



Weekly Wire
News from East Asia and Pacific
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JAPAN: Supercomputer “K” Evaluated the Best by Graph500

The Graph500, an international conference on High Performance Computing held in Frankfurt, Germany on July 13, announced that the analysis accomplished by an international team consisting of RIKEN, Tokyo Institute of Technology, University College Dublin, Kyushu University and Fujitsu, using Japan’s supercomputer “K”, revealed its superior quality in the international ranking for processing big data. The ranking result reflects supercomputer “K”’s high capability for analyzing big data.

Source: A summary translation of an article on JST website:
<http://www.jst.go.jp/pr/announce/20150714/index.html>

JAPAN: Diversity Initiative

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) selected 7 universities that have proposed projects to support women researchers in developing their careers, including life-work balance; and 5 groups of universities, each consisting of three universities. The former will receive a 30 million yen (\$246K) grant and the latter 60 million yen (\$492K) per year for 5-6 years. This is the second year of the MEXT program that was established to improve the career development for women researchers in Japan which lags behind other countries.

Source: A summary translation of an article on MEXT website:
http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/boshu/detail/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2015/07/15/1359750.pdf

JAPAN: Open Science Follow-up Meeting

The Council for the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (CSTI) Open Science Committee members convened for the first time on July 14 after the CSTI issued the guidelines for Japan’s Open Science Policy on April 27. There continue to be differences in perception about what constitutes open science among researchers as well as a lack of awareness about the open science guidelines. Discussions on how to deal with open science are now going on at the Science and Technology Committee within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) as well as at other ministries and agencies, the Information Science Committee of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ), funding agencies, universities, industries, public libraries and repositories, academic societies, and publishing companies. The Kyoto University Library Director pointed out that opening up access to data requires enormous amounts of work and there are issues, including how to deal with intellectual property, the capacity of the repositories, the personnel who are capable of handling all sorts of data, and the difference in the nature of data between the fields. The university has begun to think about how to cope with all of these. CSTI will continue to follow up on the development of each organization’s activities on open science by holding ad hoc meetings.

Source: A summary observation of the Open Science Follow-up Meeting

JAPAN: Nagoya University on “UN Women” List

Nagoya University was selected as one of the 10 universities in the world that proactively promote gender equality programs. For example, the University’s child care center provides care until 21:00 including meal and shower services and even providing educational programs for the children. The information on these activities together with many other systems that help Nagoya University women faculty members has spread nation-wide and increased the number of women faculty members. The University has pledged to the “UN Women” to increase the ratio of women faculty members from the current 15.9% to 20% in 2020.

Source: A summary translation of an article on Asahi Newspaper – July 18, 2015