STRATEGIC
INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH
COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM

STRATEGIC
INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATIVE
RESEARCH
PROGRAM

SICP/SICORP

Japan Science and Technology Agency

SICP and SICORP aim at strengthening international

Ⅰ Background

In the world of expanding globalization, various cross-border problems are arising. For example, such problems as the environment, energy, natural disasters, and infectious diseases cannot be tackled by a single country alone. To overcome these problems and maintain sustainable development, international cooperation is now a worldwide demand.

Moreover, the advance of science and technology around the world is spectacular. Amid the intense competition, in order for Japan to sustain and develop a world-class science and technology capability, it is even more important than before for the government to play its role in supporting the international expansion of science and technology in a strategic manner. Indeed, the government's 4th Science and Technology Basic Plan* calls for strategic expansion of international activities integrated with the world. Global expansion including these cooperation and competition is extremely important in the area of science and technology.

In response to this policy demand from the government, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) has been implementing the Strategic International Research Cooperative Program (SICP) since 2003, as well as the Strategic International Collaborative Research Program (SICORP) since 2008. This is a “top-down type” of program that provides support to international research projects with countries and areas and in fields of cooperation designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) on the basis of intergovernmental agreements, agreements at ministerial-level meetings, and so forth.

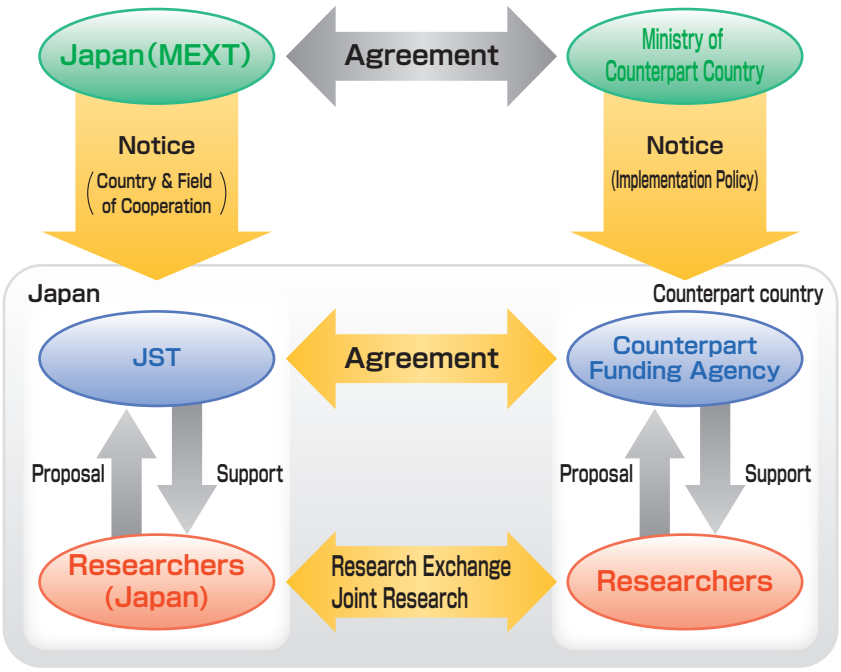
JST has already started its cooperation with countries in Europe, America, Oceania, Asia, Middle East and Africa under this program. Aiming at further development of science and technology, JST is enhancing active international research collaborations through solid partnerships with counterpart countries.

＊The 4th Science and Technology Basic Plan has set as promotional measures, (a) promotion of research and development by "The East Asia Science and Innovation Area" and other means to solve common problems in Asia and (b) new development in science and technology diplomacy through expansion of international activities utilizing Japan's strength and promotion of international activities regarding advanced science and technology.

