

World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI) FY2017 Application Guidelines

1. Purpose of program

To elevate the level of science and technology in Japan and continuously trigger innovation that serves as an engine for future growth, it will be necessary to boost the nation's basic research capabilities while strengthening its global competitiveness. To this end, Japan needs to create research centers in which world's finest brains gather, outstanding research results are generated, and talented young researchers are fostered. These centers should be highly innovative in both their concepts and practices, unfettered by conventional thinking.

This program provides priority support for proposals aimed at creating world premier international research centers with a clear identity, which are staffed at their core with the world's most leading researchers. By achieving a very high research standard and providing an excellent research environment, the centers should be "globally visible research centers," capable of attracting top-level researchers from around the world.

To this end, the program intends to provide financial support for the measures aimed at physically assembling outstanding researchers and realizing a research environment free of conventional systemic constraints. Accordingly, this program is of a completely different nature from the usual research-funding programs operated mainly to provide support for research projects. For the center's research projects, additional resources must be secured separately by the center and its researchers. This time, the WPI program will select two center projects aimed at creating world premier international research centers. In addition to the existing foundational concepts of the WPI program, this solicitation will place new emphasis on the creation of the center and the organization reform of its host institution being synchronized, carried out simultaneously.

2. Eligible applicants

Host institutions (core institutions seeking to build a world premier international research center) that are qualified for WPI support:

Universities

Inter-university research institutes

National Research and Development Agency

Public interest corporations (PICs)

(The institutions already selected under this program in FY 2010 or 2012 are not eligible to apply.)

3. Number of awards:

Two

4. Implementation period

10 years. An interim evaluation will be carried out 5 years after the project starts and a final evaluation 10 years after. The project may be revised or terminated early depending on the results of the interim evaluation. In addition, the host institution will be evaluated with regards to how it is carrying out a concrete plan to secure the financial autonomy of the WPI center for remaining 5 years of grant period (from 6th to 10th year).

5. Concepts and requirements of eligible projects

To be eligible, proposals must place importance on “people” (e.g., researchers and staff) while providing a 10-year plan for establishing an international research center under a consistent mid and long-term vision of the center’s director. Proposed projects must satisfy the following (1)-(8) requirements, providing a clear description of the steps and timetables to meet them.

However, applications that in practice merely extend the period of existing WPI centers will not be accepted.

(1) Research field

Focus is placed on basic research (including fields that seek to transfer basic research to application). In principle, the research should fuse cutting-edge fields in ways that can be expected to create new, future domains.

The characteristics sought in the subject research fields are (i) fields in which Japan’s expertise can excel, (ii) challenging fields that can be expected to solve world-level scientific and/or technological issues and that have international appeal, and (iii) fields that can be expected to remain relevant over the relatively long period of 10 years and that retain a top world-level standing by perpetually and strategically challenging the creation of new domains.

In establishing new domains, the main fields to be fused should be indicated. In creating new science by fusing fields, the expected role to be played by mathematics and information science should also be indicated. Social science and humanities domains may be included within the project to the extent that they contribute to its advancement and/or are necessary to make the research results applicable to society.

(2) Research objectives

The research objectives to be achieved by the end of the grant period (in 10 years) should be set and articulated in an easily understandable manner so as to clearly convey the focus of the center’s research to the public and to project its image as a globally visible center both in Japan and abroad.

In describing the objectives, the following should be articulated in an easily understandable manner: What kind of research area do you plan to open up by, for example, fusing various fields? In that process, what world-level scientific and/or technological issues are sought to be

solved? What is the expected impact of the scientific advances to be achieved on society in the future?

(3) Project management

For the research center to reach a truly top world level, it will be essential for it to establish a highly effective management system. Essential to this will be having a center director and supporting administrative staff who can devote full time to recruiting highly qualified researchers and personnel, reforming systems and carrying out other operational functions. As the center's "face" and the person who gives the center an attractive persona within the international community, the director should be an especially distinguished researcher in the subject field, who is capable over his/her 10-year tenure in this position of exercising highly effective leadership and of inviting outstanding researchers to the center from around the world. To provide the director with strong administrative and managerial support, an administrative director is to be appointed to perform such tasks as maintaining an environment in which researchers can comfortably advance their work.

