

(Background) In the middle of intensifying competition for securing the world's finest brains, Japan needs to more proactively place itself within the global flow of outstanding human resources while creating open research platforms that attract them from around the world.

(Concept) **By achieving a very high research standard and providing an excellent research environment**, the centers should be **"globally visible research centers"**.

Required Challenges

- Attractive research environment and operation of **top international standard**
 - **English as the primary language**
 - Highly effective **leadership** of a center director
 - **Environment in which researchers can devote themselves exclusively to their research** by adequate staff support etc.

- **Critical mass** of outstanding researchers
- **Secure additional resources** more than the amount of the project grant



Images of a WPI center

- 100-200 members in total including researchers(70~members for WPI Focus)
- At least 10-20 world-class principal investigators(7PIs~ for WPI Focus)
- **At least 30% of the researchers are from overseas at all times.**

Support Contents

Research field: a field of basic research Implementation period: 10-15 years
 Project grant for each (per year) : ¥1.3-1.4 billion (~ ¥700 million for "WPI Focus")
 Follow-up procedure: WPI Program Committee conducts follow-up activities on progress being made by the WPI centers with an eye to developing them into "highly visible research centers."

Promoting establishment of later 4 centers

- Promote steady establishment of I²CNER by follow-up and supporting the progress strictly.
- Accelerate the establishment of 3 WPI Focus centers (IIS : Univ. of Tsukuba, ELSI : Tokyo Tech Univ., ITbM : Nagoya Univ.)
- Differentiation and new challenges toward world's top institutions.

WPI Centers

ITbM (adopted in 2012)
Institute of Transformative Bio-Molecules, Nagoya U
Director: Kenichiro Itami

AIMR (adopted in 2007)
Advanced Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku U
Director: Motoko Kotani

iCeMS (adopted in 2007)
Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences, Kyoto U
Director: Susumu Kitagawa

IIS (adopted in 2012)
International Institute for Integrative Sleep Medicine, U of Tsukuba
Director: Masashi Yanagisawa

MANA (adopted in 2007)
International Center for Materials Nanoarchitectonics, NIMS
Director: Masakazu Aono

Kavli IPMU (adopted in 2007)
Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, U of Tokyo
Director: Hitoshi Murayama

IFReC (adopted in 2007)
Immunology Frontier Research Center, Osaka U
Director: Shizuo Akira

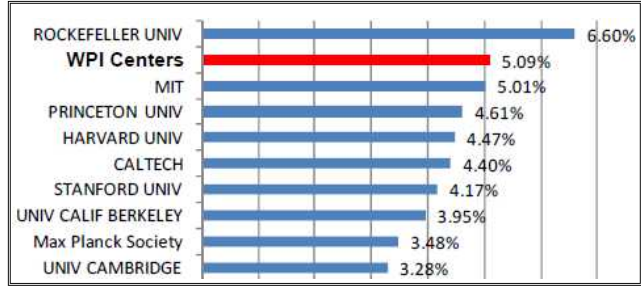
I²CNER (adopted in 2010)
International Institute for Carbon-Neutral Energy Research, Kyushu U
Director: Petros Sofronis

ELSI (adopted in 2012)
Earth-Life Science Institute, Tokyo Tech
Director: Kei Hirose

Steady support for making an achievement of former 5 centers

- Each center has established critical mass of top-level researchers from around the world and **about 40% researchers are from overseas**. English is naturally used as the primary language.
- By filling positions of young postdoctoral researchers through open international solicitations and so on, **the centers have been "globally visible research centers"**.
- WPI centers **produce quality papers** on par with top institutions.

■ Productivity of "Citation Top 1% of papers"



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