

Comprehensive Support Programs for Creation of Regional Innovation

Japan Regional Innovation Strategy program by the Excellence (J-RISE)

2009 Application Handbook

Deadline for Internet Applications

August 31 (Monday), 2009, 12:00 p.m.

【Note】

To submit a proposal under this program, the researcher or research institution must be registered on the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad). In some cases, the registration procedures may take several days, so please register at least two weeks prior to the deadline. (You may also register before the beginning of the period for submission of applications.)

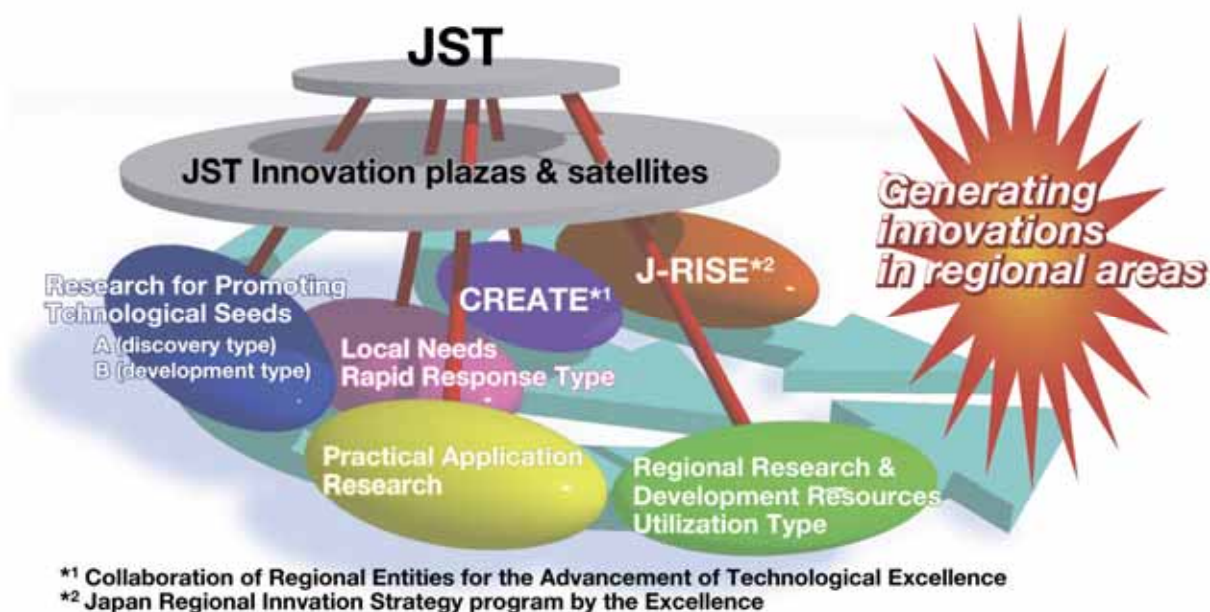
July 2009

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About the Comprehensive Support Programs for Creation of Regional Innovation

The Comprehensive Support Programs for Creation of Regional Innovation are based at the JST Innovation Plazas and JST Innovation Satellites ("Plaza/Satellites") located throughout Japan. These programs foster collaboration among local governments, ministries and JST basic research and technology transfer operations and so on to enable research and development to be conducted seamlessly from the discovery of the seeds of innovation to commercialization (Research for Promoting Technological Seeds, Practical Application Research, Development Resources Utilization Program, etc.) thereby providing comprehensive support for the creation of innovation in regional areas.



Positioning of the Regional Innovation Strategy Program by the Excellence (J-RISE)

This program is aimed at creation of innovation in specific fields and new industries unique to each region, and regional revitalization through training and producing superior human resources, by fostering industry-academia-government research and development activities toward commercialization and by forming R&D teams of researchers at regional universities who excel in specific and related fields, with expert researchers at the core of such a team.

1. Outline of the Regional Innovation Strategy Program by the Excellence

(1) Purpose of the Regional Innovation Strategy Program by the Excellence

The Regional Innovation Strategy Program by the Excellence (the Program) is designed to form special R&D teams (“Dream Teams”) of domestic and overseas Expert Researchers (“Guest Expert Researchers”) around Expert Researchers at regional universities (“In-House Expert Researchers”), so as to improve the pace and sophistication of their commercialization efforts. The purpose of the Program is to promote R&D toward commercialization and unique innovation in regions through technology and science.

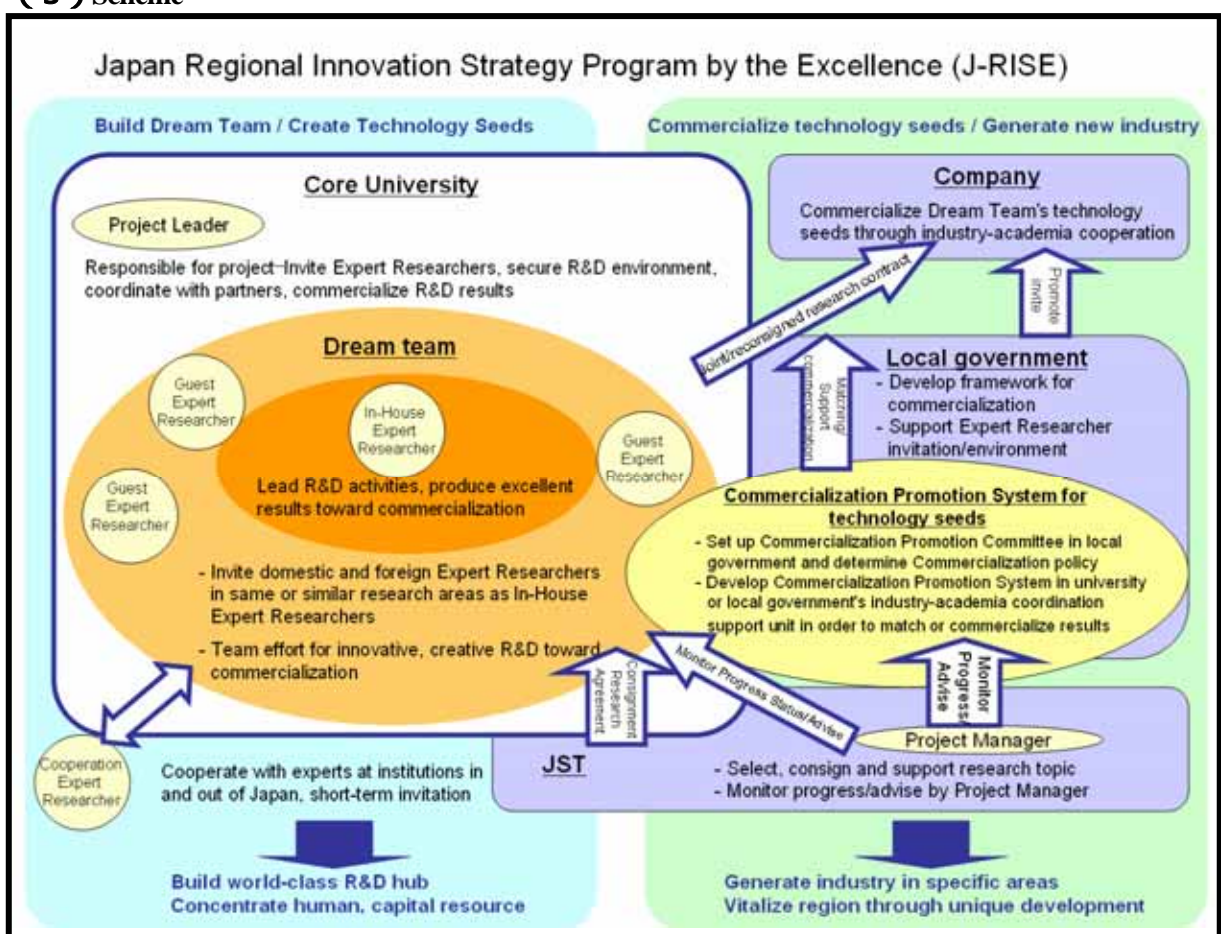
Regional activities to be sponsored by this Program are referred to as “Projects.”

(2) Outline

- 1) The Program will form Dream Teams of Expert Researchers at regional universities (“Core Universities”) around In-House Expert Researchers who excel in particular fields, by inviting other Expert Researchers in said and related fields from Japan and abroad.
- 2) The Program will accelerate R&D Projects by Dream Teams and, through industry-academia-government collaboration, their commercialization efforts.
- 3) The Project Leader at a Core University will select and invite Guest Expert Researchers, develop an R&D environment, manage industry-academia-government collaboration among participating organizations, and promote commercialization.
- 4) So as to promote and accelerate commercialization effort by a Project, a Commercialization Planning Committee will form within local government, consisting of members of the Core University, local government and businesses, and the Japan Science & Technology Agency (“JST”) and external experts, and determine policy and a Commercialization Promotion System.
- 5) Under the policy determined by the Commercialization Planning Committee, the Core University, local government (prefectures and the 12 major cities so designated by a Cabinet Order), and local businesses will cooperate and form a Commercialization Promotion System and support industry-academia R&D effort.
- 6) JST will assign a Project Manager at the Commercialization Promotion System in order to monitor progress of the Project and provide advice for commercialization.
- 7) Projects are in principle envisaged to last 5 years in duration.
- 8) The Project Manager will track and monitor status of Expert Researchers, details of the Commercialization Promotion System, and progress in R&D and commercialization. In the third year of the Project, the Project Manager will make an interim report, including a recommendation to continue or terminate the Project and exploring possible directions for the fourth year and beyond. At the end of the Project, the Project Manager will provide an ex post evaluation of its results and findings. Three years after the Project, also, the Project Manager will mount a follow-up research.
- 9) JST will provide financial assistance to each Project flexibly, in accordance with its scope, framework, and rate of progress.
- 10) JST will consign R&D to Core Universities and promote it. The Core Universities may conclude a collaborative research contract or reassignment contract with Participating Companies joining the Program, and will implement R&D.

- 11) JST consignment will cover such cost items as R&D materials and equipment, travel, and rewards, as well as travel costs for inviting Expert Researchers, personnel costs for Guest Expert Researchers, and travel costs for short term invitation of those who work together at institutions other than the Core University (“Cooperation Expert Researchers”). JST may cover expenses other than Expert Researchers’ travels, within the scope of R&D consignment, according to the Core University’s plans.
- 12) Of costs required to run the Project, the local partners will pay for those others, such as R&D and personnel costs, that are not covered by JST (such as re-consigned research costs, personnel costs other than those covered by JST, etc.). The local partners are expected to bear up to 1/2 of direct costs in JST’s consignment outlay. They will include purchase of materials and equipment as well as personnel (within limitations and restrictions). The Project Manager is obliged to report at the end of each year on JST-born costs and locally born costs.

(3) Scheme



(4) Structure

Project Promotion

The Project will require an In-House Expert Researcher at its core, in a Core University and in close coordination with local businesses and local government; invite Expert Researchers and form a Dream Team; and conduct R&D activities toward commercialization. Project Leader will be stationed within the Core University to manage progress of the Project and oversee it in entirety.

