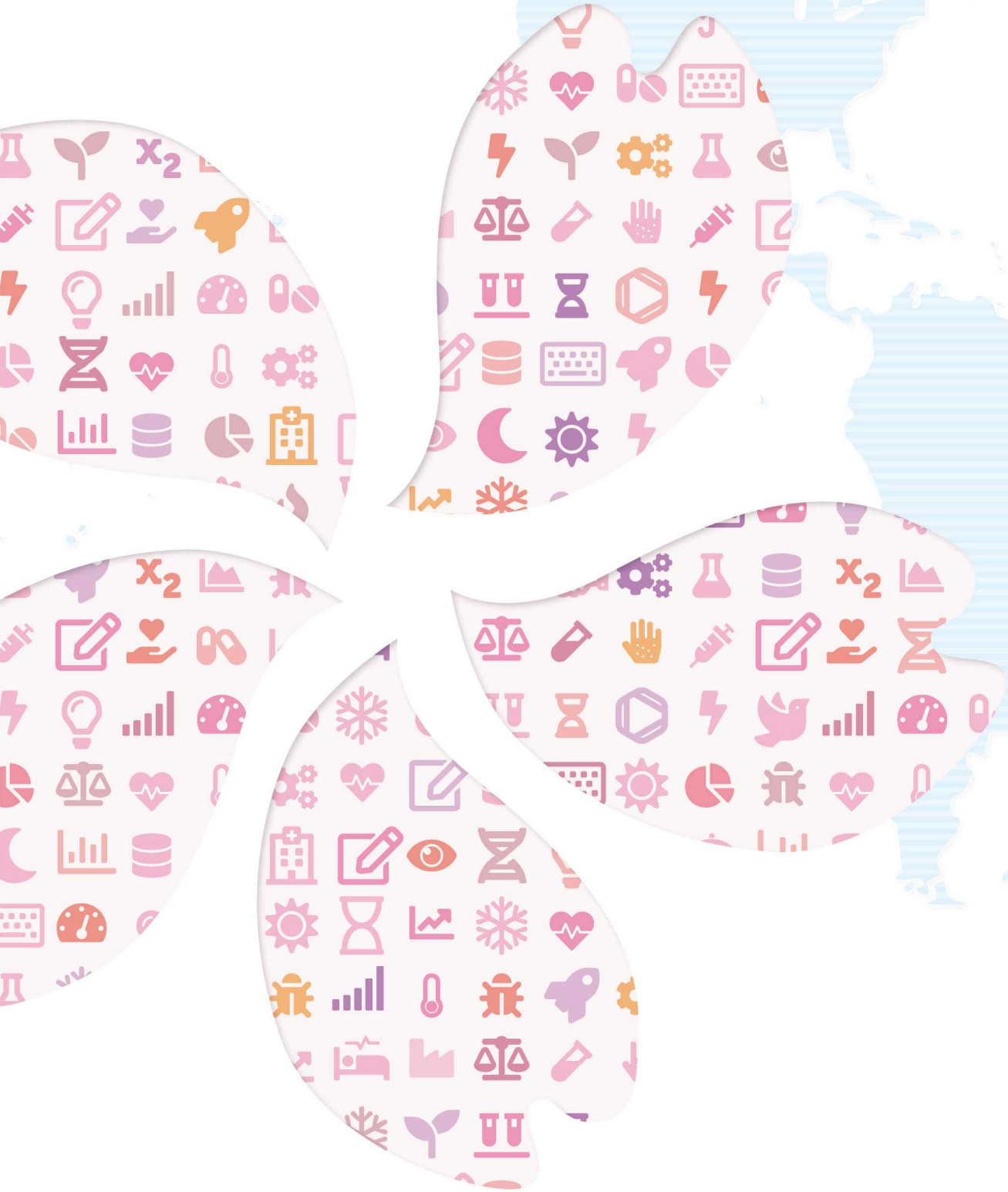
