

協力相手機関からの本事業に対する評価・要望

本事業で協力を行っている海外の協力相手機関に本事業に対する評価・要望をアンケートで聴取し、15機関より回答を得た。回答のうち、代表的なものを抜粋し下記に記す。

- 1) JST の戦略的国際科学技術協力推進事業の枠組み（支援期間、支援額、支援課題数等）についてどう思うか。改善の提案があれば教えていただきたい。

【評価】

- Regarding the supporting period, the duration of three years for the selected joint research projects is considered appropriate. (Spain, MICINN)
- JST program has proven to be an excellent opportunity to facilitate and boost Finnish-Japanese research projects in the field of functional materials research. The funded Finnish-Japanese projects have been of excellent scientific quality with obvious added value for both partners. **It has been good that the exact themes of the joint calls have been published early.** This has made it possible for all funding organizations to make early pre-announcements to the researchers (Finland, AF)
- We view Japan's financial contribution to the overall operating budget as very generous and most welcome. **We view the three-year term over which the three initiatives were funded as very appropriate.** (Australia, DIISR)
- **It helps to bring a good links and networks that can provide opportunities for all researchers to enhance their own skills by exchanging experience with their counterparts.** Supporting period, budget and number of supported projects are suitable. (Thailand, NSTDA), (Singapore, A*STAR)
- EPSRC recognizes that there have been a range of different academics supported through the SICP. We have supported established academics from both the UK and Japan, who are strengthening existing collaborations, but also early career academics, who use the SICP to better establish collaborations which are in the early stages. **We feel that this range of activity is an important feature of the scheme.** (UK, EPSRC)
- This is a very important scheme, and deserves to be enhanced and upgraded. In order to be more effective. (Israel, MOST)

【改善提案】

- ◆事業スキーム（予算、採択課題数、支援期間等）について
- We would prefer funding real integrated projects **with higher budgets.** Budget per project below 100,000 Euros too small and low level. (France, ANR)

- JST may need to consider **increase the numbers of supported projects**. The support **period should be more flexible between 2-3 years**. Budget is not enough. And the supporting rate is too low as this program supports only 2 projects out of 29 projects at this time. (Thailand, NSTDA)
- Budget is a little low. **Budget cut** in the middle of ongoing agreement **is a bit annoying**. (Sweden, SSF)
- It can have some improvement for the future. For example: **the supporting period can be 5 years with more budget** (to replace 3+3 model with NSFC in the past), the number of projects can be increased from 5 for NSFC to 6 or even more. (China, NSFC)

◆公募領域・分野について

- It could be possible to **define the exact sub-themes** of all three successive calls in one Japanese-Finnish seminar covering the whole broad theme (Finland, AF)
- The collaboration has thus far been limited to nano safety field in topics where the number of submitted research proposals has been quite low. **Widening the range of topics** could bring in more applications. (EU, EC DG RTD)

◆提出書類について

- We believe that there is still some improvement that can be made in further calls, as **a desirable simplification of the forms**, maintaining the level of details about the proposal aspects. (Brazil, CNPq)
- It would be advisable to extend **the supporting period to four years with only one intermediate report and one final report**. The budget is appropriate. (Israel, MOST)

2) JST との協力が貴国側に良い影響をもたらした場合、その影響を教えてください。

- The program **gives real opportunities to build deep cooperation among researchers from both countries**. (France, ANR)
- Firstly, the program has been useful in revealing that **a large number of Spanish researchers were collaborating informally with Japanese researchers**. Secondly, the program has **created good expectations among Spanish researchers**. In the third place, the collaboration with JST has allowed **MICINN to become aware of new management and administration systems**. Lastly, the Program is opening a new style to our emerging and leading groups. These are key issues for **the new Spanish policy of innovation**. (Spain, MICINN)
- **It becomes a stable and visible channel of cooperation** for Chinese scientists who studied in Japan before. (China, NSFC)

- Three successive calls have clearly **activated the Finnish-Japanese research collaboration** in the field of functional materials. (Finland, AF)
- **Its administration was smooth and efficient.** The Japan funding was well-targeted and the scientific outcomes are also being met. Japanese funding was appreciated and efficiently administered. (Australia, DIISR)
- These are very beneficial collaborations that in general bring together complementary research groups to work on problems of great interest. In addition, **the collaborations provide an excellent opportunity for students to gain experience in the international realm.**(USA, NSF), (Singapore, A*STAR), (Thailand, NSTDA)
- It makes it easier for the European participants to include Japanese researchers when there is more certainty about the availability of funding in Japan. (EU, EC DG RTD)
- **The scheme that includes a prospective workshop to have a better view of possible complementarities** is something that we want to foster. (Brazil, CNPq)
- Very positive it has rendered real collaborations between Japan and Sweden. (Sweden, SSF)
- EPSRC has noted a number of useful or **new links established** through the SICP and these show potential to develop into productive (UK, EPSRC)
- **We were able to conduct experiments** that were complemented by the Japanese counterpart that otherwise we were unable to do. I humbly think that this is also true for my Japanese partner. (Israel, MOST)

