



Weekly Wire
East Asia and Pacific
National Science Foundation Tokyo Regional Office
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JAPAN: Free Guidebook to Obtain Competitive Grant

The University of Tokyo published an e-Book, “Research and Career Paths for Young Researchers – To Obtain Competitive Grants for the First Time.” It can be downloaded from any iTunes-installed computer free of charge. The book consists of two volumes. The first volume covers the interviews with senior researchers and their advice to young researchers. The second volume focuses on the outline and purpose of two competitive research programs: Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) and Core Research for Evolutionary Science and Technology (CREST).

Note: This is a summary translation of an article on eBook User news

JAPAN: New Chairman of the Central Council for Education

Dr. Yuichiro Anzai, President of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), was elected as the Chairman of the Central Council for Education (CCE). CCE is a council of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to improve Japan’s education system. Its current discussions include improvement of university entrance exams, internationalization of universities, and whether or not to include a moral class in elementary-secondary education.

Note: a summary translation of an article on the MEXT website

JAPAN: Council for Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (CSTP) Convened

CSTP convened on February 14 to summarize and confirm the JFY2014 STI budget. Among a number of items discussed, of note are the announcement of the 5 themes for the ImPACT (Impulsing PARadigm Change through disruptive Technologies) program and the confirmation that CSTP will continue to take a leading role in deciding Japan’s STI direction.

CSTP plans to run the ImPACT program using the DARPA system as its model, i.e., CSTP selects high-risk and high-impact projects under the 5 CSTP-designated themes and then choose program managers who plan, implement, and oversee the projects from basic research stage to commercialization. The 5 themes are: Japan-specific value creation in the new century; Coexistence with Earth; Smart community that connects human beings and society; Healthy and comfortable life for everyone; and Resilience-consciousness for every single individual.



It was decided that CSTP will be responsible for Japan’s STI activities as they are the driving force of the economic recovery, breakthrough for a sustainable development and the last resort for advancing Japan’s presence in global economic society.

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

JAPAN: Super Global High School (SGH)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has received 246 applications for its new 5-year program, Super Global High School, to be implemented in JFY2014. MEXT will select 100 schools that focus on any internationalization efforts including English language study and culture and education training in a variety of international settings. A SGH will receive Yen 29 million (\$290,000) in JFY2014. MEXT has another 12 year-old program named Super Science High School (SSH), and an SSH can also apply for the SGH program.

Note: This is a summary translation of articles on the MEXT website.

AUSTRALIA: Future of Ecosystem Science Workshops Underway



Ecosystem Science Long-Term Plan

There will be a series of town hall workshops across the country to discuss, develop and refine proposals for strengthening the future of Australian ecosystem science. The plan, being developed by the National Committee for Ecology, Evolution and Conservation, the Ecological Society of Australia and Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network, aims to set the future direction and priorities of the discipline, including how it conducts research, its infrastructure, fostering of human talent, and the uptake of the science to policy makers and management.

<http://www.ecosystemscienceplan.org.au/Events-pq26776.html>

KOREA: World's Largest Web Conference in Korea

The 2014 International World Wide Web Conference (WWW 2014) will be held for the first time in Korea from April 7-11. The conference will cover a wide range of web-related areas, including technologies, research papers, and services. Since the first conference in 1994 in Switzerland, it has been held in various countries, attracting more than 1,000 experts in the field. The BigData Innovators Gathering (BIG 2014) and Web for Access (W4A 2014) will joint be held at the WWW2014.

http://www.kaist.ac.kr/_prog/_board/?mode=V&no=15602&code=ed_news&site_dvs_cd=en&menu_dvs_cd=0601&list_typ=B&skey=&sval=&smoth=&site_dvs=&GotoPage=