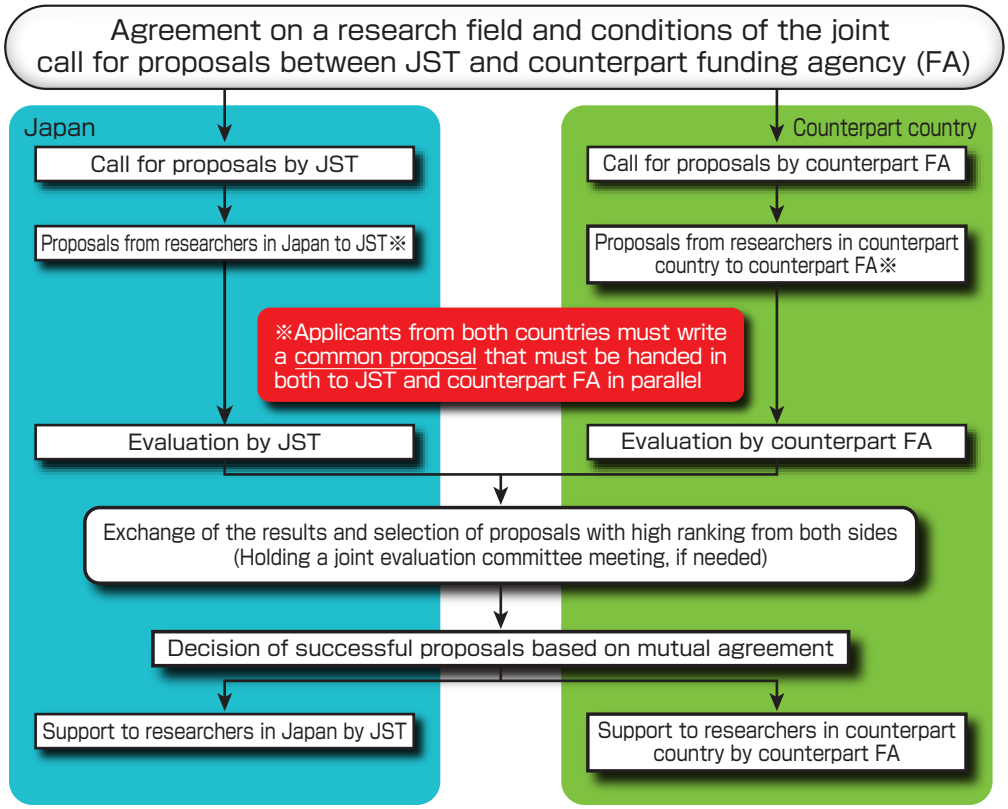
CONTENTS

research collaboration

[Program Structure]



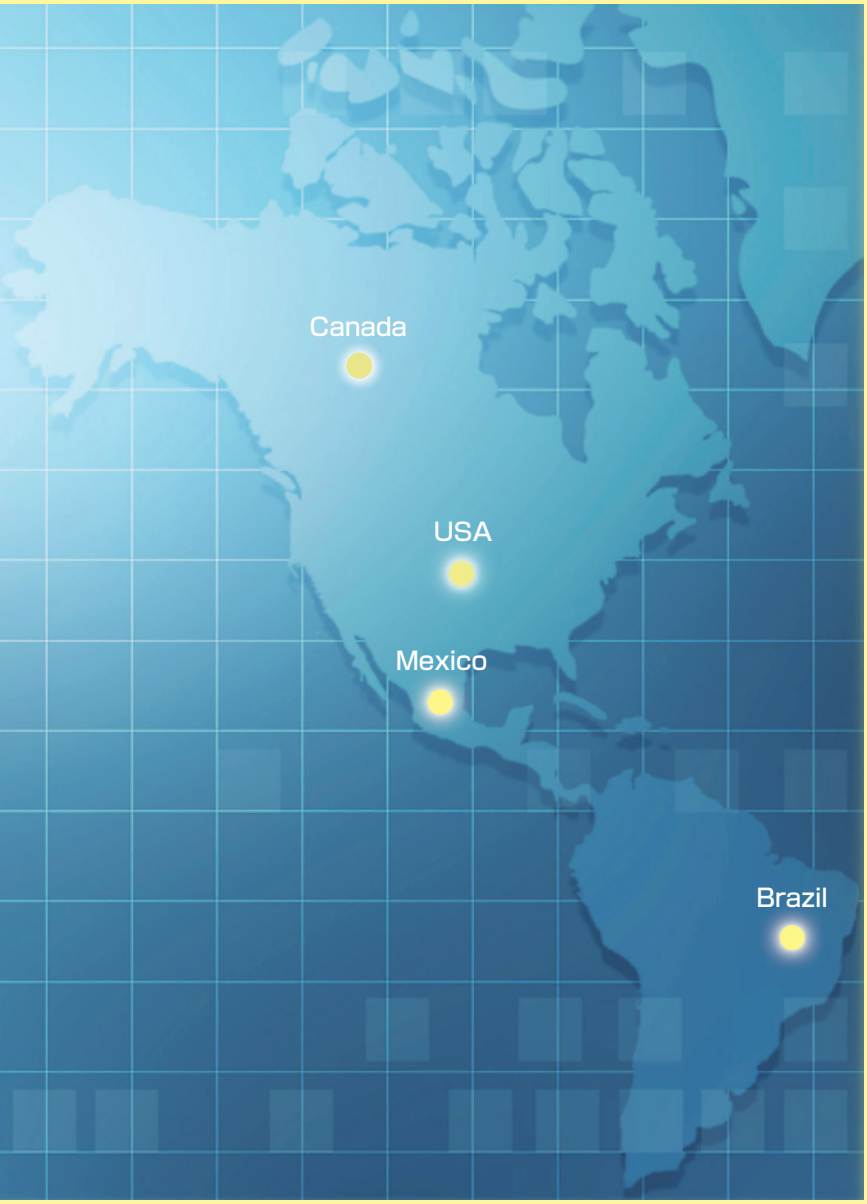
[Workflow of a joint call for proposals]



