



Weekly Wire
East Asia and Pacific
April 8, 2013

Australia: Newest Weather Radar

A new research vessel *Investigator* that is under construction and due for delivery in late 2013 will be the flagship of Australia's marine research facility. A 1.75-ton dual-polarization weather research radar will be installed on the highest point of the vessel to collect cloud and weather data anytime, anywhere in the world oceans. Data will be gathered from

clouds towering 20 kilometers over the tropical ocean to cold ice storms in the Antarctic, in a 150 kilometer radius from the ship, and have a broad range of research applications.

<http://www.csiro.au/Portals/Media/Australias-newest-weather-radar-set-to-be-all-at-sea.aspx>

Japan: 1,300 Brazilian Science Majors

Japan will receive 1,300 Brazilian science majors over the next three years in a program funded by Brazil that intends to build its industrial development and help Japanese firms advance into its market. The Brazilian group includes 550 students that will pursue a Ph.D. at a Japanese university, 350 doctorate candidates who will study for just one year, and 100 undergraduates. The plan is to respond to the Brazilian government's scholarship program, which aims to nurture human resources in the fields of science and technology as well as to boost the country's global competitiveness.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/04/03/national/universities-set-to-accept-brazilian-science-majors/>

Korea: Wish to become an Arctic Council Permanent Observer

South Korea hopes to become a permanent observer to the Arctic Council in order to boost its role in the Arctic by sharing research assets and technology, including ROK's leadership in shipbuilding and shipping. South Korea became an ad hoc observer to the Arctic Council in 2008; the application for permanent observer status will be reviewed at the Arctic Council ministerial meeting in May, 2013.

http://nwww.koreaherald.com/common_prog/newsprint.php?ud=20130318000933&dt=2

New Zealand: Benefit from Warming Climate

A study from US and NZ researchers shows that the retreat of glaciers on the island has freed up more land and breeding space for the penguin colonies on the island. Researchers found that between 1958 and 2010 the available habitat on the island had increased by 71%, due to retreating snow and ice fields. The population on the island had increased from roughly 35,000 breeding pairs in 1983 to 64,000 in 2010, an increase of 84%.

<http://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz/2013/04/04/adelie-penguins-benefit-from-warming-climate/>

Singapore: New Plastic Film is the Future of 3D

Temasek Polytechnic and the Institute of Materials Research and Engineering have developed a new nano-engineered screen protector that turns the ordinary screens of handheld devices into 3D displays. The unique plastic film can also be used as next generation security tokens.

<http://www.a-star.edu.sg/?TabId=828&articleType=ArticleView&articleId=1795>

Singapore: Dr. Shinya Yamanaka's Talk

Professor Shinya Yamanaka of Japan (2012 Nobel Laureate in Medicine and Physiology) was invited to talk about the recent progress in induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell research. Stem cell research is one of the key focus areas at the A*STAR Biomedical Research Institute.

<http://www.a-star.edu.sg/?TabId=828&articleType=ArticleView&articleId=1794>