

FAQ for A3 Foresight Program (Last update: March 2018)

(Q1) What is the “A3 Foresight Program”?

(A1) The “A3 Foresight Program” is the joint program based on the agreement between NSFC (China), JSPS (Japan) and NRF (Korea).

【Objectives】

-To create world-class research hubs within the Asian region, which by advancing world-class research, will contribute to the solution of common regional problems

-To foster new generations of talented young researchers

【Supported Activities】

Joint research activities, seminars and researcher exchanges between the three countries

【Targeted Research Field】

Decided via consultation among the three agencies in the previous year’s A-HORCs meeting

(It corresponds to the theme of the Northeastern Asian Symposium)

(Q2) Who will apply to this program?

(A2) A project principal investigator (PI) will apply respectively to the funding agency of each country (China-NSFC, Japan-JSPS, Korea-NRF).

(Q3) How to write proposal documents?

(A3) English application form “Application Form A” is the common format among three countries. The contents of application must be shared in three countries and they should be same. Please note that three PIs should communicate well to form alignment in advance.

(Q4) Should applicant PIs in the three countries prepare the same proposal documents?
Is there any additional document to submit in each country?

(A4) The “Application Form A” should have the same contents among the three countries. Please note that an application from one country will be invalid if the contents of its Form A are different from the other two countries. Therefore, three PIs should communicate well on the contents of the proposal before applying. Please also note that there may be additional documents a PI should submit to the funding agency

of each country.

(Q5) Who is eligible to become a PI?

(A5) For the eligibility of PI, please check the guidelines given by the funding agency of your country (China-NSFC, Japan-JSPS, and Korea-NRF) as each agency may set different criteria.

(Q6) How much funding will a core institution receive? What can this funding be used for?

(A6) A funding agency in each country will provide a PI affiliated core institution with funds. However, the amount of funding and funding rules will be varied. Please check the guidelines given by the funding agency of your country.

(Q7) How to share the cost among three countries?

(A7) The cost burden is mutually shared among the three countries. The basic rules of cost-sharing are as follows:

(1) Travel and Maintenance

Please choose either from [Pattern1] or [Pattern2] shown below.

[Pattern 1]

The sending side covers the costs of overseas travel, living expenses (including accommodations, meals and municipal transportation) and domestic travel fees in the counterpart country.

[Pattern 2]

The sending side covers the cost of overseas travel to the nearest airport of the destination, while the receiving side covers living expenses (including accommodations, meals and municipal transportation) and domestic travel costs.

(2) Seminars

- Seminars will be held in China, Japan, and Korea, not in other countries.
- The cost of holding a seminar is to be covered by the host country.

(Q8) How long (short) should the periods of exchanges be?

(A8) The period of exchange will be determined with reference to each project's budget.

Therefore, three PIs should discuss on their research plan in detail including researchers' exchange plans.

(Q9) Is there a maximum (minimum) limit on the number of participant researchers?

(A9) There is no fixed maximum/minimum limit on the number of participant researchers. Therefore, three PIs need to discuss each other on the numbers of participants in advance.

(Q10) Can we add the number of participant researcher(s) after the project starts? Can a participant researcher withdraw from the project after it starts?

(A10) Yes, you can. To implement necessary administrative procedures, please check the guidelines given by the funding agency of your country.

(Q11) Are post-doc researchers, doctoral and master's students allowed to participate in a project?

(A11) Yes, they are. Please note that undergraduate students are not eligible to participate in the program.

(Q12) Can researchers of universities or research institutes outside of the core institution participate in the project?

(A12) Yes, they can, as long as their universities or research institutes are located in one of the three countries and they are designated as eligible institutions by the funding agency of each country. Please check the eligibility criteria defined by the funding agency of your country (China-NSFC, Japan-JSPS, and Korea-NRF).

(Q13) Is it allowed to invite researchers from the countries other than China, Japan and Korea under this program?

(A13) No, only the researchers from the three countries are eligible to participate in the program. Exceptional approval may be obtained in accordance with the rule of each funding agency in such a case as inviting an eminent scientist as a keynote speaker for the international symposium held under the program. Please check the related guidelines given by the funding agency of your country (China-NSFC, Japan-JSPS, and Korea-NRF) for regulation details.

(Q14) Should core institutions in the three countries conclude a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to implement this program?

(A14) An official “MoU” concluded between core institutions is not necessarily required.

(*) Instead, core institutions of the three countries have to set essential rules to implement this program, such as the cost-sharing methods, attribution of intellectual property, etc.

(*Note: Nevertheless, the core institutions of the three countries might be recommended to sign an official MoU in order to encourage to build a research network among them and continue to cooperate one another even after the projects finished.)