International research networks all over the world

JST is promoting international research collaboration in cooperation with funding agencies

in counterpart countries under SICP and SICORP.



SICP/SICORP Website

http://www.jst.go.jp/inter/english/index.html

Ⅱ Strategic International Research Cooperative

1. General Description

1) Research funding for research exchange projects (selected through open call for proposals)

・In principle, financial support of about JPY 5 million - JPY 10 million is granted on the Japanese side per project per year for the period of three years. (The amount and period of support are determined flexibly through coordination with a counterpart country.)

・This research funding can be used for expenses relating to (a) research meetings; (b) dispatch and invitation of researchers; (c) consumables necessary for the research, etc.

【Typical From of Cooperation】

JST jointly launches calls for proposals with the counterpart country for the period of 3 years and approves 5 projects every year. (Support of JPY 5 million on average for 1 year per project).

	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	5th year
Approved Project in 1st year	5 Projects				
Approved Project in 2nd year		5 Projects			
Approved Project in 3rd year			5 Projects		
Number of Supported Projects	5	10	15	10	5
Support Amount of JST(total)	JPY 25mil.	JPY 50mil.	JPY 75mil.	JPY 50mil.	JPY 25mil.

2) Joint implementation with funding agencies in counterpart countries

・The equivarent level of support as JST will be funded by the counterpart funding agency (FA) to the institutions of counterpart countries in the international research exchange.

・JST implements joint call and joint review of international joint reseach projects in coodination with the counterpart FA.

3) Workshops to promote international research collaboration (sponsored jointly by JST and funding agencies in counterpart countries)

・These workshops consist mainly of lectures and the principal objective is to facilitate exchange activities among participating researchers.

Program (SICP)

2. SICP variations

● J-RAPID

The J-RAPID(*) program is dedicated to support collaboration activities between Japanese and foreign researchers having a severe urgency on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events.
J-RAPID aims to play an initial response role by promptly supporting activities above mentioned before ordinary projects are implemented by the national government, academic societies, or others.
J-RAPID, as a part of the SICP program, supports international collaborative projects in collaboration with funding agencies and research institutes in foreign countries.

(*) JST launched original "J-RAPID" in April 2011 to support urgent research needs in relation to the Great East Japan Earthquake as a temporary program. JST made it to a general program in October 2011.

● CONCERT-Japan

CONCERT-Japan is one of the international cooperation activities of the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). Within the framework of the FP7, the European Union is engaged in a variety of science and technology cooperation activities, and in January 2011 the CONCERT-Japan Project was launched with the general aim to further develop science and technology cooperation between Europe and Japan.
With a formal membership of 13 partner funding institutions representing 9 different countries, the CONCERT-Japan Project has the specific objective to conduct a Pilot Joint Call for research proposals, thereby enabling network-building, mutual learning and information exchange on the topic of science and technology policy.