3) 本事業で支援した課題の成果・波及効果について、意見を伺いたい。もし特筆すべき成果があればそれについて伺いたい。

- From the reports of supported projects, we can see that the output is very good in general. **Many students who participated in the projects have got their Ph.D or Master degree.** The Chinese PIs have showed their reputation in applying for National Basic Research Program (973 program), Special National Water Program, and so on. Their international cooperation scope has been extended to more countries. The level of paper publication including joint publication with Japanese scientists is higher than the average. (China, NSFC)
- **Most of the joint publications were found in the groups with long history of Finnish-Japanese research collaboration.** For example Helge Lemmetyinen (Tampere University of Technology) and Hiroshi Imahori (Kyoto University) have obviously done research collaboration already more than ten years and published

four joint publications during the year 2010 (AF-JST funding period 2010-2013). (Finland, AF)

- The three Australia-Japan Joint Marine Science projects have been most successful. Progress reports indicate that good research outcomes are being made and useful collaborative partnerships are being formed to great advantage on both sides. (Australia, DIISR)
- The awarded projects are on-going and progress is positive. (Singapore, A*STAR)
- EPSRC had not yet reviewed the completed projects formally, however we understand through communication with the individual investigators that the SICP funding is very much valued, and **presents new opportunities which would otherwise be unavailable**. We understand that there is a wide range of topics covered through the supported projects, and that the outputs include not only scientific endeavor, but regular interactions, collaboration and workshop activities. (UK, EPSRC)
- We developed and especially utilize **unique and novel membrane protein expression system**. This subject is notoriously known as difficult but very important. We already reported on a major advancement in the system and hope that by the end of the project several neural transporters will be much better understood. (Israel, MOST)

4) 本事業に対する貴国の研究者からの評判はどのようなものか。

【評価】

- The researchers funded in our joint program are of excellent scientific quality coming from the best organizations in both countries. This funding is highly appreciated among the Finnish researchers. (Finland, AF), (France, ANR), (Singapore, A*STAR), (Sweden, SSF), (US, NSF) 他多数
- The interest in the scheme within the New Zealand scientific community is strong, as evidenced by **the number of good proposals submitted, and the results achieved are very beneficial to the participants**. (New Zealand, MSI)
- The researchers in Australia have commented that the **JST have been most efficient administrators** and very professional in their dealings with people here in Australia. **The feedback was overwhelmingly positive on the JST's service delivery functions**. (Australia, DIISR)
- We understand from our academic community that the SICP is seen as a good opportunity for them to collaborate between two countries with strength in the

scientific areas that have been selected. **The SICP supports exchange programmes, which are particularly important to our academic community to allow the collaborations to truly become fruitful, and promotes the chance to learn from each other.** (UK, EPSRC)

【改善提案】

- Spanish researchers who have learned of the program see it as an excellent initiative, although **too competitive (low success rates)**. Researchers also feel that a **more stable funding scheme is needed** (without many changes year after year). (Spain, MICINN)

5) 本事業に対する意見・要望等があれば伺いたい。

◆予算について

- **If the budget in the Japanese side cannot be higher, we suggest launching the calls biannually, budgeting about 2M per Call.** Moreover, we would like to explore the possibility of including special, very large projects that would apply for large amounts of money, similar to what is done between JST and France or Germany. (Spain, MICINN)

◆協力分野について

- The theme of NSFC-JST cooperative program has been fixed for 7 years. It was a good one but it is the time to think of change the theme or expand to 2 or more themes if the funding of JST is available. "Medical Innovation" has been selected as one of the priorities of Japan and NSFC has a newly established department of Medical Science. So, NSFC strongly suggest the theme of "Medical Innovation" should be selected for our cooperation starting 2012. (China, NSFC)
- Some of the requests for information were from researchers working in areas other than "biomedicine". If the amount of applications is small, I would suggest to **widen the thematic areas for the next call.** (Mexico, CONACYT)

◆課題間ミーティング（ワークショップ）について

- It might be a good idea **to have a fully-supported annual conference inviting the researchers that received funding to present their work progress.** It can be either in Japan or Thailand. This is to promote stronger relationship between researchers from both sides, where new collaboration can be formed. In addition, **there should be the meeting where all researchers from supported projects can present their progress or research outputs to NSTDA** together with JST. This will be one of management mechanism and we can also evaluate the success of those projects.

(Thailand, NSTDA)

- Please **try to get evaluations group meetings planned as early as possible in order to able to reach consensus as early as possible.** (Sweden, SSF)