



DFG

International Research Cooperation Chances and Challenges

Dr. Iris WIECZOREK, Director DFG Office Japan
Tokyo, September 30, 2009



DFG

Outline

- 1. The DFG**
- 2. International Strategy of DFG**
- 3. Chances and Challenges of International Cooperation**

DFG: Who we are and what we do

- The central **public funding organization** for academic research in Germany
- **Self-governing body** of science and research in Germany, not a government agency
- **Legal status**: association under private law
- Promoting academic **excellence** on a competitive basis
- **Bottom-up** approach
- (application-oriented) **basic research**
- Serving science and the arts in **all fields**
- Advisory activities in **politics**
- Special focus on supporting **young researchers**
- Promoting **gender equality** in science
- Promoting **international** research cooperation
- Fostering links between **science and industry**



DFG Budget

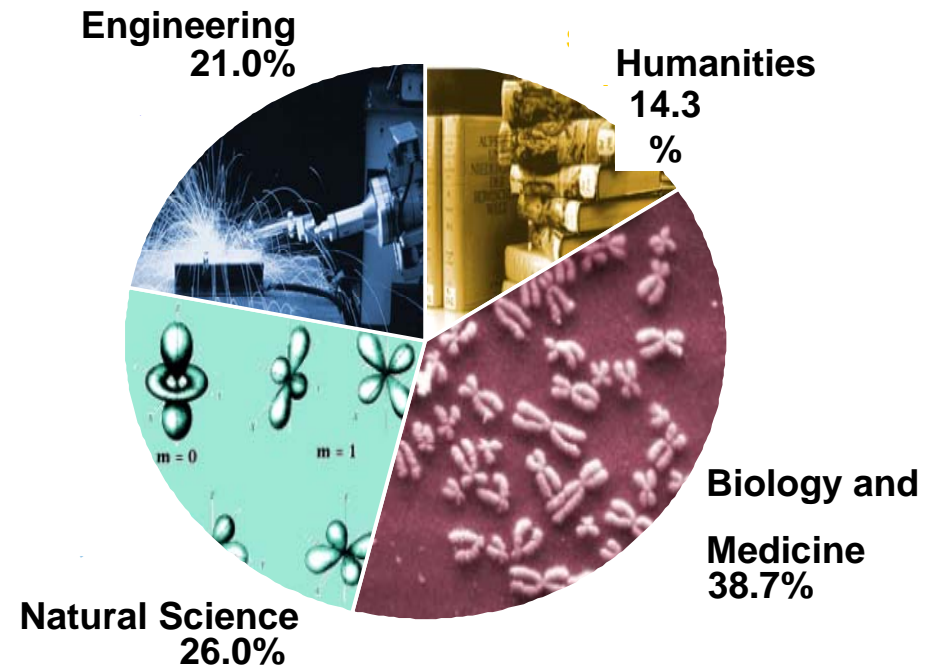
Annual Budget : 2,1 billion Euro

Sources of Funding

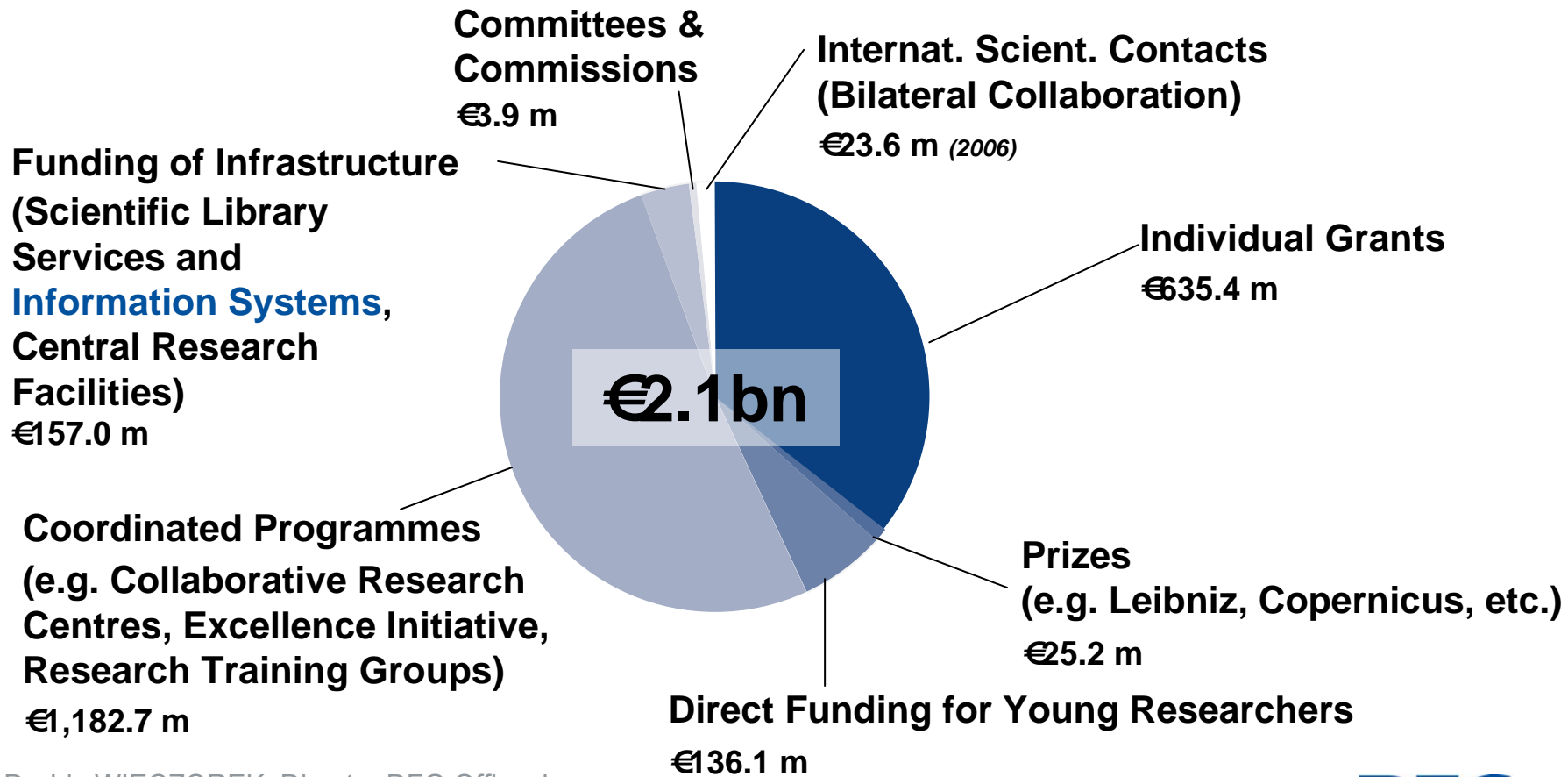
**58% Federal States (Bund),
41% States (Länder), 0,4% Others**

Funding Volume (2008)

- ▶ Nearly 1.000 running programmes
- ▶ More than 20.000 projects funded



DFG Procedures and Programmes - Approvals 2007



International Strategy of DFG

Supporting

- ▶ international cooperation and activities of single researchers or whole groups of researchers

by

- ▶ opening all DFG programmes for international cooperation
- ▶ programmes with an international focus
(International Research Training Groups, etc.)
- ▶ agreements with partner organisations, specific thematic calls
(to meet demand of scientific community)



* Intensify intra-German cooperation in overall international strategy with e.g. AvH, DAAD, Alliance, Ministry for Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Academies

The International DFG: Offices Abroad

Common Aims

- to promote scientific collaboration
- information centres: to create ideal conditions for the exchange of scientific information
- to build an extensive network of personal and professional links
- to cooperate with other funding agencies
- to organise bilateral symposia and workshops

**Japan
Liaison Office,
Tokyo, April 2009**



**Sino-German Centre
for Science Promotion
Beijing, 2000**



**US Liaison Offices
Washington DC, 2002
New York, 2007**



**Russian
Liaison Office
Moscow, 2003**



**Indian
Liaison Office
New Delhi, 2006**



DFG's Japanese Partners

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

- **Memorandum of Understanding on German-Japanese Graduate Externship – International Research Training Groups (2005)**
- **JSPS liaison office in Bonn** <http://www.jsps-bonn.de>

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

- Joint funding scheme for the research field of "**Nanoelectronics**"
- **Joint application**, to be handed in both to DFG and JST in parallel
- **Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Research Program (15th April 2009)**