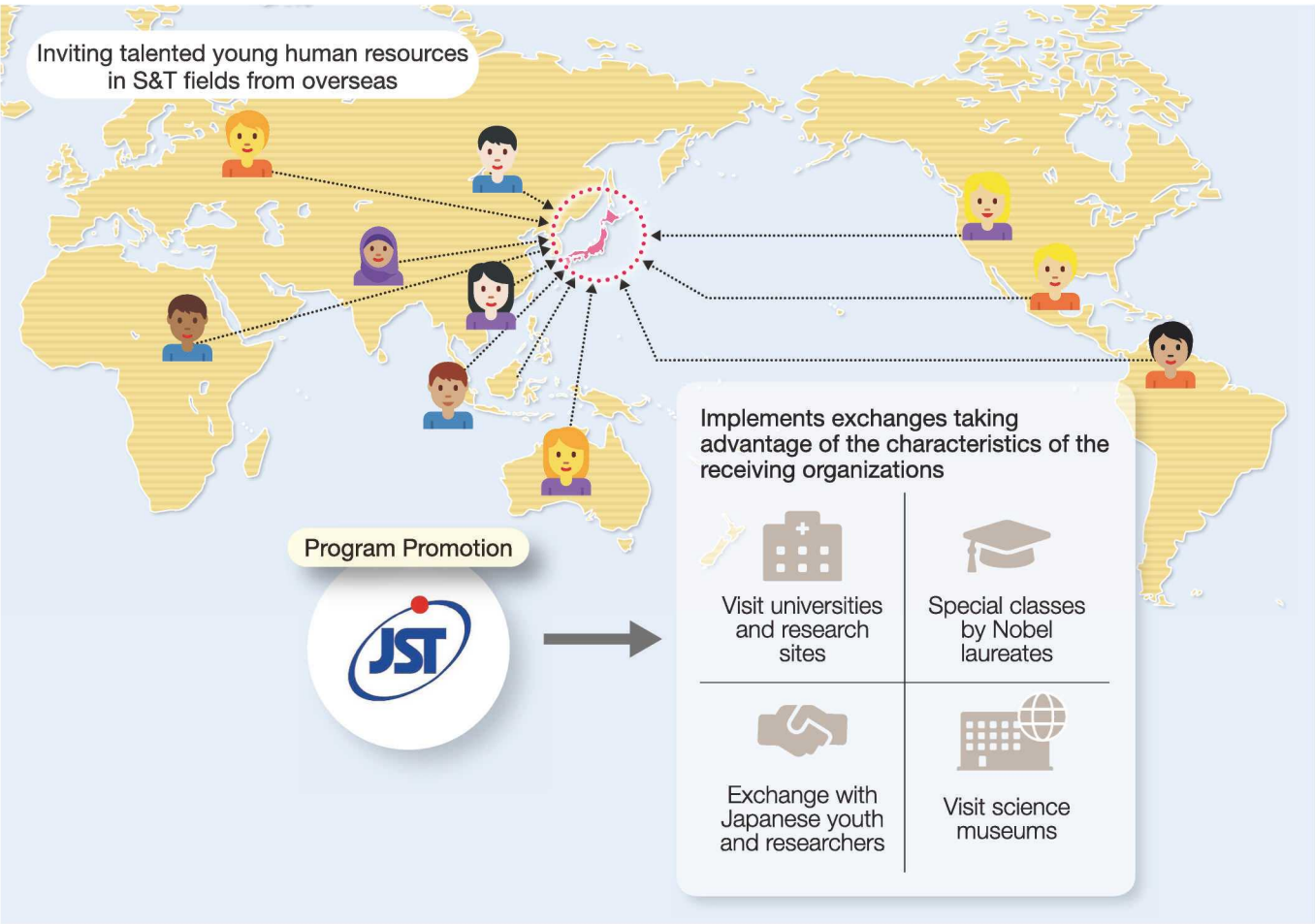
SAKURA SCIENCE Exchange Program

