

JST ASPIRE Symposium at IBS 2026

# Connect, Collaborate, Innovate

## Global Partnerships in Biotechnology through ASPIRE

June 29-30, 2026, 10:00-18:30

International Conference Room (3F), Kobe International Conference Center

Showcasing the latest research outcomes from ASPIRE-supported international collaborations, focusing on early-career researchers, global research networks, and shared challenges toward building long-term international partnerships.

### Program Highlights

- ◆ Introduction to the ASPIRE program
- ◆ Keynote lecture by a distinguished speaker
- ◆ International research outcomes from nine ASPIRE-supported projects, highlighting researcher mobility and global network building
- ◆ Lightning talks by early-career researchers

### Registration

- ◆ Registration for IBS 2026 is required to attend this symposium
- ◆ Scan the QR code to register for IBS 2026

### Contact

For inquiries about this event

- ◆ JST ASPIRE office E-mail: [aspire-bio@jst.go.jp](mailto:aspire-bio@jst.go.jp)

For inquiries about IBS 2026

- ◆ IBS 2026 Secretariat E-mail: [ibs2026@aeplan.co.jp](mailto:ibs2026@aeplan.co.jp)



**ASPIRE**  
Adopting Sustainable Partnerships  
for Innovative Research Ecosystem



<https://aeplan.jp/ibs2026/contents/registration.html>

JST ASPIRE Symposium at IBS 2026  
**Connect, Collaborate, Innovate**  
**Global Partnerships in Biotechnology through ASPIRE**

**Dates** Monday 29 June and Tuesday 30 June 2026  
**Venue** International Conference Room 3F, KOBE International Conference Center, Kobe, Japan  
**Organizer** Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) - ASPIRE Program

**Monday 29 June (Day1)**

10:00 - 10:10	<b>Opening Remark</b> Atsushi Arakawa, Director, Office of ASPIRE, JST
10:10 - 10:30	<b>Introduction and Overview of ASPIRE Symposium</b> Haruko Takeyama, Program Officer of ASPIRE Japan based call Hiroshi Shimizu, Program Officer of ASPIRE Joint call
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Keynote Speech: Automated labs and AI – Opportunities and Challenges for Engineering and Generative Biology</b> Speaker: Paul Freemont (Imperial College London / London Biofoundry)
11:00 - 12:00	<b>Global Centers: Reliable and Scalable Biofoundries for Biomanufacturing and Global Bioeconomy</b> Chair: Akihiko Kondo / Ken'ichi Yoshida (Kobe University)
12:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break & Poster Session
14:00 - 15:00	<b>Establishing the International Ocean Brain-circulation Platform</b> Chair: Fumio Inagaki (Tohoku University / JAMSTEC)
15:00 - 16:00	<b>Development of a New Bioeconomy Platform Through Induced Reprogramming in Plants</b> Chair: Keiko Sugimoto (RIKEN)
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee Break & Networking
16:30 - 17:30	<b>Engineering climate-resilient plants for a sustainable bioeconomy - Global Centers: Alliance for Socially Acceptable &amp; Actionable Plants (ASAP) -</b> Chair: Atsushi Takemiya (Yamaguchi University), Co-Chair: Kenji Miura (University of Tsukuba), Taishi Umezawa (Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology)
17:30 - 18:30	<b>Artificial Phages from De Novo Peptide Design</b> Chair: Hiroaki Suga (The University of Tokyo)

**Tuesday 30 June (Day2)**

10:00 - 11:00	<b>Engineering sustained function in SYNthetic cells through enERGY generation, storage and transformation (Japan-UK SYNERGY)</b> Chair: Masahiro Takinoue (Tokyo Institute of Technology)
11:00 - 12:00	<b>Hybrid Artificial Photosynthesis for Energy Conversion and Bioproduction</b> Chair: Hiroyuki Noji (The University of Tokyo)
12:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break & Poster Session
14:00 - 15:20	<b>Data-driven Multiscale Engineering of Cell Fate Decisions</b> Chair: Mariko Okada (The University of Osaka)
15:20 - 16:00	<b>International Research Center for Enhancing Plant Resilience</b> Chair: Motoaki Seki (RIKEN)
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee Break & Networking
16:30 - 17:35	<b>International Research Center for Enhancing Plant Resilience</b> Chair: Motoaki Seki (RIKEN)
17:35 - 18:25	<b>Lightning Talks by Early Career Researchers (ECRs)</b> ECRs will deliver short lightning talks on their research activities, highlighting international research experiences, collaborations, and career perspectives, potentially followed by a Q&A session.
18:25 - 18:30	<b>Closing Remark</b> Kenjiro Miyano, Program Director of ASPIRE