To enable flexible and swift decisions with regard to the center's management and operation, the center director should be given wide decision-making authority, except for final decisions on hiring or dismissing the center director.

(4) Researchers and other center staff

To be "globally visible," the research center will need to have a physical concentration (or core) of researchers of a certain scale, one that possesses a high research level. This new core should be established within the host institution. Regarding staffing, the core should use the followings as a yardstick taking into account the examples of other internationally renowned research centers:

- a. At least 7-10 world-class principal investigators (full professors, associate professors or others of comparable standing), at least 20% of whom are foreign researchers invited from abroad, while the remainder come from within the host institutions or are invited from other Japanese institutions.
- b. A total of at least 70-100 staff members as a target, including young postdoctoral researchers, research support staffs, and administrative employees.
- c. At all times, at least 30% of the researchers should be from overseas, including those on short stays.
- d. At least half of the principal investigators who form the core should rank among the world's top researchers as measured by, for example, the following indicators:
 - i) International influence; e.g., a) guest speaker, chair, director, or honorary member of a major international academic society in the subject field, b) hold a prestigious lectureship,

- c) member of a scholarly academy in a major country, d) recipient of an international award, e) editor of an influential journal
- ii) Receipt of large-scale competitive funding
- iii) Number of paper citations

With such a core as the center's nucleus, it should be possible to strengthen and expand the center's overall capability by forming organic linkages with other domestic and/or overseas institutions, including arrangements for efficient joint use of facilities and equipment, accomplished by such means as setting up satellite functions.

(5) Research Environment

To ensure that top-caliber researchers from around the world can work comfortably in carrying out their research within a competitive international environment, measures such as following should be taken:

- a. Provide an environment in which researchers can work comfortably on their research by exempting them from duties other than research and related educational activities, and providing them with adequate staff support to handle paperwork and other administrative functions. Consideration should be given and arrangements made for researchers to participate in the education of graduate students.
- b. Provide startup research funding as necessary to ensure that top-caliber researchers invited to the center do not upon arrival lose momentum in vigorously pursuing their work out of concern over the need to apply immediately for competitive grants.
- c. As a rule, fill postdoctoral positions through open international solicitations.
- d. Establish English as the primary language for work-related communication, and appoint administrative personnel who can facilitate the use of English in the work process.
- e. Adopt a rigorous system for evaluating research and a system of merit-based compensation. (For example, institute a merit-based annual salary system)
- f. Provide equipment and facilities, including laboratory space, appropriate to a top world-level research center.
- g. Hold international research conferences or symposiums regularly (at least once a year) to bring the world's leading researchers together at the center.

(6) Indicators for evaluating a center's global standing

The project proposal should provide appropriate indicators, including criteria and methods, for evaluating the center's global standing in the subject field. Based on those indicators, an evaluation should be made of where the center ranks at the beginning of the grant period vis-à-vis other global research centers, and concrete goals should be set for achieving the project objectives during the grant period.

(7) Securing research funding

To support the center's operations and its research activities, additional resources that match or exceed the amount of the project grant should be secured.

Resource examples: competitive funding obtained by the center's researchers, in-kind contributions and other forms of assistance by the host institution (including partial payment of salaries, provision of research space), external donations.

(8) Establishing a center together with the organizational restructuring.

This solicitation seeks proposals for the establishment of new centers, ones that will advance the synchronization of WPI support with the reform of the host institution's existing organization. Accordingly, the host institution should be fully consulted when preparing the center project proposal; and within limits of feasibility, areas of synchronized organizational reform should be concretely indicated.

An example of such reform would be the systematic redistribution of posts to the new center by such means as adjusting or integrating existing organizations or systems of the host institution based on a mid-to-long term strategic operational plan. Others would be to assist in the quick startup of the center by such means as providing it with a research space by adjusting the host institution's research activities, or to propose ways for the host institution to secure the stable operation of the center after the WPI grant period ends.

