

Outline of JSPS Core-to-Core Program, FY2012

I. Program Objective

From FY 2012, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) will implement a newly-revised Core-to-Core Program, comprising two components: (1) Advanced Research Networks (former “Core-to-Core Program” and “Asian CORE Program”) and (2) Asia-Africa Science Platforms (former “AA Science Platform Program”). This program is designed to create world-class research hubs in research fields considered to be cutting-edge and internationally important in Japan or high-potential research hubs in fields of special importance or significance to Asia and/or Africa and of high priority in Japan. These hubs will be built and operated through sustainable collaborative relations established among research/education institutions in Japan and around the world. While advancing research in the fields of these core research hubs, the Core-to-Core Program will also concentrate on fostering the next generations of trailblazing young researchers.

Core institutions in Japan and in counterpart countries conduct collaborations. They take the form of joint research projects, seminars, and researcher exchanges, which are to be organized and carried out effectively under the program. Core institutions are expected to continue operation as a research hub after funding under this program has ended.

II. Program Components

A. Advanced Research Networks

B. Asia-Africa Science Platforms

III. Applicant Eligibility

- (1) Japanese universities and research institutions or departments are eligible to apply for this program as a Japanese core institution. To qualify, they must possess sufficient research funding, research facilities and human resources, and be capable of taking the initiative in implementing the overall research project.
- (2) A full-time researcher employed at the Japanese core institution who is appointed as a coordinator of the project is eligible to apply for this program.

IV. Program Details

A. Advanced Research Networks

1. Targeted Research Fields

Research topics considered to be cutting-edge and internationally important in Japan. (All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.)

2. Eligible Countries

At least two or more countries that have diplomatic relations with Japan. (JSPS treats Taiwan and Palestine in this manner.)

3. Implementation Method

- (1) A full-time researcher employed at a Japanese university or research institute acts as the project coordinator. His/her institution or department sets up the implementation framework and carries out the project.
- (2) JSPS provides financial support for carrying out project-related joint research, scientific meetings and researcher exchanges by Japanese core institutions. Counterpart core institutions are to obtain project funding equivalent to JSPS's from science-promotion agencies or other funding organizations in their respective countries.
- (3) JSPS issues a call for proposals to Japanese universities/research institutions, and conducts reviews and selections. JSPS neither seeks nor conducts negotiations with science-promotion agencies.

The procedure is as follows:

- ① JSPS issues a call for proposals to Japanese universities/research institutions.
- ② Those universities/research institutions interested in conducting exchanges with counterparts in foreign countries select counterpart universities/research institutions and devise research plans.
- ③ The "counterpart core institutions" negotiate with or submit funding applications to funding agencies in their respective countries in order to obtain project funding equivalent to JSPS's. (JSPS does not ask its overseas counterpart agencies to make proposal calls under the title "Core-to-Core Program." As long as counterpart core institutions are able to obtain project funding under any system in an amount

- ii. Domestic travel expenses
- iii. Cost of expendable supplies
- iv. Honorariums
- v. Others

6. Number of Projects Slated to Start in FY2012

About 10 projects

7. Screening Criteria in JSPS Reviews

Applications are screened from the following perspectives.

- ① Scientific/academic merit
 - Degree to which the proposed project is recognized as being leading-edge and unique in the subject research field.
 - Whether there is a clear need and value to implementing the project with the proposed counterpart institutions.
 - Degree to which the collaboration between the core institutions in Japan and the counterpart countries can be expected to yield results of sufficiently high academic value to contribute to the establishment of a world-class research hub.
 - Degree to which the project will build upon and expand the core institutions' past international research activities and accomplishments.
- ② Fostering young researchers
 - Whether the project includes a program for honing the skills and expertise of young researchers.
- ③ Creating implementation framework on Japan side
 - On the Japan side, plans to build a world-class research hub should be strategically placed within the core institution's overall education and research program.
 - Japanese core institutions should have in place on an institutional level a system for ensuring the ongoing implementation of the proposed project. They should also have an effective scheme for mobilizing cooperation from researchers of other institutions in Japan.

