

Background·Challenges

- In order for Japan to survive in the intensifying international competition for brainpower, it is essential to further strengthen research centers, which serve as "international brain circulation hubs" where excellent research personnel gather from all over the world.
- The implementation of the program to date has resulted in the formation of "highly visible" research centers that have achieved research excellence and internationalization on a par with the world's top institutions.
- The formation of world-class basic research centers by integrating different fields has been undertaken under new missions to respond to policy demands based on the impact of COVID-19.**

Program Overview

【 Project Objectives and Details 】

To steadily enhance and strengthen the "Visible International Brain Circulation Centers" that boast a highly internationalized research environment and world-class research standards by encouraging independent initiatives such as systemic reforms through intensive support to universities and other institutions.

【 Key points for FY2021 budget requirements 】

- Select one new center (approx. 700 million yen over 10 years) in view of the impact of the COVID pandemic.
- Continue to steadily implement the formation of previously selected centers, deepen international brain circulation and horizontal deployment and upgrade results in order to make maximum use of the strengths and achievements of the WPI centers.

Four Missions

-Science-

-Reform-

-Globalization-

-Fusion-

【 Requirements to be met by the centers 】

- 70-100 members in total including researchers (100 members~ in centers selected in FY2007, 2010)
- At least 7-10 world-class principal investigators (10PIs~ in centers selected in FY2007, 2010)
- At least 30% of the researchers are from overseas at all times
- English is the standard language for all administrative and research support systems

【 Project scheme 】

- Target: Research center hub concept in the field of basic research at a research institution
- Scale of support: up to 700 million yen per year for 10 years (up to about 1.4 billion yen per year for centers selected in 2007 and 2010)
※After the interim evaluation, the scale of support will be scaled down in principle, but if the center is particularly outstanding, the scale of support will be adjusted in light of that evaluation.
- Project Evaluation: Careful and meticulous evaluation of progress management by the program committee consisting of Nobel laureates and prominent foreign researchers, as well as PD and POs.
- Expenses eligible for support: personnel expenses, project promotion, travel expenses, equipment and supplies, etc. ※Excludes research project funds.

【 List of WPI centers 】

※As of April, 2020

WPI Academy Centers

[4 centers adopted in FY2007]

- AIMR** Advanced Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku U
ORINO Shin-ichi
- MANA** International Center for Materials Nanoarchitectonics, NIMS
SASAKI Takayoshi
- iCeMS** Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences, Kyoto U
KITAGAWA Susumu
- IFReC** Immunology Frontier Research Center, Osaka U
TAKEDA Kiyoshi

[1 center adopted in FY2010]

- ICNER** International Institute for Carbon-Neutral Energy Research, Kyushu U
PETROS Sofronis

Centers under grant support

[3 centers adopted in FY2012]

- IIS** International Institute for Integrative Sleep Medicine, U of Tsukuba
YANAGISAWA Masashi
- ELSI** Earth-Life Science Institute, Tokyo Tech
HIROSE Kei
- ITbM** Institute of Transformative Bio-Molecules, Nagoya U
ITAMI Ken-ichiro

[2 centers adopted in FY2017]

- IRCN** International Research Center for Neurointelligence, U of Tokyo
TAKAO K. Hensch
- NanoLSI** Nano Life Science Institute, Kanazawa U
FUKUMA Takeshi

[2 centers adopted in FY2018]

- ICReDD** Institute for Chemical Reaction Design and Discovery, Hokkaido U
MAEDA Satoshi
- ASHBi** Institute for Advanced Study of Human Biology, Kyoto U
SAITOU Minoru

[1 center adopted in FY2007]

- Kavli IPMU** Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, U of Tokyo
OOGURI Hiroshi

※After the end of the 10-year support period, an extension of the grant support period for an additional five years was allowed.