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, HFSP 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 HFSP 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 HFSP portfolio (Annex 1) and request the Board of Trustees to continue to reflect upon and consider these to ensure they continue to serve HFSP’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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MANAGEMENT SUPPORTING PARTY</th>
<th>CURRENCY OF CONTRIBUTION</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTION FY 2017</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTION FY 2018</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTION FY 2019</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>USD</td>
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<td>CAD</td>
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<td>EUROPEAN UNION¹</td>
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<td>976</td>
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<td>10,964</td>
<td>11,183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 HFSPO 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).
² As of 14 November 2016, Norway confirmed the figures above.
ANNEX 1: Activities of HFSPO

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 Okawa

NEW ZEALAND  
Kathryn Robertson

NORWAY  
Inger Sandvik 1/11-16

REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
Park Yong Ho

SINGAPORE  
I. Seow

SWITZERLAND  
I. Beretta

UNITED KINGDOM  
M. S. Paer

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Jane Silvertree