17. **PAK-FRANCE Research Program (PERIDOT)**

**Overview**

PERIDOT is the Franco-Pakistani Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) Program providing opportunities to Pakistani and French researchers to interact for joint research activities.

**Program Objectives**

The objective of this program is to develop new scientific and technological cooperation between French and Pakistani higher education institutions/research laboratories by supporting the mobility of researchers from both sides. The priority areas in 2017 are:

- Health
- Energy
- Climate Change
- Archeology/Heritage
- Water

**Eligibility Criteria**

- Applicant must hold a research/faculty position at HEC recognized university/HEI.
- The major cost of the project will be borne by the participating universities from Pakistan and France.
- The program will support only mobility of the researchers to and from Pakistan.
- Active participation and mobility of young researchers, especially doctoral or post-doctoral students (enrolled under supervision by the PI) is one of the key objective.
- Each project must be submitted simultaneously in Pakistan France. The proposals must be signed by the head of institutions as well.
- The host institution must guarantee having the needed capacities (e.g. working space) to accommodate the visiting fellows.
- Maximum two research projects can be submitted by one PI for funding.
- Project life is preferably for 03 years, and will aim at developing on-going collaborations and to generate new ones

**Funding Criteria**

The funds will be granted on an annual basis, for maximum three consecutive years (till the life of project).

**The HEC Pakistan covers;**

- Travel expenses of Pakistani Researchers to France @ Rs.200,000/- round trip including inland travel:
Living allowance to French Researchers in Pakistan @ Rs.5000/- per diem for short stay <= 10 days and @Rs.3000/- per diem for long stay > 10 days up to 3 months

**Contribution by the France covers**

- Travel expenses to French Researchers to Pakistan, as per French policy (1500 euros)
- Living allowance to Pakistani Researchers in France @ € 110 per diem for short stay <= 10 days and @ € 65 per diem for long stay > 10 days up to 3 months

**Submission (How to apply)**

- Projects will be submitted on prescribed application form
- Partners will have to submit the project simultaneously in Pakistan and France.
- Maximum two research projects can be submitted by one P.I. for funding.
- CVs of French and Pakistani researchers participating in the project should be attached to the application form.
- Completed application (4 sets/copies) should be submitted.

**Focal Points for Linkages**

- In French universities: Director of International Relations in the concerned university.
- In Pakistani universities: Director (ORIC), while for non ORIC HEIs, Director Board of Advanced Studies & Research of the university.

**Evaluation**

The projects are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of to the priority areas
- Scientific quality of the proposed research
- Research track and experience of the visiting fellow
- Suitability of the Principal Investigator and the host institute
- Complementarity of co-applicants (benefit for each co-applicant)
- Potential for long-term collaboration
- Impact on economy & society

**Selection**

- Applications will be assessed and ranked according to their scientific quality.
- Active participation and mobility of young researchers, especially doctoral or post-doctoral students is one of the primary criteria for selection.
- The proposals will be reviewed by the experts.
- A joint-committee will proceed to the final selection of projects.

**Monitoring**

- The renewal of the annual funding is subject to the submission of a scientific and financial progress report at the end of each year.
• A joint mid-term report must be submitted.
• A joint final report is required no later than three months after the completion of projects.
• All progress reports will be reviewed by the experts.