Initiation and Intensification of Bilateral Cooperation

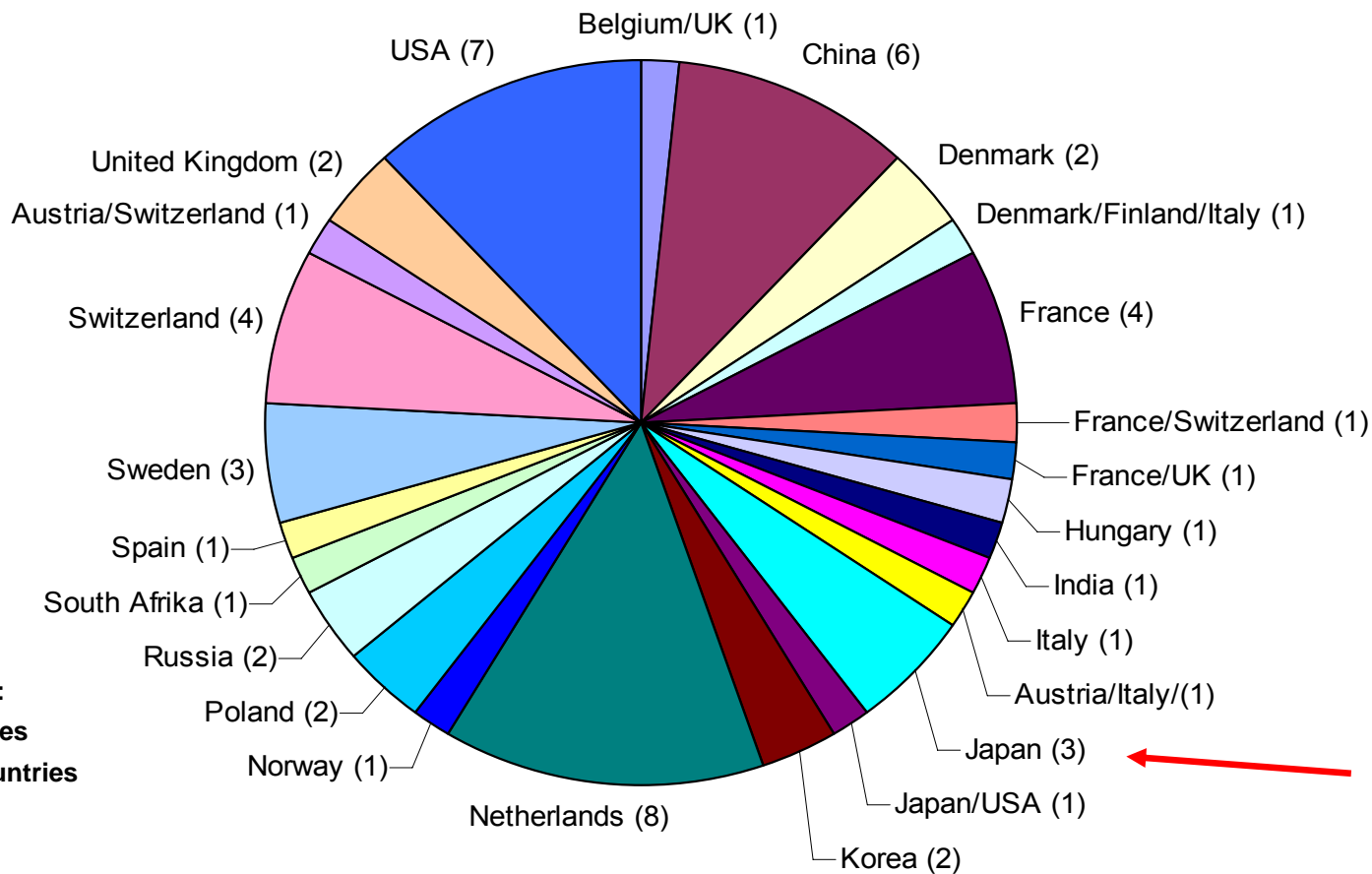
Germany - Japan

- **since January 1, 2009:** flexible and modular funding instrument
- **Eligibility:** Postdocs
- **Funding modules**
 - **Preparatory visits/ research stays**
(up to 3 months at host institute in Germany / Japan)
 - **Joint events** (bilateral workshops or seminars in Germany / Japan)
 - any number of different modules can be combined
- **Funding period:** up to 1 year, one extension is possible
- **Co-funding:** “sending side pays” (e.g. travel, accomodation, allowance, event)
DFG covers costs for German researchers
JSPS covers costs for Japanese researchers
- **Application:** German PI at DFG Headquarter in Bonn
Japanese PI at JSPS Headquarter in Tokyo

