

11. Research Enhancement Strategy Office

The Research Enhancement Strategy Office (RESO) was newly established in October 2013 under the NINS program for “Promoting the Enhancement of Research Universities”, which is funded by the subsidy for promoting the enhancement of research universities of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

The NINS has set two goals for this program; one is to encourage cutting-edge academic research in the field of natural sciences through international joint research, and the other is to contribute to the enhancement of research capabilities of universities in Japan using our world’s most advanced research environment for joint utilization and joint research. In order to fulfil these goals, the NINS conducts a Research Enhancement Project with the following four approaches to the enhancement of research capabilities. They are as follows;

1. *Support for the Promotion of International Advanced Research*

In order to encourage international joint research and human resource exchange among foreign researchers, graduate students, etc. further, the NINS will assign expatriate University Research Administrators (URA) to the international collaboration hubs, etc. and facilitate close collaboration and information exchange with foreign universities.

2. *Support for the Promotion of Joint Utilization and Joint Research in Japan*

In order to strengthen the domestic structure for the promotion of joint utilization and joint research in the field of natural sciences, the NINS will probe for new seeds for joint research, facilitate the cultivation of young researchers, intensify information exchange further and academic-industrial collaboration with companies aiming at the development of research instruments, software, etc., contribute to research and development using NINS’ advanced facilities, equipment and devices, and support the development and dissemination of new experimental equipment and method.

3. *Dissemination of Information and Enhancement of Public Relations in Japan and Abroad*

The NINS will enhance public relations, disseminate and give back to society the significance and achievements of domestic and international joint utilization and joint research promoted at NINS, as well as strongly encourage the dissemination of information in English as an international joint research institute, explore the

opportunity for international joint research, and enhance our research capabilities through accepting brilliant young researchers and graduate students from other countries.

4. *Support for Researchers (especially for young, female or foreign researchers)*

The NINS will encourage the cultivation of young researchers as a research institute as well as an educational institute assuming responsibility for The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, while also improving the research environment for female researcher through providing support for research and livelihood, enhancing the research support system for the period of childbirth and childcare, etc. in order to promote the employment of female researchers.

Also, in order to encourage the acceptance of foreign researchers, the NINS will recruit brilliant young researchers from other countries and encourage international collaboration projects by putting out international announcements, etc., as well as supporting the improvement of the research environment for foreign researchers and graduate students the NINS employed.



Fig. 1 Organization Structure

The structure of this program is shown in fig.1. The Research Enhanced Promotion Offices were established in all institutes of NINS connected with the Research Enhanced Strategy Headquarters in the Tokyo office of NINS.

At the NIFS, three URAs were assigned for the purpose of (1) encouraging international collaborative

research, (2) supporting young researchers, and (3) enhancing international public relations. In order to assist the URAs, three Task Groups were organized in the RESO, which consist of a URA and senior researchers. The Public Relations Committee works together with the Task Group for promoting public relations, and the Collaborative Research Enhancement Committee with the Task Groups for promoting collaboration research, respectively. Also three URAs become members of the Board of Directors and Research Enhancement and Promotion where the important administrative matters are discussed. The organization of NIFS RESO is shown in fig.2. A part of our activities is linked to the NINS headquarters. For example, public relations will be widely disseminated in Japan as well as abroad through the NINS headquarters.

The activities of RESO in this year are as follows;

- (1) In order to investigate the activities on promoting collaboration researches, training young researchers and public relations in other institutions, we visited 13 leading research institutes in US, Europe and Japan listed below;
 - Plasma Physics Laboratory, Princeton University (US)
 - Oak Ridge National Laboratory (US)
 - University of California at San Diego (US)
 - Max Planck Plasma Physics Laboratory (Germany)
 - Julich general research organization (Germany)
 - Basic energy research institute (Holland)
 - Energy and the Environmental Technical Laboratory

(Spain)

- Karlsruhe technical research center (Germany)
 - Cadarache research institute (France)
 - RFX consortium (Italy)
 - JAEA Aomori research center (Japan)
 - Kyushu University, Applied Mechanics Research Institute (Japan)
 - Nagoya University, Ecotopia research institute (Japan)
- (2) During the visit listed above, we investigated their current research activities, and discussed about the seeds for future joint research with NIFS.
 - (3) In order that a young researcher could get external funds, such as the grant-in-aid scientific research, the URAs checked and brushed up their proposal documents. For other external funds such as JST and NEDO, the RESO gathered information on the programs appropriate for the NIFS researchers, and recommended them to apply the programs.
 - (4) The RESO analyses the data of Web of Science provided by Thomson Reuters to see the activities of NIFS researchers, and proposes a plan to raise their evaluation.
 - (5) As for international public relations, the RESO started to revise our English home page for the foreigners to be more familiar with the NIFS and our research activities. For this sake, an English native speaker is hired as a staff of the RESO.

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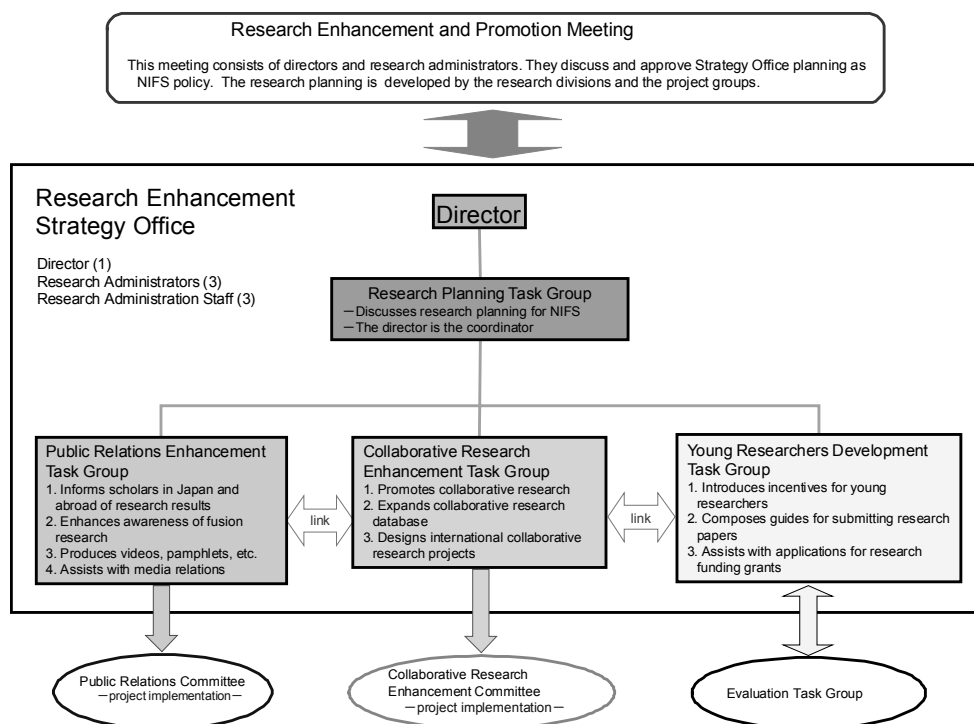


Fig. 2 Organization Structure of RESO