

# From National Competition to International Collaboration:

## SACF and MIRAI

Petra Moser-Noergaard, Lund University  
Stockholm, 7 March 2018

# Background SACF and MIRAI

---

- SACF and MIRAI result of 'Swedish Excellence Seminar' project (2012-2014), coordinated by LU, co-funded by STINT
  - Importance to bring Swedish universities together to jointly present Swedish higher education and research
  - Universities and researchers from the partner countries participate on an equal base

# SACF

---

- SACF (Swedish Academic Collaboration Project, 08/2014-02/2017)
  - Chalmers University of Technology, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Linköping University, Lund University (coord.), Stockholm University, Uppsala University
  - Partners: organisations and institutions in Korea, China, Singapore, Brazil, Indonesia and Sweden



# MIRAI

---

- MIRAI - Connecting Swedish and Japanese Universities through Research, Education and Innovation (08/2016-12/2019)
  - Focus: Early career researcher, Subjects: Ageing, Materials Science, Sustainability
  - Partners: 7 Swedish and 8 Japanese universities



# Overall objectives SACF and MIRAI

---

- Strengthen collaboration between Swedish universities and universities in partner country
- Increase Sweden's competitiveness in the international research & education arena
- Jointly market research & education in Sweden and Sweden as a research and study destination
- Create a platform for researchers
- Provide researchers with knowledge and networks for future international cooperation
- Facilitate access to external and/or joint funding

# Activities SACF

---

Six 'Excellence Seminars':

Korea, April 2015

Singapore, Nov 2015

China, Nov 2015

Indonesia, March 2016

Brazil, May 2016

Stockholm, Feb 2017



# Results SACF

---

## For researchers

- New and deepened contacts to researchers from host country and colleagues in Sweden
- Participation in conferences as keynote speakers
- Concrete future cooperation activities:
  - Exchange visits (staff) and student exchange
  - Joint research proposals/projects (e.g. VR funded project as a result from Indonesia seminar)
  - Joint workshops/symposia
  - Joint publications
  - Joint PhD supervision/visiting PhD
  - Guest lectures



# Results SACF cont.

---

## **For institutions**

- Deepened relationships with partner universities and organisations
- Increased knowledge about each others research & education structure and systems
- Increased visibility
- Signing of new agreements
- Invitations to participate in networks
- Strengthened national network in Sweden
- Three binational-multilateral collaboration projects (MIRAI – Japan; ACCESS – Chile; SASUF - South Africa)



# Activities MIRAI

---

## Research

- Research seminars (Sweden 2017; Japan 2018; Sweden 2019)
- Scientific workshops in 2018 & 2019
- Short-term mobility for researchers

## Education

- PhD activities
- Short courses for PhD students
- PhD places in courses, etc.
- Participation in seminar or/and workshops



## Innovation

- Workshops and meetings to discuss innovation aspects of relevance for the universities.

# Challenges

---



- Communication
- Expectations of participants
- Broad scientific subjects
- Follow up
- Seed funding and long-term funding
- Difficulty to measure success
- Ensuring sustainability
- Administrative workload

Thank you!