In-House Expert Researcher

The In-House Expert Researcher must currently belong to the Core University and be engaged in world-class R&D which, within five years of their completion, will likely reach commercialization in the region. He or she will be the core member of the Dream Team, including Guest Expert Researchers and, after consultation with Project Leader and relevant organs, will produce the team's R&D plans. He or she will, through cooperation with local government and businesses, lead R&D activities toward commercialization.

One condition for participation in this Program is full-time employee status at a university for the full duration of the Project and availability, even after the formal end of the Project, for R&D activities toward commercialization.

The Core University and local government are asked to discuss thoroughly the selection of the In-House Expert Researcher.

Project Leader

The Project Leader is responsible for the progress of the Project and oversees all its aspects, from inviting Expert Researchers, development of an R&D environment at the Core University, coordination among participating organs, through commercialization. He will communicate closely with expert researchers, local government and companies, to obtain coordination among them, so as to develop the R&D environment and to run R&D activities. The Project Leader must be of such a position at the Core University to be able to fulfill these responsibilities and secure the overall framework with enough flexibility. Specifically, it is desired that he/she be a board member or higher.

Creation of a Dream Team through Invitation of/Cooperation with Expert Researchers

In order to promote commercialization through local industry-academia collaboration and generate new industries, the Program promotes R&D aimed at the generation and commercialization of cutting-edge technological seeds through the implementation of R&D by a Dream Team comprising a core of Expert Researchers affiliated with the Core University and who have achieved excellent performance in Japan and/or overseas and the invitation of Expert Researchers in a field that contributes to the accelerated advancement of commercialization or related fields.

The invitation of Expert Researchers from within Japan and overseas and preparation of a R&D environment for the Dream Team is carried out by the Core University led by the Project Manager.

Expert Researchers who are difficult to recruit to the Core University participate in the project as Cooperation Expert Researchers, working in collaboration with the Dream Team while remaining affiliated with another university, etc. In such cases, Cooperation Expert Researchers may also be invited to the Core University on a short-term basis.

Guest Expert Researcher

Guest Expert Researchers are Expert Researchers in the same field or related fields as In-House Expert Researchers who are invited to the Core University to form a team with In-House Expert Researchers at the Core University, by which R&D aimed at commercialization is expected to be accelerated. Guest Expert Researchers and In-House Expert Researchers form a Dream Team and together carry out R&D aimed at commercialization.

Guest Expert Researchers must fulfill the following conditions.

- Employed as full-time researchers (by means of special appointment or other systems enabling them to focus on R&D)
- As a general rule, aged 55 years or under at the time of recruitment (from the standpoint of continuing to play a central role in R&D carried out by the university/local government up until 5 years after the project's completion)

Cooperation Expert Researcher

Cooperation Expert Researchers are Expert Researchers in the same field or related fields as In-House Expert Researchers who are carrying out R&D that is expected to contribute to the acceleration of commercialization. In the case that invitation of Expert Researchers to the Core University is difficult, they participate in the R&D project as Cooperation Expert Researchers, working in collaboration with the Dream Team while remaining affiliated with universities, etc. in Japan or overseas. If the Core University's system allows, Cooperation Expert Researchers may also be recruited to the Core University on a short-term basis.

(*) "Universities, etc." refer to national, public and private colleges and universities, organs used jointly by universities, specialized vocational high schools, national testing and research institutes, public testing and research institutes, and government-affiliated corporations, independent administrative agencies, and charitable corporations engaged in research and development activities.

Schools Other Than the Core University

Schools Other Than the Core University are universities and research institutions in Japan and overseas with which Cooperation Expert Researchers are affiliated. The Schools carry out R&D and verification experiments that cannot be performed by the Core University or other institutions participating in the project. A reconignment contract may be signed with the Core University for carrying out these activities.

Establishment of a Commercialization Promotion System and Promotion of Commercialization

To enable commercialization of the Dream Team's research results through active industry-academia collaboration, the Core University and local government take the lead in establishing a Commercialization Promotion System with the cooperation of local industries, matching research with industries and promoting commercialization.

Companies cooperating with the Dream Team carry out R&D aimed at commercialization under the support of the Commercialization Promotion System.

Commercialization Planning Committee

The Commercialization Planning Committee is a committee established by the local government and comprises the Project Manager; representatives of the Core University, local government, local industries, and JST; and external experts.

The Commercialization Planning Committee considers the following items with regard to the commercialization of the research results generated by the Dream Team and decides specific policies concerning commercialization.

- 1) Strengthening of the cooperative relationship between industry, academia, and government; and strengthening of awareness regarding the generation of new technologies and industries locally.
 - 2) Matching of business needs with the Dream Team's research results, collaboration measures, and commercialization measures.
 - 3) Securing a flexible research organization structure and the required research freedom to enable the Dream Team and companies providing cooperation for commercialization to work to their maximum ability.
 4. Constructing an efficient and effective configuration for promoting commercialization locally.
- Maximum membership of the Commercialization Planning Committee is 15.

Commercialization Promotion System

Under the policies decided by the Commercialization Planning Committee, the Core University/local government take the lead in collaboration with industry in organizing a system for commercializing the Dream Team's research results.

The system is created to suit the circumstances of the local region and the status of each institution involved, but possible locations for establishing the system include universities, institutions supporting industry-academia collaboration, and third-party organizations. Furthermore, the human resources necessary for operating the system are allocated through the cooperation of the Core University and local government, etc.

Under the Commercialization Promotion System, the following activities are carried out with the aim of commercializing the Dream Team's research results and generating new local industries.

- 1) Protection, fostering, and utilization of intellectual property
- 2) Market surveys
- 3) Formulation of a road map for commercialization
- 4) Feedback for research on market needs
- 5) Matching research results with businesses
- 6) Building bridges with other business fields

However, because of the impossibility of the Core University/local government being able to cover all needs for staff allocation, systems for utilizing external human resources and organizations – such as registering patent attorneys, technicians, management consultants, accountants, market survey companies, and consulting companies, etc. in a skills bank and utilizing these skills in a timely and appropriate manner - should be established as required.

Participating Companies

Participating Companies work in collaboration with the Dream Team, which is led by In-House Expert Researchers, in carrying out R&D aimed at commercialization. In carrying out this R&D, a reconignment contract may also be concluded with the Core University as required.

Role of the Core University

The Core University is a local research institution that take a central role in implementing the Project. Under a consignment contract concluded with JST, the Core University invites Expert Researchers and

creates a Dream Team led by In-House Researchers to carry our R&D aimed at commercialization in line with the objectives of the Program.

To ensure the R&D performed by the Dream Team proceeds smoothly, the Core University allocated researchers and maintains the research environment.

Furthermore, to ensure smooth implementation of the Project, under the direction of the Project Manager, the Core University establishes and maintains within the university a system for performing operations related to the overall implementation of the Project, such as concluding contracts with the JST, preparing all variety of reports, purchasing of equipment, account processing of consignment expenses, handling procedures related to contracts with companies and other universities, and liaison and coordination with JST.

In addition, in order to promote commercialization, under policies decided by the Commercialization Planning Committee established by the local government, the Core University works in collaboration with the local government and local industries in organizing a Commercialization Promotion System and allocating the staff required for its operation.

Under this Program, Core Universities are limited to national/private universities and graduate institutes.

Role of the local government (Prefecture/Municipality)

The local government promotes the Project in conjunction with the Core University from the perspective of generating new local industries and local revitalization. In the promotion of commercialization in particular, the local government takes a leading role alongside the Core University.

The local government undertakes the following activities in promoting commercialization.

- Establishes a Commercialization Planning Committee within the local government.
- Organizes in collaboration with the Core University and local industries a Commercialization Promotion System aimed at commercializing the Dream Team's research results and supports R&D conducted through industry-academia collaboration.

The local government also provides support as required for maintenance of the living environment of Guest Expert Researchers, establishment of the research environment for the Dream Team, and research funding grants. Public testing and research institutes (herein under referred to as "Public Institutions") may be involved in the R&D.

Role of the JST

In addition to the recruitment and selection of new projects, the JST performs overall operational management of the Program through consignment contracts with the Core University implementing the R&D and Program Officers (PO). Furthermore, the JST checks the status of progress of the research being performed by the Dream Team and allocates a Project Manager to the Commercialization Promotion System to provide advice.

In the third year after the project begins, the JST performs mid-term evaluations of the establishment of the R&D structure, including Expert Researcher recruitment, and the status of the R&D; following the conclusion of the project, the JST performs ex-post evaluations of the R&D results; and 3 years after the conclusion of the project, the JST conducts a follow-up review of the expansion and utilization of the R&D results, status of technological transfer to local businesses, and status of local innovation generation.

As part of mid-term evaluations, ex-post evaluations, and follow-up reviews, field investigations are carried out as required. In performing evaluations, including prior evaluations, an evaluation framework with the Program Director (PD) at the top and the Program Officer (PO) at its core is constructed.

* Program Director (PO): A person appointed by JST on the basis of superior S&T expertise and knowledge required for management of the competitive funding system and evaluation of R&D topics. The PD's main responsibilities will be to determine management policy for the competitive funding system and to select research topics for the Program based on evaluation results.

* Program Officer (PO): The PO is appointed by JST on the conditions that he or she possesses specialized knowledge and experience in research and development, is aware of R&D developments and trends, is capable of learned judgement based on expertise, and has a broad network of contacts. The PO is responsible for formulating system operation policies based on competitive funding, formulation of potential research topic proposals based on evaluation results, and management of selected topics.

Project Manager

In addition to providing appropriate advice to ensure that the technological seeds generated by the Dream Team as part of the R&D Project is guided appropriately towards commercialization under the Commercialization Promotion System, the Project Manager regularly checks the status of the Dream Team's R&D and commercialization in promoting the Project.

The JST creates a list of and employs (excluding consignment) Project Managers, assigning them within the Commercialization Promotion System organization.

JST Innovation Plaza/Satellite

In order to promote R&D projects within their geographical jurisdiction, JST Plazas and Satellites will offer cooperation. The directors of Plazas and Satellites will participate in the Commercialization Promotion Committee and provide strategic advice toward commercialization.

Please see the Plaza and Satellite jurisdiction below.

JST Innovation Plaza Hokkaido:	Hokkaido
JST Innovation Plaza Miyagi:	Miyagi Prefecture, Yamagata Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture
JST Innovation Plaza Ishikawa:	Toyama Prefecture, Ishikawa Prefecture
JST Innovation Plaza Tokai:	Gifu Prefecture, Aichi Prefecture, Mie Prefecture
JST Innovation Plaza Kyoto:	Kyoto Prefecture, Nara Prefecture
JST Innovation Plaza Osaka:	Osaka Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Wakayama Prefecture
JST Innovation Plaza Hiroshima:	Tottori Prefecture, Shimane Prefecture, Okayama Prefecture, Hiroshima Prefecture, Yamaguchi Prefecture
JST Innovation Plaza Fukuoka:	Fukuoka Prefecture, Saga Prefecture, Nagasaki Prefecture, Kumamoto Prefecture, Okinawa Prefecture
JST Innovation Satellite Iwate:	Aomori Prefecture, Iwate Prefecture, Akita Prefecture

JST Innovation Satellite Ibaraki:	Ibaraki Prefecture, Tochigi Prefecture, Saitama Prefecture, Chiba Prefecture, Tokyo Prefecture, Kanagawa Prefecture
JST Innovation Satellite Niigata:	Gunma Prefecture, Niigata Prefecture
JST Innovation Satellite Shizuoka:	Yamanashi Prefecture, Nagano Prefecture, Shizuoka Prefecture
JST Innovation Satellite Shiga:	Fukui Prefecture, Shiga Prefecture
JST Innovation Satellite Tokushima:	Tokushima Prefecture, Kagawa Prefecture
JST Innovation Satellite Kochi:	Ehime Prefecture, Kochi Prefecture

JST Innovation Satellite Miyazaki: Miyazaki Prefecture, Oita Prefecture, Kagoshima Prefecture

*** Please note that jurisdictional boundaries may change.**

(5) Agreement format

A consignment contract is concluded between the JST and the Core University.

