

Press Conference President of JST

July 17, 2019



Japan Science and Technology Agency



The 1st Jun Ashida Award for Brilliant Female Researchers



Brief Overview

Purpose

As part of our efforts to promote the active participation of female researchers, JST set up this awards program to commend: female researchers working on outstanding research that contributes to a sustainable future society; organizations supporting female researchers' activities.

The Ashida Fund* will cooperate to provide a supplementary prize of 1 million yen.

*The Ashida Fund was established in 1994 by the late fashion designer Jun Ashida for the purpose of nurturing the younger generation. The Japan International Science and Technology Exchange Center (JISTEC) operates and manages the Ashida Fund by keeping the funds from Jun Ashida Co. Ltd.

Eligibility (Both self-recommendation and recommendations by others are eligible.)

- **【The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher】**
A female researcher aged under 40 in principle. Recognizes pauses in research due to life events.
- **【The Award for an Organization Supporting Brilliant Female Researchers】**
A progressive organization carrying out initiatives contributing to greater involvement of female researchers, serving as a model for other organizations.

Judges



Keiko Torii, Chair

Johnson and Johnson
Centennial Professor of
Plant Cell Biology, University
of Texas at Austin
Investigator, Howard
Hughes Medical Institute
(HHMI)



**Chieko
Asakawa**

IBM Fellow, IBM T.J.
Watson Research
Center



Reiko Abe

Chair person,
Oriental
Consultants India
Pvt. Ltd.



Hiroshi Kitagawa

Professor, Graduate School
of Science, Kyoto University
Vice Provost, Kyoto
University



Hitoshi Murayama

MacAdams Professor of Physics,
University of California, Berkeley
Faculty Senior Staff, Lawrence
Berkeley National Laboratory
Principal Investigator and
Professor, Kavli Institute for the
Physics and Mathematics of the
Universe (Kavli IPMU), The
University of Tokyo



**Kimiko
Murofushi**

President,
Ochanomizu
University



**Masashi
Yanagisawa**

Director and Professor,
International Institute for
Integrative Sleep Medicine
(WPI-IIS) The University of
Tsukuba

State of Application and Future Schedule

State of Application

Application Period: From April 1st to June 30th, 2019

Number of Applications:

- The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher ⇒ Over 100 applications
- The Award for an Organization in Supporting Brilliant Female Researchers
⇒ Over 10 applications

Future Schedule

- Selection Period: From early July to mid August
- Announcement of winners: October 17, 2019
(Scheduled to be at the press conference by the President)
- Awards ceremony: November 17, 2019, 13:00 – 14:30
(Venue: Scheduled to be at Miraikan)

A talk session is also scheduled to be held at the awards ceremony with the participation of the award winner, a representative of the winning organization, and some high school students who will attend the ceremony on the day.

The program of the ceremony and talk session is currently being prepared and the details will be announced when the winners are announced.

The 9th Japan High School Science Championships
—National Tournament

The 7th Japan Junior High School Science Championships
—National Tournament

The Symposium on the International Science Olympiads in Japan





The 7th Japan Junior High School Science Championships

Date : December 6-8, 2019

Venue : Tsukuba International Congress Center and TSUKUBA CAPIO

Organizer : Japan Science and Technology Agency

Collaborators(planned) : Ibaraki Prefecture, Ibaraki Prefectural Education Bureau, Tsukuba City

Supporters(planned) : Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology(MEXT), National Association of Junior High School Principals, Japan Association for Promotion of Science Education and Equipment, National Association of Junior High School Science Teachers

【Schedule】

Dec 6, Fri.: Opening Ceremony, Orientation

Dec 7, Sat.: Written Exam, Practical Exams (2 exams), Meetup Event

Dec 8, Sun.: Award Ceremony, Booth Exhibition

Event	Number of Events	Number of Group Members	Score Ratio	Time
Written Exam	1	6 students	Written: Practical Exam 1 : 2	Approximately 70 min.
Practical Exam	2	3 students		Approximately 90 min./event

