

Host Institution's Commitment

Date September 25, 2007

To MEXT

Name of host institution: Osaka University

Name and title of head of host institution: Kiyokazu Washida, President
Signature

I confirm that the measures listed below will be taken faithfully if "(project title)" is adopted under the World Premier International Research Center (WPI) Initiative.

<Provision in host institution's mid-to-long-term plan>

- Describe clearly the host institution's mid-to-long-term strategy plan and how the center is positioned within that strategy.

Osaka University has from the start been committed to its mid-term strategic target as a university emphasizing research, aiming to produce unique and high quality results at the forefront of research. Notably, Osaka University is strongly focusing on "accomplishing high-level research results and playing a crucial role in the establishment of the World Premier International Research Center (WPI)". Osaka University will further encourage the study of Advanced Science and Technology fields to maintain its system of research practice.

The provisions of the mid-term strategic plan were set to accomplish the goals of the plan under the existing implemented systems. If the proposal with Osaka University is selected as one of the "WPI" projects, the University will give the top priority to develop "Osaka University Immunology Frontier Research Center" and subjoin in the mid-term strategic plan as effective measures to fulfill the research quality and research results. In addition, Osaka University will support the WPI for maintaining the research enforcement system. The WPI will be supplemented in the mid-term strategic plan.

Osaka University in its mid-term organization planning (2004-2009) described and published that one of the University's specific targets is the establishment of the Research/Education Center of Excellence in Microbiology and Immunology. The educational aspects of this planning is taking place through the 21st Century COE program entitled, "Combined program on Microbiology and Immunology" (2003-2007). This 21st Century COE program will be followed by a new proposal to the Global COE program. The research aspect of the planning consists of two parts. One focuses on infectious diseases. Osaka University established the "Osaka University International Research Center for Infectious Diseases" in 2005 including setting up the Research Collaboration Center on Emerging and Reemerging Infections in Thailand as a branch. The other part of the research aspects is to propose the "Osaka University Immunology Frontier Research Center" with its focus being Immunology as the "World Premier International WPI (WPI) Initiative". The two Centers will be functionally complimentary. If the proposal with Osaka University is selected as one of the WPI Initiative projects, formation of the WPI will be the top priority in the mid-term strategic target and plan, and Osaka University will give full support by implementing institutional reforms that are necessary for formation of the WPI and improving the research systems.

<Concrete Measures>

- Describe the concrete measures that the host institution will take to satisfy the following requirements.

- (1) How it will support the center's need to secure resources that match or exceed the project grant through such means as competitive grants obtained by researchers participating in the project, in-kind contributions and other forms of assistance by the host institution (including partial payment of salaries, provision of research space), and/or external donations.

Osaka University will assist the WPI to perform every possible support for operation and research activities of WPI. Osaka University will provide support to the WPI resources that would be either greater or equal to the WPI project grant.

The specific measures are as follows:

- 1) Indirect research expenses: 3.7 million dollars or 450 million yen.
 - 2) Construction of main research building: 1.8 million dollars or 210 million yen.
 - 3) Provision of other research space: 0.1 million dollars or 10 million yen.
 - 4) Partial payment of principal investigators' salaries: 1.3 million dollars or 150 million yen.
 - 5) University budget for principal investigators: 0.3 million dollars or 40 million yen.
 - 6) Competitive research grants for principal investigators: 8.7 million dollars or 1.05 billion yen.
 - 7) Facilitation of external donations: 0.8 million dollars or 100 million yen.
- Total: 16.7 million dollars or 2.01 billion yen for each year.

(2) How it will institute a system under which the center's director is able to make substantive personnel and budget allocation decisions necessary to implementing the center project—a system, which in practice, allows the center director autonomy in making decisions regarding the center's operation.

The WPI will be recognized as a department within the university. Osaka University will provide the Center Director with the entitlement to manage and operate the WPI. The Center Director is entitled to make decisions regarding substantive personnel and budget allocation as are the Deans and Directors in other faculties in Osaka University.

An Administrative Director will support the Center Director and he will be responsible for office management so that the Director's decisions are kept to the bare essentials. Osaka University will support the Center Director's research environment.

(3) The support it will provide to the center director in coordinating with other departments within the host institution when recruiting researchers for the center, while giving reasonable regard to the educational and research activities of those departments.

When a researcher from a different department in Osaka University joins the WPI as a full time researcher, Osaka University will support the replacement by indirect research expenses and/or other expenses. If a researcher at other departments in Osaka University is working concurrently at the center, he or she will be exempted from educational work. Osaka University will support resource sharing/exchange between the WPI and other departments.

(4) Its flexibility in applying, revising, or supplementing the host institution's internal systems as needed for the center to effectively implement new management methods (e.g., English-language environment, merit-based pay, top-down decision making) unfettered by conventional modes of operation.

To maintain the excellent research environment for the WPI, the Center will apply the existing employment system of Osaka University, including the annual salary system. If the present employee system of Osaka University does not fit in with the operation of the Center, then Osaka University will consider revising and supplementing the present internal system of Osaka University. The new system should be flexibly operated. Osaka University will support the WPI's enforcement to endorse the system and its operation as follows:

- The WPI will ensure that the retirement allowance to be paid to the hired researcher is based on the total years of service to the Center and other institutions.
- The Housing of International Visiting Professors will be arranged by WPI and there is no need to pay neither the security deposit nor key money.
- To hire exceptional researchers, their salaries can be changed from the existing system depending on his or her ability.
- High English ability administrative staff will be hired from both inside and outside the University. There will be on-the-job training after their employment.

The aforementioned items will undergo examination as necessary by related departments of Osaka

University.

(5) Its accommodation of the center's infrastructural requirements (for facilities, e.g., laboratory space; equipment; land, etc.).

A new research building of ten floors with 9,600m² of space will be constructed by March 2009 for the Research Center. Osaka University will also provide laboratory space on the campus to accommodate research groups, which will join the Research Center before the new research building is completed. After many of the core research groups move into the new building, Osaka University will seek funds to renovate the old building these research groups are currently using.

To meet the space requirements for an animal facility for newly coming research groups, Osaka University will construct a new block of animal facilities and provide it for the Research Center's use.

(6) Other types of assistance it will provide to give maximum support to the center in achieving its concepts and objectives and becoming a world premier international research center in both name and deed.

In addition to the above, Osaka University will start a new "one stop service office" for international researchers and students in 2007. This all-in-one service aims to improve both the research and living conditions for visitors from abroad. Information including the research and daily life on campus and in the surrounding area has already been released on the web information service site "GCN-Osaka & Worldwide". This "one stop service office" does not only function as an information center, but also aims to reduce the burdens placed on international researchers and students related to immigration, by offering substantial support services such as visa application on their behalf. Osaka University has established three Overseas liaison offices for Education and Research in San Francisco (U.S.A), Groningen (The Netherlands) and Bangkok (Thailand). Their central task is to collect and transmit information, and scout highly talented researchers. All the faculties and overseas offices of Osaka University will assist the WPI so as to become the "World Premier International Research Center".