

Sakura Science Program (SSP) News Release

Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

June 6, 2014

Tokyo, Japan

The Sakura Science Program gets off to a good start

The Sakura Science Program received 316 proposals from all over Japan to host outstanding science-oriented Asian youth. The plan is to host 2,000 young people annually, but the number of Asian youth eager to visit Japan reached 3,808 at the first call for proposals. The successful proposals will be announced on Friday, June 13.

The visitation programs will begin in early July.

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), headed by President Michiharu Nakamura, announced the start of Sakura Science Program (SSP) as a new project beginning in April 2014. The first call for proposals from Japanese host organizations officially closed on May 23.

JST received 316 visitation proposals from educational institutions, local governments, foundations (*zaidan hojin*), semi-public corporations (*shadan hojin*), and business enterprises. The number of Asian youth they have proposed to host is 3,808. Based on the recommendations of a selection committee, JST will announce the successful proposals on Friday, June 13.

The goals of the Sakura Science Program are to work within the framework of close collaboration of industry, academia, and government to invite outstanding Asian youth for a short stay in Japan and to enhance productive exchanges between these youth and Japanese youth engaged in science and technology.

Concurrently, this program aims to promote interest in cutting-edge Japanese science and technology among outstanding Asian youth, and thus, to encourage capacity building of these youth.

Eligible candidates include high school, university, and graduate students and post-doctoral researchers. Youth from 14 countries and regions including China, South

Korea, and the 10 ASEAN members are eligible to participate in this program. The plan is to select an annual total of approximately 2,000 young people for a short visit to Japan.

3 science exchange courses for Asian youth

Host organizations can choose from 3 courses of activity.

- A. Special lectures and laboratory visits arranged by the host at the hosts' facilities or other venues.
- B. A short collaborative research project in which Japanese host researchers will work with Asian youth including students at universities and graduate schools and post-doctoral researchers.
- C. Visits to universities, industries, and/or research institutes, science museums, and/or science events arranged by hosts including local governments, foundations, and semi-public corporations (organizations which are not themselves educational or research institutes).

The first programs will begin in early July. Asian youth will begin arriving according to their various schedules.

Please see the official website of the Sakura Science Program for detailed information.

<http://ssp.ist.go.jp/EN/index.html>

Further information will be sent by email or fax.

Email: ssp.press@ist.go.jp

Fax: +81 (0)3-5214-8445

The following SSP personnel will gladly answer any questions you may have.

Nobuyuki Fukasawa

Email: ssp.press@ist.go.jp

Tel: + 81 (0)3-5214-0095

Fax:+81 (0)3-5214-8445