【Pictures of the 6th championship】

Written Exam



Practical exam
"Two Types of Heat Solutions"



Practical exam
"The CUBE 2"





The 9th Japan High School Science Championships

Date : March 20-23, 2020

Venue : Sonic City/Saiden Chemical Arena

Organizer : Japan Science and Technology Agency

Collaborators(planned) : Saitama Prefecture, Saitama Prefectural Education Bureau, Saitama City, Saitama City Board of Education, All Japan Natural Science Department-Senior High School Cultural Federation

Supporter(planned) : Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology(MEXT), Japan Association for Promotion of Science Education and Equipment

【Schedule】

March 20, Fri.: Opening Ceremony, Orientation, Written Exam, Meetup Event

March 21, Sat.: Practical Exams (3 exams)

March 22, Sun.: Special Symposium, Award Ceremony, Booth Exhibition, Farewell Party

March 23, Mon.: Excursion, Break up

Events	Number of Events	Number of Group Members	Score Ratio	Time
Written Exam	1	6 students	Written: Practical Exam 1 : 2	Approximately 120 min.
Practical Exam	3	3-4 students		Time changes depending on the event

【Pictures of the 8th championship】

Written Exam



Practical Exam 1
“Geology Pentathlon”



Practical Exam 2
“Identification of Sugar”



Practical Exam 3
“Tour de Saitama”



Symposium on the International Science Olympiads in Japan

Talk about Science in Japan and Your Future with Akira Ikegami—Part 2

Message from Prof. Shinya Yamanaka, Winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

- 【Purpose】
- Identifying and fostering next-generation talents in science, raising interest in scientific education, and creating a momentum for social supports
 - Spreading a fascination for science among the general public, culminating with the International Science Olympiad series in Japan: Biology in 2020, Chemistry in 2021, Physics in 2022, and Mathematics in 2023

Date: Thu., August 22, 2019; 13:20–16:30

Venue: Ito Hall, University of Tokyo-Hongo Campus

Intended for: Students (below high-school level) and their guardians, education-related and general audiences.



【Schedule】 **Part 1. 13:20–15:00: Lectures and Panel Discussion**

- Lecturers: Makoto Asashima, President, IBO2020 Organizing Committee, Prof. Shinya Yamanaka, Kyoto University
- Panel Discussion Moderator: Akira Ikegami; Panelists: Prof. Shinya Yamanaka, an IChO medalist, a former winner of IBO, and the CEO of Amazon Japan

Part 2. 15:20–16:20: Hands-on Workshop “Look into the World of Science Olympiads”

Organizer: Japan Science and Technology Agency **Collaborator:** Japan Science Olympiads Committee

Special Supporter: Amazon Japan **Supporter (planned):** Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology(MEXT)



Miraikan

Setting Themes for Science Communication Activities



Setting a Focus Theme

From this fall onward, Miraikan will focus on the theme of important social issues related to science and technology and will encourage the scientific communication activities involving citizens.

Theme: AI's Impact on Social Changes

【Backgrounds】

- AI is a theme that attracts considerable social attention
- There are mixed feelings of expectation and fear toward it due to preconceived notions, such as “AI can do everything” and “AI will replace our jobs.”
- The whole of society may not enjoy the benefits of AI considering that a large number of people avoid using AI because of less understanding.
- Miraikan will discuss the possibilities of AI as a tool and the values and roles of humans in an AI-prevailing society with our visitors.

【Contents】

- A citizen participation-type demonstration experiment for future AI vending machines by the Artificial Intelligence Research Center of AIST
- A permanent exhibition supervised by Yoichi Ochiai, Associate Professor, Tsukuba University: “Computer environment that blends into the everyday life, nature, and humans”(tentative title) will be released this fall.
- A workshop intended for academic groups “How to communicate with AI” will start this fall.
- A science laboratory for elementary school students to study AI's possibilities and limitations through programming will be planned early next year.



The image of an upcoming exhibition supervised by Assoc. Prof. Ochiai