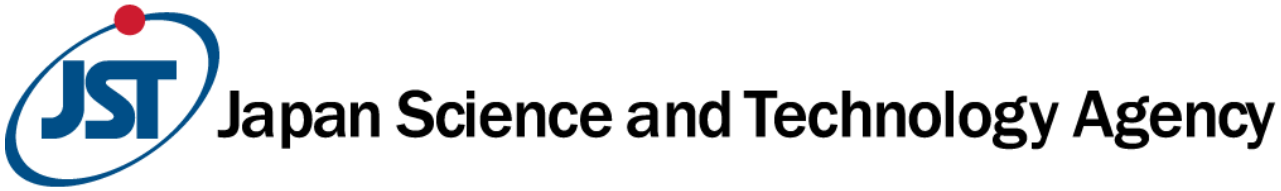
Press Conference
President of JST

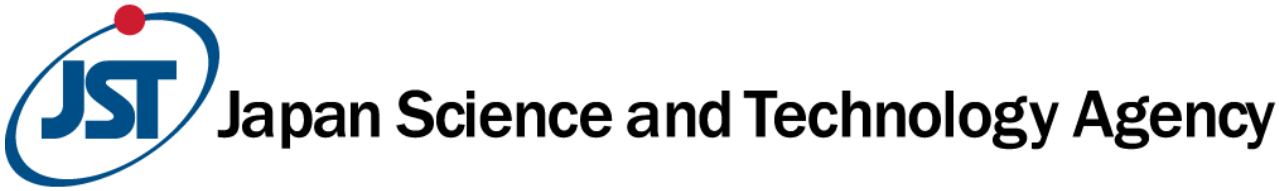
June 24, 2021

Japan Science and Technology Agency

Topics



1. Inauguration of the Vice President/ Chief Investment Officer (New post)
2. Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation
3. FOREST Program



FOREST Program

Fusion Oriented REsearch for disruptive Science and Technology

Japan Science and Technology Agency

Formation of a place for fusion (FOREST Program)

FOREST program supports unrestricted, challenging and fusion-oriented research not bound by the existing frameworks, while securing an environment in which researchers can devote themselves to their research on a long-term basis.

- ✓ Moonshot R&D Program and FOREST Program provide support to produce results leading to disruptive innovation. <The basic principle of economic and financial management and reformation in 2020>
- ✓ In particular, it is necessary to ensure an environment in which researchers can dedicate themselves to research, free from short-term achievements to advance challenging and inter-disciplinary fusion-oriented research; FOREST program is initiated to support them. <The integrated innovation strategy in 2020>
- ✓ As the future direction of the Government R&D investment, it should focus on two research areas, namely "Strategic Research" aiming at realizing Society 5.0 and "FOREST" aiming at creating disruptive innovations through diversity and fusion without setting specific topics or short-term goals. [Japan Business Federation Proposal]

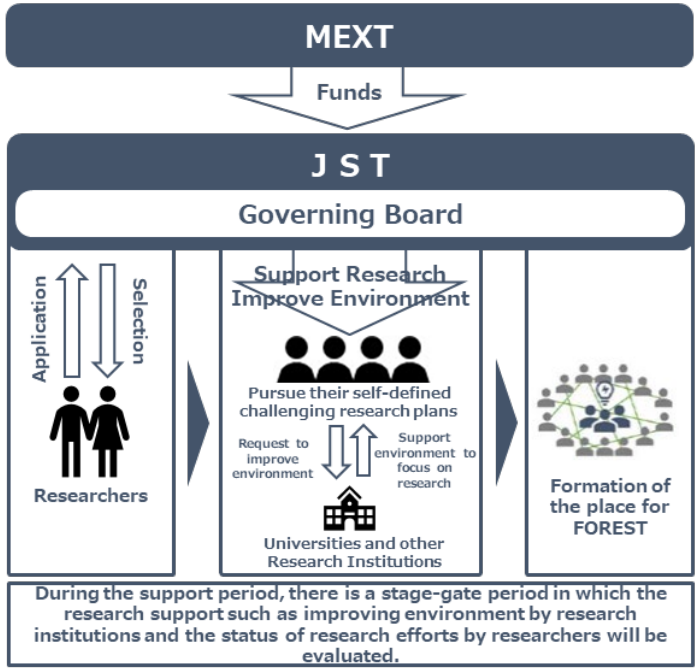
【Overview】

- Requirements for Research Applications : Researchers at universities, etc. who are independent, or planning to become independent.
  * 15 years or less since obtaining a doctorate (Child nursing, childbirth, nursing in general, and other life events are considered separately.)
- Number of Projects to be Selected : approx. 250 proposals per year × called for 3 times
  * The expenditure necessary for the screening, selection, and other processes in relation to the call-for-program are funded from the initial budget.
- Support amount unit: 7 million yen/year (average) & indirect costs
  * It will be managed flexibly according to the field and environment the researcher is in, for example, the use to help secure research time by reducing the administrative burden. (The buyout system (the review to enable the payment for the cost in relation to the substitution in the work other than the research) and the payment for the labor cost (PI labor cost) of the research director from the direct costs are introduced antecedently.)
- Support period: 7 years (can be extended up to 10 years)
- The mobility of researchers is ensured by enabling the continued support even in the case of the change in affiliation during the support period.
- Separately, considering the supports etc. from affiliated institutions such as universities, additional support to improve the research environment will also be implemented.
  * The RA support for the doctoral course students etc. to sustain the FOREST research under the direction of an independent researcher is enriched depending on the status of the progress etc. of the research.
- Opportunities to share collaborative and fostering experiences to stimulate each other among FOREST researchers are provided.