Sakura Science Exchange Program



Welcoming the world's talented youth for a new era of cooperation



Eligibility

- **Invited Countries and Regions: Generally, all countries and regions are eligible for invitation.**
- **Eligible persons: Students, researchers and others engaged in science and technology who are 40 years old and under.**
- **Eligible Fields: Exchanges in the fields of science and technology, including the humanities and social sciences**
- **Receiving Organizations: Educational and research institutes throughout Japan, companies, local governments, various organizations, and others**
- **Expenses: JST will provide the required expenses* (expenses of travel, sojourn, and others)**

*If a company is implementing as a receiving organization, only travel expenses would be provided.

Background and Purposes

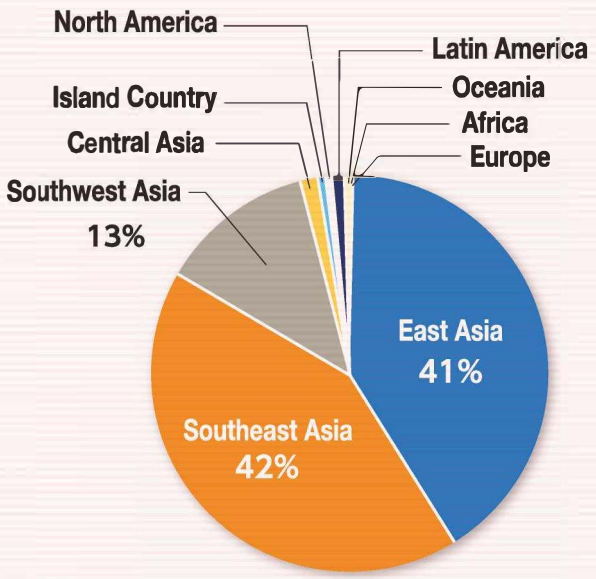
Countries share the future challenge of promoting research and development and transforming results into innovations. In 2014, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) started the "Sakura Science Program." Since then, the program has invited talented young foreign human resources for short-term visits to Japan, giving them the opportunity to experience both Japan's cutting-edge science and technology and culture.

Up to now we have invited more than 35,000 people.

The Sakura Science Program's objectives include:

- To support the development of talented human resources from overseas who have the potential to contribute to innovation in science and technology.
- To Accelerate the international brain cycle.
- To promote continuous collaboration, cooperation and interaction between Japanese educational and research institutes and overseas ones.
- To strengthen good relationship between Japan and other countries and regions that will help science and technology diplomacy.

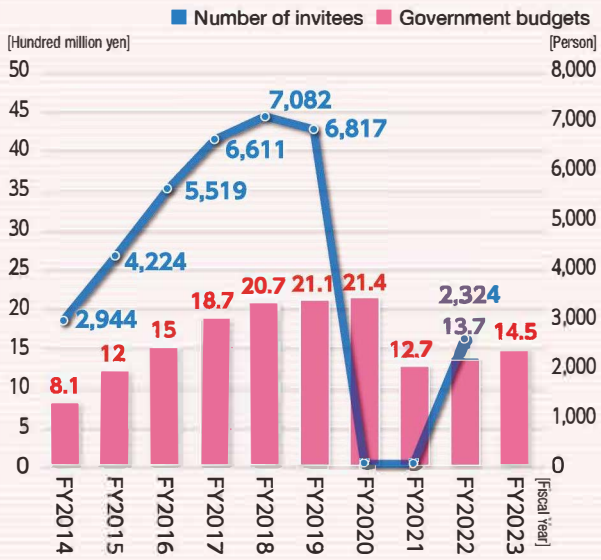
Breakdown of Invitees by Region



FY2014 to FY2022:
35,521 persons in total

Budget and Number of Invitees

Toward Recovery to Pre-COVID Levels



The number of invitees decreased in FY 2019 due to the COVID pandemic. In FY 2020, no invitations were sent overseas, but since FY 2022 this situation has been improving.

Contents of the Sakura Science Program

Open Application Invitation

Exchange plans prepared by Japanese receiving organizations and overseas sending organizations are publicly offered and adopted.
As of 2022, we have implemented **2,997** exchange programs and invited **28,889** people. * 1,690 organizations have sent young people, and 359 organizations in Japan have accepted them, which supports the expansion of grass-roots exchanges.)

1 Process to Implement a Program

Program preparation and application to JST by Foreign and Japanese organizations

▼

Program selection by JST through the SSP selection committee
Provision of expenses by JST

▼

The program begins!

2 Types of Open Application Invitation

A Science and Technology Experience Course
Experiences involving Japan's advanced science and technology
(In principle, participants stay in Japan for up to 7 days.)

B Collaborative Research Activity Course
Collaborative research topics, and conducting preliminary experiments, and others
(Participants stay in Japan for up to 21 days.)

C Science and Technology Training Course
Acquisition of cutting-edge technologies and capabilities in Japan
(Participants stay in Japan for up to 10 days.)

3 Application Period

Applications can be submitted by Japanese organizations at any time during the open application period. There are several deadlines within each fiscal year. Applications submitted by each deadline will be reviewed for selection in each application period.
Please refer to the website for the latest information.

https://ssp.jst.go.jp/en/program/

Example Implementation

Training on metabolite analysis technology for the utilization and application of rare plant resources in Mongolia (Graduate School of Agriculture, Osaka Metropolitan University, September 2022)

Students in Indonesian students are lerning about the current status and challenges of sustainable highly advanced medical technology (Faculty of Collaborative Regional Innovation, Ehime University, December 2022)

Direct Invitation

JST prepares distinctive programs and We invite outstanding high school students from overseas.
6,632 people had been invited as of the end of FY 2022.

