

Outline of JSPS A3 Foresight Program, FY2013

I. Program Objective

Based on an agreement among JSPS, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), the three countries (A3) support this collaborative program under which their researchers carry out joint activities.

The program works to create world-class research hubs in fields of common interest and special importance within the Asian region. With A3 research/education institutions at their core, these hubs carry out highly effective combinations of joint research activities, seminars and researcher exchanges, while fostering new generations of talented young researchers. After funding under the A3 Foresight Program ends, the core institutions are expected to continue functioning as world-class research hubs within the Asian region.

II. Applicant Eligibility

1. Japanese universities and research institutions eligible to apply for this program as a core institution are those specified in Article 2 of the Procedure for the Handling of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (*Kakenhi*), issued by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). To qualify, an institution or department must possess sufficient research funding, equipment/facilities and human resources, and be capable of programmatically implementing the overall research project as its core institution. However, institutions not specified in the above Procedure but that have already been issued an ID and password for international programs in JSPS electronic application system are eligible to apply only for the FY 2013 call.

Institutions specified as eligible in the Procedure for the Handling of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research:

- (1) Universities and inter-university research institutions
- (2) MEXT-affiliated institutions engaged in research
- (3) Colleges of technology
- (4) Institutions designated by the Minister of MEXT

2. Each core institution must have one project principal investigator (PI). S/he must be a full-time researcher or a researcher positioned as full time at the core institution. As the PI plays a vital role in carrying out the project's exchange plan, care should be taken not to

appoint a person to the position who might resign, loss his/her application eligibility, or otherwise be unable to perform the PI's duties during the period of the project's implementation.

III. Program Details

1. Targeted Research Fields

FY 2013: Biomaterial and Nano-biotechnology (Subsequent fields will be chosen through consultation among JSPS, NSFC and NRF.)

2. Eligibility

Japan-China-Korea trilateral collaboration

3. Implementation

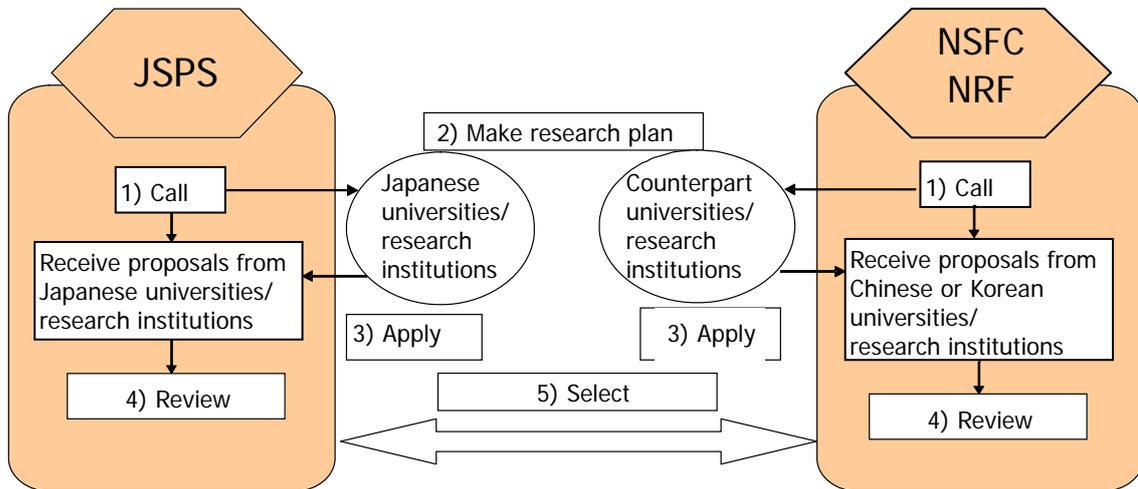
- (1) A full-time researcher employed at a Japanese university or research institute acts as the project principal investigator. His/her institution or department sets up the implementation framework and carries out the project.
- (2) JSPS provides financial support for carrying out project-related joint research, scientific meetings and researcher exchanges by Japanese core institutions. Counterpart core institutions are to be supported by NSFC or NRF under this program.
- (3) JSPS, NSFC and NRF issue calls for proposals to universities/research institutions in their respective countries. They conduct proposal reviews and selections.

The procedure is as follows:

- ① JSPS issues a call for proposals to Japanese universities/research institutions. NSFC and NRF concurrently issue calls in their respective countries.
- ② On the Japan side, universities/research institutions interested in conducting exchanges with universities/research institutions in China and Korea select their counterparts and devise research plans.
- ③ Japanese core universities/research institutions submit their proposals to JSPS while the Chinese and Korean counterpart institutions submit matching proposals to NSFC or NRF.