Furthermore, reconignment contacts are concluded between the Core University and businesses or other universities, etc. as required to perform R&D.

The JST also concludes prescribed basic contracts with all participating organizations regarding intellectual property rights and the handling of research results. In addition, an implementation contract is concluded between the Core University, local government, and JST with regard to the implementation of the Project, including recruitment of Expert Researchers and establishment of a Commercialization Promotion System.

2. Application outline

(1) Application requirements

The Program recruits projects that fulfill the following requirements.

- The R&D topic is based on the R&D results of In-House Researchers who have achieved an outstanding research record in Japan and/or overseas.
- The R&D topic is a topic that is expected to be commercialized locally through collaboration with businesses within 5 years of the Project's conclusion.
- A list has been compiled of candidate Guest Expert Researchers and Cooperation Expert Researchers, centered on In-House Guest Researchers, and there is the possibility of the Guest and Cooperation Expert Researchers listed being invited. Early on in the implementation of the Project, it is preferred that 3 or more Expert Researchers be invited.
- Under the direction of the Core University and local government, a promotional system aimed at commercialization through collaboration with the local economic community can be organized.
- The research topic can be expected to lead to the generation of new technologies and new industries locally. The local government has measures in place to promote the relevant technological field, and local defrayment of costs by universities and the local government is anticipated.
- Local businesses are expected to participate in the technology field, or a new industrial base is expected to be created locally by attracting businesses to the area.

(2) Applicant's requirements

In applying for this Program, the following requirements must be fulfilled.

- Applications must be submitted jointly by the Core University and local government.
As a general rule, one university and one local government jointly submit the application.
- The president of the University and the head of the relevant department of the local government jointly submit the application. Applications must be stamped with official seals. Because an implementation contract for carrying out the Project is concluded between the heads of the University, local government, and JST after the topic has been selected, the prior approval of the head of the local government must be obtained. In the case that the approval of the head of the local government cannot be obtained, acceptance of the R&D topic may be withdrawn.
- The R&D implementers (university, businesses, local government) shall bear the costs of consignment from the JST (local burden). (See "5.4 Local Burden".)

(3) Application period

July 24, 2009 (Friday) – August 31, 2009 (Monday) 12:00pm.

(4) Number of applications that will be accepted

Two (2) applications are to be accepted for FY2009.

(5) Consignment costs

A support payment of 220 million yen maximum will be paid annually over 5 years for each Project. (This amount includes Indirect Expenses.) For FY2009 and FY 2014, the maximum payment will be 110 million yen.

Apply for minimum annual required expenses within the scope of the above amount. (See "5. (1) Project Implementation Plan".)

Note that Consignment Research Costs may change due to the circumstances of the budget for each fiscal year.

(6) R&D period (planned)

The Research Period begins in December 2009 and concludes at the end of March 2015. The R&D is to be concluded by December 2014 and January-March 2015 is to be a wrap-up period. (See "5. (1) Project Implementation Plan".)

(7) Application Forms

In submitting an application, the following documents are required.

Form 1: Japan Regional Innovation Strategy Program by the Excellence (J-RISE) Application Form

Form 2: Japan Regional Innovation Strategy Program by the Excellence (J-RISE) Basic Plan (Proposal)

Form 3: Project Leader Research History

Form 4: Research History, Achievements, and List of Main Published Papers for Expert Researchers and the Main Researchers for Each R&D Topic

Form 5: List of Grants/Subsidies from Public Institutions

Form 6: Documents Explaining the Research Topic in Detail

For details on forms and examples of how to complete them, see “Guide to Preparing Application Documents”.

3. Review

(1) Review methods

With regard to the screening of applications, a prior evaluation of the content of the application documents submitted by the Applicant (document screening and interview) is carried out by the Program Officer (PO) with the cooperation of an Advisory Board comprising external experts. Based on the results of the prior evaluation (Review of Documentation and Interview), projects are compared against the objectives of the Program and those deemed outstanding are chosen by the Program Director as candidates for selection. The final selection decision is made by the JST.

(2) Review procedure

Selection decisions are made comprehensively based on the following selection standards.

Research status of In-House Expert Researchers

With regard to research by In-House Expert Researchers already affiliated with the Core University, the researcher has achieved excellent results in the relevant research field with respect to the degree of impact of the research in its field, number of patent applications lodged or patents registered, number of papers published, number of citations, and record of acquiring competitive funding, etc.; there is potential for further expansion of the research in future; and the research contact has a strong impact.

Potential for Commercialization (*)

The In-House Expert Researchers' R&D Topic is expected to be commercialized within 5 years of the conclusion of the Project, is deemed to be more novel than and superior to existing technologies, and expected to be highly marketable.

(*) Expansion of business activities aimed at providing individual products or services that utilize the relevant technology through the execution of patents and licenses and the establishment of venture businesses, etc.

Appropriateness and Possibility of Recruiting Guest and Cooperation Expert Researchers from within Japan and Overseas

Guest and Cooperation Expert Researchers who are to be recruited must have excellent research records. Furthermore, the content of their research must be highly related to that of In-House Expert Researchers and their inclusion in a R&D team can be expected to accelerate and enhance the R&D, accelerating commercialization. In addition, the listed Expert Researchers must be available for recruitment/cooperation, and measures must be formulated to ensure that Expert Researchers participate continuously in the Dream Team.

Core University Support System

At the Core University, under the direction of the Project Manager, a system enabling the flexible and focused implementation of efforts supporting the research, such as recruitment and coordination of Expert Researchers and maintenance of the research environment, has been formulated. A plan for participation in a Commercialization Promotion System aimed at promoting commercialization has also been formulated.

local government Support System

A plan for participation in a Commercialization Promotion System aimed at promoting commercialization has also been formulated.

A support plan for has been formulated by the local government in collaboration with the Core University to support the living environment of Guest Expert Researchers and their families as required, as well as to extend research funding to the Dream Team and provide a research environment as required.

Establishment of a Commercialization Promotion System in Collaboration with Companies

From the standpoint of aiming for commercialization, companies whose field coincides with the content of the R&D and which have the necessary R&D capacity are participating or are expected to participate in the Project.

The membership and structure of a Commercialization Planning Committee to decide policies for promoting commercialization have been determined.

A clear concept for organization of the Commercialization Promotion System, led by the Core University and local government, has been formulated.

Appropriateness of the Plan

The Plan is a rational R&D plan that sets appropriate development goals and is implemented under the necessary and sufficient joint R&D system and expenses.

Ripple Effects on the Local Region

Implementation of the Project must contribute to the invigoration of local industry and the creation of unique research bases in regional universities. Moreover, the research topic must be an important science and technology field for the local region that is expected to contribute to the generation of new local industries through commercialization. A research base for the relevant science and technology field must be expected to be established within the local government in the future.

*From the perspective of enabling universities that have previously been unable to recruit Expert Researchers due to lack of competitive funding to recruit Expert Researchers, generating new industries through collaboration with universities, and creating research bases with fresh new characteristics, the status of external/competitive funding acquisition for the university as a whole is considered in the selection process.

(3) Notification of results, etc.

Notification of results, etc. is performed as follows. Following notification of results, the R&D Plan is revised and consignment amounts decided, after which a contract is concluded.

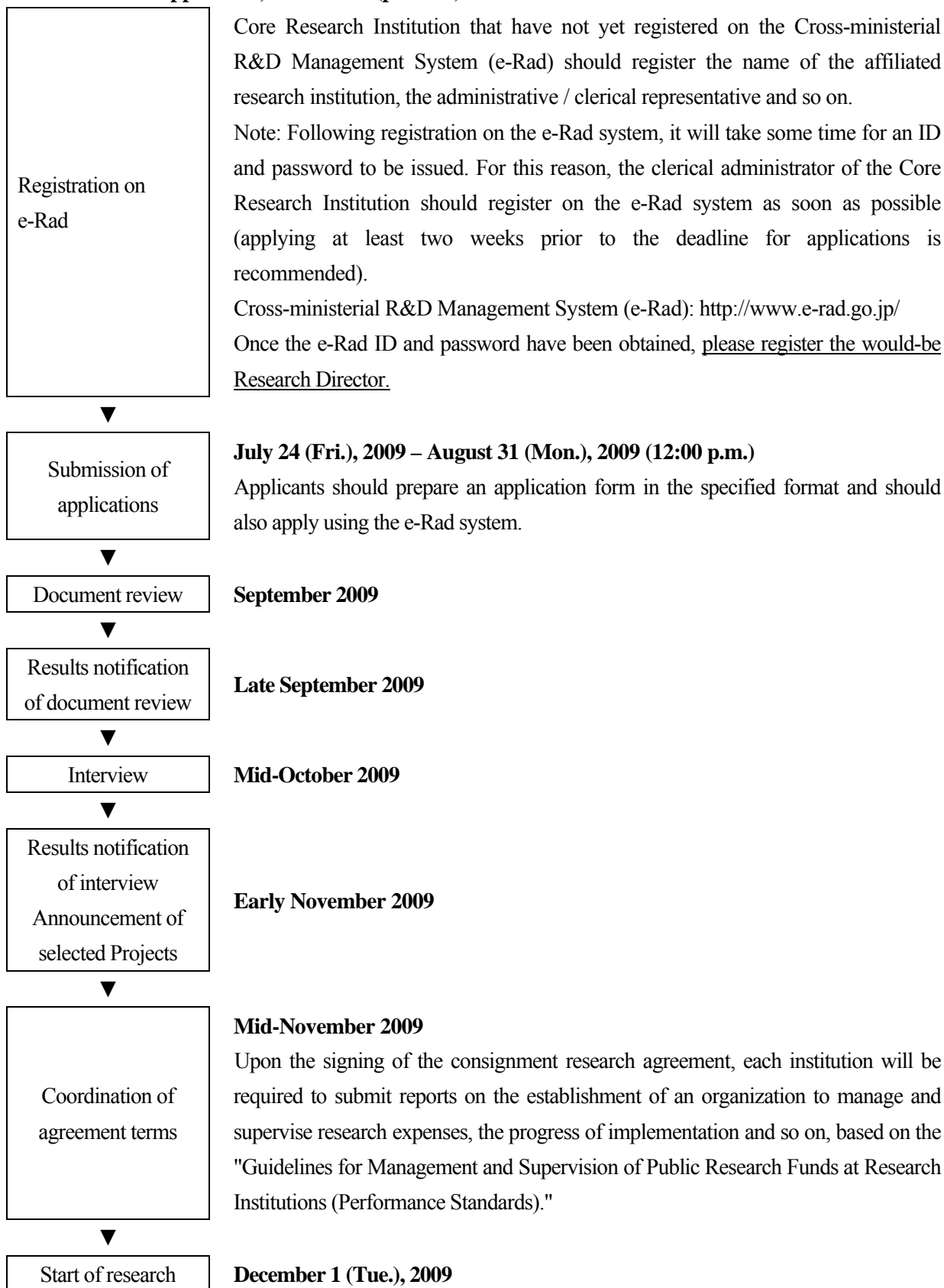
Following the review of documentation, the Project Leader of the Project selected for the interview stage will be notified accordingly in writing. The date and other details of the interview will likewise be notified.