SAKURA SCIENCE High School Program invites excellent high school students from foreign countries to provide them with an opportunity to learn about Japan's most advanced science and technology. For those students, various program contents are prepared.

- Participate in special classes given by Nobel laureates and other famous scientist
- Visit renowned universities and research institutions in Japan
- Exchange with Japanese high school students
- Visit mother country's embassy in Japan

SAKURA SCIENCE Supporters Program aims to invite stakeholders in science and technology field from overseas, and provides a deeper understanding of Japanese administration in science, technology, and education. We also implement academic exchanges between overseas and Japanese university officials.

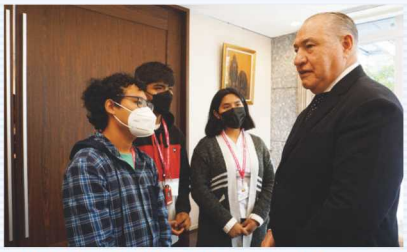
SAKURA SCIENCE High School Program: Lecture by Nobel Laureate Takaaki Kajita at Tokyo Metropolitan Tachikawa High School (December 2022)

SAKURA SCIENCE High School Program: Nepalese high school student working on an assignment with a Japanese high school student in a physics class (September 2022)

SAKURA SCIENCE Supporters Program: Japan-India University Exchange (January 2020)

SAKURA SCIENCE High School Program: High school students trying to handle micropipettes at the Kzusa DNA Research Institute (October 2022)

SAKURA SCIENCE High School Program: High school students listening to an introduction about research at the experiment room of the Kansha Laboratory at the University of Tokyo (September 2022)



SAKURA SCIENCE High School Program: Peruvian high school students pay a courtesy call on Roberto Seminario, the Ambassador of Peru in Japan (November 2022)

Online Exchanges

With the progress of digitalization, we are responding to new social and economic formats, and promoting online exchanges.

Open application online exchanges promote exchanges that take advantage of the benefits of being online.
We support new developments that are possible online, such as serial and ongoing implementations, providing opportunities for more youth, and deepening post-face-to-face exchanges.

A program using the communication tool oVice, which enables real-time casual conversations between multiple people in a virtual space (Metaverse) on the Internet (Osaka Institute of Technology, "Solving Issues Related to Society and Health for Asian People," June 2022).

A program for implementing experiments and workshops by connecting laboratories in Japan and China over the Internet (Tokyo University of Science, "Methodologies for Japanese-style Science Teacher Development Incorporating Active Learning," September 2022).

Effects of Sakura Science Program

Understanding and positive impression of Japan were heightened

99% of the invitees answered that they became more favorable toward Japan (questionnaire results).

Promotion of revisit to Japan by innovative human resources

A total of **2,593** excellent youngsters returned to Japan for study, research and so on.

Contribution to the globalization of the receiving organization

The receiving organizations answered in the questionnaire that the internationalization of the organization has been promoted and the organization became better known worldwide.

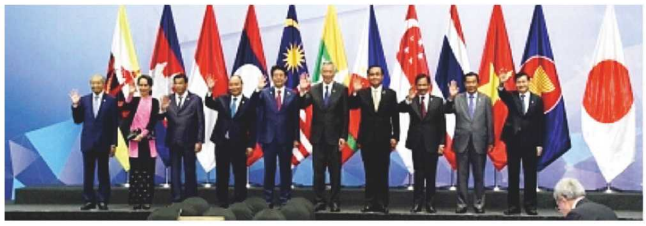
Commemorative photo with researchers holding certificates of completion for "Integrated understanding of zoonoses in Paraguay using next–generation sequencing technology" (Graduate School of Medicine, Chiba University, October 2022)

High school students from Malaysia experience calligraphy in the high school program (Chuo University Tama Campus, December 2022)

Effects in science and technology diplomacy

▸Sakura Science Program gained a high reputation and support from key persons in other countries, including Xi Jinping ((President of China), Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India), and Ranil Wickremesinghe (Prime Minister of Sri Lanka).

