

# Press Conference President of JST

October 14, 2020



Japan Science and Technology Agency

# Science Agora 2020



# Science Agora 2020 Outline

❑ **Date:** November 15 (Sun.) – 22 (Sun.), 2020

\* PRE AGORA (November 13- 14): CYBATHLON 2020 Global Edition (Tokyo Hub) hosted by Embassy of Switzerland in Japan, Interverse Virtual Reality Challenge(IVRC) Leap Stage, and Science Agora Eve are planned.

❑ **Venues and access:** Science Agora 2020 will be held online.

(Live streaming via Zoom webinar and video distribution)

❑ **Programs:** Approximately 100 programs

❑ **Theme: Life**

❑ **Support:** Asahi Kasei Corporation/ Elsevier/ Gakken Holdings Co., Ltd./ IBM Japan, Ltd./ NEC Corporation / Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT)

❑ **Special Collaborator:** Embassy of Switzerland in Japan

❑ **Cosponsor:** Cabinet office / Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology / Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry / Science Council of Japan / Keidanren / The Japan Association of National Universities / Federation of Japanese Private Colleges and Universities Associations / RIKEN / The National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)/ Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition

# Opening Session

Pick  
up

## The roles science community and responsibilities in the covid-19 crisis and beyond

**Date:** November 15 (Sun.) 10:00–12:00 **Simultaneous interpretation available**

**Overview:** The outbreak of COVID-19 for global well-being, no one left behind, and inclusiveness. instantly put our “life” in danger and exposed the vulnerabilities of our livelihoods and social systems. What kind of society toward the future should we envision in the midst of rapid changes in society and lifestyles? What kind of science and technology innovation are demanded for building a bright future? The experts in various fields will discuss these topics considering the following keywords: science

### Panelists/ Facilitator :

**Asakawa Chieko** (IBM Fellow),

**Shinohara Hiromichi** (Chairman of the Board, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Co., and Member of the Council for Science, Technology, and Innovation)

**Takahashi Shyoko\*** (CEO, Incubation Inc., and Member of Science Agora 2020 Committee) \* Facilitator

**Toyama Kazuhiko** (Managing Partner, Industrial Growth Platform Inc., Member of the JST ACCEL R&D Management Committee)

**Hamaguchi Michinari** (President, JST)

**Hiroi Yoshinori** ( Professor, Hitachi Kyoto University Laboratory, Kokoro Research Center, Kyoto University)



# The National Research and Development Agency Committee Symposium



## For “living with or after COVID-19” in the society

**Date:** November 19 (Thu.) 15:45–17:15

### Overview:

People all over the world are searching for a novel lifestyle that enables economic activities while protecting from coronavirus. The National Research and Development Agencies responsible for taking measures toward COVID-19 pandemic gather to discuss the important steps for people in this situation as well as introduce research and action plans to live with or post COVID-19.

### Panelists:

**Opening Talk:** Hamaguchi Michinari, Chairperson of the NRDA Subcommittee (President, JST)

**Keynote Lecture:** Iwamoto Aikichi, Science and Technology Advisor, Director of Research and Development, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

### Lecturers:

**Hidenori Arai**, President, National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology

**Kokudo Norihiro**, President, National Center for Global Health and Medicine

**Matsuoka Satoshi**, Director, the Riken Center for Computational Science

# Jun Ashida Award Ceremony & Talk Session

## STI for SDGs Award



### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brilliant Female Researchers Award (Jun Ashida Award) Award Ceremony & Talk Session

■ Date: November 15, 2020 (Sun.)  
13:00-15:00

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 and organizations supporting female researchers' activities. In addition, we will hold a talk session with the award-winners and the next generation, mainly high school students.

### STI for SDGs –Solving local social issues

■ Date: November 19, 2020 (Thu.)  
13:00-15:00

'STI for SDGs' Award is to commend outstanding local practices to solve social issues through science, technology, and innovation (STI) and to achieve SDGs. We will introduce the efforts of the award winners this year through presentations and panel discussions by the representatives of each organization.