6. Host institution's commitment

For the center to achieve truly top world status, the host institution must clearly define the center's role within its own mid-to-long-term strategy and provide it comprehensive support accordingly.

When applying for the grant, the host institution should describe its commitment with respect to the following in concrete terms:

- (1) Supporting the center by providing necessary funding for its operation and research activities (by securing resources that match or exceed the amount of the WPI project grant).
- (2) Providing a basic policy for determining a mid-to-long term plan on the direction of the host institution's organization and operation, one that includes the reforming of the institution's existing organizations in ways that will create a permanent place for the center within it and the setting of a concrete schedule for restructuring those organizations.
- (3) Providing sufficient support for the center to sustain it as a top world-level institute after the WPI-funded project period ends.

- (4) Providing a system that will in practice allow the center director to make decisions in implementing the center project, including personnel and budgets, and that will secure the autonomy of its operation.
- (5) institution when recruiting researchers and creating an effective environment for the center, while giving reasonable regard to the educational and research activities of those departments.
- (6) Offering cooperation in flexibly applying, revising, or supplementing the host institution's internal systems as needed for the center to effectively implement new management methods unfettered by conventional modes of operation (e.g., English-language environment, merit-based pay, top-down decision making, linkage to graduate school education).
- (7) Securing, providing and delivering the necessary infrastructure for the center to carry out its activities (e.g., research space, facilities, land).
- (8) Providing other types of assistance to give the center maximum support in achieving its concepts and objectives and in becoming a world premier international research center in both name and deed.
- (9) Host institution is to self-evaluate the results of the system reforms achieved by the center and distribute them to other departments.

7. Formulating project proposals

Based on the center project plan devised by the center's director candidate, the head of the host institution (e.g., university president, chief director) is to prepare a project proposal along with a plan articulating in specific terms the host institution's commitment as described in section 6 above, and submit it jointly signed with the center's director candidate. Inasmuch as funding under this program will be provided in the form of an institutional grant to the host institution, its head has final responsibility for implementing the entire project. The proposal should not be limited to activities supported by this program grant but should be both comprehensive and long-term in scope covering independent initiatives taken by the center, host institution, and partner institutions and include activities to be conducted after the grant period has ended.

When preparing their project proposals, applicants should also draw up a concrete plan detailing those aspects of center operations deemed eligible for appropriations under the program grant (hereafter referred to as "Appropriations Plan").

In responding to an open call for proposals, only one application may be submitted by each host institution.

8. Expenditures

- (1) As for preparing the Appropriations Plan, the expense needed to be appropriated from this grant in the expense required to realize the center project will be up to 700 million yen each fiscal year as a standard.

- (2) As a rule, grant funds provided under this program may be used only for the categories of expenditures described in Attachment 1.
- (3) Funding necessary to implement the Appropriations Plan will be provided approximately 700 million yen in principle each fiscal year from MEXT as the WPI grant. (From the sixth year of a project's implementation, the size of its budgetary support will by way of policy be reduced each year as the centers make progress toward becoming financially autonomous. However, full consideration will be given to the results of the centers' fifth-year interim evaluation and the host institutions' efforts toward securing the autonomy of the centers in determining funding allocations. For extraordinarily outstanding centers, the amount of project funding may be adjusted with special consideration. Furthermore, the final amount of project budgets may be adjusted based on the state of each fiscal year's WPI program budget.)

This call for proposals will be valid if the budget for the FY2017 program is given the Diet's final approval.

9. Selection of institutions

(1) Review process

MEXT shall establish a WPI Program Committee (hereafter referred to as the "Program Committee"), made up of experts, including overseas specialists, from outside the ministry. The Program Committee will select the awardees via a three-stage screening process comprising a two-tier review of documents submitted application materials and a hearing with the center director candidate and the head of the host institution. Details on the screening process, evaluation items and screening criteria are provided separately in the review guidelines.

