**Research Center Project**

\* Compile in English within 20 A4 pages.

**Center name:** （Within 15 words）

**Host institution:**

**Head of host institution:** （Name, Title）

**Prospective center director:** （Name, Title, Affiliation）

Appendix 1: “Biographical Sketch of Prospective Center Director” (to be attached)

Appendix 2: “Reference (recommendation) for prospective center director by world’s distinguished researcher(s) in the center’s target field” (to be attached)

**Prospective administrative director:** （Name, Title, Affiliation）

Appendix 3: “Biographical Sketch of Prospective Administrative Director” (to be attached)

1. **Overall Framework of the Center Project**

\* Cleary and concisely describe your center’s mission statement as a WPI center, its identity, and its goals toward achieving the objectives of the WPI program.

1. **Content of Research**

**2) -1 Research fields**

\* Write in your target research field(s)

\* Describe the importance of the target research field(s), including the domestic and international R&D trends in that research domain and neighboring field(s), and describe the scientific and/or social significance of the field(s).

\* Describe the value of carrying out research in the field(s) as a WPI center (e.g., Japan’s advantages in the subject fields, the project’s international appeal as an initiative that challenges world-level science issues, and the future prospects of the research)

\* List up to 5 centers either in Japan or overseas that are advancing research in fields similar to the center’s field(s), and evaluate research levels between your center and those centers.

\* Appendix 4: “Up to 10 English-written papers (review papers are also acceptable) closely related to the center’s project and their list” (to be attached)

**2)-2 Research Objectives and Plans**

\* Describe in a clear and easy-to-understand manner by the general public the research objectives that your project seeks to achieve by the end of its grant period (in 10 years). In that process, what world-level scientific and/or technological issues are you seeking to solve? What will be the expected impact of the scientific advances you aim to achieve on society in the future?

\* Describe concretely your research plan to achieve these objectives and any past achievements related to your application.

**2)-3 System for advancing the research**

\* Describe the center’s research organization (including its research, support and administrative components) and your concept for building and staffing the organization.

\* Describe your concrete plan for achieving the center’s final staffing goal, including steps and timetables.

\* If the center will form linkage with other institutions, domestic and/or foreign, *by establishing satellite functions*, provide the name(s) of the partner institution(s), and describe their roles, personnel composition and structure, and the collaborative framework with the center project (e.g., contracts to be concluded, schemes for resource transfer).

\* If the center will form linkage with other institutions, domestic and/or foreign, *without establishing satellite functions*, provide the names of the partner institutions and describe their roles and linkages within the center project.

\* Appendix 5: “List of Principal Investigators” (If there are changes from the PI list in the first screening application documents, describe the points changed and reasons.) (to be attached)

\* Appendix 6: “Biographical sketch of principal investigator” (to be attached)

\* Appendix 7: “Composition of personnel in center” (to be attached)

\* Appendix 8: “Letters from researchers invited from abroad or other Japanese institutions expressing their intent to participate in the center project” (to be attached)

a) Principal investigators (full professors, associate professors, or other researchers of comparable standing)

\* Paste onto table a) in Appendix 7.

b) Total number of members

\* Paste onto table b) in Appendix 7.

**2)-4 Securing research funding**

Past record

\* Give the total amount of research funding (e.g., competitive funding) secured by the principal investigators who will join the center project. Itemize by fiscal year (FY2013-2017).

Funding prospects after the establishment of the center

\* Based on the past record, describe your concrete prospects for securing resources that match or exceed the WPI grant (FY2018-2022).

\* Calculate the total amount of research funding (e.g., competitive funding) based on the amount of funding that the researchers will allocate to the center project. Be sure that the funding prospects are realistically based on the past record.

1. **Interdisciplinary Research**

\* Describe the fused research domains, why interdisciplinary research is necessary and important in the target field(s), and what new field(s) can be expected to be created by way of this project. Describe your concrete strategy for fusing different research domains and creating new field(s) by the fusion.

1. **International Research Environment**

**4)-1 System for advancing international research**

\* Describe your concrete plan for building an international research center including the makeup of its foreign researchers, establishment of oversea satellites, or similar functions. Include a time schedule for the plan.

\* Describe concretely your strategy for staffing foreign researchers (e.g., postdoc positions) through open international solicitations. Describe the procedures you will use to do so.

**４) -2 Establishment of international research environment**

\* Describe your concrete strategy for establishing an international research environment, administration system, and support system (e.g., appointment of staff and provision of startup funding) to accommodate researchers from overseas.

\* Concretely describe how the center will provide an environment in which researchers can work comfortably on their research by being exempted from duties other than research and related educational activities, and how they will be provided adequate staff support to handle paperwork and other administrative functions. Include your procedure and time schedule.

\* Describe your strategy, procedure and timing for periodically holding international research conferences or symposiums (at least once a year).

1. **Center Management and System Reform**

**5) -1 Project management**

\* Describe the role of the center director and the administrative director.

\* Concretely describe your concept for establishing an administrative organization, the center’s decision-making system and how authority is allocated between the center director and the host institution.

\* Concretely describe how the center will adopt a rigorous system for evaluating research and will introduce a system for merit-based compensation (e.g., annual salary scheme). Describe your procedures and timing for operationalizing these systems.

**5) -2 Research environment**

\* Concretely describe how equipment and facilities, including laboratory space, will be provided in a manner appropriate for a “world premier international center.” Include your procedure and timing.

\* Concretely describe how the center will consider to arrange for its researchers to participate in the education of graduate students.

\* Describe your measures other than the above to ensure that world’s top researchers from around the world can comfortably devote themselves to their research within an international and competitive environment at the center.

**5) -3 Establishing an independent research center in sync with reorganizing the host institution**

\* Concretely describe how your proposal seeks to establish a new center that will achieve independence within 10 years and how the project will advance synchronization between WPI center support and reform of the host institution’s existing organization?

\* With prior consent from the host institution, describe concretely the host institution's mid-to-long-term plan and schedule for achieving the center's independent operation within the host institution, including adjustments to the existing organization and/or acquisition of external funding.