#### Lecturers

- **'STI for SDGs' Award 2020 winners**
- **Kanie Norichika**, Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance at Keio University (Chair of the evaluation committee)
- **Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition (Planned)**

# The 2nd Brilliant Female Researchers Award (The Jun Ashida Award)



# 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.

## 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 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.



**Yoshie Okusa**  
Director, FIELD AND  
NETWORK Ltd.,  
President, NPO natural  
science



**Hiroshi  
Kitagawa**  
Professor, Graduate  
School of Science,  
Kyoto University  
Vice Provost, Kyoto  
University



**Chiharu  
Tokoro**  
Professor, School  
of Creative Science  
and Engineering,  
Waseda 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



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

# Special Features

## The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher (The Jun Ashida Award)

### The Award

- Celebrates brilliant female researchers working on outstanding research that contributes to a sustainable future (principally female researchers under 40 years of age, but pauses in research due to life events are duly recognized.)
- Also recognizes activities other than research, or research outcomes that have a positive impact on society.
- Open to individuals across all the fields relating to science and technology.

## The Award for an Organization Supporting Female Researchers (The Jun Ashida Award)

- This award celebrates progressive organizations that carry out initiatives contributing to the greater involvement of female researchers, thus serving as a model for other organizations.

# Selection Criteria

## The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher (The Jun Ashida Award)

Judges evaluate applicants based on the following selection criteria:

- Achievements in research.
- Creative outlook and pioneering spirit toward research, future prospects, and contributions to solving social issues.
- Non-research contributions to society (e.g. fostering human resources, implementing environmental improvement).
- Global perspective (e.g. overseas experience, collaborations with overseas research organizations).

## The Award for an Organization Supporting Female Researchers (The Jun Ashida Award)

Judges evaluate applicant organizations based on the following selection criteria:

- Potential for being a model for other organizations.
- Collaboration with other organizations to expand activities.
- Effectiveness and outcomes of activities.

# Application Results and Future Schedule

## Application Results

Application Period: April 1st to June 30th, 2020

Number of Applications:

- The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher: 78 applications
- The Award for an Organization Supporting Female Researchers: 12 applications

## Selection and Announcement of Winners

- Selection Period: early July to mid August
- Awards

The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher (The Jun Ashida Award)

The Award for an Organization Supporting Female Researchers (The Jun Ashida Award)

The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher (The JST President Award)

*\* The selection committee decided to commend a second Brilliant Female Researcher, giving her the JST President Award, as she reached the same high standard as the winner of the main Jun Ashida Award.*

- Announcement of winners:

**【Press Release】** October 14, 2020

Announcement of Winners and Awards Ceremony for the 2nd Brilliant Female Researchers Award (The Jun Ashida Award)

# The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher (The Jun Ashida Award)

## ■ Winner and Award

**Nami Sakai** (39 years old as of April 1, 2020)

Chief Scientist, Star and Planet Formation Laboratory, Riken

*JST presents a trophy and certificate. The Ashida Fund offers one million yen as a supplementary prize.*



## ■ Evaluation

- Dr. Sakai explores and expands an interdisciplinary field that involves chemistry and astronomy by introducing chemical methods such as capturing changes in molecular composition by spectroscopic observation in astronomy wherein physical approaches were mainstreamed to achieve innovative results in elucidating the formation of planetary systems.
- Although she is stationed in Japan, she has sufficient international exposure, such as launching a large-scale project using the ALMA telescope and coordinating projects wherein the majority of members are foreign researchers.
- She also engages in social contribution activities such as promoting women's social activities and fostering younger generations through outreach activities, including lectures.