The Project Leader of any application that has been turned down, either in the documentation review or in the interview stage, will be so notified at each stage.

The applicant of the Project selected for the Program will be notified accordingly in writing

The details of selected Projects, including the names of the Project, Core University, local government, Project Leader, and In-House Expert Researchers as well as an outline of the Project will be posted on the JST website, etc.

4. Schedule for Application, Review etc. (planned)



Note: The dates in this schedule represent general guides only and may change as a result of various factors.

5. Disbursement of Consignment Funds

(1) Project Promotion Plan

Under this program, JST and the Core University shall enter into contracts for one to six years (since the contract will not be implemented throughout the whole of the initial fiscal year and final fiscal year). When applying to this program, research and development plans should be fully thought through to efficiently apply time and costs to the invitation of Expert Researchers and other improvement of research structure and to research and development that are essential to commercialization.

When formulating plans, please check facilities, materials, and other necessary expenses for research and development with care, and total the scheduled expenses for each fiscal year. The necessary expenses can be expected to vary according to such factors as the field of the project in which the application is made, the already existing research and development environment, and so on. Such regional circumstances should be taken into account so as to facilitate research and development according to flexible and effective plans and funding allocations.

* The actual amount of consignment funds will be decided on the basis of review of the plans and other content in the application documents. Applicants should be aware that the total amount requested is not necessarily provided in every case.

* The planned budget cannot exceed 220 million yen per fiscal year. There is an upper limit of 110 million yen on the planned budgets for the initial year and the final year.

(2) Consignment Funds

Consignment funds constitute the below portions of costs that are directly necessary in conducting research and development and that are necessary in collecting and organizing research and development results. Direct costs should be added up when the application is submitted. As a rule, indirect costs should be calculated as 30% of direct costs.

Direct costs

- Costs of goods and supplies

The purchase of general purpose equipment and facilities (machinery, devices, software, etc.) used to fabricate prototypes and the like in the area of research and development as well as general purpose equipment and facilities (machinery, devices, software, etc.) used to evaluate prototypes; the modification, repair, and installation of equipment and facilities purchased by the research and development project; and the cost of procuring the materials, consumables, consumable equipment, reagents, pharmaceutical products, etc., required for the fabrication of prototypes, as well as the consumables required for the evaluation of prototypes. The outsourcing of software development and of prototypes that yield results in the form of physical objects or material should also be included under the costs of goods and supplies.

- Travel expenses

These are travel expenses for the invitation of Expert Researchers, the short-term invitation of collaborating Expert Researchers, and the necessary travel expenses incurred in collecting relevant literature, conducting

surveys and studies, taking part in research-related meetings, presenting findings, and other such activities conducted by university or other researchers in the course of a project.

- Rewards, remuneration, etc.

This includes the personnel costs of invitation and hiring of Expert Researchers, researchers, and other personnel for a research and development project as well as compensation and other such costs for short-term hires.

* Personnel costs for personnel belonging to Participating Companies cannot be included.

- Others

These include printing costs, reproduction costs, meeting costs, book and literature purchase costs, and other such individually ascertainable expenses, utilities for laboratories and other such facilities, fire insurance premiums, the value added tax portion of non-taxable transactions, and other expenses recognized by JST as necessary in implementing the research and development project. The outsourcing of services that do not yield a physical object or substance as their result (surveys, inspections, breeding laboratory mice, etc.) and the like should be included under others.

Indirect costs

This refers to costs incurred in the improvement of the research and development project-related environment and the upgrading of its functionality carried out on the responsibility of the consignment institution. As a rule, these should amount to 30% of direct costs. It should be noted when calculating indirect costs, however, that the portion of consignment funds paid for project activities reconsigned to companies, universities, or other such institutions cannot be included under direct costs.

Regarding the handling of indirect costs, see the "Common Guidelines for the Execution of Indirect Expenses in Competitive Funds" (agreement at the liaison meeting of related government ministries on competitive funds, revised March 27, 2009) (Appendix 2).

Reconsignment costs

The Core University can as necessary reassign project activities to Participating Companies, institutions, and other such organizations. Reconsignment costs should be placed under expense categories according to and above. The Core University must require the institution to which work is reconsigned to conduct proper accounting management regarding reconsignment.

(3) Expenses that cannot be Paid out of Direct Costs

Costs unrelated to this R&D

The following costs cannot be subsidized, even if they are needed for the performance of this R&D.

- Costs for construction of buildings (facilities) and acquisition of real estate
- Costs for dealing with accidents and disasters occurring during the research period
- Costs for outsourcing Project-related R&D work to a third party other than participating institutions (Property testing and other outsourced services in the interest of efficiency improvements, however, may be excluded.)
- Personnel costs for staff, at universities, etc., other than researchers, technicians, and assistants engaged in R&D work
- Personnel costs for staff belonging to a Participating Company

- Food, entertainment, and annual membership fees for academic circles
 - Costs associated with submission of patent applications
 - Costs without rational or logical explanation
- e.g., costs for bulk purchases of consumables in excess of consumption forecast for the research period

(4) Regional Burden Share

This program is intended to have the project implementers also bear the equivalent of one-half of the burden (the regional burden share) of the direct costs category of consignment funds from JST.

Specifically, the portions of research and development costs that are paid separately by the Core University that is a participating institution, by local government bodies, and by Participating Companies can be included as the regional burden share.

As a rule, costs that are illustrated in the "Common Guidelines for the Execution of Indirect Expenses in Competitive Funds" (Appendix 2) and costs that cannot be paid out of (3) direct costs cannot be counted under the regional burden share. The below costs, however, can be included:

- Personnel costs for researchers and other such personnel of Participating Companies that engage in research and development.
- Improvement of bases necessary for research and development by a Dream Team (includes facility improvement and modification, charges for facility use)
- Costs related to holding the Commercialization Promotion Committee
- Costs related to support for commercialization provided by Commercialization Promotion Systems (rewards, remuneration, travel expenses, etc.)
- Cost of renting living quarters for Guest Expert Researchers

* The total amount of the regional burden share during the research and development period should be made to amount to one-half or more of the direct costs portion of JST consignment funds. Costs under the regional burden share should also be incorporated in research and development plans and the estimated expenditure for each fiscal year should be clearly stated. At that time, it is not necessary for the amount of the regional burden share to add up to one-half or more of the fiscal year's total direct costs in every fiscal year. (It will suffice to have it add up to one-half or more of the total amount during the project period.)

* It is possible, therefore, to have cases whereby the regional burden share portion is greatly reduced in the initial phases of a project, when there is little participation by Guest Expert Researchers, companies, and other such entities, and then that regional burden share portion is increased at a stage when project systems have been fully improved. It is also possible, for example, to implement facilities improvement that contributes to the project at the start, and then to lighten the regional burden share in later fiscal years.

* Copies of contracts with the Core University, local governments, companies, and other such organizations (documents clearly showing the amount of burden for each institution) should be submitted at the beginning of the fiscal year. The actual amount of the cost burden shall also be reported to JST at the close of each fiscal year.

* Project executives and coordinators as well as administrative systems involved in project promotion are not eligible to be included in the regional burden share portion.

(Additional Note) Operators of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can post a figure for their expense burden that amounts to two times the actual burden. Here, "operators of SMEs" refers to enterprises within the scope defined in Article 2 of the Small and Medium Enterprise Basic Law (Law No. 154 of 1963). (See Appendix 1.)

6. Responsibilities of Applicants Following Selection, etc.

Parties who are participating in a project, the submitted project having been selected and contracts or other such agreements having been concluded, must meet the following requirements in implementing research and development and spend consignment funds

(1) Promotion of Research and Development

The Project Leader must collaborate closely with the Core University, local government and Participating Companies and take responsibility for managing the invitation of Expert Researchers and the implementation of research and development, publishing research and development results, promoting commercialization, and other such activities that generally constitute the implementation of research and development.

The Core University must be responsible particularly with respect to preparing plans, submitting various approval applications accompanying changes to plans, submitting regular reports and so on.

(2) Accounting management of consignment funds

The following points must be carefully observed in the accounting management of consignment funds:

The Core University can disburse a portion of its consignment funds to universities, companies, or other such organizations for consignment research expenses as necessary. In such cases, however, the Core University must take responsibility for the overall project and, working in cooperation with the parties responsible for accounting at the universities and other institutions involved, make every effort to ensure that accounting management of consignment funds is conducted properly and smoothly, for example by requiring periodic reports from disbursees on the status of their accounting management of research expenses.

The Core University as well as universities, companies, and other organizations to which a portion of the consignment funds have been disbursed must keep constant track of the status of accounting management of consignment funds. They must also make every effort to ensure that consignment funds are used efficiently, equitably, and to maximum effect for the minimum expenditure. The funding for this program comes from the national budget and is therefore subject to audit. On-site inspections may also be conducted. The parties concerned should take full cognizance of this and accommodate on-site inspections and other such activities.

(3) Project execution management

During the project period, JST will provide project execution management and support in achieving the objectives of each project. The Project Manager will check on project progress as needed, and will provide guidance, advice, and other such support in the conduct of research and development. The implementers of every project must submit reports on the progress of research and development and on the status of utilization of consignment funds received on a periodic and as-needed basis during the project period.

(4) Evaluation

The Core University will report to JST every fiscal year on the status of the Project implementation. JST will check on the progress made in inviting Expert Researchers, improving the research environment and Commercialization Promotion System, and conducting research and development and commercialization.

An interim evaluation shall be conducted three years after the start of the Project. Ex post evaluations shall be conducted after project topics are concluded. The evaluators will use reports submitted by the implementers of each project topic together with interviews to evaluate whether or not the research and development are positively being accomplished in accordance with initial plans when the project topic was selected, and in accordance with the substance and conditions set forth in consignment contracts.

A certain time after conclusion of the project topic, follow-up study is scheduled to be conducted into the continued participation by Expert Researchers in research and development at the Core University as well as into the status of commercialization and utilization of research and development results.

On-site investigations shall also be conducted as necessary during evaluations. The findings from interim evaluations, ex post evaluations, and follow-up evaluations will be posted at the JST Web site or other such locations.

External experts involved in the evaluation shall be required to maintain the confidentiality of information acquired in the course of evaluation.

(5) Vesting of obtained items

Ownership of research equipment and other items obtained through the use of consignment research costs disbursed by JST will be vested in JST. (Ownership will not revert to the institution with which the consignment agreement was signed.)

