

Outline of JSPS's Asian CORE Program, FY2007

1. Objective

This program is designed to create world-class research hubs in selected fields within the Asian region, while fostering the next generation of leading researchers. It does this by establishing sustainable collaborative relations among research/education institutions in Japan and other Asian countries. Under the program, these "core institutions" will collaborate in cutting-edge fields of research and on research topics deemed to be of high international importance.

Core institutions in Japan and other Asian countries conduct exchanges based on a principle of equal partnership. These exchanges will take the form of joint research, seminars and other scientific meetings, and researcher exchanges, which are to be organized and carried out effectively under the program.

It is anticipated that the hubs formed by the core institutions will continue to carry out research activities after the funded project has ended.

2. Targeted Research Topics

Research topics deemed to be of cutting-edge and high international importance.

(All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.)

3. Eligible Countries

Asian countries (Core institutions may only be established in Asian countries; however, individual researchers from other countries or regions, including non-Asian, are eligible to participate in projects.)

4. Implementation Method

- (1) A full-time researcher employed at a Japanese university or research institute acts as the project coordinator. His/her institution or department sets up the implementation framework and carries out the project.
- (2) JSPS provides financial support for carrying out project-related joint research, scientific meetings and researcher exchanges by Japanese core institutions. Counterpart core

institutions are to obtain project funding equivalent to JSPS's from science-promotion agencies or other funding organizations in their respective countries.

- (3) JSPS makes a call for proposals to universities/research institutions, and conducts reviews and selections. JSPS will neither seek nor negotiate with science-promotion agencies or funding organizations in counterpart countries.

The procedure is as follows.

JSPS makes a call for proposals to Japanese universities/research institutions.

Japanese universities/research institutions interested in conducting exchanges with counterparts in Asian countries select counterpart universities/research institutions and devise research plans.

The "counterpart core institutions" negotiate with or submit funding applications to funding agencies in their respective countries in order to obtain project funding equivalent to JSPS's. (JSPS does not ask its overseas counterpart agencies to make proposal calls under the title "Asian CORE Program." As long as counterpart core institutions are able to obtain project funding under any program in an amount as much as that provided by JSPS, JSPS consider them eligible to participate in this program.)

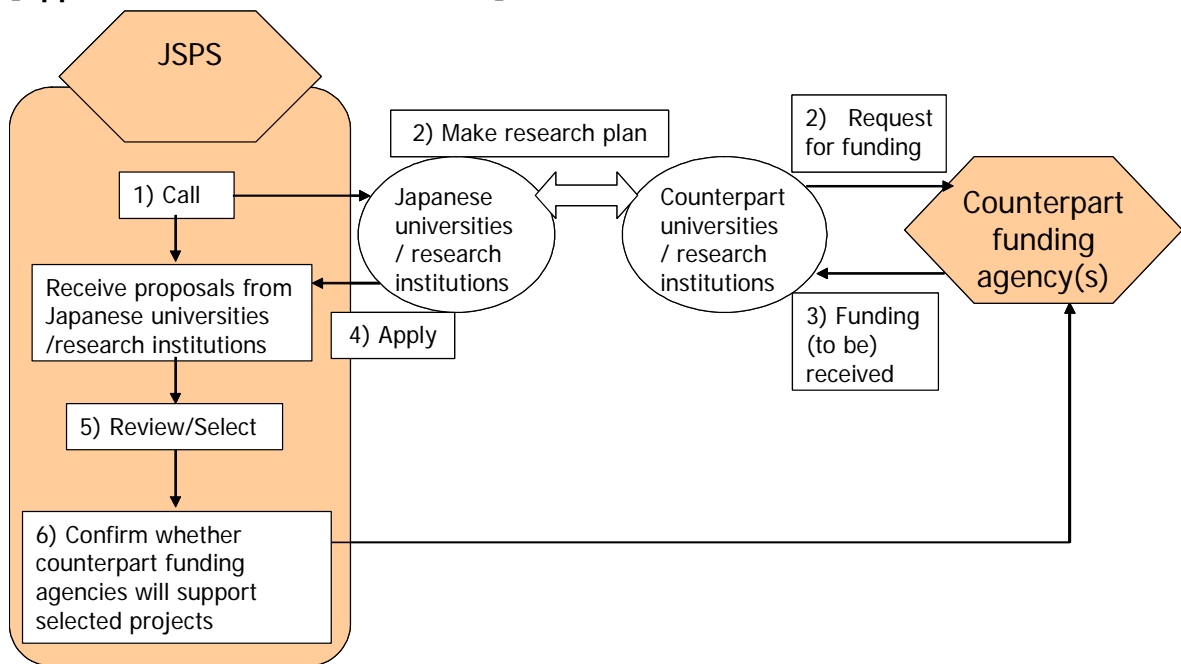
Japanese universities/research institutions submit applications to JSPS after the counterpart core institutions confirm that they have either acquired or been selected for project funding or been promised such funding. (However, an application may be submitted while a counterparts' funding request is being processed. If the funding is not obtained, the application will be cancelled.)

JSPS reviews proposals received and selects projects.

JSPS confirms whether funding agencies in counterpart countries are willing to provide equivalent funding for the selected projects.

The actual operation of the selected projects is left to the core institutions themselves.

[Application and Selection Process]



5. Project Period

From April 2007 through March 2012 (under the FY2007 call)

6. Project Funding

JSPS will provide Japanese core institutions with the following funding:

Up to ¥12 million per fiscal year.

7. Number of projects slated to be launched each fiscal year

Two or three projects.

8. Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be weighed heavily in the project selection process:

- (1) Research topics recognized as being leading-edge in Japan and the scientifically advanced counterpart countries.
- (2) Need for doing research jointly with the counterpart countries.
- (3) Contribution to forming, strengthening and expanding international research networks.
- (4) High scientific value of the research project.
- (5) Contribution to solving contemporary societal issues and/or to improving the quality of

life.

- (6) Contribution to fostering young researchers in the subject field.
- (7) Contribution to correlating and integrating leading-edge scientific information.
- (8) Ability of team to continue research after funding ends as a world-standard research hub in the subject field.
- (9) Ability to achieve project objectives in light of its administrative and funding framework and research methodology.

9. Points with Regard to Project Application

- (1) Research collaboration is carried out between a core institution in Japan and one or more core institutions in other Asian countries. The collaborative framework is based on equivalent funding by core institutions in each participating country.
- (2) Applications will not be accepted from research groups that are already carrying out a project on the same research theme in the applying country under other JSPS programs, i.e., Asia-Africa Science Platform Program, Core University Program, A3 Foresight Program, joint research or seminars under JSPS's bilateral programs, or JSPS Core-to-Core Program.

Examples of Equivalent Burden Sharing

【Pattern 1】

Cost Items		Institution	JSPS	Counterpart Agency
Japanese-side researchers	International airfare			X
	Maintenance in host country			X
	Travel in Japan			X
	Research grant			X
Other-side researchers	International airfares		X	
	Maintenance in Japan		X	
	Travel in home country		X	
	Research grant		X	
Cost for holding seminars in Japan				X
Cost for holding seminars in other country			X	
Research equipment costs at core institution			X	X

【Pattern 2】

Cost Items		Institution	JSPS	Counterpart Agency
Japanese-side researchers	International airfare			X
	Maintenance in host country		X	
	Travel in Japan			X
	Research grant			X
Other-side researchers	International airfares		X	
	Maintenance in Japan			X
	Travel in home country		X	
	Research grant		X	
Cost for holding seminars in Japan				X
Cost for holding seminars in other country			X	
Research equipment costs at core institution			X	X

10. Obligations of Japanese Core Institutions

- (1) Japanese core institutions are to establish a project homepage and keep it updated with comprehensive information on the project both during and after the JSPS funding period.
- (2) Japanese core institutions and coordinators should, as request by JSPS, submit project reports (e.g., yearly and final-year reports) and receive prescribed project evaluations (i.e., interim, project-completion and post-project evaluations).

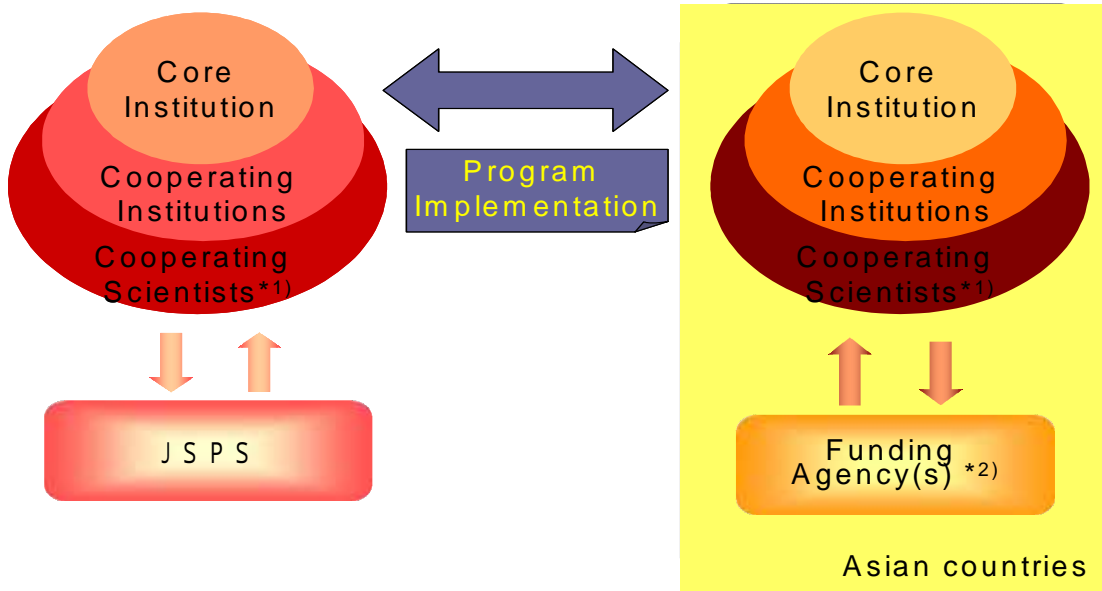
11. Others

- (1) JSPS takes no responsibility for injury or illness incurred during the implementation of projects.
- (2) JSPS claims the right to post project-related information on its homepage and on the related organizations, including but not limited to the names of participating institutions, coordinators, researchers and other personnel; annual project plans and reports; and results of projects evaluations.
- (3) Researchers eligible to receive JSPS financial support under this program are as follows:
 - Researchers employed at universities and research institutes. (In case of Japan, researchers eligible to apply for MEXT Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research.)
 - Researchers enrolled in the postgraduate courses, both in the master courses and in

the doctoral courses (undergraduate students are not eligible).

Postdoctoral researchers

<Program Diagram>



*1) Individual researchers from other countries or regions, including non-Asian, are eligible to participate in projects as "cooperating scientists".

*2) Funding may be from any organization, including corporations, in the core institution's country. Funding by the core institution, itself, is also permissible.