



**Weekly Wire**  
**News from East Asia and Pacific**  
**National Science Foundation**  
**Tokyo Regional Office**  
**November 4, 2014**

**AUSTRALIA: Future Ocean in Antarctica**

Australian scientists will create, for the first time, a “future ocean” under the Antarctic sea ice this summer to measure the impact of ocean acidification on seafloor communities. The team of scientists, engineers and specialist divers will deploy four acrylic chambers 10-20 meters beneath the sea ice near Casey station between November 2014 and March 2015. Under the current emissions scenario, the ocean is predicted to become two and half times more acidic by 2100. The research will give the team a window into the future quality of the underwater plants and animals.

Source: <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/news/2014/antarctic-scientists-create-future-ocean>

**JAPAN: International Prize for Biology**

The 30<sup>th</sup> (2014) International Prize of Biology will be awarded to Professor Sir Peter Crane FRS (Fellow of the Royal Society), a British citizen, of Yale University. The International Prize for Biology was instituted in 1985 to commemorate the sixty-year reign of Emperor Showa and his longtime devotion to biological research. This year, the field for the Prize was “Systematic Biology and Taxonomy.” In his work on plant systematics and evolutionary history, Prof. Crane was the first in the world to exercise the novel approach of integrating paleontological information with the information obtained from living plants – each had been analyzed separately until the 1970s – for combined analysis. Dr. Crane received a number of NSF awards while he was with the Field Museum in Chicago. The award ceremony will be held in Tokyo on December 1, 2014.

Source: <http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-biol/index.html>



**JAPAN: Science Agora**

The annual “Science Agora” (meaning places people gathered in ancient Greece) will be held on November 7, 8, and 9th in Tokyo where researchers, media, museums, policy makers, industries, academic societies, schools, and educational organizations will participate. The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)-hosted event will provide an opportunity for multiple stakeholders to think about science and society through more than 200 activities held during the three days. The activities include experts’ discussions on innovation, on how to connect science, society and policies, on environmental problems, as well as dialogues with innovators and researchers in frontier fields, and many hands-on experiment sessions.

Source: <http://www.jst.go.jp/csc/scienceagora/> (partially in English)



## **KOREA: Disaster Studies**

About 60 professors of Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) formed the KAIST Institute for Disaster Studies (KIDS) on October 22, 2014 to understand how disasters occur, how best to respond to them, and what to do for recovery. In concrete terms, KIDS will (1) conduct research on disaster prevention and reduction; (2) develop policy on safety and preventive measures for the public; (3) establish a resilience engineering program at the university; (4) create a platform for social media and machine-based information management; (5) develop robot-based search and rescue mission programs; (6) conduct disaster risk assessments and develop disaster recovery plans, and (7) establish virtual reality programs for training and education.

Source:

[http://www.kaist.ac.kr/prog/board/?code=ed\\_news&mode=V&no=24661&upr\\_ntt\\_no=24661&site\\_dvs\\_cd=en&menu\\_dvs\\_cd=0601](http://www.kaist.ac.kr/prog/board/?code=ed_news&mode=V&no=24661&upr_ntt_no=24661&site_dvs_cd=en&menu_dvs_cd=0601)