

CONCERT JAPAN

Connecting and Coordinating
European Research and Technology Development with Japan

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2

October 2011

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EDITORIAL

This Newsletter of the CONCERT-Japan project focuses on the recent developments taking place in the CONCERT-Japan project in particular, and in Europe-Japan cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI) in general. Since the beginning of CONCERT-Japan project in January 2011, progress has been achieved in the EU-Japan STI cooperation with the approval of the S&T Agreement between EU and Japan in March 2011, the 20th EU-Japan Summit in May 2011, and the first Joint Committee Meeting on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. In the meanwhile, institutions from EU Member States, FP7 Associated Countries, and Japan are working together in CONCERT-Japan in order to jointly develop their cooperation faced with shifting challenges and priorities. We believe CONCERT-Japan project is an important catalyser in developing joint responses to perceived common challenges. If your organizations would also like to be involved in this process, please contact us through the e-mail address concertjapan@tubitak.gov.tr. We hope you enjoy reading this issue .

The First Stakeholders' Conference of CONCERT-Japan

The first Stakeholders Conference of the CONCERT-Japan Project was held on 26 July 2011 in Budapest, Hungary. The event brought together a various range of stakeholders interested in the future of Europe – Japan cooperation in science, technology and innovation.



In the frame of the Conference, the analytical studies of CONCERT-Japan which were undertaken since the beginning of 2011 were presented to the stakeholders, highlighting the STI funding policy and system of Japan, the mapping of the current state of STI cooperation as well as survey results on preferences of funding agencies with regard to the future of STI cooperation between Europe and Japan. The experiences of bilateral cooperation were shared in the afternoon session by funding agencies from

Europe and Japan with a focus on good practices and successes, difficulties, lessons learned and possibilities for future coordination.

At the end of the Conference, the future perspectives regarding the forthcoming activities of the CONCERT-Japan project were summarized. As an ERA-NET Project, CONCERT-Japan aims to implement a pilot joint call for funding joint STI activities in a multilateral scale. Various issues, including the nature, the themes and the instruments of funding in this pilot joint call were opened to broad discussion. The details of the call remained to be defined in the second half of 2011 with the input generated in the Conference, while the pilot joint call is expected to be announced after mid 2012.

The Stakeholders Conference constituted a favourable platform for ministries and funding agencies to be informed about the current state of cooperation between Europe and Japan through the analysis and reports of CONCERT-Japan project, as well as for expressing their interest in participating in the CONCERT-Japan joint call and joint activities in the future.

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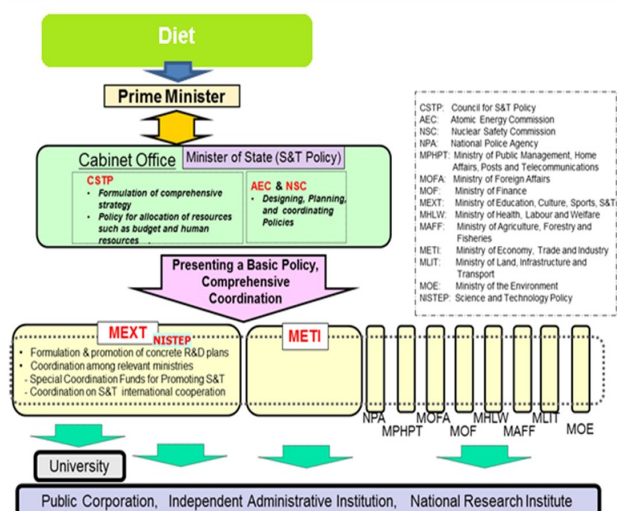
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Informative Report on the Japanese STI Funding Policies

CONCERT-Japan project has published its second deliverable, *The Informative Report on Japanese STI Funding Policy* in July 2011. The main purpose of the report is to give an explanatory overview of the Japanese STI funding policy system, its actors, their interrelations, the S&T basic plans and their implementation. It describes the budget distribution, gives a picture about the main key research indicators of the country and also refers to the recent documents and decisions that are shaping the Japanese STI policy.

The report serves as a basis for the implementation of the CONCERT-Japan project and as a source of information for the development of cooperation between Europe and Japan in general. The awareness in Europe with regard to the Japanese science and technology policy perspectives, processes and structure is aimed to be raised via this study. The Informative Report is now available to the public through CONCERT-Japan project website.



Source: Research and Development Evaluation in Japan & MEXT; Naoko Okamura, Director, Office of R&D Evaluation Science and Technology Policy Bureau, MEXT, Japan

Inventory of Japanese International STI Cooperation Program Owners/Managers

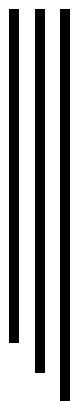
An Inventory of Japanese International STI Cooperation Program Owners and Managers has been developed in February 2011 in the framework of CONCERT-Japan project. The document gives a brief overview of the Japanese STI funding system, it describes the key actors and the flows of funding through different ministries to individual independent administrative funding or research institutions. A comprehensive table lists all involved actors and indicates their key activities.

The core of the document consists of the inventory describing Japanese institutions managing international STI cooperation programs. The institutions and their key

programs are briefly described and contact details are given for each of them.

In the CONCERT-Japan, this inventory served as a basis for the contacting program managers in Japan with a questionnaire investigating their STI cooperation with European partners, in order to compile a database of such cooperation.