(2) Evaluation items and criteria

a. Proposal content

- Does the proposed center project meet all the requirements stipulated in section 5 above, and are its contents appropriate?
- Does the commitment provided by the host institution meet all the requirements stipulated in section 6 above, and are its contents appropriate?
- Can efforts to sustain the center as a world premier international research center be expected after program funding ends?
- Does the scheme and concept for building a world premier international research center have the power to attract top-caliber researchers from around the world?

b. Ripple effect

- Does the proposed center project have trailblazing components that other departments of the host institution and/or other research institutions can refer to when attempting to build their own world premier international research centers?

c. Funding plan

- Is the proposed Appropriations Plan (including the plan for existing center-building efforts) reasonable, and does it reflect efforts toward achieving a cost-effective operation?

- (3) Selection of projects may be accompanied by recommendations for improving the project proposal, including the Appropriations Plan and/or the host institution's commitment, based on opinions expressed by the Program Committee members and other authorities.

10. Implementation

- (1) Selected host institutions shall revise their project proposals, when required, based on the recommendations described in section 9 (3) above, and submit their revised proposal together with a Japanese version to MEXT. After review, MEXT may recommend further revisions.
- (2) The host institution is to compile annual reports on the progress of the project's implementation and its use of the grant funds, and submit it to MEXT.
- (3) MEXT will assign a program director (and deputy program director) to oversee the entire program and program officers as the chief examiners for each project and will establish under the Program Committee working groups of experts who will review the reports described in paragraph (2) above and conduct site visits to verify the progress of the center project. Should any aspect of the project's implementation, including the host institution's commitment, be deemed inadequate relative to the materials submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) above, MEXT will request the head of host institution and the center director to take necessary corrective measures.
- (4) From the standpoint of accountability to the public and society, in addition to the regular conducting of outreach activity, a meeting to explain the results of the project to the general public is to be held during the fiscal year that the post-project evaluation is conducted.
- (5) Should a need arise to make a change in the important elements of the project (items required in the Grant-decision Notice as stipulated in Section 6.1 of the Funding Guidelines for World Premier International Research Center Initiative), the center director and the head of host institution shall promptly apply to MEXT, the program director, deputy program director, and assigned program officer for approval to make the change. MEXT will refer requests for changes to the Program Committee if necessary, and approve them only after verifying that they conform to the selection criteria stipulated in section 9 above.

In the event of any other changes in the project proposal, including the Appropriations Plan and the host institution's commitment, the chief center-project officer and chief entire-project officer shall report them to MEXT promptly.

11. Application process

Application method of this program is to be announced on MEXT's homepage by early March.

http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kagaku/toplevel/

12. Important notices

(1) Important notices regarding grant execution

a. Implementation and management of grant projects

Proper accounting and other financial management practices must be applied in the use of this grant, in conformance with such statutes as the Law for the Fair Execution of Budgets Appropriated for Subsidies and Other Grants and the Order for the Enforcement of the Law for the Fair Execution of Budgets Appropriated for Subsidies and Other Grants.

Accounting for the project shall be clearly separated from other accounts, with items of income and expenditure recorded in an accounting ledger and supported by documentation. The ledger and supporting documents shall be retained by the grantee for a period of 5 years from the year following the fiscal year in which each subsidy is received.

When equipment is purchased with grant funds, it is to be managed and maintained by a capable manager. Care should be taken to use the equipment efficiently in line with the purpose of the grant, not only for the duration of the project but after it ends, on the grounds that it has been purchased with grant funds allocated from the national treasury.

b. Actions against misuse of grant funds

Should misuse or other inappropriate behavior be found to have occurred with regard to the grant funds, MEXT will require that all or part of the grant be refunded and will restrict the researcher(s) involved from participating in the WPI program for a given period of time, as indicated below.

- i) In the event of grant misuse: suspension for a period of 2 years from the year following the fiscal year that a refund is demanded, except for case (ii) below.
- ii) In the event that grant is misused or misappropriation for purposes other than the project: suspension for a period of 2-5 years from the year following the fiscal year that a refund is demanded, as deemed appropriate given the substance and circumstances of the violation.

- c. System operation within research institution based on “Guidelines on the Managing and Audit of Public Research Funds at Research Institutions (Implementation Standards)”

When applying for a grant and implementing a research project under this program, the research institution must comply with the provisions of “Guidelines on the Managing and Audit of Public Research Funds at Research Institutions (Implementation Standards) (*1)” (Revised on February 18, 2014).