- ④ JSPS reviews the proposals it has received, while NSFC and NRF review the proposals they received.
- ⑤ JSPS, NSFC and NRF select projects together.

Application and Selection Process



4. Project Period

From August 2013 through July 2018(under FY2013 call)

5. Project Funding

- (1) JSPS provides Japanese core institutions with the following funding:
 - Up to ¥10 million per fiscal year (Up to ¥50 million over 5 years)
- (2) JSPS covers the following major expenses of Japanese core institutions:
 - i. International travel expenses
 - ii. Domestic travel expenses
 - iii. Cost of consumable supplies
 - iv. Honorariums
 - v. Others

6. Number of Projects Slated to Start in FY 2013

About 2 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 under global standards as being leading-edge and unique in the Biomaterial and Nano-biotechnology 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 the Japan side

- Plans to build a world-class research hub under the A3 matrix 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.
- The project should be capable of enlisting the participation 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 Chinese and Korean 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.

(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) Counterpart core institutions should be a university or research institute in China and Korea.

(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 the A3 countries.

(3) 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.

(4) For more details, please refer to Section IV. JSPS's Application Instructions.

IV. 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 among the A3 countries. It is not for supporting travel by Japanese researchers to China/Korea or other countries to conduct fieldwork or surveys.

3. Under JSPS's international programs, researchers who are already representing a project in one of JSPS's program categories are not eligible to concurrently represent a project in another category with some exceptions. (Such researchers are those responsible for implementing an already-selected project as its research representative, coordinator, chief seminar organizer or similar capacity. However, the heads of institutions and/or departments who represent the implementing organization are exempted.) For information on the approval of projects overlapping program categories, see Appendix 2 "Table, Overlapping Program Restrictions." The restriction on projects overlapping programs is not meant to limit application by researchers who are already representing another JSPS project or who are in the process of applying for one. In the case of projects overlapping program categories, the representative must choose one or the other: The existing project will be terminated if the representative is changed for the reason that s/he was selected for a new project. This should be borne in mind by those who are or will become the representative of a project another program category. Once an application is submitted, the project's representative may not be changed. 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).

4. Japanese principal investigators 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 proposed project.

5. 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.

V. 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.

VI. Others

1. JSPS does not support research with military objectives.

2. JSPS does not bear responsibility for any accident, sickness or other such incident that may occur over the period of the project's implementation.

3. 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 principal investigators 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.

4. 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.

Appendix

Cost-sharing with counterpart countries

Cost Items		Institution	JSPS	Counterpart Agency
Japan-side researchers	International airfare		○	X
	Maintenance in counterpart country		X	○
	Travel within 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

Appendix 2

Table, Overlapping Program Restrictions

This table shows the overlapping restrictions on a researcher who is already the representative of a project under one program category (Program A) and applies for an international project under another category (Program B).

Program A \ Program B	①	②	③	⑤	⑥	⑩	⑪	⑭
① Bilateral Programs (Joint Research Projects/ Seminars)	△	△	△	×	×	×	×	×
② The U.S.-Japan Cooperative Cancer Research Program	△	—	○	×	×	×	×	×
③ JSPS-NSF International Collaborations in Chemistry (ICC)	△	○	—	×	×	×	×	×
④ JSPS-NSF Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE)	△	○	×	×	×	×	×	×
⑤ G8 Research Councils Initiative	×	×	×	—	×	×	×	×
⑥ Japanese-German Graduate Externship	×	×	×	×	—	×	×	×
⑦ Old Core-to-Core Program	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
⑧ Asian CORE Program	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
⑨ Asia-Africa Science Platform Program	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
⑩ JSPS Core-to-Core Program	×	×	×	×	×	—	×	×
⑪ A3 Foresight Program	×	×	×	×	×	×	—	×
⑫ JSPS International Training Program	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
⑬ Institutional Program for Young Researcher Overseas Visits	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
⑭ Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	—
⑮ Funding Program for Next Generation World-Leading Researchers	×※	○	×	×	×	×	×	×

Notes

○: The researcher may be the representative of two projects in overlapping programs

△: The researcher may not be the representative of two projects in overlapping programs if they are with the same counterpart country

×: The researcher may not be the representative of two projects in overlapping programs (with the exception of seminars under the Funding Program for Next Generation World-Leading Researchers)