



Weekly Wire
News from East Asia and Pacific
National Science Foundation
Tokyo Regional Office
October 28, 2014

Australia: Calls for a Move toward iManufacturing

Australia's national research agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) calls for a shift from traditional IT-based technologies to "eManufacturing" (dependent on cloud-based services) and "iManufacturing" (or informatics-linked manufacturing). In its discussion paper titled *Equipping Australian Manufacturing for the Information Age: iManufacturing – Is Australia Ready?*, it says that "opportunities exist both domestically and internationally in the market for high valued, niche manufactured goods and associated services if Australian industry were to adopt and utilize modern information technology and develop the associated skills to make best use of it.

Source: <http://www.csiro.au/Portals/Media/Australia-examines-its-strengths-and-sees-its-future-in-iManufacturing.aspx>

Australia: Focuses on Enhancing STEM education in Schools

As part of the Australian government's *Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda*, a new Science Council has been formed to advise the government and schools will receive a "STEM boost." The president of the "Science and Technology Australia" organization was quoted as saying, "we welcome the \$12 million (US\$11 million) for an enhanced focus on STEM in schools, with innovative math resources for teachers and students, more ICT training in school, and more access to STEM education for minority and disadvantaged groups."

Source: <http://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/focus-on/schools-stem-boost-and-new-science-council/>

JAPAN: Patent Property Rights Law to be Amended Again

The Government of Japan plans to change the way corporate researchers' inventions are handled in order to ensure that companies have the right to benefit from their employees' inventions and to safeguard against record-breaking settlements to employees who contest the reward system. The patent office plans to give companies the right to acquire patents for employee inventions under the new system, and advises companies to establish their own reward systems under internal rules.

Source: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/10/10/national/companies-to-get-credit-for-inventions-rather-than-employees-if-merit-system-in-place/#.VEXVxMtOzcs>

JAPAN: Funding Curiosity-driven Research – JFY2014

Apparently, there is no shortage of curiosity-driven research ideas. The KAKENHI program which seeks to support curiosity-driven research (in all academic fields) and is managed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) received 96,528 applications in JFY2014 with a value of Yen

400.3 billion (\$4 billion). Of the proposals submitted, 26,003 were selected for award amounting to Yen 62.6 billion (\$626 million). When the continuing grants are factored in, 72,262 proposals worth Yen 164 billion (\$1.64 billion) were processed. Viewed by the field, the approximate breakdown is as follows: 41.4% in health and biology, 30.3% for science and engineering, 15.2% for interdisciplinary and complex research, and 12.6% for human literature and social science.

Source: *A translation of an article on the MEXT website in Japanese*

KOREA: University Cooperation Agreement

The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and the University of California-Santa Cruz signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The two institutions agreed to cooperate in genomics and biology research, academic exchanges in engineering and information communication technology, student and faculty exchange, and joint academic workshops and seminars.

Source:

http://www.kaist.ac.kr/prog/board/?code=ed_news&mode=V&no=24221&upr_ntt_no=24221&site_dvs_cd=en&menu_dvs_cd=0601