"CONCERT-Japan" Website　http://www.concertjapan.eu/

3. Cooperation with Each Country (As of September 1, 2013)

Country / Area		Starting Year *	Research Field of Cooperation	Counterpart	Number of Supporting Projects	Number of Completed Projects
Americas	USA	FY2004	Science and Technology for a Secure and Safe Society	NSF	2	26
	Brazil	FY2010	Biomass and Biotechnology	CNPq	2	0
	Canada	FY2011	Environmental Science and Technologies and Energy	NSERC	1	0
	Mexico	FY2010	Life Science	CONACYT	2	1
Asia	Korea	FY2007	Bio Science	NRF	0	5
	China	FY2005	Science and Technology for Environmental Conservation and Construction of a Society with Less Environmental Burden	NSFC	11	36
		FY2007		MOST	0	10
		FY2010	Climate Change		8	6
		FY2010	Earthquake Disaster Mitigation		2	0
	China-Korea	FY2009	Materials Research with Emphasis on Activities Relating to VAMAS (Versailles Project on Advanced Materials and Standards)	KRISS, NIM	0	3
		FY2009	Global issues and issues of concern in Northeast Asia that are critical to the region	DOIC・MOST, NRF	3	3
		FY2004	4 projects based on designation of MEXT	—	0	4
		FY2003	Bioinformatics Training Course	SCBIT, KRIBB	0	1
	India	FY2007	Multidisciplinary ICT	DST	2	16
	Singapore	FY2009	Functional Applications in Physical Sciences	A*STAR	3	3
	Thailand	FY2009	Biotechnology	NSTDA	5	0
Europe	EU	FY2008	Environment	EC DG RTD	4	0
	UK	FY2004	Bionanotechnology, Structural Genomics and Proteomics	BBSRC	0	19
		FY2008	Systems Biology		1	8
		FY2008	Advanced Materials	EPSRC	4	9
		—	Advanced health research	MRC	—	—
	Croatia	FY2009	Materials Science	MSES	3	0
	Switzerland	FY2008	Life Science	ETHZ	6	8
	Sweden	FY2004	Multidisciplinary BIO	VINNOVA, SSF	6	21
	Spain	FY2009	Multidisciplinary Materials Science	MINECO	8	9
	Denmark	FY2007	Life Science	DASTI	2	8
	Germany	FY2007	Nanoelectronics	DFG	0	23
		FY2010	Computational Neuroscience	DFG, BMBF	10	0
	Finland	FY2008	Functional Materials	Tekes, AF	4	12
		FY2012	Medical Science		3	0
	France	FY2005	ICT including Computer Science	CNRS	0	15
		FY2007		ANR	4	2
		FY2008	Life Science	CNRS	3	9

Country / Area		Starting Year *	Research Field of Cooperation	Counterpart	Number of Supporting Projects	Number of Completed Projects
Oceania, Middle East, Africa	Australia	FY2008	Marine Science	DIICCSRTE	0	3
	New Zealand	FY2009	Bioscience and Biotechnology	MBIE	2	2
	Israel	FY2009	Life Science	MOST	6	4
	South Africa	FY2004	1 project based on designation of MEXT	–	0	1
		FY2008	Life Science	NRF	5	4
J-RAPID		FY2011	International Collaborative Research/ Survey having a urgency on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events (USA)	NSF	0	20
				NIH	0	1
				NCAR	0	1
			International Collaborative Research/ Survey having a urgency on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events (Indonesia)	LIPI	0	1
			International Collaborative Research/ Survey having a urgency on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events (UK)	ADMLC	0	1
			International Collaborative Research/ Survey having a urgency on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events (France)	ANR	0	9
		FY2011	International Collaborative Research/ Survey having a urgency on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events (Thailand)	NSTDA	0	2
CONCERT-Japan		FY2012	Resilience against Disasters	–	5	0
			Efficient Energy Storage and Distribution	–	4	0
* Year of the first joint call for proposals					121	306

Ⅲ Strategic International Collaborative Research

1. General Description

1) Research funding for joint research projects (selected through open call for proposals)

- Financial support of about JPY 50 - 100 million is granted on the Japanese side per project per year, for 3 - 5 years. (The amount and period of support are determined flexibly through coordination with a counterpart country.)
- Financial support includes (1) cost of goods, (2) personnel costs, (3) dispatch and invitation of researchers, (4) workshops, and other costs needed.

