



Weekly Wire
News from East Asia and Pacific
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AUSTRALIA: Academy Science Gender Equity Pilot Program

The Science in Australia Gender Equity Forum is calling for scientific organizations to join its pilot program to improve gender equity in Australian science. The Forum is seeking universities and research bodies to pilot a gender equity program named the Athena Swan Charter that is currently run in the UK. The Athena Swan charter requires participating universities and research institutions to develop and implement an action plan to address their specific gender challenges. The Australian pilot of Athena Swan will operate for two years with up to 20 universities, medical research institutes and publicly-funded research agencies being selected to participate. Currently, 17% of Australia's senior level academic positions in science are occupied by women.

Source: <https://www.science.org.au/news/applications-open-academy-science-gender-equity-pilot>

AUSTRALIA: Robots to Understand the Indian Ocean

A fleet of floating bio-robots will be deployed between Christmas Island and Madagascar to help gain an understanding of the physical and biological workings of the crucially important Indian Ocean. The BioArgos, being released by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), are equipped with tiny sensors that can measure biological indicators within the ocean including dissolved oxygen, nitrate, chlorophyll, organic matter and other particles. It will be the first time CSIRO has used the new BioArgo robot floats to measure this massively under-sampled part of the world.

Source: <http://www.csiro.au/en/News/News-releases/2015/Robots-to-identify-what-makes-the-Indian-Ocean-tick?featured=27F6622E2C954B819F5E36ECE881FA68>

JAPAN: Cyber Security - An Addition to SIP Projects

The Council for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (CSTI) selected 10 technology fields in JFY2014 to provide funding for 5 years under the Strategic Innovation Program (SIP), a cross-ministerial, industry-university-government collaboration program to support projects from the basic research stage through commercialization of technologies (see: http://www.nsf.gov/od/iaa/ise/tokyo/articles/Weekly%20Wire-2014_0605.pdf). And, in recent SIP Governing Board discussions on how SIP can further meet the societal and industrial needs, "Cyber Security" came up as a valuable addition. CSTI is now soliciting proposals for the Director of the new technology field. The Program Director for SIP is a researcher who will manage the technology field from the basic research stage through commercialization of technologies. After selecting the PD, CSTI will design the outcome of the technology together with the PD and decide upon the JFY2015 budget for the Cyber Security field.

Source: [a summary translation of a CSTI webpage](#)

JAPAN: Matching Planner Program

The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), a funding agency that supports research from the basic research stage through commercialization of technologies, has a new program called Matching Planner

(MP) program. JST hired 15 matching planners who have expertise in launching industry-university collaborative projects, and assigned them to 5 major cities in Japan. The matching planners listen to the needs of the companies in local areas. Based on the needs, they search the university-based research results using JST's nation-wide network and database. When the company needs and university seeds are matched, the universities apply for JST's Matching Planner program with a standard award amount of 1.7 million yen (\$14K) for one year (with a possible extension). JST plans to support up to 250 proposals in JFY2015 under this local area innovation creation program.

Source: A summary translation of an article on JST website and phone interview to JST

KOREA: KIST Robotic Technologies to Chinese Market

The Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) signed an MOU with the Shanghai Industrial Technology Institute of China (SITIC) to collaboratively conduct research on robotic technologies and to commercialize the results. KIST technologies on smart robots are already commercialized in Korea and Europe. The MOU with SITIC will expand KIST robotic technologies to the Chinese market and allow SITIC to gain the robotics expertise.

Source:

http://eng.kist.re.kr/kist_eng/?state=view&sub_num=417&searchKind=&searchWord=&v_pagesize=10&v_page=1&idx=1161&seqNo=1&reportMediaTypeCode=