

ETH Zurich Globally Connected - Collaboration with the Universities of Applied Sciences and the Role of the swissnex Network

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ETH Zurich has a long-standing tradition of being highly international and locally rooted at the same time. Since its foundation more than 150 years ago, students and professors have come to ETH Zurich from all over the world. Today, more than sixty percent of ETH faculty and PhD students and thirty percent of Master students come from more than 80 different nations.

In a modern globalizing world with increasing competition, internationalization is becoming even more important. ETH's international strategy has defined ten goals to stay among the world's leading universities. Making ETH students fit to become professionals in the global market and the recruitment of talents from different parts of the world are among the most important ones.

Connected in alliances with international peer universities, ETH seeks to add value by combining research and institutional knowledge, based on mutual trust and understanding. In addition, ETH has taken over a coordinating role in bilateral research and technology programs initiated and funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Research and Education SER with China, South-Korea and Japan.

It is especially in these programs that the Universities of Applied Sciences become more successful and important partners in the internationalization of the Swiss higher education landscape: by participating in institutional partnership and exchange programs, they can bring in their unique expertise in applied sciences (e.g., design science) and contribute to the dialogue with industry.

Important partners for these international collaborations are the five swissnexes, which are located in regions of strategic importance for ETH as well. Over the last few years, several successful co-operations have been established. ETH benefits especially from their support in creating local Alumni chapters, student recruiting and the promotion of the ETH domain in general. New initiatives with the swissnex network include a joint appearance during the Expo 2010 in Shanghai and the hosting of ETH staff on sabbatical leaves. Combining the various strengths and advantages of each partner in the Swiss higher education landscape will contribute to the prosperity of our country. That is why ETH Zurich is pleased to continue its national and international collaborations and to create and use synergies to the benefit of Swiss science and technology.

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Heidi Wunderli-Allenspach ist seit 1995 ordentliche Professorin für Biopharmazie, seit 1. September 2007 ist sie Rektorin der ETH Zürich.

Seit 1. September 2007 ist Heidi Wunderli-Allenspach Rektorin der ETH Zürich und Stellvertreterin des Präsidenten. Als Rektorin ist sie verantwortlich für alle Belange der Lehre. Sie vertritt die ETH Zürich in verschiedenen Gremien.