The consignee organ will handle all procedures for purchase of such equipment and JST will lease the equipment to the research-consigned institution. The institution, etc. will be responsible for exercising the care of a good manager with regard to the management of equipment, etc. (Equipment, etc. may not be used for purposes other than this program.) When the Core University engages in reconsignment, the institutions performing reconsigned work are responsible for carrying out proper management with good will and the utmost care.

(6) Intellectual property right

Intellectual property rights (patent rights, utility model rights, design rights, trademark rights, circuit placement use rights, breeder's rights, copyrights and other intangible property rights that have been created) obtained through the Project will be vested in the inventor (affiliated institution), in accordance with the specific conditions (relating to application, reporting of achievements etc.) specified in the text of Article 19 of the Law on Strengthening Industrial Technical Capabilities" (Law No. 44, 2000) (the Japanese version of the

Bayh-Dole Act). JST must be informed when achievements relating to these intellectual property rights have been obtained.

During the research period, in principle, original rights as well as intellectual property rights obtained in the Project may not be transferred or licensed to a third party. (If, however, JST and the research group agree that they would present no obstacle to commercialization, rights may be transferred or licensed.)

(7) Publication and presentation of research findings

Necessary reports must be made regarding the results obtained from research and development carried out using consignment funds from the Project, as well as the results from use of the funds disbursed, every fiscal year and after the Project has ended. (JST reserves the right to publish reported results with the agreement of the reporter.)

Active efforts must be made to publish the results obtained from research and development related to the project. With attention to their status as intellectual property, the results should be presented to academic societies inside and outside Japan and should be made widely known by the mass media and the like. After the research and development have ended, the results obtained may be published as necessary.

Program participants are encouraged to disclose and publicize results and findings at academic conferences in Japan and overseas and in media, so long as intellectual property rights are not violated. At the end of each Project, participants are asked to report findings at a conference aimed at the general public. They may also be asked to cooperate with and contribute to JST's effort to disclose and disseminate Program findings.

(8) Registration on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)

Participating institutions and companies that administer consignment funds (including reconignment funds), and researchers of those institutions and companies, must register on e-Rad after selection if they are not already registered at the time of application.

(9) Submission of reports on the status of organization, etc. based on guidelines (implementation standards) for the management and auditing of public research funds at research institutions

The Core University that implements the consignment research funds is required to submit reports on the status of organization, etc, based on guidelines (implementation standards) for the management and auditing of public research funds at research institutions. For details, please see “7. Notes on submission (8).”

7. Notes on submission

(1) Measures to deal with unreasonable overlaps and excessive concentration of funds

Measures to deal with unreasonable overlaps

In the event that competitive funding from multiple sources has been unnecessarily allocated by the national government or independent administrative agencies for research by the same researcher on the same research issue (meaning in terms of the name and content of the research for which competitive funding is allocated), and in the event that any of the following is applicable, under this program the application may be excluded from the review, or selection may be canceled, or the amount of the expenses may be reduced ("cancellation of selection, etc.).

- If the applicant has applied at essentially the same time (including overlapping to a considerable degree; the same hereafter) for competitive funding from multiple sources for the same research issue, and the applicant has been selected to receive two or more funds
- If the applicant has applied for other funding for a research issue that is essentially identical to one for which the applicant has already been selected and has already been allocated competitive funding
- If there is duplication in the use of research funds among multiple research issues
- Other similar situations

At the application stage, there are no restrictions on submitting proposals to other competitive funding programs and the like. However, in the event that you are selected to receive funding under another competitive funding program or the like, you must inform the administrative office for this program without delay. Failure to report such circumstances may result in cancellation of selection, etc under this program.

Measures to deal with excessive concentration of funds

Even in the event that the content of research being implemented with other competitive funding or the like differs from the content of research proposed under this program, cancellation of selection, etc. under this program may occur in the event that the overall research funds allocated to that researcher or research group ("researcher, etc.") during the fiscal year in question exceeds the limits of the funds that can be used in an effective and efficient manner, to the point where the funds cannot be completely used up during the research period, and in the event that any of the following is applicable.

- If the research funds that have been allocated are excessive considering the capability of the researcher, etc., the research method and so on
- If the research funds that have been allocated are excessive considering the effort allocated to that research issue, meaning the percentage of the researcher's total work time (%) that is needed to implement that research
- If expensive research equipment has been purchased unnecessarily
- Other similar situation

For this reason, please inform the administrative office for this program without delay in the event that you are selected to receive funding under another competitive funding program or the like after you have submitted the proposal documents for this program, or in the event of any other changes to the information noted on the application. Failure to report such circumstances may result in cancellation of selection, etc under this program.

Provision of information relating to proposal content for the purpose of eliminating unreasonable overlaps and excessive concentration of funds

To eliminate unreasonable overlaps and excessive concentration of funds, some of the information relating to the content of applications (or selected issues / projects) may be provided to the departments in charge of other competitive funding programs, etc. including other ministries, by means of the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) or the like. Information may be provided in the same manner if JST is asked to perform the same checks regarding other competitive funding programs.

(2) Acceptance of applications for other competitive funding, etc. including from other ministries

In the event of acceptance under another competitive funding program, or research subsidies of other kinds (including cases in which an application has been submitted but the results are not yet known), this fact must be noted on the application form (Form 3) under "List of research grants, subsidies etc. from public institutions."

If and when there is an unreasonable overlap in application content with other programs and/or an excessive concentration of funds, or if there are descriptions in the documentation that contradict facts, JST may choose not to select the Project and, if the application has been selected, undo the selection or reduce the funding amount.

An institution may apply to the current Program so long as applications to other competitive funding programs have not yet been selected. In order to avoid unreasonable overlaps and excessive concentration of funds, however, ongoing or scheduled research subsidy from any competitive funding and other programs shall disqualify an institution from applying to the JST Program for the same research topic (whether in name or content).

(3) Measures to deal with dishonest receipt or use of funds

In the event of dishonest receipt or use of research funds relating to an issue for which the Project is conducted under this program ("dishonest use, etc."), the following disposition may be taken.

- Measures to deal with dishonest receipt or use of funds on the part of researchers

(i) Cancellation of agreement, etc.

In the event of dishonest use, etc., the consignment agreement will be canceled or altered and applicants will be required to return all or part of the consignment funds. In addition, in some cases agreements will not be signed with that applicant for subsequent fiscal years.

(ii) Restrictions on application and participation*

Restrictions will be placed on application and participation in this program by researchers who have used, etc. consignment funds for this program in a dishonest manner, and researchers who have been complicit in this dishonest use, etc.

In addition, in some cases a general outline of the dishonest use, etc. (name of researcher, name of program, affiliated institution, research issue, budget, fiscal year in which research was conducted, nature of dishonest behavior, etc., nature of measures devised as a result and so on) may be provided to the administrators of other competitive funding programs, including those of other ministries and independent administrative agencies. (In some cases, restrictions may be placed on application and participation in other competitive funding programs, including those of other ministries and independent administrative agencies.)

The period of restriction on application and participation in this program on the part of researchers who have used, etc. funds in a dishonest manner, and researchers who have been complicit in the dishonesty will be from two to five years, beginning from the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which execution of research funding, etc. was terminated, etc. The exact duration will be determined based on the specifics of the dishonest use, etc.

Specifics of the use of research funds, etc. for other purposes	Period of time deemed to
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	be appropriate
1 Used for unnecessary purposes in the performance of research, etc. relating to the research project, etc.	2 years
2 Used for a purpose that is different from that of the research project, etc. in the performance of related research, etc.	3 years
3 Used for purposes unrelated to research, etc.	4 years
4 Cash was disbursed for a mendacious request	4 years
5 The acceptance of the application was the result of lying or other dishonesty	5 years
6 Regardless of 1 through 4, funds were used for personal economic benefit	5 years

* "Application and participation" means proposing or submitting an application for a new technical issue, participating in new research as a joint researcher, etc.

(4) Measures to deal with acts of dishonesty in research activities

In the event of an act of dishonesty (forgery, falsification or plagiarism; hereafter "acts of dishonesty, etc.") in research activities relating to technical issues for which research and development is implemented, the following steps will be taken in accordance with "Guidelines for Measures Taken for Acts of Dishonesty in Research Activities" (established August 8, 2006 by the Special Committee on Dishonest Acts in Research Activities of the Council for Science and Technology).

Steps taken in the event of acts of dishonesty in research activities

(i) Measures taken on an individual program basis

- Cancellation or alteration of contract, return of consignment funds

Based on the " Common Guidelines for the Execution of Indirect Expenses in Competitive Funds " (agreement at liaison meeting by related government/ministries on competitive funds, revised November 14, 2006), the consignment agreement will be canceled or altered regarding issues for which acts of dishonesty in research activities have been committed, and applicants will be required to return all or part of the consignment funds, with consideration given to the heinousness, etc. of the dishonest acts. In addition, in some cases agreements will not be signed with that applicant for subsequent fiscal years.

(ii) Restrictions on application and participation

Application and participation in the program will be restricted for a certain period of time for the following individuals. In addition, in some cases a general outline of the act of dishonesty, etc. (name of researcher committing the dishonest act, affiliated institution, research issue, budget, fiscal year in which research was conducted, nature of dishonest act, nature of measures devised as a result and so on) may be provided to the departments in charge of other competitive funding programs including other ministries, as a result of which these departments may restrict application and participation in the competitive funding within their jurisdiction.

Target of measures	Period in which application and
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	participation are restricted (starting from the fiscal year after the one in which the dishonesty was committed)
Author or co-author of a research-related paper, etc. who is recognized to have been involved in an act of dishonesty involving that research paper, and other persons recognized to have been involved in the dishonest act	2 - 10 years
Person recognized to be responsible for the content of a paper, etc. relating to research in which an act of dishonesty was committed, even though that person is not recognized to have been involved in the dishonest act	1 - 3 years

(5) Steps taken for researchers who are subject to restrictions on application and participation in other competitive funding programs

Restrictions will be imposed on application and participation in this program by researchers who have been subjected to restrictions, either with regard to other competitive funding programs* under the jurisdiction of the national government or independent administrative agencies, or research projects administered by JST other than competitive funding programs, as a result of to dishonest use, etc. of research funds or acts of dishonesty in research activities. The restrictions relating to this program will be in effect during the period in which restrictions are imposed on qualification for application to other competitive research programs.

"Other competitive funding programs" includes new programs that began accepting applications in FY 2009. In some cases, it may also apply to programs that ended in years prior to FY 2009.

* See the following website regarding the specific programs that are subject to restrictions on application and participation:

URL: <http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/06ichiran.pdf>

(6) Steps taken in the event that relevant laws have been broken

If research has been conducted in violation of relevant laws, guidelines etc., selection of the application will be canceled or the consignment contract will be canceled or altered, and applicants will be required to return all or part of the consignment funds. In some cases, the facts may be made public.

(7) Matters relating to storage of receipts for indirect costs

Research institutions to which indirect costs are allocated will be responsible for appropriate management of these costs. Receipts and other documentation proving that indirect costs have been used appropriately must be stored in an appropriate manner for a period of five years beginning from the fiscal year following the one in which the research and development project was concluded.