International Research Training Groups

PhD Training and Scientific Cooperation Worldwide

N = 58
(out of 240 RTG)

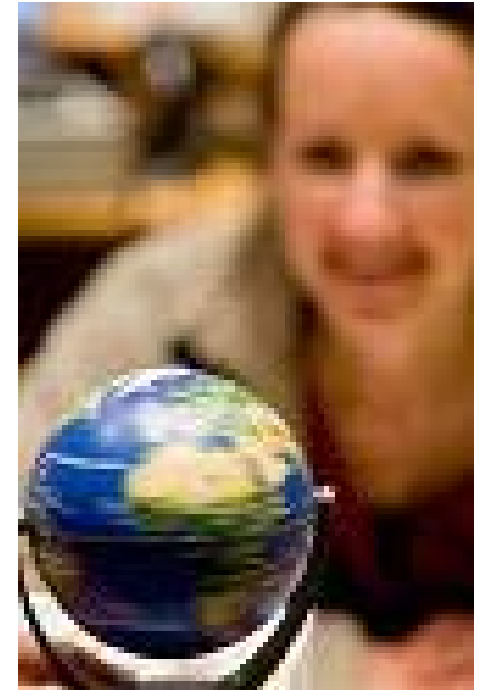


21 different countries:
 - 15 European countries
 - 6 non-European countries

International Research Training Groups

PhD Training and Scientific Cooperation Worldwide

- Encourage bilateral cooperation and research training
- Joint research programme & study programme
- Integration of complementary expertise at centres of excellence
- Systematic coordination of bilateral research projects / joint supervision
- 6-12 month mobility period at partner university



Example for German-Japanese Cooperation Joint Funding Scheme for “Nanoelectronics”

The Start

- Joint Conference between JST and DFG in 2006

Funding

- Joint Call for Proposals in 2007 - 24 proposals for **bilateral projects**
- Two following Calls for Proposals in 2008 and 2009
- Joint Call for Proposals for **Japanese-German Research Groups** (June 2009)
- Joint Evaluation Procedures

International Research Cooperation – Chances and Challenges

(benefits and costs conceptually and empirically unclear....)

Without doubt:

- Increasing international cooperation (also due to ICT use)
- Strong increase in intensity with 'new' partners
- Increasing internationalisation of the scientific “next generation“ (doctoral students)



Chances/ Benefits

- Knowledge circulation
- Increased research capacity
- Higher competition and higher productivity
- Higher innovation potential
- Lower costs (e.g. international access to research facilities)
- Additional social and intercultural competence, broadening personal horizon

International Research Cooperation – Challenges

(a selection...)

- Competition of countries, brain drain
- Political measures
- Administrative barriers
(different functioning of innovation systems; different funding systems and standards; R&D management is last stage of long decision making process; countries are in different phases; hierarchical levels' mandate differ between countries; legal restrictions)
- Tradition (R&D management structures often have a long history)
- Suitable partners („win-win situation”)
- Researchers motivations (attitudes, needs, values, goals etc.)
- Sufficient information (e.g. about funding programmes) and communication
- Language and cultural diversity
- Trust and understanding

Meeting the Challenges through...

