

Host Institution's Commitment

To MEXT

Date

Name of host institution

National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS)

Name and title of head of host institution

Teruo Kishi, President

Signature

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

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

Looking from NIMS's point of view, the center is designed as an organization undertaking the two following roles, classified roughly: (1) an advanced research organization to conduct basic research for materials, fusing fields of materials science, chemistry and physics; (2) an organization to foster researchers who will create the future of material research in an international and interdisciplinary atmosphere. The objective related to (1) is the "development of innovative materials to realize a sustainable society", and this is perfectly consistent with the 2nd midterm objectives and midterm plan of NIMS. Accordingly, the center can be positioned as an organization which will play a principle role to lead the main body of NIMS by carrying out the research in a radically accelerated manner. On the other hand, to put (2), the fostering of researchers, as the other pillar of the concept is a very important point of the center, from the standpoint of NIMS. We have decided that, if this proposal is realized, NIMS's new staff researchers with tenure will be chosen, in principle, from young researchers of the center. Thus, the center is also positioned as a place to foster NIMS's future research staff with tenure. Therefore, the center is definitely incorporated into long-term strategies of the main body of NIMS in both aspects of research initiatives and supply of human resources.

(Host institution: National Institute for Materials Science)

Title of Center Project: International Center for Materials Nanoarchitectonics)

<Concrete Measures>

(1)

NIMS will support the center in the following manner.

- i) Labor costs of permanent staff (such as researchers with tenure and clerical staff) and non-permanent staff that join the center from NIMS will be allocated from operational subsidies and other funds of NIMS except for those who are fully enrolled in the center.
- ii) As for projects with operational subsidies that are handled by researchers who join the center from NIMS as senior researchers, we will allocate an equivalent amount of the research funds to the center to implement the project at the center. Among competitive grants obtained by researchers who joined from NIMS, we will allocate an amount equivalent to the direct costs to the center, if the research plan is consistent with that of the center.
- iii) We will secure sufficient space mainly at the Nano/Biomaterial Research Building in the Namiki District.

Other than the above, we will give additional assistance for budgeting and space as the need arises.

(2)

The center director is given authority for the center's general operation by the president of NIMS. In other words, the center director has the authority to employ, renew contracts, make payroll decisions, determine research expenses, and allocate space for researchers who are invited to the center, except for NIMS permanent staff. His authority also includes employment and renewal of contracts of administrative staff members, except for NIMS permanent staff. If the center director makes the request and the NIMS president confirms its necessity, NIMS personnel are allowed to move to the center. If these are required to be secured, we will make the necessary rule in NIMS's internal regulations.

(3)

NIMS personnel are allowed to move to the center if the center director requests it and he/she accepts the request and the NIMS president confirms its necessity. As stated above, the center will play a role to supply young staff researchers with tenure to the main body of NIMS. Conversely, it does not basically produce any problem that necessary human resources are supplied from the main body of NIMS to the center. We believe such mobility of human resource between the center and the main body of NIMS may stimulate both organizations.

(4)

We have already experienced in pioneering operations of English use as the official language, clerical work support system in English, creation of bilingual clerical documents, annual salary system, researcher's performance evaluation, salary assessment, renewal of contracts, etc. at the International Center for Young Scientists (ICYS). There is no problem in adopting such a flexible and distinctive management style which can be seen as an extension of the above operations experienced. We are planning to actively adopt the center's successful management systems to the main body of NIMS.

(5)

For the research activities at the center, we will provide a space, approximately 10,000m² for study, mainly at the Nano/Biomaterial Research Building in the Namiki District. The space will be used to secure the following:

Space for experimentation:

We will provide laboratory space at the Nano Biomaterial Research Building for young researchers such as post-doctoral fellows who will proceed with their research independently (about 4,000 m² in total). We will provide approximately 1/2 span (20 m²) as their experimental space. We will provide necessary and sufficient space to principal investigators invited from external organizations.

Single-occupied office and cafeteria:

We will provide young researchers with a single-occupied office (approx. 12m²) where they can devote themselves to research and to live in a comfortable environment. Also, to

realize an ideal Melting Pot environment, we will put all the living rooms together in one place, and secure enough space for casual talks, including a cafeteria. At the center, we will utilize single-occupied offices which are currently used by ICYS

We will allow researchers at the center to freely use research equipment and facilities such as Nano Foundry that NIMS possesses, and will make an effort to accommodate their needs for the use as a priority. Furthermore, we will secure world's top-level advanced facilities with high commonality, in cooperation with the center in a well-planned manner.

(6)

We assume that the center project is extremely effective in activating the whole of NIMS, so we are willing to make efforts for the smooth implementation to the fullest. NIMS is expecting that the center will play a principle role in leading the main body of NIMS. However, this does not mean that NIMS intends to exploit the center to solve NIMS's specific issues such as the aging researcher population. Such problems should be, of course, solved through NIMS's own efforts. Actually, NIMS is expecting the center to play just two roles, i) leading of the main body of NIMS by carrying out research in a radically accelerated manner and ii) fostering of NIMS's future research leaders with establishment of NIMS's tenure-track system.