(8) Submission of reports on the status of organization, etc. based on guidelines (implementation standards) for the management and auditing of public research funds at research institutions

Under the agreement for this program, each research institution is required to submit reports on the preparation, status of implementation etc. of a management and supervision organization for research funds,

based on the guidelines mentioned in the title of this section. (The promotion of research will not be permitted unless reports on the status of implementation of this organization are submitted.)

For this reason, prior to the signing of the consignment research agreement, the research institution must submit a report in the format indicated on the website below to the Competitive Funding Coordination Office of the Research and Coordination Division in the Science and Technology Policy Bureau of MEXT.
URL http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/02_b/08191222/001.htm

Due dates for the status report and other details will be notified, once the application has been selected, in writing by JST's office for auditing research organs.

If a report was already submitted on another occasion in April 2009 or thereafter, there is no need to submit a new report. In such a case, please note in the application forms the code number assigned by the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) for the research institution, the fact of your submission of the report, and the date of submission (or of posting, if mailed).

In addition, if project implementation is to continue in FY 2011 and thereafter, applicants will need to submit another report around the autumn of 2010, so you should expect to receive a notification or the like from JST or MEXT.

Following the submission of a report, in some cases an on-site inspection by MEXT (including the agency allocating funding) may be needed to determine the status of preparation of the organization. Your cooperation is requested in such cases.

In addition, with regard to the content of the report, if the response to the "essential matters" indicated in the notification from the head of the Science and Technology Policy Bureau dated May 31, 2007 is determined to be inappropriate or inadequate, or if other problems remain unresolved, research funds may not be disbursed.

(9) Handling of application data and personal information

Handling of information regarding technical issues, etc.

The application documents and other submitted data are used to review the application. The review may include overlapping reviews by other projects and other agencies within JST.

Information on individual technical topics that have been accepted (names of program, project, Core University, Project Leader, In-House Expert Researcher (and names of affiliated institution, department and position), local government and the Project summary) is considered to be "Information planned for public disclosure" in accordance with Article 5, Section 1-b of the "Law on Disclosure of Information Held by Independent Administrative Agencies, etc." (Law No. 140, 2001). Following acceptance, this information will be made public on the program website at the appropriate time.

In the event of non-selection, JST will not disclose the information.

Management of personal information

Laws for the protection of personal information and related laws will be strictly observed with regard to personal information provided in connection with the application. This information will be used only for the following purposes. (This does not include cases in which providing this information is required by law.)

Please see the following website for details.

- Used for the review and for administrative contact, notification and other purposes relating to the review
- Following the review, used for additional administrative notification of accepted applicants regarding the agreement, etc., and to provide information on the holding of briefings, etc., and for other notification needed for the management of technical issues accepted for research and development
- Used for notification purposes (sending invitations to research achievement briefings, seminars, symposiums, etc. held by JST, invitations to apply for various projects, information regarding projects etc.)

(10) Provision of information from e-Rad to the Government Research and Development Database*

Various types of information may be provided via the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad), which is managed and operated by MEXT, to the database mentioned in the title, which has been created by the Cabinet Office. In order to prepare this information, applicants may be asked to cooperate in the checking of data and various other tasks.

* Created by the Council for Science and Technology Policy in the Cabinet Office to enable various types of information to be obtained in an integrated and comprehensive fashion and allow necessary information to be located and analyzed. The database is designed to make it possible to appropriately evaluate research and development activities conducted with national government funds, and to plan overall strategies and policies for funding allocation and the like in an effective and efficient manner.

(11) Other

In applying for the JST Program, please ensure to take bioethics into consideration, secure safety, and comply with various statutes as well as ministerial ordinances and ethical guidelines. Please also make sure whether or not the proposed research topic requires formal approval, filing of reports, or confirmation by the responsible leader of the applicant institution, and/or reporting and requests by Collaborative Research Companies to the national and local governments. If applicable, all necessary procedures must be completed by the beginning of the project.

Main statutes and other legal instruments set forth by various ministries and agencies are listed up below. Please note well, however, that, depending on the research topic and category, there may be other statutes and regulations.

- Law regarding the regulation of human cloning technology (Law No.146, 2000)
- Guideline on the handling of the specified embryos (Ministerial Announcement No.83, MEXT, 2009)
- Guideline on generation and usage of the human embryonic stem cell (Ministerial Announcement No.84, MEXT, 2009)
- Ethical guideline on human genome and gene analysis research (Ministerial Announcement No.1, MEXT; Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW); Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), 2004)

- Ministerial ordinance regarding clinical testing of pharmaceutical products (Ministerial Ordinance No.28, Ministry of Health and Welfare, 1997)
- On research and development using human organs enucleated during surgical operations (Recommendation, Council of Health Sciences, 1998)
- Ethical guideline regarding epidemiological research (Ministerial Announcement No.1, MEXT, MHLW, 2007)
- Guideline on gene therapy clinical research (Ministerial Announcement No.2, MEXT and MHLW, 2004)
- Ethical guideline on clinical research (Ministerial Announcement No.415, MHLW, 2008)
- Law regarding the multiplicity of life through the regulation of genetically modified organisms (Law No.97, 2003)

See the following websites for information regarding the laws, etc. established by MEXT and the Ministry of the Environment.

MEXT website (efforts relating to bioethics and safety)

URL http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shinkou/seimei/main.htm

Ministry of the Environment website (basic guidelines regarding animal rights management)

URL http://www.env.go.jp/nature/dobutsu/aigo/2_data/rule.html

- In the event that research planning relates to studies or research requiring the agreement or cooperation of the other parties or societal consensus, be sure to take the appropriate steps to protect human rights and preserve profits before submitting the application.

If there are violations of the above requirements or cases of improper behavior in a project, JST in response may undo the selection, stop the research, recover the whole or part of the funds, and/or publicize the relevant facts.

Japan Regional Innovation Strategy program by the Excellence (J-RISE)
Application Documentation manual

- Submitted documents will be used to judge whether proposed projects meet the objectives of this program and will not be disclosed to the public.
- JST may not accept submitted application documents if they should be incomplete.

Submission of applications will be done on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad). In order to use this system, research institutions and researchers must be registered on the system. Please follow the procedure below and submit your application.

1. About the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)

The Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) is a lateral system used in all ministries that enables all processes relating to research and development management -- with particular focus on the competitive funding programs administered by each ministry -- to be conducted online. (Submission of application -> review -> selection -> management of selected research issues -> reporting of achievements etc.)

"e-Rad" stands for "Electronic system for Research and Development."

2. Prior registration on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)

The Project Leader at research institutions wishing to apply to this program must be registered in advance on the system. (If they have been registered on e-Rad, then there is no need for re-registration.)

Please access the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System and look up the "affiliate research institution" page. Register the affiliate research institution (to which the Project Leader belongs) and the Project Manager him/herself, and make sure to obtain their IDs and passwords.

<http://www.e-rad.go.jp/>

3. Inquiry about operations of the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)

Inquiry about this Program may be directed to JST's relevant department. Inquiry about operations of the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System may be made to the e-Rad helpdesk.

Please study information about this Program on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) portal site (hereafter "portal site") and make your inquiry.

Please note well that any inquiry about appraisal of submitted proposals will not be accepted.

J-RISE program website: <http://www.jst.go.jp/chiiki/takuetsu/index.html>

Portal site: <http://www.e-rad.go.jp/>

For more information:

Inquiry about the Project and about application documentation and submission	Department of Regional S&T Promotion, Innovation Headquarters, JST	03-5214-8419 (TEL) 03-5214-8487 (FAX)
Inquiries regarding the use of the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)	e-Rad Help Desk	tel:0120-66-877 (within Japan) 9:30 a. m. - 5:30 p. m. (not available Saturdays, Sundays and holidays)

Important notes

The e-Rad helpdesk answers questions about e-Rad registration of research institutions and researchers and other e-Rad operations. There may be questions, such as the following ones, about which you might be directed to JST.

Please direct your inquiry to JST about the following questions:

- What to input for budget and expense amounts.
- Want to submit even after the deadline.
- Want to make changes in the submitted documents.
- What to input for a research topic under progress (submission and approval status).
- Cannot find the required topic ID for a continuing research topic.
- Want to go over input details prior to submission to JST.
- Don't know what to do about submission.
- Don't know which documents to submit in hard copy via postal delivery.
- Don't know which category to pick for a research topic.
- When do we find out the results?
- Do optional details improve or hurt chances of selection?
- How much administrative work is required after selection?
- Cannot download application templates.
- What to notate in application forms.
- To what extent do we have to register researchers?
- What sort of researcher should handle e-Rad registration?
- Cannot register the research institution, the project manager or other researchers in time for the submission deadline.
- What to input in more than 11 items required for submission and acceptance status.
- Because application forms and e-Rad have different input data limitations, so their descriptions differ. Is this a problem?

4. Notes on operation of the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)

(1) Application using e-Rad

You can refer to the e-Rad operating manual on the portal site (<http://www.e-rad.go.jp/>) or download it from the site. Please apply. Please submit your application after you have agreed to the terms and conditions for system usage.

(2) Hours of the e-Rad system availability

Monday - Friday 6:00 a. m. - 2:00 a. m. (next day)

Sunday 6:00 a. m. - 2:00 a. m. (next day)

These hours apply to holidays as well. The system is not available on Saturdays.

Please note that the system may be unavailable due to inspection and maintenance, even during the hours listed above. Scheduled times of system unavailability will be announced on the e-Rad portal site.

(3) Registration of the affiliate research institution

The university to which the project manager belongs must be registered on e-Rad prior to submission to the Program.

One person must be designated at the research institution to act as clerical administrator for the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad). This clerical administrator must then download the institution registration form and apply to register the institution. If the institution wishes to assign an administrative point of contact, please also register that person as such on e-Rad. Registration itself may take days, so please allow the process more than two weeks in lead time. Once this registration is done on e-Rad, there will be no need to repeat this process when applying to programs run by other government ministries and agencies. If your institution has been registered for such programs, again there will be no need to repeat it.

Research institutions registered at this juncture are referred to as affiliate research institutions.

(4) Registration of researchers

In order to apply for this program, it will be necessary to register the Project Leader as researcher on e-Rad. Please therefore register the project manager as researcher on e-Rad and obtain his/her system login ID and password.

