

The Embassy of Japan presents the *Japan Science & Technology Newsletter*, a quarterly report on Japanese science and innovation highlights and news.

## **1. Japan-Canada S&T Cooperation**

### **1.1 New project selected for the Japanese-Canadian (JST-NSERC) Research Cooperative Program**

The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) announced a new project on “Renewable Energy” for the Japanese-Canadian Research Cooperative Program with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). Following a Concurrent Call for Proposals in “Renewable Energy” and “Energy Use” research, JST and NSERC selected the project using a previously agreed evaluation process. The project for the Japanese-Canadian Research Cooperative Program; “Drying and torrefaction of biomass in fluidized beds with energy recovery and self-heat recuperation,” is part of the FY2012 Strategic International Research Cooperative Program (SICP). It aims to drastically reduce overall energy consumption of wood pellets production compared with conventional processes by developing an innovative torrefied wood pellets production process, in which heat recuperative fluidized bed drying is integrated with biomass torrefication and will be conducted by Atsushi Tsutsumi, Professor, The University of Tokyo, as the Japanese-side Principal Investigator, and Xiaotao Bi, Professor, University of British Columbia as the Canadian-side Principal Investigator. (Oct 12) [http://www.jst.go.jp/pr/info/info919/Attachments2\\_e.html](http://www.jst.go.jp/pr/info/info919/Attachments2_e.html)

### **1.2 Twelfth Japan-Canada Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation held in Tokyo**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Japan-Canada Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation was successfully held January 28-29 in Tokyo, with representatives from both countries discussing the avenues for bilateral cooperation in a wide range of scientific fields. At the Committee it was determined that the revised funding document that outlines a side-by-side comparison of Japanese and Canadian S&T funding program will be published on respective Japanese and Canadian government websites. (Jan 28, 29) [http://www.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/2013\\_shared\\_images/Science%20and%20Technology/FUNDING%20OPPORTUNITIES%20CANADA-JAPAN%2013-01-19.pdf](http://www.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/2013_shared_images/Science%20and%20Technology/FUNDING%20OPPORTUNITIES%20CANADA-JAPAN%2013-01-19.pdf)

### **1.3 Second Japan-Canada Nanotechnology Workshop held in Tokyo**

The Second Japan-Canada Nanotechnology Workshop was conducted January 29-30 in Tokyo managed by the National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS) secretariat. About 100 representatives from academia, governments, public institutes and private sectors attended and participants engaged in lectures, discussions and presentations on a range of cutting-edge nanotechnology research issues including bio-mimetic materials, renewable energy, nano-electronics, photovoltaics and molecular interfaces. (Jan 29, 30)



### **1.4 Japan-Canada Arctic Research Workshop conducted in Tokyo**

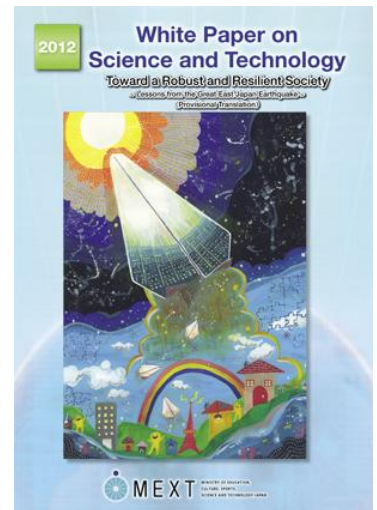
The Japan-Canada Arctic Research Workshop was held January 14 in Tokyo with participants from both countries. The Workshop was conducted with the aim of promoting Arctic research more effectively, and scientists from Japan and Canada engaged in reviews of research activities and previous collaborative relationships to consider the future implementation of collaborative research in broader areas. (Jan 14)



## **2. Japanese S&T**

### **2.1 MEXT releases its 2012 White Paper on Science and Technology**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of the Government of Japan releases its White Paper on Science and Technology; *“Toward a Robust and Resilient Society – Lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake”* which focuses on the consequences of and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake (GEJE), and its implications for science, technology and innovation (STI) policy. Its Review of the Response to the GEJE examines the issues raised by the earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear power station accident, particularly on public awareness of science and technology which has declined in trust though expectations remain high. In Reforming the STI Policy in order to Form a Robust and Resilient Society, the paper recommends STI measures to be utilized to overcome the problems caused by the GEJE and the application of R&D to recovery and reconstruction initiatives. Renewing society’s trust in STI policy can be accomplished by promoting S&T in response to social needs, and by Risk Communication, Regulatory Science and Evaluation of the impact of advanced technologies on society to the creation of a system through which scientific advice can be provided to the government for use in public administration. <http://www.mext.go.jp/english/whitepaper/1323541.htm>



## **2.2 Astronaut Akihiko Hoshide successfully completes long-duration stay on the ISS**

Astronaut Akihiko Hoshide returned to Earth aboard the Soyuz spacecraft, 31S/TMA-05M, following a long-duration mission on the International Space Station (ISS). Astronaut Hoshide has successfully completed his 124 day long mission, which marked the fourth long duration stay of Japanese astronauts on the ISS. While in space he participated in connecting the H-II Transfer Vehicle "KOUNOTORI 3" (HTV3) to the ISS, and conducted extravehicular activity as the first Japanese astronaut during the long-duration stay aboard the ISS. (Nov 19)



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