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Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
5-3, Yonbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8666

JST to fund three research projects under the Adopting Sustainable Partnerships for Innovative Research Ecosystem (ASPIRE) Program

The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST, President HASHIMOTO Kazuhito) has approved funding for three new research projects from the Global Centers (GC) and ASPIRE's U.S.-Japan Joint Research Call in Bioeconomy.

ASPIRE program aims to maintain and improve Japan's scientific and technological capabilities by connecting top researchers in Japan and advanced STI countries and regions through international joint research and talent circulation. The program focuses on promoting cutting edge R&D, fostering and mobilizing the next generation of research leaders.

This call for proposals has been conducted as part of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) GC initiative to support international joint research with the United States and its partner countries* to solve global-scale problems. The GC called for bilateral or multilateral cutting-edge, exit-oriented collaborative research with a view to social implementation, and the funding agency in each country provides support to researchers in that country.

*Japan, Canada, Finland, Republic of Korea, UK

The research period is planned to be five years (60 months).

Attachments

Appendix 1. List of the Funded Projects
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Inquiries

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Appendix 1

List of the Funded Projects

	Project Title	Affiliation of the Japan-side Principal Investigator
		Research Partner Countries
1	Reliable and Scalable Biofoundries for Biomanufacturing and Global Bioeconomy	Graduate School of Science, Technology and Innovation, Kobe University
		USA UK Finland Republic of Korea
2	International Research Center for Enhancing Plant Resilience	Center for Sustainable Resource Science, RIKEN
		USA UK Canada Republic of Korea
3	Alliance for Socially-Acceptable & Actionable Plants	Graduate School of Sciences and Technology for Innovation, Yamaguchi University
		USA UK Finland

Appendix 2

Experts for the Evaluation (Japan)

Name	Affiliation	Role
MIYANO Kenjiro	Emeritus Fellow, National Institute for Materials Science	Program Director
SHIMIZU Hiroshi	Professor, Osaka University	Program Officer
ATOMI Haruyuki	Professor, Kyoto University	Advisor
HONDA Hiroyuki	Professor, Nagoya University	Advisor
OGINO Chiaki	Professor, Kobe University	Advisor
SHIRAI Tomokazu	Senior Scientist, RIKEN	Advisor
TAMAKI Hideyuki	Group Leader, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology	Advisor

Annex

Evaluation Criteria (Japan)

(1) Relevance and diversity of the research system	・Does the research team have a well-balanced composition of expertise, given the objectives of the proposal?
(2) Qualification of the PIs of the research team in Japan and in the partner country	・Does the PI have sufficient ability to manage the research? ・Does the PI have sufficient research achievements to have potential to join the international top research community, or can be deemed to already be a part of it as shown by high level research achievements? ・Does the PI have enough experience of promoting early career researchers through international talent circulation, etc.? ・Do the PI and team have sufficient qualifications, research facilities, and resources (funds, human and material resources, etc.) to carry out the research activities in accordance with the proposal and purpose of this call?
(3) Relevance and quality of the research content and plan	・Are the proposed research activities of a high standard in the research field/area concerned? ・Is the proposed research plan expected to lead to research of an international top-level standard? ・Are synergy effects expected from conducting international joint research as a part of this project?
(4) Concreteness and relevance of plans for building and expanding international networks	・Has the target international top research community been clearly defined and does it match the purpose of this call? ・Has an appropriate, concrete, and feasible plan been formulated for the purpose of building, enabling participation in, and developing a top international research community? ・Is there sufficient budget for building and expanding the international network, and is there an appropriate budget plan?
(5) Concreteness and feasibility of plans for promoting early career researchers and researcher mobility	・Are appropriate goals set for fostering early career researchers through international mobility activities? ・Are there plans to involve a sufficient number of early career researchers? ・Is an effective developing plan for the early career researchers considered and is the plan suitable for fostering the next generation of top researchers? ・Are the roles and length of stay for the outgoing researcher(s) clearly described and appropriate? Is the hosting research institution appropriate and able to sufficiently accommodate the outgoing researcher(s)?

	・Is the exchange plan feasible, with concrete preparations made involving sufficient coordination with the involved parties in Japan and partner country or countries? ・Is the budget sufficiently allocated for promoting early career researchers, and is the budget plan appropriate?