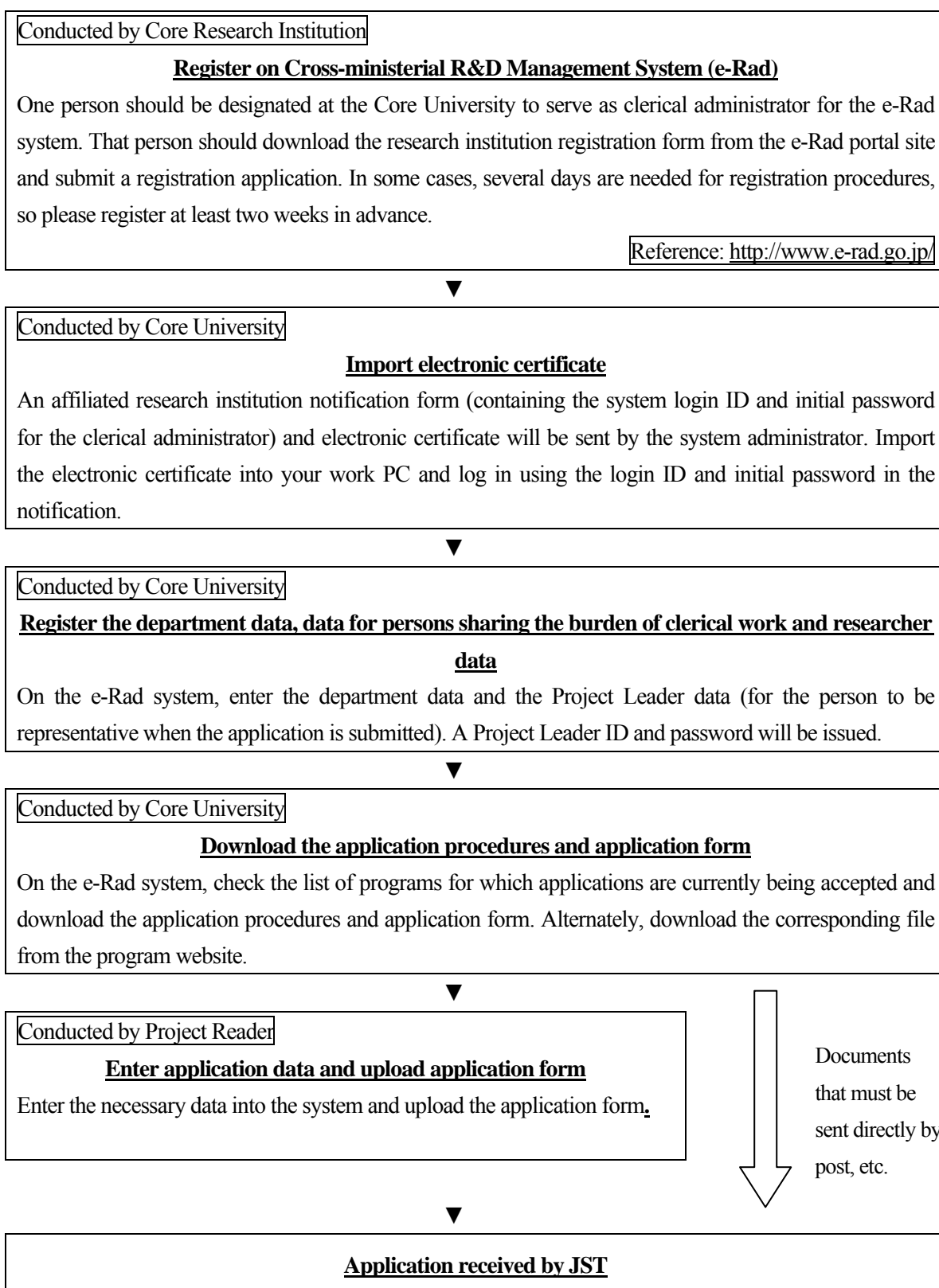
Researchers belonging to an affiliate research institution must be registered by that institution. If the researchers have been registered for MEXT's research subsidy programs, their information will already be available on e-Rad. Please confirm their researcher numbers and provide any additional information as required.

Researchers not affiliated with the affiliate research institution must be registered by the e-Rad point of contact. For necessary procedure please consult the e-Rad portal site.

(5) Handling of personally identifiable information

All personally identifiable information contained in the application documents will be shared by other government ministries and independent administrative agencies (and those external private contractors that undertake data processing and management), and by the Cabinet Office's government R&D database via , in order to avoid unreasonable overlaps and concentration in research funding and other programs.

5. Example of use of the e-Rad system



6. Notes on application documentation

- Operate the e-Rad system and submit your application.
You may download the operation manual from the portal site.

- Read about the Program and download the relevant forms.

Please use Word, Ichitaro or PDF in production of the proposals that you upload. The forms may not upload properly on e-Rad if they are not made of;

- Word 2000,
- Ichitaro Ver.12, and
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (Adobe Reader) 5.0 or subsequent versions.

- Please only use GIF, BMP, JPEG or PNG for image files to be attached on the proposals. Other image formats (e.g., images generated by CAD, scanner, Postscript or DTP software), will not be converted properly into PDF. Please see “3.4 how to paste the images” in the e-Rad operation manual.

- Maximum file size that can be uploaded onto e-Rad is 3MB. If your files exceed the limit, please contact JST

- Submitted documents will be converted automatically into PDF as they are uploaded onto the e-Rad system. Original font and other special characters may get garbled in the process, so please view the PDF version of your application and check its details. As for the acceptable font and characters, please see “1.7 Basic System Operations” in the operation manual.

- If your “submission status page” does not display “submitted to funding organ” by the application due date, then that document is going to be voided. If the indication does not turn to “submitted to funding organ by the application due date, please notify your research institution immediately. If you do not belong to any research institution, please notify the above contact.

- You may check the acceptance status of your application in the “submission status” page.

- Any notes and details other than the above are updated regularly on the e-Rad portal site (researcher page), so please have a look at them closely.

7. Documents requiring postal delivery

As for documents requiring postal delivery (as per “9. **Notes on the structure of the Application Forms and Documentation**”), they may be delivered via postal service, in registered mail, etc., or courier service (not to be paid on delivery). Please attach a sender information specifying the contact person at your university, his/her section and department, the name of the university, and the research topic.

The JST address to which application documents must be sent, and all query to be directed, is as follows:

Mailing Address and Contact Information

Department of Regional S&T Promotion, Japan Science and Technology Agency

Science Plaza

5-3, Yonbancho, Chiyoda-ku,

Tokyo 102-8666 Japan

Tel : +81-3-5214-8419 Fax : +81-3-5214-8487

You can also download the Application Handbook via website below.

<http://www.jst.go.jp/chiiki/takuetsu/index.html>

8. Deadline for submission

Deadline for submission: August 31, 2009 12:00 p.m.

- By its operational policy, the e-Rad is unable to accept submission after the deadline, so please submit your application in advance and not at the last minute. Also, after the submission, you may not correct or revise the contents of the documents. All application documents will not be returned.
- Please register your individual applicant and your institution on the e-Rad at least two weeks prior to your submission.
- Application documents requiring postal delivery are to be valid so long as they are marked with a postage seal dated August 31, 2009. For postal and courier service (including bicycle/motorcycle delivery), please use registered mail or other means as proof of delivery. Please note that JST will not accept submission by e-mail and/or e-mail.
- Any application documents not submitted by the deadline will be invalid for any reasons. Also, incomplete documents will not be subject to JST review. Please read the application handbook and the documentation instructions and notate with care. (Please do not change the forms and formats of the documents.)
You may not substitute documents following submission. All application documents will not be returned.

9. Notes on the structure of the Application Forms and Documentation

(1) Structure and submission of the Application Forms

- All submitted documents will be used to evaluate proposals to select projects that are best suited to meet the goals of the Program. Any information contained in the documents will be subject to such provisions in the Application Handbook as: 7. Notes on submission and (1) Measures to deal with unreasonable overlaps and excessive concentration of funds and (9) Handling of application data and personal information.

Documents	Form	Submission method	
		e-Rad	Post (Hard Copy)
Japan Regional Innovation Strategy Program by the Excellence (J-RISE) Application Form	Form 1	1 copy	1 copy
J-RISE Basic Plan (Proposal)	Form 2	-	50 copies and electronic data (CD-ROM)

Project Leader Research History	Form 3	-	50 copies
Research History, Achievements, and List of Main Published Papers for Expert Researchers and the Main Researchers for Each R&D Topic	Form 4	-	50 copies
List of Grants/Subsidies from Public Institutions	Form 5	-	50 copies
Documents Explaining the Research Topic in Detail	Form 6	-	50 copies

(2) Notes on submission

1) Application will be made on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad).

Any university which has not been registered on e-Rad is asked to designate one person at the university to act as clerical administrator for the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad). This clerical administrator must then download the institution registration form and apply to register the institution. If the institution wishes to assign an administrative point of contact, please also register that person as such on e-Rad. Registration itself may take days, so please allow the process more than two weeks in lead time.

■ Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) portal site: <http://www.e-rad.go.jp/>

2) In producing application forms, please make sure you follow instructions in the Application Handbook.

Those texts in italics are important notes regarding notation during documentation. Please delete them upon submission.

3) Form 1 is to be submitted via e-Rad. It may be submitted without any institutional seals.

4) All documents other than Form 1 may be stapled once at the top left corner. There is no need for binding the documents.

5) Please copy in color any color documents.

6) Please bear in mind the following points about the documentation format.

a) Please use A4 size paper.

b) Please put a page number (page/total pages) at the right foot of all the documents.

c) Please provide for a margin of approximately 20 millimeters on the four sides of the documents.

d) Please make sure to use relatively large font size and structure your presentation to be clear and legible.

Please use 50 lines per page and about 11 point font size, with about 80 characters per line.

e) Please produce the application documents in black and white, except for diagrams and charts.

f) Please print the documents on both sides of the paper in principle.

7) Please bear in mind the following points regarding diagrams and charts in your application documents.

a) Put them in vertical A4 paper.

b) Diagrams and charts may be in color but please make sure that they remain clear and legible after they have been output or copied in black and white.

8) The deadline for application is August 31 (Monday), 2009, but please try and submit your application well in advance. Documents to be posted will be accepted so long as they are marked by a post office seal of the date of deadline or earlier. No submission will be accepted via fax or e-mail.

9) Application document templates may be downloaded from the Comprehensive Support Programs for Creation of Regional Innovation homepage (<http://www.jst.go.jp/chiiki/takuetsu/index.html>) or from e-Rad.

10) Please note well that application documents will not be returned.

10. Q&A

Q1. Must applications be submitted jointly by a university and a prefecture or government-designated city? Do they have to be stamped with an official seal?

A1. Since the program focuses on twin efforts by universities and local government in the fields of R&D and commercialization, applications must be made jointly. The universities and local governments must stamp the proposals with their respective official seals. The university applicants are people who draw together teams of Expert Researchers from within the university and rapidly promote R&D in the university's specific areas, so the university should deal with the project on a cross-campus basis, and the seal of the President is therefore necessary. Since the local governments must also work in conjunction with the universities to put in place the Commercialization Promotion System, and since questions of measures of the financial burden on the region are involved, the official seal of the local government is required.

Please note that while the official seal of persons at departmental director level in local governments are acceptable, the promotional contract must be made in the name of the government's most senior representative, e.g., mayor etc.

Q2. Is it possible for a single local government to submit multiple proposals?

A2. Yes, it is possible for a single local government to submit multiple proposals. However, applicants should note that the measures of the local government in question in each individual proposal (whether or not the local government can put in place a prioritized system) will be subject to screening.

Q3. Is it possible for a single university to submit multiple proposals?

A3. The program asks universities to present the areas in which they exert particular efforts, and seeks to assemble human resources and promote R&D. It is therefore not possible for universities to submit multiple proposals.

Q4. Is it possible for local governments other than the governments of prefectures or government-designated cities to submit proposals in conjunction with these local governments?

A4. No, it is only the governments of prefectures or government-designated cities which can submit proposals, and therefore no other local government can do so. It is, however, possible for other local governments to participate in the R&D organizations.

Q5. Is it possible for several universities based within the prefectures or government-designated cities to submit a joint proposal?