- The project should be capable of enlisting the participation of an adequate number of researchers in Japan who are qualified to build a world-class research hub.
 - The project should be capable of continuing its operation as a world-class research hub after funding under this program has ended.
- ④ Network building with counterpart core institutions
- The match-up of Japanese and counterpart institutions under the project should be one that holds good promise for sustained research collaboration.
 - A clear-cut framework for implementing the project, such as a signed cooperative agreement, should be established between the core institutions.
 - The project should have a clear vision of how to build a world-class research hub, and be expected to contribute to the continuous development of collaboration between the core institutions in the future.
 - The counterpart core institutions must, on an institutional level, have one coordinator and an adequate number of researchers in place to ensure the ongoing implementation of the proposed project. The participation of an adequate number of researchers is essential qualification.
- ⑤ Appropriateness of research plan
- Whether the plan is sufficiently concrete to achieve the project objectives and its contents are highly attainable.
 - Whether the research plan is practicable in terms of its fiscal and operational scope.

In selecting projects, an attempt is made to strike a balance among counterpart countries.

8. Points to Keep in Mind

- (1) JSPS supports multilateral collaboration between Japan and eligible countries.
- (2) This program supports projects of up to five years carried out through networks of collaborating organizations and researchers in hubs formed between core institutions in Japan and other counterpart countries. When applying for "Advanced Research Networks," counterpart core institutions are to obtain project funding equivalent to JSPS's from science-promotion agencies or other funding organizations in their respective countries. Each counterpart institutions must supply their own project funding in an amount

equivalent to JSPS's project grant. Regarding the provision of equivalent funding, Japanese institutions should refer to pertinent regulations.

- (3) Applications that lack funding equivalent to JSPS's or whose main object is to seek aid for the counterpart country are not eligible for this program.
- (4) JSPS's International Program Committee carries out an interim evaluation of projects at their 3-year juncture and also conducts a post-project evaluation. Japanese core institutions should provide JSPS with all the information including project reports requested to perform these assessments. The amount of funding for the fiscal years after the interim evaluation will be based on the results.
- (5) For more details, please refer to V. JSPS's Application Instructions.

B. Asia-Africa Science Platforms

1. Targeted Research Fields

Research topics of special importance or significance to Asia and/or African and considered to be of high priority within Japan (All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.)

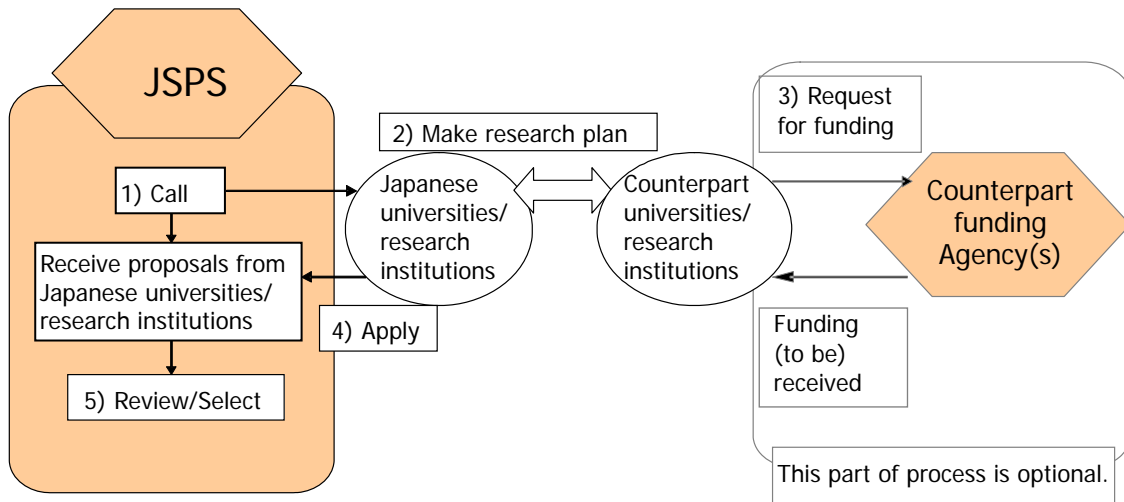
2. Eligible Countries

Asian and/or African countries which have diplomatic relations with Japan (JSPS treats Taiwan and Palestine in this manner.)