Research institutions must establish a management and auditing system for public research funds, and strive to properly execute those funds.

When, as a result of an investigation carried out under these Guidelines, MEXT finds inadequacies in the state of an institution’s funds-management system, it may reduce its indirect funding or take other measures.

(*1) Please refer following website for the “Guidelines on the Managing and Audit of Public Research Funds at Research Institutions (Implementation Standards)”

http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1343904.htm

- d. Submission of a “Self-Assessment Checklist on the Improvement of the System and Other Matters,” based on the “Guidelines on the Managing and Audit of Public Research Funds at Research Institutions (Implementation Standard)”

When contracting for this program, each research institution is required to establish its own financial management and auditing system based on the above-titled guidelines and to submit the report Self-Assessment Checklist on the Improvement of the System and Other Matters (hereafter called the “Check List”) to MEXT on its implementation status. If the Check List is not submitted, the project’s implementation will not be recognized.

The Check List must be submitted by the research institution to MEXT’s Office of Research Funding Administration of the Promotion Policy Division of the Research Promotion Bureau by Tuesday, 4 April 2017 via the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad). If the Check List was already submitted in or after April 2016 when applying for other funding, a new one does not need to be submitted for this program.

For the format for filling out the Check List and for further details, see the following MEXT website: http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1301688.htm

Note: To submit the Check List, it is first necessary for the research institution to register onto the e-Rad system. If it hasn’t already done so, it should start the process right away. (It usually takes about two weeks to complete the

registration process. For detailed information on e-Rad system usage, please see the following website.)

<http://www.e-rad.go.jp/shozoku/system/index.html>

After the Check List has been submitted, MEXT (including the funding agency) may, when deemed necessary, conduct a site inspection of the center's fund management/audit system, in which case your cooperation is requested. In the Check List, there are items specified as required by notice of the Director General Science and Technology Policy Bureau, MEXT (dated May 31, 2007). If problems related to those items are not properly or fully resolved by the center, its project funding may be cancelled.

- e. Establishing countermeasures for research misconduct based on the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research"

When applying for a grant and/or implementing a research project under this program, the research institutions must follow the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research" (Adopted by MEXT on 26 August 2014) (*2)

When, as a result of an investigation carried out under these Guidelines, MEXT finds inadequacies in the state of an institution's funds-management system, it may reduce its indirect funding or take other measures.

(*2) Please refer following website for the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research"

http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/26/08/1351568.htm

- f. Submission of "Checklist Pertaining to the Current Status" based on the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research"

When contracting with MEXT for a project under this program, each research institution is required to submit a Checklist Pertaining to the Current Status of its research misconduct countermeasures based on the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research" (hereafter called the "Misconduct Check List") to MEXT. If this Check List is not submitted, the project's implementation will not be recognized. Accordingly, research institutions need to submit the "Misconduct Check List" to MEXT's Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Knowledge Infrastructure Policy Division, Office for Promotion of Correct Research by 4 April 2017 using the e-Rad system. If the Check List was already submitted in or after July 2016 when applying for other funding, a new one does not need to be submitted for this program.

For the format for filling out the Misconduct Check List and further details, please see the following MEXT website:

http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1374697.htm

- g. Measures against misconduct in research based on the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research”

Should misconduct in research (fabrication, falsification, plagiarism) be found to exist at a WPI center, MEXT will enact strict penalties against the center, as indicated below.

- (i) Measures such as cancellation of contract

Should misconduct in research (fabrication, falsification, plagiarism) be found to occur at a WPI center, MEXT will take such measures as cancelling or amending its contract for the WPI grant and/or require the center to refund all or part of the grant. If the misconduct is found to be particularly malicious, MEXT may stop the center’s funding before the end of its project.

- (ii) Restriction on grant application and project participation

With regard to persons who committed a particularly malicious act of misconduct or who, though not involved in the misconduct, neglected their responsibility to prevent such acts, MEXT may resend or restrict their eligibility to apply for a grant and/or participate in a grant-funded project.

