



April 19, 2021

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
5-3, Yonbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

JST to fund two Belmont Forum research projects as a part of Towards Sustainability of Soils & Groundwater for Society Collaborative Research Action

The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) has decided to fund two Belmont Forum¹ projects as a part of the Towards Sustainability of Soils & Groundwater for Society Collaborative Research Action (CRA²) (Appendix 1).

JST participated in this CRA with seven funding agencies from seven countries and regions (Appendix 2) which saw 2 projects awarded funding out of 6 proposals involving Japan-based researchers (6 out of 17 in total when including proposals without Japan-based researchers) under the theme of Towards Sustainability of Soils & Groundwater for Society (Appendix 3) after an evaluation by a panel of experts (Appendix 4).

The research period for the awarded projects is expected to be three years.

- 1) The Belmont Forum (established in 2009) is a group of funding organizations in the world's major and emerging countries of global environmental change research. It aims to accelerate delivery of the environmental research needed to remove critical barriers to sustainability by aligning and mobilizing international resources.

Belmont Forum website: <https://www.belmontforum.org/>

- 2) Collaborative Research Actions (CRAs) are multilateral Belmont Forum joint calls for proposals programs which are implemented collectively by the Belmont Forum member funding agencies.

Appendices

Appendix 1 : List of Awarded Projects

Appendix 2 : List of Participating Funding Agencies

Appendix 3 : Call Text Outline

Appendix 4 : List of Japanese Experts

Contact

Department of International Affairs

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

SATO Masaki

K's Gobancho, 7 Gobancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0076

Tel: +81-3-5214-7375

E-mail: [belmont\[at\]jst.go.jp](mailto:belmont[at]jst.go.jp)

List of Awarded Projects

#	Project Title	Principal Investigators	Position and Institution	Project Abstract
1	Biosphere and Land Use Exchanges with Groundwater and soils in Earth system Models (BLUEGEM)	Hyungjun Kim (Japan)	Project Associate Professor, The University of Tokyo	This project aims to combine global and local coupled human-nature system modeling approaches with social and economic methods to explore links between groundwater, climate change and human activities over long times scales. Simulations incorporating human activity such as irrigation and other land use, groundwater levels and other factors will be conducted while taking into account social factors through the involvement of local stakeholders.
<u>Agnes Ducharne</u> (France)	Senior Scientist, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)			
Pierre-Alain Jayet (France)	Research Director, French National Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment			
Daniel Kramer (United States)	Professor, Michigan State University			
Yadu Pokhrel (United States)	Professor, Michigan State University			
Min-Hui Lo (Taiwan)	Associate Professor, National Taiwan University			

#	Project Title	Principal Investigators	Position and Institution	Project Abstract
2	Abandonment and rebound: Societal views on landscape- and land-use change and their impacts on water and soils (ABRESO)	SHIBATA Hideaki (Japan)	Professor, Hokkaido University	This project aims to explore actual and perceived effects on soil and water sustainability in a context of land abandonment by combining long-term biogeochemical data set analyses with research involving local stakeholders in multiple regions. By achieving a better understanding of the relationship between landscapes in transition, management and socio-cultural changes, the findings of this project will help inform land management strategies.
		<u>Tim White</u> (United States)	Research Professor, Pennsylvania State University	
		Philippe Le Coent (France)	Researcher, French Geological Survey (BRGM)	
		Maddalena Pennisi (Italy)	Senior Researcher, National Research Council (CNR)	
		Jr-Chuan Huang (Taiwan)	Professor, National Taiwan University	

* The underlined name is the project consortium lead.

List of Participating Funding Agencies

Country or Region	Funding Agency
Japan	Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
United States	National Science Foundation (NSF)
France	National Research Agency (ANR)
Italy	National Research Council of Italy (CNR)
Qatar	Qatar National Research Foundation (QNRF)
Russia	Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR)
Saudi Arabia	King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)
Taiwan	Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

Call Text Outline

(1) Proposal field application requirements:

In addition to the Japanese team, the project consortium must include members from a minimum of two different countries or regions listed as participating in the call.

(2) Applicant eligibility (JST side):

Any independent researcher personally affiliated with (and actively conducting research at) a domestic Japanese research institution, regardless of nationality, is eligible to apply.

(3) Research period:

3 years

(4) Amount of funding (JST):

Up to 30 million yen from JST to the researchers (Japanese team) per project over 3 years, inclusive of overhead costs (10 percent of direct costs).

(5) Evaluation method:

Based on evaluation by independent experts nominated by each of the participating funding agencies of the call, including Japan, as well as discussion by JST and the participating funding agencies.

(6) Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Scientific quality and intellectual merit
- 2) Broader societal impacts and user engagement
- 3) Quality of the consortium and transdisciplinarity
- 4) Resources and management

List of Japanese Experts

Name	Position and Institution	Role
KAIDA Naoko	Associate Professor, Tsukuba University	Advisor
WADA Yoshihide	Program Director, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis	Advisor