



Weekly Wire
News from East Asia and Pacific
National Science Foundation
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JAPAN: At the Discretion of the President

The Government will allow in JFY2015, for the first time in Japanese history, the 86 national university presidents to have a budget to be used at the presidents' discretion. As a result, the national university presidents will have a discretionary fund of somewhere between millions and billions of yen (between thousands and millions of dollars). This is one of the efforts to improve the traditional government's non-competitive budget allocation to the national university corporations which is calculated based on the number of faculty members and students. The way the budget is allocated to the national universities will gradually change to ultimately be a performance-based evaluation in JFY2018. This change will be made along with another large-scale reform for the national universities to be designated as one of three groups of (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 (see details on: http://www.nsf.gov/od/jia/ise/tokyo/articles/WeeklyWire_150120.pdf)

Source: A summary translation of Nikkei article – March 1, 2015

New Zealand: \$25,000 Exclusively for Kiwi Women Researchers

Effective 2015, the L'Oréal Australia & New Zealand for Women in Science Fellowship program will provide four \$25,000 awards with three for Australian scientists and one dedicated to a New Zealander. Although the scientists from both countries previously competed for \$75,000 grants, there is now \$100,000 available. The fellowship is intended to help early career female scientists to consolidate their careers, bridge the gender gap and rise to leadership positions in science. The grant is available to female researchers who are five years post PhD and who have shown excellence in their careers.

Source: <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/SC1503/S00019/nz-female-scientists-eligible-for-inaugural-25000-award.htm>

Singapore: Scientific Breakthrough in Rechargeable Batteries

Researchers from Singapore's Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN) and their collaborators from Hydro-Quebec's research institute have synthesized silicate-based nanoboxes that could more than double the energy capacity of lithium-ion batteries as compared to conventional phosphate-based cathodes. This breakthrough could hold the key to longer-lasting rechargeable batteries for electric vehicles and mobile devices.

Source:

<http://www.a-star.edu.sg/Media/News/Press-Releases/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/3836.aspx>