

Communication 14/2024

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Researching and progressing together BfR and KIT sign co-operation agreement

On 6 and 7 March 2024, the joint symposium of the Korea Institute of Toxicology (KIT) and the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) took place in Berlin. The focus was on the scientific exchange on new methods for the identification and assessment of possible risks of chemicals and (nano)particles. The symposium follows delegation visits in September 2022 and November 2023, which were used to plan joint events and research projects and to exchange expertise.

The BfR and KIT have now signed a joint declaration of intent to intensify future cooperation and knowledge transfer.

Delegations from the Korea Institute of Toxicology (KIT) have already visited the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) in the last two years to exchange the latest research results on toxicity assessment and nanotoxicity research. In addition to the development of technology for toxicity assessment, they have also discussed the latest advances in alternative methods for toxicological assessment.

Now the KIT scientists, led by President Dr Eun Ju Jeong and Vice President Dr Seokjoo Yoon, were once again guests in Berlin. The joint symposium, which took place on 6 and 7 March 2024, focused on evaluating new approaches for the hazard characterisation of chemicals and (nano)particles and their assessment. In addition to various presentations, including on topics such as alternative methods for toxicity assessment or prediction in connection with generative artificial intelligence (AI), knowledge was deepened in a workshop and in discussion rounds.

In addition to the exchange of knowledge, the aim of the symposium was to promote cooperation between Germany and South Korea in order to enable more efficient development of reliable concepts for future risk assessment. This was formalised by the signing of a joint declaration of intent on cooperation by Prof Dr Tanja Schwerdtle, Vice President of the BfR and Dr Eun Ju Jeong, President of KIT. This will establish a strong network of risk assessment experts, which will serve as an important tool for increasing the

safety of internationally traded food and consumer products. Joint events, including workshops and seminars, are organised for this purpose.

KIT is a leader in the development of source technologies for next-generation toxicity assessment and conducts research in the field of chemical toxicology for public safety. It also researches alternative methods to animal experiments and assesses environmental risks to advance toxicity prediction technologies.

Further information on the BfR website on German-Korean cooperation

BfR communication "Globally networked: Korean-German cooperation for greater food safety

<https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/weltweit-vernetzt-koreanisch-deutsche-zusammenarbeit-fuer-mehr-lebensmittelsicherheit.pdf>

About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany. The BfR advises the Federal Government and the States ('Laender') on questions of food, chemicals and product safety. The BfR conducts independent research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

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