- personal contacts and ICT
- time and openness
- creativity, new forms, operations and procedures
- political encouragement of unconventional ways
- “normalization“ of international collaboration





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Thank you for your attention

for further information

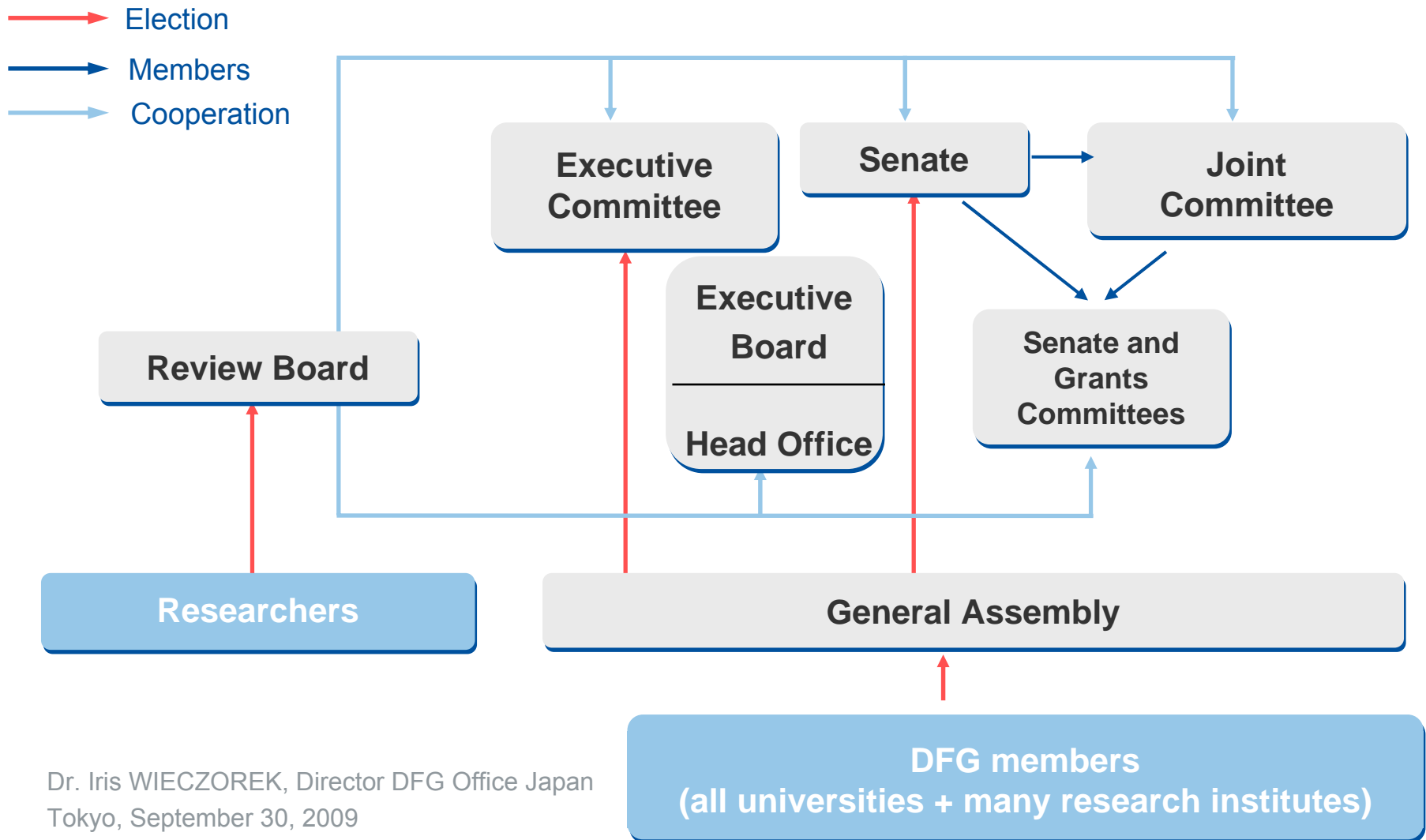
- ▶ DFG: www.dfg.de, DFG Office Japan: www.dfg.de/japan, japan@dfg.de
- ▶ funded projects: www.dfg.de/gepris/
- ▶ Research institutions: www.dfg.de/research_explorer/

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DFG Structure and Decision Making Bodies



Research Visits to Germany – Mercator Professorships

To enable German universities to invite **highly qualified** scientists and scholars from abroad



Aims:

- ▶ To provide a visible accent of quality in the host university's activities
- ▶ To contribute to the internationalization of Higher Education and research in Germany

Features:

- ▶ Applications related to focal points in the university's scientific profile
- ▶ Contribution to
 - Research
 - Research-related educational activities
 - Graduate Research Training at the respective university department
- ▶ Intended stay between 3 and 12 months

NOTE: APPLICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE GERMAN HOST UNIVERSITY