If such a restriction is imposed on a researcher’s eligibility, MEXT will inform the section responsible for competitive funding in MEXT and other government ministries and in the independent administrative institutions under their jurisdictions. Consequently, the restriction on grant application and project participation will applying for competitive funding programs administered throughout the government.

Subject Persons (researchers) concerning specific research misconduct (fabrication, falsification, plagiarism)		Degree of Research Misconduct	Restricted from applying for grants (from the fiscal year following the year that the misconduct was confirmed*)
Researchers participating in specific	1. Particularly malicious misconduct (e.g. intention to commit misconduct for		10 years

misconduct	the start)			
	2. Authors and others who commit specific misconduct related to papers (etc.)	Authors responsible for such papers, etc. (e.g., chief editors, lead authors or persons found to bear responsibility equal to these persons)	Cases where it is judged that the impact of the misconduct on research progress in the subject field is large, the social impact is major, and/or the level of maliciousness involved is high	5-7 years
			Cases where it is judged that the impact of the misconduct on research progress in the subject field is small the social impact is minor and/or the level of maliciousness involved is low	3-5 years
		Authors other than the above		2-3 years
	3. Persons who participated in the research misconduct other than those in 1. or 2.			2-3 years
Persons (e.g., chief editors, lead authors, and/or persons found to bear responsibility equal to these persons) who did not participate in the specific misconduct but were responsible for the subject research and related papers.		Cases where it is judged that the impact of the misconduct on research progress in the subject field is large, the social impact is major, and/or the level of maliciousness involved is high	2-3 years	
		Cases where it is judged that the impact of the misconduct on research progress in the subject field is small the social impact is minor and/or the level of maliciousness involved is low	1-2 years	

* However, grant application and grant-project participation will be suspended for the rest of the fiscal year that the misconduct was confirmed.

- (iii) Measures regarding researchers who have been restricted from applying for or participating in competitive funding programs

If restrictions have been imposed on a researcher's eligibility as a result of grant misuse or research misconduct under a competitive funding program administered by the government or an independent administrative institution, MEXT shall restrict said researcher's participation in the WPI Program for the duration of ineligibility imposed by the other program.

- (iv) Disclosure of misconduct

If misconduct in research is found in a WPI center, MEXT shall, in principle, disclose it in detail (name, type, and research field of misconduct, funding program, research outline, measures taken by the research institution and funding organization).

When a research institution confirms misconduct in research, it must immediately disclose the facts in accordance with the Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research.

http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1360839.htm (only in Japanese)

- h. Compulsory education on ethics in research and compliance

Researchers taking part in this research program are required to complete a course in ethical education as stipulated in the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research" in order to prevent misconduct, and in compliance education as stipulated in the "Guidelines on the Managing and Audit of Public Research Funds at Research Institutions." Thereafter, the principal investigator must submit a document to MEXT, confirming that all of the researchers in the project understand the content of the research ethics and compliance education.

- i. Violations of relevant laws and statutes

In the event that falsified information is contained in the grant application materials or the center project is carried out in such a manner that violates relevant laws, statutes or guidelines, the grant award may be withheld or canceled.

(2) Public release of information

MEXT will release the names of the applying host institutions, the center names and the name of partner institutions at the time applications are received. In regard to each project selected for a grant, MEXT will release additional information including the name of the chief center-project officer and an abstract of the proposed project.

(3) Miscellaneous

Applicants may not seek duplicate funding through this program for costs covered now or in the future by other grants from government or other organizations.

13. Contact information and calendar

(1) Contact

For solicitation and other application information:

Basic Research Promotion Division, Research Promotion Bureau,

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959, JAPAN

Tel: 03-6734-4248 (ext. 4244) Fax: 03-6734-4074

Homepage: http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kagaku/toplevel/

(Application forms and documents can be downloaded from these homepages.)