2) Joint implementation with funding agencies in counterpart countries

- Under the guidance of the Program Director (PD) and Program Officers (PO), JST implements joint call and joint review of international joint reseach projects in coodination with the counterpart funding agency (FA).
- The equivalent level of support as JST will be funded by the counterpart FA to the institutions of counterpart countries in the international joint research.

2. Introduction of Program Director (PD) and Program Officers (PO)

1) PD

The PD advises on the general management of the program including setting up the international joint research area, the selection of PO, and the selection, promotion and evaluation of the projects.

Teruo KISHI, Ph.D., Advisor, National Institute for Materials Science

2) Program Officers (PO)

The PO engages in setting up the international joint research area and the selection, promotion and evaluation of projects to be jointly supported with the counterpart country which he/she is in charge of.

USA "Metabolomics for a Low Carbon Society"

Takaaki NISHIOKA
Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of Information Science, Nara Institute of Science and Technology

Canada "Epigenetics of Stem Cells"

Toshio SUDA
M.D, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Cell Differentiation, Graduate School of Medicine, Keio University

Program (SICORP)

China "Highly-efficient Energy Utilization"

Akira FUJISHIMA
Ph.D., President, Tokyo University of Science

China-Korea "Global issues and issues of concern in Northeast Asia that are critical to the region"

Yoshimori HONKURA
Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Institute of Technology

EU "Superconductivity"

Teruo MATSUSHITA
Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Kyushu Institute of Technology

EU "Development of New Materials for the Substitution of Critical Metals"

Kazuyuki KURODA
Ph.D., Professor, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Waseda University

Germany "Nanoelectronics"

Kenjiro MIYANO
Ph.D., Fellow, National Institute for Materials Science

France "ICT"

Akinori YONEZAWA
Ph.D., Co-Director, RIKEN Advanced Institute for Computational Science

3. Cooperation with Each Country (As of September 1, 2013)

Country / Area	Starting Year *	Research Field of Cooperation	Counterpart	Number of Supporting Projects	Number of Completed Projects
USA	FY2010	Metabolomics for a Low Carbon Society	NSF	4	0
Canada	FY2012	Epigenetics of Stem Cells	CIHR	3	0
China	FY2012	Highly-efficient Energy Utilization	MOST	4	0
China-Korea	FY2012	Global issues and issues of concern in Northeast Asia that are critical to the region	DOIC・MOST, NRF	2	0
EU	FY2010	Superconductivity	EC DG RTD	3	0
	FY2012	Development of New Materials for the Substitution of Critical Metals		3	0
Germany	FY2009	Nanoelectronics	DFG	2	1
France	FY2009	Information and Communication Science and Technologies (ICT)	ANR	4	0
				25	1

* Year of the first joint call for proposals

Japan Science and Technology Agency

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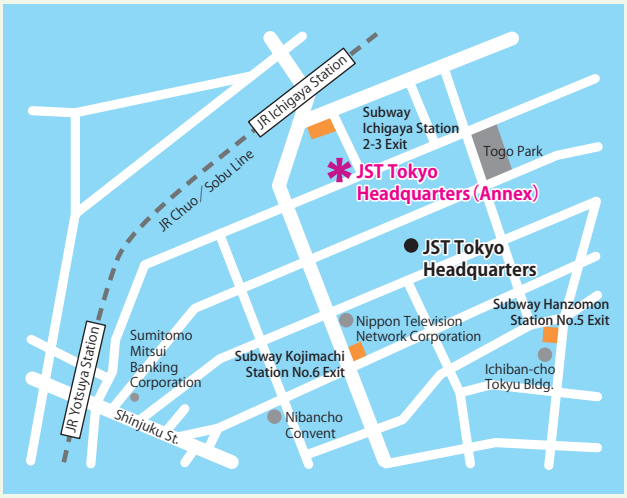
- JR Chuo / Sobu line: about 3 minutes walk from JR Ichigaya Station
- Tokyo Metro Yurakucho / Namboku Line (subway) : about 3 minutes walk from Subway Ichigaya Station 2-3 Exit
- Toei Shinjuku Line (subway) : about 3 minutes walk from Subway Ichigaya Station 2-3 Exit



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