

Regarding the Establishment of Overseas World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI) Satellites

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WPI Program Committee

At the last WPI Program Committee meeting, the issue of overseas satellites was raised, in particular whether researchers' activities at overseas satellites can be justified without coming to WPI centers in Japan. To follow up, the committee reconfirmed the objectives of establishing overseas satellites and set a clear understanding for their establishment.

1. Objectives for Establishing Satellites

The role expected for overseas satellites is to strengthen and complement the capability of WPI centers as a whole through mutual collaboration with foreign institutions and researcher exchange thereof. The satellites would provide a conduit for attracting excellent overseas researchers to the WPI centers and thus raise their "global visibility" within the international scientific community.

2. Basic Understanding for Establishing Satellites

Reflecting on the WPI objectives, the following points should be taken into consideration when establishing overseas satellites.

- (1) An agreement should be concluded with the counterpart institutions, that stipulates the satellite's function within the WPI project. Various mutual collaboration modalities with the counterpart institutions, including financing, could be explored and articulated in these agreements.
- (2) Intellectual property rights should be clearly articulated in the agreement above (e.g., results produced by an individual researcher; shared results produced by collaborative research).
- (3) Regarding financial outlay to the satellites, it should be clearly shown that funds outlaid to satellites from the WPI grant do not exceed an amount accountable in line with the WPI objectives.
- (4) The excellent researchers at the overseas satellite, who participate in the WPI project, should come to Japan to engage in research activities at the WPI centers as well.
- (5) The satellites are expected to promote publicity of WPI.
- (6) Result of collaboration such as numbers of joint papers and researcher exchange should be reported to the Program Committee annually.