## ■ Profile

- Research Filed: Astronomy
- 2004 Graduated Department of Physics, School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Waseda University
- 2007 Research Fellowship for Young Scientists of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (DC2)
- 2008 Ph.D., Department of Physics, Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo
- 2008 Associate Professor, the University of Tokyo
- 2015 Associate Chief Scientist, RIKEN

## ■ Awards

- 2018 NISTEP Selection (The Researchers with Nice Step, National Institute of Science and Technology Policy ) by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- 2013 The ASJ Young Astronomer Award, The Astronomical Society of Japan
- 2009 Inoue Research Award for Young Scientists, Inoue Foundation for Science

# The Award for an Organization Supporting Female Researchers (The Jun Ashida Award)

## ■ Winner and Award

### Gunma University (Hiroshi Hiratsuka, President)

*JST presents a trophy and certificate.*

## ■ Evaluation

- From a medium- to long-term perspective named “10-year plan of MAYUDAMA (silk cocoon),” Gunma University has constantly supported the activities of female researchers as well as members of the university. Under this policy, the ratio of female researchers of doctoral courses and female faculty members has been increasing due to seamless support such as the female-only recruitment system of the Faculty of Science and Technology and the system of encouraging female medical researchers in senior positions.
- Gunma University made a comparison with male researchers and an analysis of the acceptance rate for the following year regarding the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research fund per female researcher who received support from the university research fund. Judges of the award highly evaluated these activities that correct the unconscious bias toward the research ability of female researchers. Collaboration with other organizations in Gunma Prefecture is also creating ripple effects, inspiring others to conduct community inclusion activities.

## ■ Primary Activities and Outcomes

- Established a detailed support system for the active participation of female researchers, such as research support, child raising, nursing caring for family, on-campus childcare, and matching support for joint research.
- Implemented a female-only recruitment system for the first time at the faculty of science and technology since 2014.
- As a result, the ratio of female doctoral course students increased 25.8% in 2019.
- Discovered through analysis that university research support has an effect on KAKENHI obtainment rates.
- The ratio of female researchers increased approximately 1% every year on average since 2013.

### Best Practice! Continuation of university's unique research fund worked

KAKENHI adoption situation of female researchers who received the Gunma University's research funds in previous year

Year university fund used	Number of female researchers allocated KAKENHI in following year/used university fund	KAKENHI allocation rate
2012	1/15	6.7%
2013	3/14	21.4%
2014	1/12	16.7%
2015	3/10	30.0%
2016	5/13	38.5%
2017	6/14	42.9%
2018	6/13	46.2%

#### Outcome

Analysis showed that continuous use of university funds increases KAKENHI (Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research) award rates for female researchers.

\* The support has been continued by the Research/Industry-Academia Collaboration Promotion Organization since 2012.

# The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher (The JST President Award)

## ■ Winner and Award

**Ayuko Hoshino** (37 years old as of April 1, 2020)

Associate Professor, School of Life Science and Technology, Tokyo Institute of Technology

*JST presents a trophy and certificate.*



## ■ Evaluation

- Dr. Hoshino revealed that exosomes (extracellular vesicles) released by cancer cells are involved in the mechanism by which cancer prepares the environment at the future site of metastasis in a tissue-specific manner.
- Having an international perspective based on eight and a half years of overseas research experience, she is engaged in social contribution activities such as accepting overseas students to cultivate top-level global researchers.

## ■ Profile

- Research Field: Molecular biology
- 2006 Graduated from Faculty of Science Division I, Tokyo University of Science
- 2011 Ph.D., course at Department of Integrated Biosciences, Graduate School of Frontier Science, The University of Tokyo
- 2011- Postdoctoral Associate (2011), Research Associate (2015), Instructor (2016), Adjunct Assistant Professor (2020-) at Weill Cornell Medical College (USA)
- 2019 Lecturer, IRCN laboratory of The University of Tokyo  
The University of Tokyo Excellent Young Researcher
- 2019 PRESTO researcher
- 2020- Associate Professor, School of Life Science and Technology, Tokyo Institute of Technology

## ■ Awards

- 2011 Keystone Symposia Scholarship Award
- 2011 Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The Tokyo University
- 2020 22nd Morita Prize for Young Scientists by Japanese Association of University Women