3. Implementation Method

- (1) A full-time researcher employed at a Japanese university or research institute acts as the project coordinator. His/her institution or department sets up the implementation framework and carries out the project.
- (2) JSPS provides financial support for carrying out project-related joint research, scientific meetings and researcher exchanges by Japanese core institutions.
- (3) JSPS issues a call for proposals to Japanese universities/research institutions, and conducts reviews and selections. The actual operation of the selected projects is left to the core institutions themselves. Counterpart core institutions in Asian and African countries are encouraged to obtain financial support from science-promotion agencies or other funding organizations in their respective countries.

Application and Selection Process



4. Project Period

From April 2012 through March 2015 (under the FY2012 call)

5. Project Funding

- (1) JSPS provides Japanese core institutions with the following funding:
 - Up to ¥8 million per fiscal year
- (2) JSPS will cover the following major expenses of the Japanese core institutions:
 - i. International travel expenses
 - ii. Domestic travel expenses
 - iii. Cost of expendable supplies
 - iv. Honorariums
 - v. Others

6. Number of Projects Slated to Start in FY2012

About 10 projects

7. Screening Criteria in JSPS Reviews

Applications are screened from the following perspectives.

- ① Need for the proposed project and collaboration
 - Degree to which the proposed project is recognized as being of common interest and special importance to the Asian and African regions and whether it is scientifically meaningful for Japan to conduct priority research in the subject fields.
 - Whether there is a clear need and value for the Japanese core institution to take the lead in carrying out the research collaboration with counterpart institutions in Asia and/or Africa.
 - Degree to which the collaboration between the core institutions in Japan and the counterpart countries can be expected to yield results of sufficiently high academic value.
 - Degree to which the project will build upon and expand the core institutions' past international research activities and accomplishments.
- ② Fostering young researchers
 - Whether the project includes a program for honing the skills and expertise of young researchers.
- ③ Creating implementation framework on Japan side
 - On the Japan side, plans to build a core research hub should be strategically placed within the core institution's overall research program.
 - Japanese core institutions should have in place on an institutional level a system for ensuring the ongoing implementation of the proposed project.
 - The project should be capable of enlisting the participation of an adequate number of researchers in Japan who are qualified to build a core research hub.
 - The project should be capable of continuing its operation as a core research hub after funding under this program has ended.
- ④ Network building with counterpart core institutions
 - The match-up of Japanese and counterpart institutions under the project should be one that holds good promise for sustained research collaboration.
 - A clear-cut framework for implementing the project, such as a signed cooperative agreement, should be established between the core institutions.
 - As a core research hub in the subject field, the project should be expected

to contribute to the continuous development of collaboration between the core institutions in the future.

- ⑤ Appropriateness of research plan
 - Whether the plan is sufficiently concrete to achieve the project objectives and its contents are highly attainable.
 - Whether the research plan is practicable in terms of its fiscal and operational scope.

8. Points to Keep in Mind

- (1) This program supports projects of up to three years carried out through networks of collaborating organizations and researchers in hubs formed between core institutions in Japan and other counterpart countries. (Multinational projects are preferred under this program; however, proposals for bilateral projects that provide an axis for multilateral collaboration are accepted.) However, this program does not support the following projects: (1) bilateral projects whose researchers are from counterpart countries, such as China, Korea or Singapore, that can be expected to obtain sufficient funding or (2) multilateral projects comprising only those counterpart countries. Such projects should be applied for under JSPS's bilateral programs or the Advanced Research Networks program.
- (2) When applying for "Asia-Africa Science Platforms," counterpart core institutions are not necessarily required to obtain project funding from science-promotion agencies or other funding organizations in their respective countries.
- (3) For more details, please refer to V. JSPS's Application Instructions.

