



**Weekly Wire**  
**News from East Asia and Pacific**  
**National Science Foundation**  
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**JAPAN: New Program to Accelerate International Research Collaboration**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has begun to solicit proposals for a new program, the International Collaborative Research Acceleration (ICRA) Fund (provisional translation), which will enable Japanese researchers to increase research collaborations with overseas researchers. Those who are currently receiving the “New Research Area” award of the MEXT Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) are eligible to apply for this new program. KAKENHI is a non-solicited award in basic research and has several levels of funding, ranging from a small amount up to 500 million yen (\$4 million). The “New Research Area” award is one of the KAKENHI levels. The ICRA fund is flexible enough for the unused funds in one fiscal year to be carried over to the next fiscal year (this has been an issue with KAKENHI). Forty successful applicants will be able to have up to 15 million yen (\$123K) per year per project to accelerate international research collaboration until his/her “New Research Area” KAKENHI award ends. The application deadline is August 24. MEXT expects to see more researcher exchange with overseas research institutions through this program.

*Source: A summary translation of an article on the MEXT homepage*

**JAPAN: MEXT Research Misconduct Guidelines**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) made public the English version of their Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research (original Japanese in August 2014) at: [http://www.mext.go.jp/a\\_menu/jinzai/fusei/\\_icsFiles/afieldfile/2015/07/09/1359618\\_01.pdf](http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2015/07/09/1359618_01.pdf) The original MEXT guidelines were established in 2007 just before the OECD Research Misconduct Meeting was held in Tokyo and revised in 2014. The research misconduct incident that brought nationwide distrust in science in 2014 has moved MEXT to make the guidelines clearer and remind all the research institutions to be vigilant in research integrity training. The research institutions can establish their own guidelines based on the MEXT guidelines. [The NSF Tokyo Office held a workshop on research integrity and avoiding misconduct in research in September 2014, in collaboration with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), a funding agency under MEXT. The event provided important insights on the direction that review of research integrity will take in the immediate future. ]

*Source: A summary translation of an article on the MEXT homepage*

**SINGAPORE: Science Festival 2015**

The theme of the 2015 version of the Singapore Science Festival (SSF), Singapore’s largest annual science event, is “Changemakers of Science.” The festival provides an opportunity for non-scientists to meet face-to-face with Changemakers in the STEM community in a bid to inspire future generations to make a positive difference through science. SSF-2015 will have more than 50 events in partnership with over 40 organizations from July 10 through August 2.

*Source: <http://www.a-star.edu.sg/Media/News/Press-Releases/ID/4197/Be-a-Changemaker-with-Singapore-Science-Festival-2015.aspx>*