



Weekly Wire
News from East Asia and Pacific
National Science Foundation
Tokyo Regional Office
April 28, 2015

AUSTRALIA: Science Meets Parliament

The event “Science meets Parliament 2015” (See Weekly Wire-January 20, 2015 at: http://www.nsf.gov/od/iia/ise/tokyo/articles/WeeklyWire_150120.pdf) held on March 24-25, 2015 attracted almost 200 scientists from across the nation, with more than 70 federal parliamentarians in attendance. The event included a number of activities such as presentations on Day 1 that featured: “Meet the Media – A day in the Life of a Journalist: What They Need to Turn your Science into News”; “the Art of Political Meetings”; “the Messy Nature of the Policymaking Process”; “Who is Inspiring Australia?”; “How to Talk/Think like a Policymaker”; and “Getting your Science out of the Lab.” As is the case with the science enterprise in the U.S., scientists in Australia can benefit from guidance about how best to share their results with their media, the lay public and public officials.

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

JAPAN: Software to Detect Research Misconduct

LPixel, a software-development Tokyo University-spinoff, will commence a service to detect research misconduct. LPixel-developed software will automatically sort out fabricated and falsified images used in research papers. First, a user registers an image on the company’s website, and the company server will automatically analyze the image. Then, if the system finds a problem, further examination will be conducted by an expert. It takes a few days for the software to finish the detection, while it would take 10 days, if done manually. The service costs only 500 yen (\$5) per image.

Source: [A translation of a Nikkei article – April 20, 2015 Evening Edition.](#)

JAPAN: \$200 Million Investment in induced pluripotent stem cell (iPS) Research

Takeda Pharmaceutical Company will invest 20 Billion Yen (\$200 Million) over the next 10 years in the Kyoto University’s iPS Research Institute (Director: Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, Nobel Laureate) to cooperatively develop medicine mainly for heart and diabetic diseases. Dr. Yamanaka expects researchers both from Japan and overseas to join the cooperative research. It is said to take 9-17 years to develop new medicine and the success rate is one out of 30,000. Takeda invests 20% of its sales in its R&D of which much is expended in the clinical stage. The company expects the iPS technologies minimize the clinical stage costs and reduce the overall R&D period required.

Source: [A Nikkei article – April 18, 2015](#)

JAPAN: Moon Landing in 2018

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) presented a plan to land an unmanned probe on the moons’ surface in 2018 at a Japan Space Policy Committee meeting. If approved by the Committee, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) will include a budget for the probe called *Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM)* in its budget request for JFY2016. The estimated development cost is 10-15 billion yen (\$100-150 million). Unique to *SLIM* is the accurate soft-

landing capability enabling it to land within 100 meters of the target. The *SLIM*'s landing represents a stepping stone for exploring Mars.

Source: <http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0002094200>

New Zealand: New Zealand-China Research Projects

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) announced three New Zealand-China joint research projects: Improving water use efficiency and quality; Tracing technologies for dairy products; and Investigation of nutrient cycling and grassland legumes. Each New Zealand team will receive \$300,000 over three years, with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology providing equivalent amounts to the Chinese researchers.

Source: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/three-nz-china-research-projects-announced>