



**Weekly Wire**  
**East Asia and Pacific**  
**National Science Foundation Tokyo Regional Office**  
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**AUSTRALIA: Building a Smart, Productive Future**

Australia's research and science community formed the Research Alliance in July 2013 comprising university, public, and private sector researchers, who called for a strategic national research policy to build a stronger, smarter Australia. Australia currently invests around 2.2% of its GDP in research, putting the nation near the middle of the OECD table. However, the stop/start of funding in the recent past means that Australia is sliding backwards and will continue to do so unless action is taken. The Alliance announced that they are committed to a set of fundamental principles: investing strategically and sustainably; building Australia's research workforce; building a productive system and getting the most out of it; being among and working with the world's best; bringing industry and academia together; expanding industry research; and investing in Australia's best research and best researchers.

<http://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/in-the-media/building-a-smart-productive-future-2/>

**AUSTRALIA: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) Leads Square Kilometer Array (SKA) R&D**

The SKA is an international project to build the world's largest radio telescope, co-located in South Africa and Australia, with a square kilometer of collecting area. Australia's CSIRO will lead the largest of the R&D consortia, *the SKA Dish Array Consortium*, and will be responsible for the design work relating to the SKA's 2,500 antenna dishes and receivers. CSIRO will also lead *the Infrastructure Australia Consortium* in charge of designing and costing critical SKA infrastructure at the Australian SKA site.

<http://www.csiro.au/en/Portals/Media/Lead-role-for-CSIRO-in-SKA-RandD.aspx>



**JAPAN: S&T University in Turkey**

Japan and Turkey have signed an agreement on S&T cooperation based on which an S&T university will be established in Turkey to help Turkish students gain advanced knowledge and skills in nuclear, mechanical, and earthquake engineering. Japan will send its faculty members to the university and design the curricula for the new university. The university is expected to open in a few years. Japan has experience in launching S&T universities in Egypt and Malaysia.

**Note:** This is a summary translation of a Nikkei article-October 24, 2013

**JAPAN: Dr. Reiko Kuroda as UN Science Council Member**

Dr. Reiko Kuroda, Professor at the Tokyo University of Science, accepted an invitation from the United Nations' Science Council to become one of its 26 members. Dr. Kuroda was previously Vice



President of the International Council for Science and a member of the Japanese Council for S&T Policy. Dr. Kuroda is a bio-physicist whose research *Chiral blastomere arrangement dictates sygotic left-right asymmetry pathway in snails* received the Loréal UNESCO Women Scientist Award in March 2013.

**Note:** [This is a summary translation of a Nikkei article-October 29, 2013](#)

#### **JAPAN: Center of Innovation (COI)**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) announced recently that 12 COIs were selected. The 12 projects will contribute to the three MEXT-established blue-sky visions over the next ten years: 1: Health in Aging Society; 2: Quality Life; and 3: Sustainable Society. Each COI will utilize industry-university cooperative research extending from the fundamental stage through commercialization. A COI will receive up to Yen 1 billion (\$10 million) for R&D and up to Yen 100 million (\$1 million) for administrative costs per year for up to nine years. Besides the 12 COIs, MEXT also selected 14 COI Trials (COI-T) with Yen 100 million (\$1 million) per center for up to two years. The NSF Tokyo Office will separately produce a report memorandum on this program.

**Note:** [This is a summary translation of MEXT website article – October 31, 2013](#)

#### **JAPAN: Japan Massive Open Online Courses (JMOOC)**

The Japanese version of MOOC was initiated by industry-university cooperative efforts, having its executive members from universities and companies. The first year include 13 universities as in the table below. The establishment of the system was prompted by the calls for online classes by prominent Japanese professors in Japanese language and following the US MOOC format.

University	Subject
Osaka University	Statistics/Data analysis
Kyushu University	Computer science
Kyoto University	To be decided
Keio University	Computer science
Akita International University	Japanese study
University of Tokyo	History
Hiroshima University	Economics/Finance
Educational Foundation Bunka Gakuen	History of culture and fashion
The Open University of Japan	Education/Psychology
Hokkaido University	Education
Meiji University	Sub-culture theory
Ritsumeikan University	Urban system using GIS
Waseda University	Political process

**Note:** [This is a summary translation of a Nikkei article – November 4, 2013](#)

#### **JAPAN: International Linear Collider (ILC)**

The Science Council of Japan informed the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology that it is too early to make a decision for establishing ILC facilities in Japan. The project, currently estimated to cost Yen 830 billion (\$8.3 billion), has another estimate of over Yen 2 trillion (\$20 billion) if it includes observation equipment and personnel costs. Such an international project typically requires that the host country share half of the total cost. If Japan shares Yen 400 billion (\$40 billion), the amount is equivalent to Japan's contribution to the International Space

Station which is already facing criticism for its large budget. Japan and all the other countries that are possible contributors to the project are being very careful about the ILC owing to its huge cost to establish and run the facilities.

Note: This is a summary translation of a Nikkei article-October 26, 2013

#### **KOREA: The 6<sup>th</sup> International Presidential Forum on Global Research Universities**

The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> International Presidential Forum on Global Research Universities on October 15 in Seoul.

About 64 presidents and vice presidents from 57 research universities in 28 nations attended, including the University of California-Irvine, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Technische Universität Berlin,

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Rice University, the University of Waterloo, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The forum had three sessions: Enabling Knowledge, Creation, Entrepreneurship & University-based Technology Transfer, and Higher Education & Strategic Knowledge Creation.

[http://www.kaist.edu/english/01\\_about/06\\_news\\_01.php?req\\_P=bv&req\\_BIDX=10&req\\_BNM=e\\_d\\_news&req\\_VI=4579&req\\_PC=0&req\\_CG=&sCATE=&sCHAR=](http://www.kaist.edu/english/01_about/06_news_01.php?req_P=bv&req_BIDX=10&req_BNM=e_d_news&req_VI=4579&req_PC=0&req_CG=&sCATE=&sCHAR=)



#### **KOREA: Classes Available from Around the World**

The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and Coursera, the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC), agreed to partner for internet-based open learning. With its network of 107 prestigious partner universities and public institutions worldwide, Coursera offers 482 free online courses across a wide field in humanities, science, engineering, and business to 5 million students around the globe.

[http://www.kaist.edu/english/01\\_about/06\\_news\\_01.php?req\\_P=bv&req\\_BIDX=10&req\\_BNM=e\\_d\\_news&req\\_VI=4580&req\\_PC=0&req\\_CG=&sCATE=&sCHAR=](http://www.kaist.edu/english/01_about/06_news_01.php?req_P=bv&req_BIDX=10&req_BNM=e_d_news&req_VI=4580&req_PC=0&req_CG=&sCATE=&sCHAR=)

#### **SINGAPORE: New S&T Programs with S\$330 million**

The Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council (RIEC) announced on October 25, 2013 that it will launch new programs with S\$330 million (US\$240 million). S\$200 (US\$160 million) of the fund will be invested in the Innovation Cluster Program. This industry-university-government program will expedite the process from basic research through commercialization for diagnostics, 3D printing, water, and speech and language. The remaining S\$130 million (US\$104 million) will be spent to strengthen the nation's cyber security. These programs will be rolled out over the next five years.

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/singapore-s-science-and/861686.html>