

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 First Joint Meeting on Space Cooperation between Japan and Canada held

Japan and Canada held the first Joint Meeting on Space Cooperation at Ottawa. This Joint Meeting is based on the Memorandum for Promotion of Space Cooperation between Japan and Canada that was signed on the margins of Prime Minister Harper's visit and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) Business Development Mission to Japan in March 2012. The meeting was co-chaired by the representative of the Office of National Space Policy, Cabinet Office (ONSP), and the representative of the CSA. Main participants included representatives of ONSP, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Embassy of Japan in Canada, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Society of Japanese Aerospace Companies (SJAC), and companies from space related industry (Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd., IHI Corporation, IHI Aerospace Co., Ltd., Defense Systems Company Hitachi, Ltd., NEC Corporation, Fujitsu Limited, Sumitomo Corporation, and Mitsubishi Corporation). The Canadian side included representatives from the Government of Canada, the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada (AIAC) and premier Canadian space companies including ABB, COM DEV, iDirect, Magellan, MDA, NEPTec and TELESAT. Participants proposed to continue to promote space cooperation between Japan and Canada, and agreed to continue discussions for this purpose. During the meeting, under Memorandum for Promotion of Space Cooperation between Japan and Canada, JAXA and CSA signed an Implementing Arrangement concerning the Mutual Cooperation in Satellite Disaster Monitoring.

Further, both sides exchanged views on enhancing cooperation between industry, and agreed that SJAC and AIAC, as representatives of space industry in both countries, to continue discussions for building mutually beneficial business partnerships.

Both sides confirmed that Japan and Canada would hold this Joint Meeting on a regular basis. (May 1)

1.2 The First Workshop of Canada-Japan Universities Collaboration on Resources is conducted

Researchers from 5 Japanese and 8 Canadian universities participated in the first Canada-Japan collaboration workshop between resource sciences universities, hosted at the University of Toronto. The collaboration workshop was realized to develop cooperative initiatives between resource sciences universities in Japan and Canada, as part of a follow-up initiative to the March 2012 announcement by both the Canadian and Japanese Prime Ministers recognizing the importance of continuing collaborations on research and technology in the energy and mineral resources sectors. Following opening remarks by Mr. Eiji Yamamoto, Consul-General of Japan in Toronto, active discussion was held regarding issues on educational research initiatives, and collaboration and cooperation at each university. (May 9)



1.3 The Chemical Society of Japan awards Dr. Howard Alper honorary foreign membership

Dr. Howard Alper, chair of the Government of Canada's Science, Technology, and Innovation Council (STIC) and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Ottawa, was made an honorary foreign member by the Chemical Society of Japan (CSJ) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to many fields of science. Dr. Alper, through his position as vice-chair of RIKEN, Japan's research organization for basic and applied sciences, has furthered Canadian scientific research ties with Japan. (April 11)



2. Japanese S&T

2.1 Application filed for first clinical research using iPS cells by RIKEN and Institute of Biomedical Research and Innovation Hospital

The RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology (CDB) and the Institute of Biomedical Research and Innovation Hospital in Kobe, in accordance with the Guidelines for Clinical Research Using Human Stem Cells, have applied to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) to conduct clinical research on 6 age-related macular degeneration patients, proposing to transplant retinal cells (retinal pigment epithelial cells) created from iPS cells (induced pluripotent stem cells). The application comes after approval was granted by the Ethics Committees of both RIKEN and the Institute of Biomedical Research and Innovation Hospital for the trial. If approved by the Ministry, the transplant would be the world's first clinical research using iPS cells, and will be conducted at the Institute of Biomedical Research and Innovation Hospital. (Feb. 28)

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