



Weekly Wire
News from East Asia and Pacific
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AUSTRALIA: Women in the Science Research Workforce

A research report on “Women in the Science Research Workforce: Identifying and Sustaining the Diversity Advantage” that was supported by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant was made public at <http://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Wmn-in-Sci-Rsrch-Rprt-web-080915.pdf>. The research strongly suggests that new employment conditions and new career pathways are needed to reframe patterns of participation and opportunities for success for a wider range of entrants to the scientific research workforce.

JAPAN: Defense Ministry-funded 9 Projects

As many as 109 applications were submitted for the Ministry of Defense (MOD) unprecedented competitive funding opportunity for dual use technologies (details can be obtained from the previous Weekly Wire: http://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/tokyo/articles/WeeklyWire_150908.pdf). MOD has selected 9 projects as below, making the success rate one out of 12 proposals. The award per project is up to Yen 30 million (\$250,000) per year for up to 3 years. The research results will be made public. The PIs can apply for patent rights on the technologies.

Institution	Project (provisional brief translation)
RIKEN	Materials that completely absorb light
Fujitsu	High-frequency transistor
Kanagawa Inst. of Technology	Adhesiveness advancement by use of carbon nanotube
JAXA*	Super high-speed airplane engine
Panasonic	Underwater wireless energy transmittance
JAMSTEC*	Underwater wireless optical communication
Tokyo Denki University	Highly functional synthetic aperture radar
Toyohashi Univ. of Technology	Super fine polymer fiber sheet that absorbs toxic chemical substances
Tokyo Institute of Technology	Portable biomass gasification power generator

*-NOTE: JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency); JAMSTEC (Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology)

Source: MOD homepage

JAPAN: Export the Education System

To respond to the requests from other countries, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) will export Japan’s unique education system overseas by establishing an Industry-University Collaborative Platform for Developing Japanese Education System Overseas (tentative name and translation) in JFY2016 with a budget of Yen 150 million (\$1.25 million). The unique system includes how Japanese elementary and secondary school students handle the classroom cleanup and lunch serving-and-cleanup work by dividing the roles among them and each accomplishing the functions; and also how the students manage the sports day and after-school activities, and disaster preparedness drills, all of which requires cooperation among the students. Some countries show a considerable interest in the way Japan maintains high standard of the elementary and middle-high school mathematics test scores and the science education method. MEXT is working on the details to implement the export in JFY2016.

Source: Summary translation of a Nikkei article-September 16, 2015