



JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Intergovernmental Conference of the International Human Frontier Science Program Organization *London, 10 June 2016*

Representatives of the Management Supporting Parties (MSPs) of Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and of the European Union met at an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) on 10 June 2016 in London (UK) to review the progress made and discuss the future of the International Human Frontier Science Program Organization (HFSPO).

1. Mission and added value of the Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP)

- a) Representatives recognise that the ever-growing complexity and diversity of science makes international collaboration more imperative than ever.
- b) Independent reviews acknowledge that HFSPO has an impressive track record in stimulating world-class excellence in high-risk/high-impact science and career development which, because of HFSP's particular niche (small-scale, bottom-up, high-risk, interdisciplinary, intercontinental), has significant added value.
- c) Representatives recognize that as a result of the investment made up to now, HFSPO is uniquely positioned as a global cooperation in supporting frontier life-sciences research. Representatives acknowledge the role of Japan as the initiator of HFSPO, its largest contributor and the cornerstone of its hitherto success and sustainability.

2. Continuation of the Human Frontier Science Program

- a) Representatives renew their commitment to HFSPO.
- b) Representatives confirm the mission given to HFSPO to promote research into the complex mechanisms of living organisms for the benefit of humankind.
- c) Representatives confirm their aim to maintain the uniqueness of HFSPO in supporting innovative, frontier research in the life sciences, encouraging high risk research and promoting international collaboration in the spirit of science without borders.
- d) Representatives note the range of programs within the HFSPO portfolio (Annex 1) and request the Board of Trustees to continue to reflect upon and consider these to ensure they continue to serve HFSPO's mission.
- e) Representatives acknowledge the need to ensure a sustained budget to maintain the attractiveness of HFSP, improve awarding capacity and be inclusive of fields as they emerge on the frontiers of the life sciences.

3. Finances

- a) While representatives acknowledge and commend the leading role of Japan in supporting HFSP for over 25 years, they also acknowledge that the time has come for greater burden-sharing to ensure that HFSP continues to make profound contributions in extending the frontiers.
- b) Representatives accept a financial framework for their indicative contributions to HFSP for the period 2017-2019 (Table 1)
- c) Representatives recognise the urgent need to move towards the development and application of new principles for calculating financial contributions in the long-term, taking into account quantitative and/or qualitative indicators and the impact of currency issues for MSPs' contributions and income to HFSP.
- d) Representatives encourage the Board of Trustees to seek additional resources from non MSP sources.

4. New members

- a) Representatives are pleased to welcome Singapore which joined the Program in 2014.
- b) Representatives encourage the Board to promote membership in HFSP and reconfirm its view that HFSP is open to new members, which enable the Program to better fulfil its mission. New members are a source of scientific enrichment and an indicator of the health and excellence of the Organization.

TABLE 1: Indicative Management Supporting Party Contributions 2017 – 2019 (in k local currencies)

MANAGEMENT SUPPORTING PARTY	CURRENCY OF CONTRIBUTION	CONTRIBUTION FY 2017	CONTRIBUTION FY 2018	CONTRIBUTION FY 2019
JAPAN	USD	21,043	21,043	21,043
AUSTRALIA	USD	772	788	803
CANADA	CAD	1,999	2,039	2,080
EUROPEAN UNION ¹	Euro	5,057	5,158	5,261
FRANCE	Euro	2,367	2,415	2,463
GERMANY	Euro	4,710	4,805	4,901
INDIA	USD	1,071	1,092	1,114
ITALY	Euro	956	975	995
KOREA	USD	846	863	880
NEW ZEALAND	USD	147	150	153
NORWAY ²	USD	658	671	685
SINGAPORE	USD	552	563	574
SWITZERLAND	CHF	938	957	976
UNITED KINGDOM	GBP	1,562	1,593	1,625
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	USD	10,749	10,964	11,183

Notes

1. The contributions from 2017 are calculated by increasing the amount in the final year (2016) of the Brussels IGC agreement (2013) and increasing this by 2% yearly.
2. Using reference rates of 1 USD = 0.90 Euro, 1.3 CAD, 1 CHF and 0.65 GBP, this would provide HFSP0 with totals of USD 55,261, 55,947 and 56,644 in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. The actual total amount will vary with changes in exchange rates of these currencies against the USD.
3. Japan's proportional support will fall from 38% to 37% (dependent on exchange rate changes).
4. Financial contribution of Japan is subject to change, depending on exchange-rate fluctuations due to the yen based contributions.

¹ As of 25 October 2016, the EU confirmed the figures above, following adoption of Horizon 2020 (the EU Framework Programme for Research and innovation 2014-2020).

²As of 14 November 2016, Norway confirmed the figures above.

ANNEX 1: Activities of HFSP

The Board of Trustees of the International Human Frontier Science Program Organisation have identified the following Programs for support for the period 2017-19.

Research Grants

Program Grants support innovative 3 year research projects involving extensive collaboration amongst small (2 to 4 member) teams of independent scientists (group leaders), working in different countries and in different disciplines. They are for investigator driven frontier research in the life sciences.

Young Investigator Grants. The same general conditions apply but these grants are reserved for teams where all team members are within 5 years of starting their first independent position (and within 10 years of receiving a PhD)

Fellowships

Long-Term Fellowships. The aim of the Fellowship program is to promote the international exchange of talented early career scientists for research training in the life sciences, with priority given to applicants who will broaden their research skills by moving into a new area of study. Applicants for Long Term Fellowships have a Ph.D. in a biological discipline.

Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships. Applicants for a Cross Disciplinary Fellowship have a Ph.D. from outside the life sciences (e.g. in physics, chemistry, mathematics, engineering, computer sciences, etc.)

Career Development Awards

The CDA program was designed to be a tool to facilitate repatriation of HFSP postdoctoral fellows and help them set up their first independent laboratory at a vulnerable career stage. The award can be held either in the fellow's home country, their spouse's home country or in any HFSP member country. The value of the award is 300,000 USD over three years. The Career Development Award is under review by the Board of Trustees.

Nakasone Award

The Nakasone Award is made to scientists who have undertaken frontier-moving research in biology, encompassing conceptual, experimental or technological breakthroughs. The Award recognises the vision of former Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan in the creation of HFSP.

Based on current policies and assumptions, the Board of Trustees estimated that these contributions will be able to support 32 Research Grants, 75 Long Term Fellowships, and 8 Career development Awards. In 2016, the Board supported 32, 75 and 8 awards respectively.

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ
of the
INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE
on
THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN FRONTIER SCIENCE PROGRAM
ORGANIZATION

London, 10 June 2016

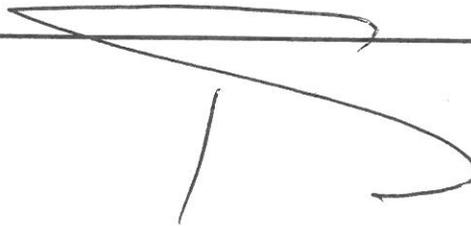
AUSTRALIA



CANADA



EUROPEAN UNION



FRANCE



GERMANY



INDIA



ITALY



JAPAN

Hirosi Ikenawa

NEW ZEALAND

Kathryn Moran

NORWAY

Arvid Jansen, 14/11-16

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

이동오 오영주

SINGAPORE

Iskandar

SWITZERLAND

1. Buretta

UNITED KINGDOM

Dr S. P. P. P.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Jane Silvestri
