy Director-General Signe Ratso visits Singapore

As part of Deputy Director-General Signe Ratso's visit to Singapore, a conference was co-organised by the EU Delegation and EURAXESS ASEAN with and at Nanyang Technological University (NTU). The aim was to assess the state of collaboration in Research & Innovation and discuss ways in which the relationship between EU and Singapore can be further strengthened.

DDG Signe RATSO presented the Horizon Europe programme together with its key underlying principle – the need to drive the production of meaningful research. She explained in detail the programme, the benefits of association to it while stressing the need for collaborative research to tackle global challenges. In her presentation she underlined the five-targeted missions on cities, oceans, soils, climate adaptation and cancer, concluding by explaining the benefits of association for Singapore and its researchers/research entities.

Prof Tim White, (Vice President, International Engagement at NTU) echoed DDG Ratso's points highlighting the importance of global cooperation in the field of R&I. Then, he presented the Nanyang Research Programme and underlined the similarities with Horizon Europe. He explained how NTU collaborates closely with several European research entities. As he would like to see deeper collaboration between the EU and Singapore, he hoped that Singapore will be an associate partner in Horizon Europe.

Dr Teresa Ho, (President of A*STAR Postdoc and Early Career Scientist Society (A*PECSS)) added to the discussion by sharing her experiences from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) programme that supports young researchers. She said it allowed her to develop contacts with a wide network of researchers in Europe and share best practices through collaboration.

Dr Ronny Sondjaja, (Vice President and Head of Research Development & Innovation, Evonik Asia Pacific) lent a business perspective to the lively panel discussion. He explained how Horizon Europe has helped Evonik - a German multi-national with a strong presence in Singapore.

This multi-stakeholder panel was an ideal platform to discuss ways of strengthened EU-Singapore cooperation in research & innovation and highlighted the many benefits of association to Horizon Europe.





(Iwona Piórko, Ambassador of the European Union to Singapore (@IwonaPiórkoEU))

"Today's challenges call for multilateral responses & global solutions: 🇪🇺🇸🇬 research communities have a key role to play. Great panel with Dy Director-General Signe Ratso, Prof Tim White, Dr Ronny Sondjaja & Dr Teresa Ho & Dr Susanne Rentzow-Vasu".



Signe Ratso, Deputy Director-General (@ratsosi)

"Happy to be in Singapore 🇸🇬 to discuss ways to strengthen 🇪🇺🇸🇬 R&I cooperation and the #HorizonEU association possibility @NTUsG".



European Union Delegation to Singapore (@EUinSingapore)





Irish Embassy to Singapore (@IrlEmbSingapore)

“Great panel discussion highlighting the need for global research collaboration to address today's challenges. Horizon Europe presents many opportunities for increased cooperation on research and innovation”.



Darren J. McDermott – Team Leader (@EURASEANEDU)

“Happening now @NTUsg, EU Ambassador to Singapore H.E. Dr. Iwona Piorko opens the exchange on   Research & Innovation cooperation with Deputy Director General Signe Ratso, Prof Tim White and Dr Teresa Ho”



Lunch with EU researchers based in Singapore

(15 June 2022)



On Wednesday, 15th June, a lunch was organised with EU researchers at TUM Create. TUM Create is a multidisciplinary research platform of the Technical University of Munich at the Singapore Campus for Research Excellence and Technological Enterprise (CREATE). **Dr Thomas Aulig** (Corporate director of TUM CREATE) and **Dr Susanne Rentzow-Vasu** (Regional Coordinator, EURAXESS ASEAN) co-chaired and moderated the exchanges with participants.

It was a lively discussion. The EU researchers presented their activities: what they do, who they work with and what they expect from such a programme. As there is already close collaboration between EU researchers based in Singapore and EU research entities in Europe (*they shared some inspiring stories to illustrate this*), they would welcome closer collaboration between the EU and Singapore. Some of them also expressed their concerns; they explained how competitive the program was and how complicated it was to get funding. It was relevant for DDG Ratso to get this feedback; she now has a better understanding of the situation in Singapore regarding research and innovation.

More than 20 EU researchers based in Singapore (*from Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Sweden*) were present.



(Iwona Piórko, Ambassador to the European Union to Singapore (@Iwona PiórkoEU))

"Wrapping up two intense days of meetings and exchanges with visit to multi-energy grid REIDS @NTUSg. Delighted to host DDG @ratsosi to build even stronger   research cooperation. Innovation never happens in isolation".



European Union Delegation to Singapore (@EUinSingapore)

" is home to an ever growing community of  researchers. Deputy Director-General Signe Ratso meets them to hear about their experience & incredible stories".





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