A5. In principle, R&D teams should be established in one single university, and joint applications from several universities are therefore not possible. However, it is possible for other universities to participate in the R&D organizations through, for example, the allocation of Expert Researchers. Please note that it is not possible for affiliate universities to invite Guest Expert Researchers using JST expenses.

Q6. Is it possible for several local governments (prefectures or government-designated cities) to submit a proposal jointly with a single university?

A6. In principle, it is not possible for several local governments to submit joint proposals. However, joint proposals are possible when the prefecture and government-designated city within it submit a joint proposal with a university that is also located within that government-designated city.

Q7. Must the content of the research be narrowed down to a specific field?

A7. It does not have to be narrowed down to a specific field, but since the R&D will be conducted within the restrictions of a limited budget if the proposal contains multiple fields and areas it should be noted that it will be subject to screening regarding how essential it is (whether or not the proposal appears to be a 'keep everyone happy' effort to placate a number of parties), whether or not commercialization is viable, the collaborative organization between the Expert Researchers and the related institutions, and its efficacy.

Q8. Does the party making the proposal have to bear the expenses for it?

A8. During the Project implementation period, the party making the proposal (university/local government) is expected to bear costs corresponding to one half of direct expenses (within consignment) borne by JST. However, it is not necessary for the local burden to be worth exactly one half of the JST burden for each fiscal year, so long as the total burden for the whole project adds up to one half of the JST total in direct expenses.

Q9. What sort of costs can be allocated as regional (university, corporation, local government) expenses?

A9. As is the case with the direct costs of the consignment funds, costs can be allocated for equipment, materials and expandable items used in research, outsourcing, labor, travel, printing and laboratory heating and lighting. However, in the case of national universities, it is not in principle possible to allocate as regional costs the labor costs allocated in the operational grants. In addition, when Expert Researchers are invited, it is possible to allocate the researchers' labor costs on a pro-rata basis from the JST consignment funds and locally born costs. The Expert Researchers' housing costs can also be allocated from the locally born costs. The costs incurred in creating the Commercialization Promotion System - labor, meeting and travel costs, research environment equipment (equipping of and alterations to facilities) can also be allocated.

Q10. Can the secretariat expenses incurred in R&D promotion be allocated as locally born costs? What sort of items cannot be thus allocated?

A10 Secretariat expenses incurred in R&D promotion cannot be allocated. Expenses that cannot be allocated include the labor costs of the persons in charge of the project and the secretariat staff, operational expenses, expenses not directly related to the research, and the cost of dealing with accidents or damage occurring at facilities during the term of the project.

Q11. Can the Participating Companies allocate locally born costs?

A11 Participating Companies can allocate expenses as locally born costs when they conduct R&D that they fund themselves.

Q12. Is it possible to allocate labor costs for inviting Expert Researchers that are larger than the sums spent on usual researchers?

A12 Providing that the rules of the university inviting the researcher allow for it, it is possible to pay Expert Researchers wages larger than those spent on usual researchers. It is also possible to allocate the entire sum of the said labor costs from the consignment funds, but as the total amount of the consignment funds is limited, the sum will be subtracted from the R&D funds. Applicants are requested to think carefully about the funding plan, and decided upon the proportions of the wages of the Expert Researchers and the JST consignment funds, and the locally born costs. Please note that regarding the expenditure from the consignment funds, a ceiling for expert researcher wages is being considered, which is about three times the usual wages of a professor, and the amount disbursed from the consignment funds will be sorted out and decided upon when the contract is concluded.

Q13. Is it possible to disburse the expenses for preparing the Expert Researchers' day-to-day living environment from the consignment funds? Can they be allocated from the locally born costs?

A13 When an Expert Researcher is invited or asked to stay on at a university after the end of the invitation period, measures have to be taken to address their day-to-day lives, including the issue of their family. Since the universities cannot independently deal with the preparation of their day-to-day living environment, they must carry out supportive measures in conjunction with the local government. However, it is not possible to disburse from the consignment funds any expenses incurred by constructing or renting accommodation for the Expert Researchers or preparing a day-to-day living environment for them. Neither, in principle, can the expenses be disbursed from the locally born costs as these are for direct costs related to R&D, although in exceptional cases this may be permitted with regard to rental charges for accommodation according to the rules of the university.

Q14. Why must the Project Leader be a director or equivalent of the university?

A14. It is considered that the Project Leader will have to perform the following duties and meet the following requirements in the course of promoting the project:

- Play a leading role as the representative of the university in negotiations to invite Expert Researchers;
- The project manager must be a person of authority as he or she will have to deal flexibly and without being bound to the university rules regarding the promotion of the project, including measures relating to the Expert Researchers' wages and day-to-day living environment;
- The project manager must be a person whose voice carries some weight, in order that he or she can coordinate with the Expert Researchers, local governments and Participating Companies, and coordinate the drawing up of R&D plans and commercialization.

It is therefore essential that the project manager promoting the project is a director of the university or of equivalent rank. It is also hoped that the project manager will be proactive in solving issues as the leader of project promotion.

Q15. What are the merits for regional local governments in joint proposals between a university and local government?

A15. The program is a system wherein technological seeds created with expert university researchers at the core are commercialized through partnerships with business, and linked up to the creation of new industry in the region and the revitalization of the host region. In particular, the role of the local government in matching the technological seeds with businesses, and encouraging the participation of local businesses, is extremely important. If the project ends in success, the system can be described as one that has enormous benefits to regional local governments.

Q16. Do local governments have to encourage the participation of businesses?

A16. It is envisaged that under the program a powerful research team drawing together Expert Researchers in specific fields at universities will be created, and that the university will then produce various high-quality technological seeds. It is essential that these seeds are then rapidly matched with businesses and a system to promote the development of commercialization is built, and this requires that, through the involvement of the local government, as many as possible businesses take part. If the local government does not work enthusiastically on gaining the participation of businesses, there is a danger that the university will enter into partnership with businesses from outside the local area, which means the fruits of the research will be taken elsewhere and will not lead to the creation of any new local industry.

Q17. Is it necessary to set up the Commercialization Promotion Committee and the Commercialization Promotion System

A17 The program does not focus exclusively on creating technological seeds through Dream Teams or vitalizing research at universities; one of its central aims is to appropriately lead the technological seeds to commercialization and contribute to the formation of new industries. Commercialization is implemented in main by the universities and local governments. Guidelines for implementation are decided upon following the establishment of the Commercialization Promotion Committee, which is composed of the universities, local governments, JST and external experts. Pursuant to the discussions of the Commercialization Promotion Committee, the universities and local governments jointly set up a Commercialization Promotion

System, and direct the commercialization of the technological seeds. The Commercialization Promotion System is staffed by coordinators and eagerly seeks the promotion of commercialization, but there is sometimes a need for external specialists to cover the areas which cannot be sufficiently dealt with by the universities and local governments. Please note that the costs for the Commercialization Promotion System can be allocated to locally born costs.

Q18. What are the roles of project managers?

A18. The program aims to create new industries and revitalize the host region by using in the region the excellent seeds produced by the university research teams, and then commercializing them. The project managers provide advice about R&D aimed at commercialization.

Furthermore, the managers also run checks on the state of the Dream Teams' research promotion and advice about the project, from the point of view of JST's project promotion management. The appointment of project managers is carried out by JST, bearing in mind the opinions of the universities and local governments. Through the JST Innovation Plaza / Satellite with jurisdiction for their area, the project managers are placed within the Commercialization Promotion System built by the universities and local governments. The types of people likely to be made project managers are those with a rank equivalent to director of R&D at a corporation specializing in the field that is being researched.

Q19. What do the JST Innovation Plazas / Satellites do?

A19. The innovation plaza satellites do the following in the course of promoting projects:

- The director of the satellite attends and offers advice at the Commercialization Promotion Committee;
- Promotes commercialization through collaborations between the Commercialization Promotion System and science and technology coordinators, and assists and advises project promotion.

Q20. The applications specify the feasibility of inviting and entering into partnerships, but is it necessary to obtain the written informal consent of candidate Expert Researchers?

A20. No, it is not necessary. The program expects that a system will be put in place soon after the R&D begins, in which Expert Researchers will be invited; but the invitations do not have to be completed at the time that the R&D starts. However, the results of any negotiations conducted prior to the application should be noted on the form.

Q21. What happens when the invitation of the expected Expert Researchers runs into difficulty?

A21. If necessary, projects can be implemented through a partnership. Please note that three or more invitations are desirable, and applicants in such a situation are asked to make a new list of candidates and continue with their efforts to invite them.

Q22. Are there any age limits regarding the In-House Expert Researchers?

A22. Since the Guest Expert Researchers will be asked to continue with the research to provide a local nucleus following the completion of the projects, they should in principle be 55-years-old or younger. However, there are no such age limitations for In-House Expert Researchers, though they must continue to work on the R&D after the project is completed.

Q23. What are the criteria for judging the excellence of Expert Researchers?

A23. Judging the excellence of Expert Researchers has many aspects and is therefore somewhat difficult. The judgments are made following the perspectives below, in the light of the feasibility of commercialization:

- Impact of research content on existing work in the field/situation regarding patents filed or registered;
- Number of papers published/number of citations/track record of acquiring competitive funds etc.

An absolute evaluation is very difficult, and JST therefore proposes to make comparative assessments between the project submissions.

The Japan Science and Technology Agency Promotes Gender Equality

JST is a firm believer in gender equality in science and technology fields. The 3rd Science and Technology Basic Plan outlining the science and technology policy to be implemented by Japan through FY 2010, prepared by the Council for Science and Technology Policy (a Cabinet office), contains a section on "Promoting the activities of female researchers." The future of science and technology in Japan depends on the capabilities of the researchers who are active in these fields, and it will be essential to create an environment that enables diverse individuals to make the most of their enthusiasm and abilities. As one step toward this goal, the plan indicates a specific numerical target 25% for "the prospective recruitment target of female researchers for the natural sciences as a whole."

One of the principles of JST for promoting activities is "to establish a Gender Equality Promotion Plan relating to JST activities, in order to take the lead in promoting the creation of an environment in which diverse research personnel including female researchers can make effective use of their abilities."

Gender equality will be observed in calling for and reviewing applications for new research topics. JST welcomes the participation of both men and women in proposing new research concepts, and both men and women are encouraged to apply.

Koichi Kitazawa

President

Japan Science and Technology Agency

For a further leap forward

All female researchers, let's take this opportunity to apply for a further leap forward!

The percentage of female researchers is 13% (As of 2007. 2008 report on Survey of Research and Development by Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications). The number is rising but still very low. Some of the reasons behind this low number include the difficulties in continuing research due to child bearing, child rearing and nursing care, inadequate system for the employment of female researchers, very limited number of female students who major in science, and majors in limited areas.

The government is working on this issue. I believe that change in the way of thinking of female researchers is also necessary. I would like these capable individuals to take the challenge of continuing their studies towards a further step-up and avoid giving up, or accepting the idea that "This is my limit." or "I am okay with where I am now"

I hope that female researchers will take this opportunity to apply themselves, develop their own research ideas, prosper as researchers, and become role models to encourage others.

Kashiko KODATE

Program Director

Office for a Gender Equal Society,

Japan Science and Technology Agency

(Professor, Japan Women's University)

JST's Promoting Gender Equality website: <http://www.jst.go.jp/gender>