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ASIA EDITION

Korea's International Vaccine Institute opens Country Office in Austria

January 25, 2023 | News

Austria Country Office to generate joint grant proposals with local partners



The International Vaccine Institute (IVI), based in Seoul (South Korea) has launched an IVI Country Office in Austria's capital Vienna. The new office will pave the way for Austria's ambition towards vaccine research and development, and IVI's initiative to work closely with the Austrian government and local research network and biomedical industry, comprising of biotech companies, academia, and research institutes.

Dr Jerome Kim, Director General of IVI, said, "In addition to IVI's Europe Regional Office in Stockholm, the new Austria Country Office will generate joint grant proposals with local partners and mobilise collaborative vaccine R&D projects for global health."

"Austria is increasingly focusing in the field of vaccine research. The Vienna office will be strengthened by the location of the IVI branch" said The Foreign Minister of Austria, Alexander Schallenberg.

On December 14, 2022, Director General Kim and Wolfgang Angerholzer, Ambassador of Austria to the Republic of Korea, signed a Seat Agreement at IVI headquarters in Seoul, Republic of Korea, securing IVI's status as an international organisation hosted by the Government of Austria.

39 countries and the World Health Organisation (WHO) are signatories to IVI's founding treaty, and Austria's application for membership is currently in progress. According to the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA) of Austria, the government will invest an annual amount of 860,000 euros in IVI, a contribution to Austria's vaccine development in Europe and globally.

The governments of the Republic of Korea, Sweden, India, and Finland currently provide state funding, and Denmark made a core contribution of 4 million Danish kroner in 2022.

Image caption- Dr Jerome Kim, Director General of IVI (left), and Alexander Schallenberg, Foreign Minister of Austria