

Weekly Wire

GRC-Asia

December 6-7, 2012

The regional meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC) took place in Sendai, Japan from December 6-7, 2012. The meeting was hosted by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and Japan Science and Technology Agency. Sixteen funding agencies (see attached list) from the Asia-Pacific Region participated in the meeting. Extensive discussions were held on two topics, Research Integrity and Open Access (see attached summaries), followed by a half-day tour of Tohoku University's International Research Institute of Disaster Science and Advanced Institute for Materials Research. About 30 minutes after the GRC event concluded, a magnitude 7.4 earthquake occurred off the Sendai coast which was an aftershock from the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake.

Australia: Australian Research Council

China: Chinese Academy of Sciences

China: National Natural Science Foundation of China

India: Ministry of Science and Technology

Indonesia: Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia

Japan: Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency

Korea: National Research Foundation of Korea

Malaysia: National Science and Research Council

Malaysia: Vice-Chancellors' Council of National Universities in Malaysia

New Zealand: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Singapore: National Research Foundation

Singapore: Agency for Science, Technology and Research

Thailand: The Thailand Research Fund

Thailand: The National Research Council of Thailand

Vietnam: Ministry of Science and Technology

Responsible Conduct of Research

Preamble

It is important to apply "responsible conduct of research" (RCR) in enhancing research excellence and raising public trust.

Given the trend toward research activities conducted on international and global scales, there is a need to widely share and disseminate RCR principles and standards. It is recognized that much effort has been made by many national and international bodies to define and promote the responsible conduct of research.* Concurrently, funding agencies should play an important role in maintaining the quality of the research activities they support.

The funding agencies participating in the Asia-Pacific Regional Working Group of the Global Research Council hereby affirm the following principles:

Principles

Funding agencies recognize the importance of using their funding policies to expect/require universities, research institutions, and researchers to implement responsible conduct of research (RCR).

Also recognize the value of devising funding policies that provides support at a level sufficient to ensure that research is undertaken properly without compromising quality and integrity. Reaffirm the importance of having mechanisms and procedures in place to prevent and respond to research misconduct, as defined by principles of fairness, accountability and transparency.

Also reaffirm the importance of propagation of RCR by encouraging universities, research institutions, and researchers to develop and promulgate RCR education and training programs. Recognize the value of making a continuous effort to advance a global movement on RCR. When supporting international research collaborations, funding agencies in the countries concerned are encouraged to seek prior understanding and agreement with regard to RCR principles and to rules for managing research misconduct.

* For example, Singapore Statement, InterAcademy Council IAP Policy Report, Science Council of Japan Code of Conduct for Scientists, European Code of Conduct

Open Access

The participants recognized that research articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals should be shared as intellectual assets of all humankind in the first place. Particularly, articles from publicly funded research projects should be widely accessible and available to the public in a timely manner. In recognition, we, as funding agencies, promote open access of articles so that we can make research achievements readily available to the public.

Regarding measures for realizing open access, there are two approaches, the green road¹ and the golden road². Under these circumstances, the participants acknowledged that it is important to maintain the best balance between green road and golden road approaches depending on the situation of each country. Because the situation, for example structure of research community, academia, publishing business model, is diverse, the best approaches could be also diverse depending on the country.

Therefore, the participants defined issues in promoting open access and discussed on possible actions funding agencies may take as follows.

For Green Road Approach:

Issue: How to encourage researchers to deposit published articles?

Possible Actions of Funding Agencies:

- Recommend or Mandate funded researchers to deposit their final draft of articles to repositories (ex. Institutional repositories).
- Support researchers belonging to institutions which do not have repositories
- Communicate with publisher on embargo periods (to make it shorter than 12months) through collaboration among funding agencies worldwide

- Support operation of "depositing task"
- Give incentive to researchers who deposit articles

For Golden Road Approach:

Issues:

How to encourage or support researchers to submit articles to open access journals?

How to maintain quality of open access journals?

Possible Actions of Funding Agencies:

- Support Article Processing Charges (APCs) by funding agency or allow researchers to pay these from funded money
- Reimburse open access publication charges even after the grant period expired
- Make an effort to keep transparency of APCs
- Support set out policy of evaluation/new ways of quality assurance for open access journals

In addition, the participants recognized the points of concerns for promoting open access through both approaches as follows.

- Enhance awareness of "publishing ethics"; for example, through communicating with Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE)
- Enhance awareness of copy right issues
- Enhance awareness of importance of making researchers know why open access should be promoted
- Keep track of open access articles through unique identifiers, for example Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

¹ The green road: a researcher might deposit an article in addition to the officially published version into an openly accessible repository (also called "self-archiving") - *Open Access Discussion Paper provided by DFG (German Research Foundation)*

² The golden road: a researcher might publish an article in a journal which makes this article free to all readers worldwide directly upon publication. - *Open Access Discussion Paper provided by DFG (German Research Foundation)*