V. Application Instructions

- (1) Researchers eligible to receive JSPS financial support under this program are as follows:
 - ① Researchers employed at a university or research institute (In case of Japan, researchers eligible to apply for MEXT Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research.)
 - ② Postdoctoral researchers at universities or research institutes in Japan
 - ③ Researchers enrolled in a postgraduate course, either master's or doctoral, in Japan
- (2) In principal, funding provided under this program is for implementing projects between Japan and a counterpart country (countries). It is not for supporting travel by Japanese researchers to other countries to conduct fieldwork or surveys.
- (3) A moderate number of researchers from other countries may participate in projects as collaborating researchers. Regarding the covering of their costs, Japanese institutions should refer to pertinent regulations.
- (4) The Japanese coordinator is not allowed to hold a collateral position as a coordinator, research representative, or chief seminar organizer under the following JSPS programs: joint research or seminars under JSPS's bilateral programs, U.S.-Japan Cooperative Cancer Research Program, China-Japan Medical Research Exchange Program, JSPS-NSF International Collaborations in Chemistry (ICC), G8 Research Councils Initiative, A3 Foresight Program, Japanese-German Graduate Externship, Core-to-Core Program, Asian CORE Program, AA Science Platforms Program, International Training Program (ITP), Institutional Program for Young Researcher Overseas Visits, or Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Vitalizing Brain Circulation. Assuming the role of coordinator in projects under both Advanced Research Networks and Asia-Africa Science Platforms is not allowed, neither is the Japanese coordinator allowed to hold a collateral position as a coordinator under Funding Program for Next Generation World-Leading Researchers (NEXT Program).
- (5) Japanese coordinators who are now or have been supported under any of JSPS's international programs in the past 5 years are required to describe the objectives and/or results of those research activities and their relevance to the subject Core-to-Core program.
- (6) If the applying institution is receiving or is scheduled to receive from another funding program funding that is relevant to the proposed project, it must state so and clearly

describe the relationship of that funding to the project. Note that JSPS will screen out duplicated funding in its review process.

VI. Obligation of Japanese Core Institutions

Core institutions are to establish a homepage and proactively post information about the project both during and after the funding period. Though JSPS does not participate in negotiations over rights to results yielded through the project's implementation, core institutions are to acknowledge JSPS's support when announcing the results.

VII. Others

- (1) JSPS does not bear responsibility for any accident, sickness or other such incident that may occur over the period of the project's implementation.
- (2) Information about the project is strictly protected in accordance with a series of Japan Law and JSPS Regulations on personal information protection. However, the titles of projects, names of core institutions, names of coordinators and other participating researchers, annual project implementation plans, and annual project performance reports / evaluation results may be given public access on JSPS's homepage and other literature. Such information may also be provided to program-related organizations.
- (3) If over the course of the project's implementation improper conduct (plagiarism, fabrication or falsification), misuse of funding, or abuse of authority (sexual harassment or other improper behavior) should be found to occur, the core institution may be required to return either part or all of the already-disbursed project funding to JSPS, and appropriate penalties may be imposed. Regarding the proper use of their funding, Japanese institutions should refer to pertinent regulations.
- (4) JSPS does not support research with military objectives.

Appendix

Cost-sharing with counterpart countries

A. Advanced Research Networks

Examples of Equivalent Burden Sharing

【Pattern 1】

Cost Items		Institution	JSPS	Counterpart Agency
Japan-side researchers	International airfare		○	X
	Maintenance in counterpart country		○	X
	Travel in Japan		○	X
	Research grant		○	X
Other-side researchers	International airfare		X	○
	Maintenance in Japan		X	○
	Travel in home country		X	○
	Research grant		X	○
Cost for holding seminars in Japan			○	X
Cost for holding seminars in counterpart country			X	○
Research equipment costs at core institution			X	X

【Pattern 2】

Cost Items		Institution	JSPS	Counterpart Agency
Japan-side researchers	International airfare		○	X
	Maintenance in counterpart country		X	○
	Travel in Japan		○	X
	Research grant		○	X
Other-side researchers	International airfare		X	○
	Maintenance in Japan		○	X
	Travel in home country		X	○
	Research grant		X	○
Cost for holding seminars in Japan			○	X
Cost for holding seminars in counterpart country			X	○
Research equipment costs at core institution			X	X

B. Asia-Africa Science Platforms

Cost Items	Coverable by JSPS
Japan-side researchers	
International airfare	○
Maintenance in counterpart country	○
Travel in Japan	○
Research grant	○
Other-side researchers	
International airfare	○
Maintenance in Japan	○
Travel in home country	X
Research grant	○
Cost for holding seminars in Japan	○
Cost for holding seminars in counterpart country	○
Research equipment costs at core institution	X