



Weekly Wire
News from East Asia and Pacific
National Science Foundation
Tokyo Regional Office
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JAPAN: Additional 3-4 ImPACT Projects

The Cabinet Office's 5-year program, **Impulsing PAradigm Change through disruptive Technologies (ImPACT)**, was launched with 55 billion yen (\$550 million) from the JFY2013 supplemental budget to support high-risk and high-impact research projects (see Weekly Wire-July 4, 2014 at: http://www.nsf.gov/od/iaa/ise/tokyo/articles/Weekly%20Wire-2014_0704.pdf). Twelve projects were already selected for the program in JFY2014. It has recently been determined that the program can support additional three or four more projects without increasing the budget. The solicitation for additional funding will begin around the end of April and the results will be announced in early fall 2015. As the ImPACT fund can support research only for a limited term of JFY2014-2018, newly selected projects will have a shorter period of research than the originally selected 12 projects.

Source: A translation of an article on the Cabinet Office website

JAPAN: Comprehensive Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Strategy-2015

The 2015 version of the STI Strategy is in the final stage of drafting. The points include: be ready for future industrial creation and societal change; create S&T innovation that contributes to the local economy; and present STI results at the 2020 Olympic & Paralympic. As to the way to create innovation, the strategy points out the importance of arranging an environment for causing innovation to solve economic and societal problems such as clean and economic energy system, healthy and long life, next-generation infrastructure, new industry by use of Big Data, industrialization of agriculture, fisheries, and forestry businesses. Also the Strategy-2015 reiterates, as in the previous two years, the importance of strengthening the Council for STI Policy (CSTI) as the control tower of STI policies.

Source: A translation of a page on the Cabinet Office website

JAPAN: In Search of Research Funds: COLABORY/Beats!

To help young researchers find competitive research funds, a Fujitsu-funded company, G Search, created the following website: <http://www.colabory.com/beats/2015/04/14/1460.html> Researchers, including students, in all academic fields can be registered online on the website to have a membership by specifying their fields and the nature of grants they wish to apply for, e.g., fellowship, study abroad, and attending conferences, and the website lists the opportunities for both public and private funds in Japan.

Source: A translation from <http://www.colabory.com/beats/2015/04/14/1460.html>

New Zealand: Science Teaching Leadership Program

A new Science Teaching Leadership Program administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand enables 35 primary and secondary school teachers to get out of the classroom for 6 months to undertake leadership training, and to gain, by working alongside scientists, a deeper understanding of New Zealand's overarching science curriculum strand called the Nature of Science. The program intends for the school teachers to go away to know not only about applied research, but also the reality of doing science in today's competitive climate and what it takes to be successful.

Source: <http://www.cawthron.org.nz/news/community/2015/high-school-teacher-takes-real-world-science/>