

Host Institution's Commitment

Date : November 12, 2010

To MEXT

Name of host institution : Kyushu University

Name and title of head of host institution : Setsuo Arikawa, President

Signature

I confirm that the measures listed below will be taken faithfully if "International Institute for Carbon-Neutral Energy Research" is adopted under the World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI).

<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.
- Details of the mid-term goal and strategy plans for Kyushu University from the year 2010 are as follows;
 - Mid-term goal: "Kyushu University will undertake research activity as a global research and education center, and reflect the results to the social development. We will have our academic environment in a high-quality and attractive condition, where excellent researchers will gather and share/grow their knowledge. The university contributes to the development and creation of a new research area of integrated sciences."
 - Mid-term strategy plans for this goal are: "To promote the research and development activities on the subjects which are in national and social demands, and to attain creative and advanced research results by taking advantage of feature of a university."; "To undertake interdisciplinary and world leading researches in a wide range of subjects, from humanities and social sciences to natural sciences and engineering, for attainment of outstanding achievement."; and "To establish a research organization which can promptly, flexibly, and appropriately respond to the social needs of the times."
- The concept of Carbon-Neutral Energy Research Institute is in close line with this new mid-term goal and plans of Kyushu University. The Institute is organized directly under the president of Kyushu University, and the support to the Institute Director Prof. Sofronis from the University President and from the whole departments of Kyushu University will be guaranteed.

<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.
- In order to acquire large competitive research grants, Office for Strategic Research Planning and other related offices of Kyushu University will proactively support researchers, such as on information gathering and strategic advice on grant applications. In addition, the university funding will be effectively used to provide financial support to researchers.
- For the provision of the world's top-level research environment, a new research building for the WPI project with advanced equipments and facilities will be constructed in the new ITO campus, under initiative of the university president. Prior to the completion of the construction of this new building, research rooms and spaces will be arranged for invited or newly employed researchers from external organizations.
- The Institute will proactively act on the attainment of financial supports from the local government and industries in related areas.
- (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 Institute will be established as an organization directly under the president of Kyushu University. The system will be set up for the Institute Director to be able to make decisions on research plans, research frameworks, budget implementation, that are related to the Institute management, with the exceptions for the appointment/dismissal of the Institute Director and authorization for employment of the Principal Investigators.

(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.

- In regards to the researchers in Kyushu University contributing to the project, the university will work in coordination with the parent departments, providing them with the supports for the employment of substitutes for their educational and research activities, in order to maintain the educational and research activities of the parent departments.
- The university will provide flexible research infrastructures where international and national top-class researchers can perform collaborative researches which reflect the social requirements.

(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.

- Kyushu University is currently implementing a project for internationalization of research and education in the University, under the initiative of the president. As a part of this plan, efforts have been made, in collaboration with International Affairs Division of Kyushu University; conducting undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs in English language; increasing the number of international students and lecturers, preparing internal documents and the university webpage in English; assisting students and staff members to improve their English language skills; establishing international student and researcher support centers at every campus, in order to further accelerate the establishment of international educational and research environments.
- The Institute will be established as an organization directly under the president of Kyushu University. The system will be set up for the Institute Director to be able to make decisions on research plans, research frameworks, budget implementation, which are related to the institute management.
- In regards to salary settings, there is already a system in Kyushu University to set the various range of salary based on the abilities of researchers especially for ones from external institutes. As needs arise, the system will be re-examined.
- In addition, Kyushu University will work in cooperation with the Institute for flexible implementation, adjustment, modification of the university's internal systems, upon the requests from the Institute Director, in order to ensure smooth management of the Institute.

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

- For the provision of the world's top-level research environment, a new research building for the WPI project with advanced equipments and facilities will be newly constructed in the new ITO campus, exclusively, under initiative of the university president. Prior to the completion of the construction of this new building, research rooms and spaces will be arranged for invited or newly employed researchers from external organizations.
- In ITO campus, there are already many advanced research facilities and equipments in the research centers, for example the Central Analytical Center and High Voltage Electron Micrograph Laboratory, and the preferential usages of those equipments will be arranged for the researchers in the WPI project.

(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.

- Prof. Yukitaka Murakami, Vice Director of the Institute, will take on responsible roles as the chief center-project officer for this WPI research Institute, to realize the concepts and to meet the objectives of the Institute. After the establishment of the Institute, he will continue to take on responsible roles as the chief center-project officer under the direction of the president of Kyushu University, in order to effectively work in coordination with the relating departments of the

university.

- The promotion of the concept of this Institute as the model project for internationalization of research and education in Kyushu University, and the application of the concept of this Institute to the entire University body would contribute to reforming the university system and to training our young researchers to be internationally recognized.