【Features】

① Targeting mainly at the variety of young researcher resources, bring together, and enable fusion among, the researchers with internationally competence and potential.
② Secure the research environment for researchers to focus on FOREST under the supports etc. from affiliated institutions such as universities.
③ By way of ① and ② above, researchers can actively pursue their self-defined challenging research plans.

【Project Scheme】



→ By maximizing ambition and research hours of excellent human resources, create outcomes that lead to disruptive innovations

Overview of FOREST Program

Call for application

FY2020 (1st):
2,537 proposals
FY 2021 (2nd):
2,314 proposals

The program calls for a variety of challenging and original research projects with the potential to create the seeds for disruptive innovations.

Screening and adoption

FY2020 (1st):
252 proposals
FY2021 (2nd):
On going

- In the first screening, the proposals are evaluated by approximately 900 experts from diverse fields.
- The second screening and interview involves 14 POs and approximately 140 ADs.

Today's lecture: Dr. Ishizuka Mayumi is a FOREST PO of veterinary, animal sciences and field research.

Today's lecture: Dr. Sakuma Chisako and Dr. Fujii Kazumichi are selected as FOREST researchers, FY2020, under the Ishizuka Mayumi FOREST Panel.

Research

Phase 1: 3 years
Phase 2: 4 years
Total 7 years

- Support the further growth of selected researchers through a mentor system (guidance, progress management, etc.) by FOREST POs and ADs and participation in "Place for Fusion."
- "Place for Fusion" creates opportunities to socialize with other researchers, ADs, and POs with the aim of building a network, stimulating and enlightening peers, and enable joint research.

FOREST Panel headed by Professor Ishizuka

Ishizuka Mayumi FOREST PO（Professor, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University）

【Fields of Research】Environmental effects of chemicals, Environmental agriculture, Veterinary

She earned her PhD in veterinary from the Hokkaido University in 1998. After working at the National Institute for Environmental Studies, she joined the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University, as an associate professor in 2000. She served as an Academic Researcher (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) and in the Food Safety Commission Expert Committee (Cabinet Office), Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council's Special Committee (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare), Central Environmental Council (Ministry of the Environment), and Science Council of Japan.
Her specialty is the toxicological effects of environmental chemicals on humans and laboratory as well as wild animals. In particular, she conducts in vivo, in vitro, and in silico analyses, and promotes international collaborative surveillance n Japan as well as overseas, such as in Africa.
Awards: The Japanese Society of Toxicology, Japan Prize in Agricultural Science Achievement Award for Young Scientists, The Commendation for Science and Technology by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for Young Scientists' Award, The Soroptimist Japan Foundation Female Researcher Award, Japan Society for Environmental Chemistry Award.

	FOREST Advisor	Affiliation	Title
1	Isobe Tomohiko	Center for Health and Environmental Risk Research, National Institute for Environmental Studies	Senior Researcher
2	Sugasawa Kaoru	Biosignal Research Center, Kobe University	Professor
3	Tanaka Akane	Institute of Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology	Professor
4	Noguchi Noboru	Research Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University	Professor
5	Fukuda Susumu	Kyushu University	Executive Vice President/ Senior Vice President
6	Mannen Hideyuki	Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University	Professor
7	Yoshimura, Takashi	Institute of Transformative Bio-Molecules Nagoya University	Professor

Today's Lectures

Dr. Ishizuka

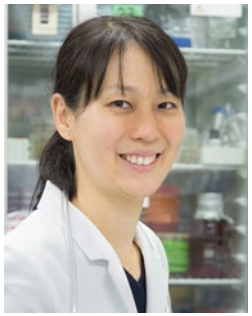
● **Ishizuka Mayumi**
Professor, Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University

She has conducted dedicated research on the adverse effects of environmental chemicals on humans and wildlife as well as laboratory animals. She has conducted international collaborative surveillance in Africa and other overseas countries.

She earned her PhD degree in veterinary from the Hokkaido University in 1998. After working at the National Institute for Environmental Studies, she joined the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University, as an assistant professor in 2000. She is a member of the Science Council of Japan.

Awards: The Japanese Society of Toxicology, Japan Prize in Agricultural Science Achievement Award for Young Scientists, The Commendation for Science and Technology by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for Young Scientists' Award, The Soroptimist Japan Foundation Female Researcher Award, Japan Society for Environmental Chemistry Award.

Today's Lectures



Dr. Sakuma

● Sakuma Chisako

Lecturer, Department of Tropical Medicine, The Jikei University School of Medicine

Dr. Sakuma aims to elucidate the molecular basis of blood-sucking behavior in mosquitos using her expertise in developmental neurobiology in Drosophila.

2008 - Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The University of Tokyo
2013 - Ph.D., Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The University of Tokyo
2013 - Postdoctoral fellow, Department of Genetics, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The University of Tokyo
2015 - Assistant Professor, Department of Tropical Medicine, The Jikei University School of Medicine
2021 - Lecturer, Department of Tropical Medicine, The Jikei University School of Medicine

Dr. Fujii

● Fujii Kazumichi

Senior researcher, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute

He has conducted research on biogeochemical cycles in ecosystems and development of sustainable use of soil at the Division of Forest Soils, FFPRI.

Dr. Fujii earned his Doctor's degree from the Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University, in 2009. He has studied domestic and overseas soils from permafrost in Canada as well as rainforests in Indonesia.
Awards: 1st Young Scholar Award of the Ecological Society of Japan (ESJ Suzuki Award), 33rd Japanese Society of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, 15th Japan Prize in Agricultural Science, Achievement Award for Young Scientists.
Publications: *Soil Final Frontier*, awarded the 7th Kawai Hayao Prize (2018); *Evolution of soil travelling over five hundred million years* (2015) etc.