This first deliverable of CONCERT-Japan project is publicly available and is published on the CONCERT-Japan website.



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Recommendatory Report on the Mapping of STI Cooperation Programmes

CONCERT-Japan Deliverable 1.4 *Recommendatory Report on the Results of the Mapping of STI Cooperation Programmes* has recently been published. The Recommendatory Report compiles the views and recommendations derived from the mapping of relevant bilateral, multi-lateral and unilateral science, technology and innovation cooperation programmes.

The Recommendatory Report serves as an input for the funding organisations on the way to the estimated Pilot Joint Call of the project. It mainly consists of three sub-reports which are 1) Analysis of Existing Bilateral and Multilateral STI Programmes, 2) Assessment of Japanese Participation in FP7 and 3) Evaluation of the Participation of European Researchers in Unilateral Japanese Mobility Programmes.

In addition to the descriptive part based on three sub-reports the Recommendatory Report offers three different policy strategies which are *creating synergies*, *exploiting complementarities* and an *alternative approach* as the mixture of first two approaches for the conception of the Pilot Joint Call.

Building on the data available, the report also includes an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of those presented strategies and a synthesis of the recommendations are generated for a better comparison perspective. The report includes valuable information for the demonstration of what has been done on STI cooperation programmes between European Union and Japan so far and how this can be further improved.

Database of STI Cooperation Programmes between European Countries and Japan

The deliverable *Database of the STI Cooperation Programmes between European Countries and Japan* is a collection of all programmes that are compiled through the answers to questionnaire.

Database includes the list of bilateral, unilateral and multi-lateral cooperation programmes. Each programmes is detailed in terms of their thematic fields, application procedure, supported activities, eligible applicants and support

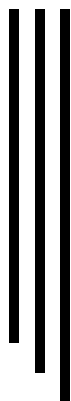
instruments. The database also provides the participating countries, managing institutions, contact information and url addresses details of each programme.

This database of cooperation programmes will be integrated to CONCERT-Japan website soon and enable researchers and interested programme owners to catch a broader perspective on the research cooperation opportunities between Europe and Japan.

Joint Publications' Analysis between Japan and European CONCERT-Japan Partners

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) has recently conducted an analysis on the joint publication statistics between Japan and European countries that are partners in the CONCERT-Japan consortium. The analysis includes the joint publications data of Japan with the 7 CONCERT-Japan project partner countries, i.e. Turkey, Germany, France, Hungary, Spain, Italy, Norway and Switzerland; plus United Kingdom (U.K.). The data source of this analysis is the data extracted from the Web of Science of Thomson Reuters covering the years from 1995 to 2011.

The statistical analysis on the joint publications among the aforementioned countries reveal the total number and the percentage of the joint academic publication both in general and according to the research fields in detail. The analysis on joint publications aims to envisage the trends, tendencies and the volume of joint research between European Countries and Japan on the way to the CONCERT-Japan project Pilot Joint Call. This analysis is now publicly available and can be found on the CONCERT-Japan website.



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Report on the Future Preferences and Priorities on STI Cooperation between Europe and Japan

As the final deliverable of CONCERT-Japan project Work Package 1, *The Report on the Future Preferences and Priorities on STI Cooperation between Europe and Japan* includes the consolidated results of the answers received from the Part IV in the questionnaires relating to future tendencies of the programme managers or owners in European Countries with regard to STI cooperation with Japan and vice versa.

The questionnaire has focussed on features of a preferable STI programme (e.g. type/ duration of future joint cooperation; scientific area, target sector, etc.) to identify the future preferences and priorities of stakeholders with

particular regard to the EU-Japan Joint Call to be implemented within the framework of CONCERT-Japan project.

In addition to the analysis of each reply to questionnaire by country and institution, the document also summarizes the outcomes of the questionnaire identifying the main preferences and priorities.

The report will serve as a significant input for the Strategy for Future Joint Activities to be elaborated in WP2 as well as for the Pilot Joint Call. The final decision about the strategic orientation of the call, however, will remain a responsibility of the call financiers.

Contact us if you would like to participate the Pilot Joint Call!

The work done in the CONCERT-Japan project so far has set the ground for the development of a joint activity among the consortium partners and interested outside participants. A **Pilot Joint Call** is currently being planned to be implemented by the second half of 2012. Currently expressions of interest are being collected from the interested parties to participate the CONCERT-Japan Pilot Joint Call, while a *Strategy for Future Joint STI Cooperation Activities between European Countries and Japan* is under development.

Currently, topics being considered for the joint call include energy management for low carbon society, infrastructure against climate change and natural disaster, healthy ageing and fusion of ICT and Medicine.

At this stage, we are collecting expressions of interest to participate to the CONCERT-Japan Pilot Joint Call. You can participate to this call,

- If you are a public STI funding agency or Ministry
- If you are a private funding agency or a foundation
- If you are an private industrial entity

Please contact us at concertjapan@tubitak.gov.tr, if you would like to join the discussion and know more about the planned call.

Next CONCERT-Japan Meeting: Pilot Joint Call Planning Meeting

The CONCERT-Japan Pilot Joint Call Planning Meeting will be held in Dusseldorf, Germany on 5-6 December 2011. The target group of this meeting are programme owners and managers who are interested in participating the call. The meeting will be devoted to identifying the

topics of the pilot joint call and its procedures and content. This meeting is open to participation of programme owners and managers interested to join this call as a funding organization