

Report

**Japanese Master Plan of
Large Research Projects 2011**

—— A Table of 46 Selected Projects ——



**28 September 2011
Science Council of Japan
Committee for Scientific Community
Subcommittee for Large Research Projects**

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Introduction

The Science Council of Japan (SCJ) announced the first “Japanese Master Plan for Large Research Projects”, hereafter “Master Plan 2010”, on 17 March 2010 to show the direction of science to the public, to promote cutting-edge science, and to strengthen and broaden the base of Japanese science. The “Master Plan 2010” has had a large impact on a wide range of global science communities, and also has drawn great attention from industry and the mass media.

In 2011, as we had proposed in “Master Plan 2010”, we implemented a minor revision of “Master Plan 2010” without any change in the definition of “a large research project” and the selection criteria. Here we present a summary of “Master Plan 2011” in English.

Contents of Master Plan 2011

“Master Plan 2011”, which is a revised version of “Master Plan 2010”, is a 150-page report in Japanese, prepared by the Subcommittee for Large Research Projects of the SCJ. The report includes 46 projects that are categorized into “Large Research Facility Projects” and “Large-scale Research Projects” selected from 7 fields of science: Humanities and Social Sciences; Life Sciences; Energy, Environmental and Earth Sciences; Material and Analytical Sciences; Physical Science and Engineering; Space Science; and Information Science.

The “Master Plan 2011” in Japanese consists of four sections: 1. Background and Purposes; 2. Revision Process; 3. Selection Criteria; and 4. Summary, followed by the “Table of 46 Selected Projects” with important information, such as project name, duration of the project, summary of the project, expected outcome, and degree of development (Supplement 1) together with the 2-page descriptions of each project (Supplement 2). An English version of Supplement 1: “Table of 46

Selected Projects” is attached to this summary.

Reasons for Revision

The revision of the “Master Plan 2010” has been implemented primarily for the following two reasons: (1) We expected to implement minor modifications within one year after announcing the first master plan, in order to reflect up-to-date circumstances in science communities; and (2) Ten of the 43 projects in “Master Plan 2010” were at least partly budgeted and started in fiscal year 2010 because of successful efforts to collaborate with funding agencies.

Process for Revision

We, first, conducted a third survey on the premise that minor revisions would be made without any change in the definition of “a large research project” and the selection criteria. Targets of the survey, as for “Master Plan 2010”, were universities and research institutes covering all Japanese major research organizations. As a result, 107 new proposals were submitted to SCJ. For the selection, the committee reviewed all proposals, including 43 projects from the “Master Plan 2010”, by referring to presentations and discussions at hearings by 30 specialists from various fields.

Results of Selection

Finally, for “Master Plan 2011”, the committee selected 46 projects, including 10 entirely new projects and 5 projects that were modified from “Master Plan 2010”. The number of the selected projects from each field is as follows:

<i>Field</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
Humanities and Social Sciences	3	4
Life Sciences	11	14
Energy, Environmental and Earth Sciences	8	9
Material and Analytical Sciences	4	4
Physical Science and Engineering	11	9
Space Science	4	3
Information Science	2	3
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Total	43	46

Summary

1. “Master Plan 2010” has had a large impact on a wide range of global science communities, and also has drawn great attention from industry and the mass media. Minor revisions have been implemented to reflect up-to-date circumstances in science communities. “Master Plan 2011” will be sent to all related governmental organizations and research organizations. The SCJ will keep and strengthen close contact and cooperation with the related funding agencies to follow up on “Master Plan 2011”.
2. The SCJ will continually review and update the Master Plan. A major revision of the Master Plan will be implemented after two years, in 2013. Afterwards, we expect to have a new version every three years.

The Members of the Subcommittee for Large Research Projects
(The 21st Period of SCJ)

Chairperson	Iwasawa, Yasuhiro	(Council member of Section III)	Chemistry
Vice-chairperson	Yamamoto, Matori	(Council member of Section I)	Anthropology
Secretary	Kaifu, Norio	(Council member of Section III)	Astronomy
Secretary	Nagano, Tetsuo	(Member)	Pharmaceutical Science
	Kobayashi, Yoshiaki	(Council member of Section I)	Political Science
	Shirata, Cindy Yoshiko	(Council member of Section I)	Management
	Yamagishi, Toshio	(Council member of Section I)	Psychology
	Asashima, Makoto	(Council member of Section II)	Biology
	Yamamoto, Masayuki	(Council member of Section II)	Biology
	Ohgaki, Shinichiro	(Council member of Section III)	Environmental Engineering
	Taira, Asahiko	(Council member of Section III)	Earth and Planetary Science
	Nagamiya, Shoji	(Council member of Section III)	Physics
	Yagawa, Genki	(Council member of Section III)	Computational Science
	Gojobori, Takashi	(Member)	Biology