



Weekly Wire
News from East Asia and Pacific
National Science Foundation
Tokyo Regional Office
June 23, 2015

AUSTRALIA: \$23.4 Million Investment for Accelerating Commercialization

Eighteen Australian companies will receive grants to propel their innovative ideas from the drawing board into the market place under the Australian Government's Accelerating Commercialization program. The granted projects include 3D printer learning program for primary school children; a state-of-the-art plant that produces hydrogen at a fraction of the cost of current methods; commercialization of a device that tests strength and injury risk in hamstring muscles; and manufacturing scale up of a scratch-resistant acrylic glass.

Source: http://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/macfarlane/media-releases/234-million-investment-projects-accelerating-commercialisation?utm_content=buffer8db05&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

JAPAN: White Paper on Science and Technology-2014

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) issued the White Paper on Science and Technology-2014. It is a MEXT annual report to be submitted to the Diet (equivalent to the Congress in the U.S.) to review the Government policies on science and technology in the previous fiscal year. The 2014 version highlights two special features for 2014: (1) the three Japanese Nobel Laureates for the discovery of Blue-light Diode and (2) the importance of paying more serious attention to research integrity. They are followed by Chapter 1: Progress in Science and Technology and Change in Society and Economics; Chapter 2: 20 years of Science and Technology Basic Plans after the Science and Technology Basic Law was established; and Chapter 3: A View on Future Science and Technology. Chapter 3 speculates about S&T in 2030 when Open Science and S&T innovation by citizen participation are likely to be more important in every country. It also calls for university reform, training of young people, and to cultivate the ability to think comprehensively without disciplinary bindings. The full English translation of the White Paper will be issued in summer/fall 2015.

Source: [A brief summary translation of an article on MEXT website](#)

JAPAN: Increase in International Baccalaureate (IB) Diplomas

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) will allow Japanese high schools to count 36 credits required to take the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma in their regular curricula, instead of the current 20 credits. MEXT supervises all education matters in Japan from kindergarten to university, including regulations on the number of credits. About 90 credits are required to finish Japanese high school education, and an additional 10 credits are required to complete the IB program for 16-19 years old. This has been a burden for high schools and students and hindered the high schools from applying for the IB in order to be admitted IB eligible schools. As of now, 25 Japanese high schools are eligible for the IB diploma, more than half of which are international schools. The increase in the number of the credits that high schools can count as eligible for the IB diploma out of

their regular curricula would ultimately increase the number of “young people studying abroad” which MEXT strategically promotes to expand.

Source: A summary translation of a Nikkei article – June 16, 2015