



**Weekly Wire**  
**East Asia and Pacific**  
**National Science Foundation Tokyo Regional Office**  
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**AUSTRALIA: *The Curious Country***

Early in 2013, the Office of the Chief Scientist asked Australians what they would like to know more about; what scientific issues concern them; and what discoveries inspire them. The results shaped the free eBook, *The Curious Country*, which can be obtained at:

<http://epress.anu.edu.au/titles/the-curious-country>

**JAPAN: Impulsing PARadigm Change through Disruptive Technologies (ImPACT)**

Of the major S&T Programs to be launched in JFY2014, the details of the ImPACT program still remain sketchy. The S&T Minister, Ichita Yamamoto, confirmed in a press interview that the ImPACT program will utilize the DARPA funding model, but the funded research will not have a defense purpose. He meant to correct a newspaper article that misled readers to understand that the government would establish a sizable fund for defense purposes. The DARPA model is being adopted in order to fund high-risk, high-impact projects. The source, size, and themes of the ImPACT program have not been made public yet.

Note: This is a summary translation of an article on the Cabinet Office website.

**JAPAN: Young Researchers' Participation in Scientific Research**

The National Institute of S&T Policy (NISTEP) produced a report on the level of participation and contribution by US and Japanese young researchers to scientific research activities. A summary translation is as follows:

		Postdocs' participation	Undergraduate and graduate students' participation
<b>Overall</b>	Percentage in a research team (for papers)	Japan: 22%; US: 39%	Japan: 57%; US: 54%
	Percentage for being an author (for papers)	Japan: 27% (total), 36% (lead author); US: 33% (total), 51% (lead author)	
	International mobility	Highest	Ph.D. students: high next to postdocs
<b>Internationalization</b>	Foreign-born researchers' participation in domestic papers	High percentage	-
	International co-authorship	High percentage	Low percentage
<b>Level of research</b>	Speed of research progress	High percentage in high speed research	-
	Competitiveness	High percentage in highly competitive research	-
	Use of state-of-the-art facilities & equipment	High percentage	-
<b>Contribution</b>	Young researchers' contributions	Those foreign-born or proactively involved in research team management show a high percentage in becoming lead authors	
<b>Research performance</b>	Percentage of being top 10% papers	High when they are lead authors	High when they are lead authors (only in the US)
	Research period	Short	-

Note: This is a summary translation of an article on the NISTEP website.

**JAPAN: Yen 700 billion (\$7 billion) Fund for Japanese NIH**

According to the draft strategy for the so-called Japanese version of NIH, the Government will establish a fund of Yen 700 billion (\$7 billion) in/around JFY2017 for the new life science-focused entity/system, with half of the fund invested by the private sector. The government will invest Yen 226 billion (\$2.26 billion) in the first year of JFY2014, which represents the total of health-related funds currently shared among the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and S&T, and Ministry of Economy. The private sector's contribution in JFY2014 is not known yet.

Note: This is a summary translation of an article in Nihon Keizai Newspaper – December 5, 2013

**KOREA: “Startup KAIST”**

The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) launched a new business incubation program, Startup KAIST, to support venture companies. “Startup KAIST” promotes an entrepreneurial spirit among faculty, students, researchers, and alumni; supports the full cycle of a startup ecosystem from introduction and growth to maturity of new companies; encourages the development of globally sustainable startups; and collaborates with the Daedeok Innopolis, the largest science and technology R&D and business complex in Korea. The Startup program is expected to expand not only nationwide but also to the global community.

[http://www.kaist.edu/english/01\\_about/06\\_news\\_01.php?req\\_P=bv&req\\_BIDX=10&req\\_BNM=e\\_d\\_news&pt=17&req\\_VI=4647](http://www.kaist.edu/english/01_about/06_news_01.php?req_P=bv&req_BIDX=10&req_BNM=e_d_news&pt=17&req_VI=4647)

**KOREA: New Science Satellite**

Korea successfully launched, using a Russian launcher, a new science satellite, STSAT-3, that began a two-year mission to search for clues about the evolution of the universe. The satellite's missions include astronomical observation, galaxy imaging and relic infrared imaging for scientific and environmental research. The STSAT-3 project has been developed with a 27.83 billion won (\$26.3 million) investment since 2006.



<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20131121000781>

**SINGAPORE: Singapore-Finland Partnership**

The Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology and the VTT Technical Research Center of Finland signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch an initiative that promotes R&D on technology development for the “Factories of Future.” The initiative will help manufacturing companies in both countries to advance their technological competence and address manufacturing challenges.

<http://www.a-star.edu.sg/Media/News/Press-Releases/ID/1917/Singapore-Finland-Partnership-to-Develop-Technology-Capabilities-for-Manufacturing-Factories-of-the-Future.aspx>

**NEW ZEALAND: NZ\$470 Million (US\$386 Million) for National Science Challenges**

The Science and Innovation Ministry announced up to NZ\$470.3 million (US\$386 million) will be available for funding for the first three National Science Challenges over the next 10 years. The three challenges are: high value nutrition, focusing on foods that deliver health benefits and contribute to economic growth; resilience to nature's challenges, strengthening New Zealand's

resilience to natural hazards; and the Deep South, to understand how the Antarctic and Southern Ocean affect our climate and environment.

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/470m-first-three-national-science-challenges>