(2) Schedule

Submission of 1st application registration form: 10 a.m. 3-5 p.m. 4 April 2017

Submission of 2nd application registration form: 10 a.m. 1-5 p.m. 2 June 2017

3rd selection (tentative): mid-September 2017

Start of project (tentative): 1 October 2017

Attachment 1

1. Allowable Costs

(1) Personnel Costs (Excluding costs covered under research project funding)

The grant may not be used to pay remunerations, retirement allowances or statutory welfare costs to officials affiliated with the host institution or other organizations.

- The grant may be used to pay compensation to personnel (hereafter called “staffs and others”) participating in the center project who have work contracts with the host institution or other organizations in the form of wages, salary, allowance, bonus, etc. (hereafter called “wages”).

The following may also be covered with the grant:

- Money considered to be wages in funds dedicated to staffs and others’ welfare
- Payment of retirement allowances to staffs and others
- Payment of statutory welfare costs for staffs and others
- The following expenditures are excluded, even when coinciding with the above items:
 - Payment of bonuses/retirement allowances or bonus allowances/retirement benefit allowances for periods other than those worked by the staffs and others at the research center.

(2) Project Activities Costs (Excluding costs covered under research project funding)

The grant may be used under this category to cover costs required to implement the center project, excluding personnel, travel and facility/equipment costs. These include:

- Items used by multiple researchers and staffs and placed in lot contracts by universities and research institutions for cost-effective purposes, and whose cost sharing is stipulated by regulation
- Items stipulated by law or regulation as necessary in project implementation, such as medical examinations and film badges for workers whose main duty is in the center project
- Start-up cost for researchers whose main duty is in the center project
- Costs of leasing land, buildings and attached facilities and other structures used by the host institution in implementing the center project (when usage or other fees are stipulated by the host institution or in contracts)
- The cost by the research center of using assets that are the property of the host institution (when usage or other fees are stipulated by the host institution)
- The cost of statutory inspections on assets used in the center project or possessed by the host institution (e.g., maintenance inspections of fire-extinguishing equipment) and automobile weight taxes
- The following expenditures are excluded, even when coinciding with the above items:
 - Costs for welfare, except for those considered to be wages
 - Fellowships and grants for doctoral students and similar support
 - Luxury food and drink, including alcoholic beverages, served at receptions accompanying international research meetings held by the research center
 - Indemnity insurance (except for the repair of damaged property/assets indispensable to the implementation of the center project) attorney fees, damage reparations and other costs related to the occurrence of accidents or disasters.

(3) Travel Costs (Excluding costs covered under research project funding)

Costs of international and domestic travel, including train fees, per diem and lodging, required in implementing the center project.

(4) Facility/Equipment Costs (Excluding costs covered under research project funding)

- The grant may be used to cover tangible capital expenditures that are essential and fundamental to implementing the center project, including machinery and devices and attached facilities, equipment, tools, instruments, fixtures and books. The purchase, manufacture, lease, reform, repair and installation of such facilities and equipment are also covered.
- Capital expenditures are covered when related to the renovation and repair of buildings, attached facilities and other structures necessary for implementing the center project, including the installation of attached facilities (costs related to the renovation of buildings or facilities when machinery, devices or other equipment necessary for implementing the center project are installed; costs related to the installation and maintenance of staff rooms and laboratories.

The following items are not covered:

- Capital expenditures for purchasing or leasing land, buildings, attached facilities or other structures used in implementing the center project.

(5) Other Expenditures Approved by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. (Excluding costs covered under research project funding)

Some costs not specifically covered by the grant may be specially authorized for use by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

* Research Project Funding

Funding necessary for implementing within the center research projects based on concrete R&D topics

2. Examples of Eligible Costs

The following are examples of allowable use of the grant's cost component:

- Costs required for inviting researchers to the center, including their startup research funding, compensation, housing allowance, children's educational allowance.
- Costs required to support talented young researchers, such as research assistants and postdoctoral researchers
- Compensation of research support staffs and administrative staffs
- Costs required to carry out joint research with partner institutions
- Costs of outreach activities including holding international research conferences and similar meetings
- Costs to secure space for satellite functions
- Costs of developing, installing, and operating cutting-edge equipment necessary to the project
- Costs of travel and lodging for researchers attending research conferences and similar meetings