



**Weekly Wire**  
**News from East Asia and Pacific**  
**National Science Foundation**  
**Tokyo Regional Office**  
**January 20, 2015**

**AUSTRALIA: Science Meets Parliament**

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual *Science meets Parliament* convention takes place on March 24-25, 2015. The invitation-only meeting will bring 200 Australian scientists to Canberra for a two-day program of professional development and networking aimed at helping them better communicate their science to the media, policymakers and parliamentarians. The forum aims to give scientists unique personal development opportunities, build mutual understanding and connections between scientists, parliamentarians and the policy process, stimulate and inform Parliament's discussion of scientific issues that underpin Australia's economic, social and environmental wellbeing, improve the understanding of science through the wider community, build links between scientists, politicians and policymakers that open up avenues for information and idea exchanges into the future, and give scientists an outlook for opportunities that may require the input of scientific knowledge to further the interests of the Australians.

*Source:* <http://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/science-meets-parliament/>

**JAPAN: 86 National Universities Designated as One of Three Groups**

In JFY2015 (April 2015-March 2016), Japan's 86 state universities will be required to show their willingness to become one of the following: (1) World-class research and education university; (2) World-class research and education university in a particular field; and (3) Center for vitalizing the local area. Japan's state universities annually receive non-competitive funds from the central government that are calculated based on a formula that consists of complex factors but definitely including the numbers of faculty members and students. The calculation method has been criticized in that it is not competitive, and an improvement has been called for. However, if the competition principle is introduced to all the state universities, there is no way that the small-scale universities can compete with the large-scale ones. To solve this, each group will have its own evaluation criteria so that the distribution of the non-competitive funds will be made regardless of the size of the university.

*Source:* *Translation of an article in Nikkei Newspaper – December 18, 2014*

**JAPAN: A RIKEN Researcher on the *Nature's 10* in 2014**

Dr. Masayo Takahashi of RIKEN (national research institution), has been selected as one of the 10 researchers highlighted in 2014 by *Nature magazine*. She succeeded in producing retina cells using iPS cell producing technology and transplanting them into the back of a woman's damaged retina. In addition to this unprecedented success, the magazine commended her for bringing hope to RIKEN which experienced a STAP cell research integrity issue.

*Source:* *Translation of an article in Nikkei Newspaper – December 18, 2014 and* <http://www.nature.com/news/365-days-nature-s-10-1.16562>

## **JAPAN: Tokyo Tech-MIT Cooperation in Engineering**

The Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech) and MIT held the second workshop based on an agreement signed in 2013 to cooperate in engineering research involving Japanese companies. The Tokyo Tech will use the Super Global University funds (see the following link for description of Super Global University funds: [http://www.nsf.gov/od/iaa/ise/tokyo/articles/Weekly%20Wire-2014\\_1002.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/od/iaa/ise/tokyo/articles/Weekly%20Wire-2014_1002.pdf)) for the cooperation. Both universities will have one PI from each side per project where a few young Tokyo Tech researchers, young MIT researchers and young Japanese company researchers will join. The three parties will pursue research at MIT for 1-2 years. After that, the Tokyo Tech and the Japanese companies will continue the research in Japan. When the three parties decide to cooperate, they sign a contract that spells out the terms for patents, papers and products among other things. The Tokyo Tech-MIT will implement the projects in September 2015.

*Source:* <http://www.sangaku.titech.ac.jp/document/2014/MIT0107.pdf> (English on the 3rd-4th pages)

## **JAPAN: Cybersecurity Office in the Cabinet Secretariat**

The “Cybersecurity Office” was established in the Cabinet Secretariat on January 9, 2015 to be prepared for cyberattacks from overseas as well as those associated with the Olympic/Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020. The Director of the Office is the Chief Cabinet Secretary.

*Source:* *Summary translation of a Nikkei newspaper article – January 10, 2015*

## **KOREA: Encourage Young People to be More Creative**

Korea is ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in Gross Domestic Product as of October 2014 and expected to rank 5th in the World Bank Group’s Ease of Doing Business Index 2015. On the other hand, there is an inappropriate amount of time and efforts spent on consensus-building as well as lack of environment that encourages young people to enter new markets and launch businesses. In addition, the existence of large-scale conglomerates places limits on the nation’s expansion. To try to improve this, the Korean Government encourages development of 5 core abilities which are driven by the following: 1) dreams and talent; 2) fusion and professional; 3) challenge; 4) global; and 5) lifelong education.

*Source:* <http://asia.nikkei.com/Tech-Science/Tech/South-Korea-working-to-foster-more-creative-workforce>

## **New Zealand: China-NZ Research Cooperation in Food Safety and Security**

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) will support cooperative research between New Zealand and China on food safety and security based on the agreement signed by New Zealand and Chinese Governments in 2012. The Plant and Food Research (a New Zealand-based company that conducts R&D to add value to fruits, vegetables, crops and food products) administers the funding process on behalf of MBIE. The topics for the cooperative research will be: food-borne pathogens; food loss and waste; chemical residues and food contaminants; consumer reference and public awareness of food safety. The applications will be reviewed in time to make final decisions in March 2015.

*Source:*

<http://scienceskillsandinnovation.cmail2.com/t/ViewEmail/r/1E85766271ED76B12540EF23F30FEDED/659C08C57A11F9B2F7E8006BB98688>