▸Expression of appreciation for the Sakura Science Program, an initiative to promote human interaction in Japan, during the chairperson's statement at the 21st Japan-ASEAN Summit (November 14, 2018)



21st Japan-ASEAN Summit (Source: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)

Building a Network in Sakura Science Club

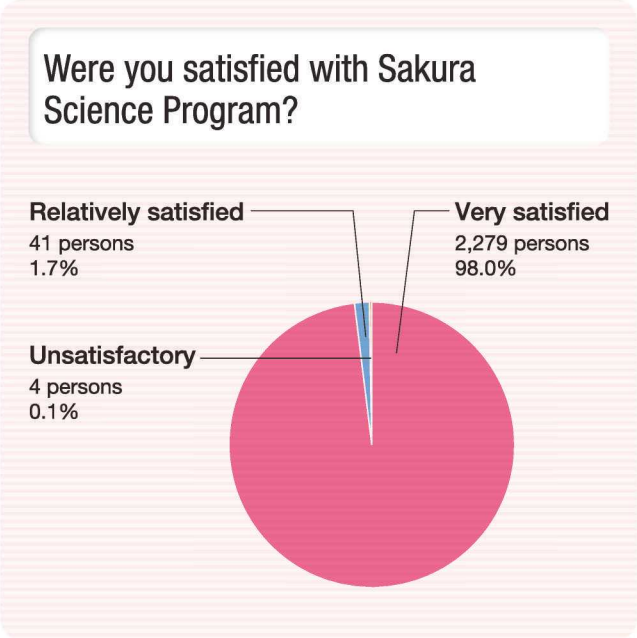
We are promoting information exchanges, such as information on studying in Japan, through the Sakura Science Club (37,515 members as of March 2023), an alumni organization of the Sakura Science Program.

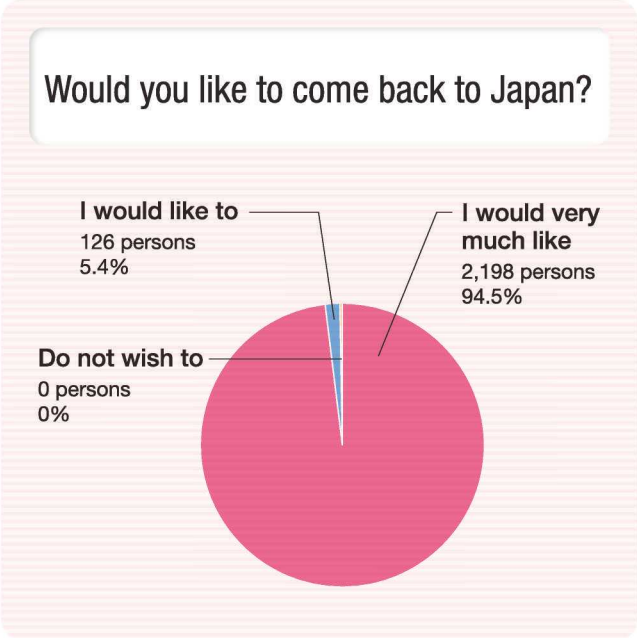
Please refer to our website for further details on activities.

India Sakura Science Club Alumni Association: Hybrid meeting connecting a secretariat group gathered at the JST India Liaison Office and SSC members (September, 2022). https://ssp.jst.go.jp/sns/top.html

Indonesia Alumni Association met in Jakarta for the first time in 3 years (December 2022)

Results of Participant Survey





"Survey targets: FY 2022 Open Application Program and High School Program (including leaders) Implementation method: Questionnaire form completed at end of program Number of respondents: 2,324"

The supporters' network for Sakura Science Program is expanding
(Sakura Science Program Supporter)

Nobel laureates have been strong and influential supporters to SSP, and sharing that they expect SSP to continue for the future of science and technology in Japan and other countries.

Esaki Leo	Nobel Prize in Physics in 1973
Tonegawa Susumu	Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1987
Shirakawa Hideki	Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2000
Noyori Ryoji	Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2001
Tanaka Koichi	Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2002
Kobayashi Makoto	Nobel Prize in Physics in 2008
Suzuki Akira	Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2010
Yamanaka Shinya	Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2012

Amano Hiroshi	Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014
Nakamura Shuji	Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014
Omura Satoshi	Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2015
Kajita Takaaki	Nobel Prize in Physics in 2015
Osumi Yoshinori	Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2016
Honjo Tasuku	Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2018
Manabe Syukuro	Nobel Prize in Physics in 2021

In addition, academia, industries, ambassadors in Japan from the eligible countries/regions and parliamentary associations for the friendship between Japan and the countries/regions.

SAKURA SCIENCE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

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Sakura Science Exchange Program Website

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