

## **The second annual plan for OIST Promotion Corporation**

### **1. Scientific Programme/Recruitment**

(1) Last year we advertised for Postdoctoral Fellows and Investigators. The selection process for Investigators which involves short listing, reviews of research plans and outside referees will continue this year. Postdoctoral Fellows and Technicians are chosen by the PI's.

(2) Towards the end of last year we launched a new initiative as part of our longer term strategic planning. It has become clear that in order to succeed we need to build up a small number of focused interdisciplinary groups to achieve critical mass. As it happens, we have made a good start in neuroscience and we will now explore the feasibility of creating an international initiative in primate brain research. To accomplish this we have set up a small group under the leadership of Dr. Kenji Doya who has canvassed the idea in Japan with positive response. We will follow this in May with a workshop of researchers in Japan and the internal project group will then be widened to include other scientists. An international workshop will follow in November and we will establish an international advisory group. These would include potential participants in the programme.

Another area where OIST can make a distinctive contribution is in the area of mathematical biology. We will follow the same procedure employed in the Primate Brain Project. The President will lead an internal effort to be followed by

two workshops, one, to gain initial Japanese participation, and a second to generate an international group. The area of mathematical theory in biological systems has strong connections with many aspects of existing OIST research in neuroscience and cellular regulation, and offers good opportunities for a graduate educational programme. Both projects will also form the basis for programmes of collaborative research on an international basis.

(3) Review of existing programmes:

Scientific reviews of two of the research programmes, those of Dr. Doya and Dr. Yanagida will be initiated in late FY 2006. It is proposed that these be carried out by Peer Review. Outside reviewers will be selected, partly in consultation with the PI's, to constitute a Review Committee for each. The names of the reviewers will be forwarded to the BOG for their views. The group would provide written reports of their work and the reviewers would provide their evaluation of the research. At the President's discretion a site visit of the review panel to Okinawa may be arranged. The reviews are likely to take place at the beginning of FY 2007. The reviewers' comments would serve as a basis for decision to renew the appointment for a further five years or to terminate it at the end of the existing tenure.

## **2. Dissemination of Research results**

(1) Our first annual report will be followed by a second one reporting activities of the IRP during FY 2006/2007.

(2) We will continue our seminar and lecture programme and publications in scientific journals as well as attendance at international meetings. We will also enhance our public relations efforts with the Okinawa community.

### **3. Education and Training Activities**

(1) We will undertake more discussions with various Research Institutions and Universities on collaborative programmes extending the arrangements already made. Most of the workshops we organize in FY 2006 will be related to our research planning activities as discussed above, or to ongoing educational activities such as the annual school of computational neuroscience.

### **4. Preparation work for the Foundation of the University**

(1) Last year we planned to seek an outside group to work on the proposed structure of the University, but we have not done so as experience has shown that there is much to debate before detailed technical plans can be specified. At the last meeting of Board of Governors, the President had suggested a retreat to explore the question in FY2006, but it is too difficult to organise at short notice especially with the constraints imposed by schedules of Board members. We will plan a major meeting on the theme "Graduate Education in Science and Technology in a Global World", which will explore the changing structures in different parts of the world, and with special reference to Asia-Pacific societies. We hope to do this in collaboration with one or more other institutions, and

intend to appoint a special advisor, who will be part of the President's office and will organize this meeting as well as take other responsibilities for international activities.

(2) Last year we suggested that a Scientific Advisory Group be set up who can help us plan future scientific activities. The international groups which will be formed by our scientific planning projects are advisory in the designated special areas. We will establish connections between these and the Board of Governors, and plan for a broader body to be established in FY 2007/2008.

## **5. Construction of Facilities**

(1) The basic design will be refined and detailed design commenced. This will be coordinated with a detailed design of site development.

(2) We will try to get the site development permission as soon as possible after the due process of environment assessment.

(3) A formal contract tendering process will secure bids for the site development and aim to commence the construction work in the latter half of the fiscal year.

(4) Before the start of site development, the private land for the planned construction site will be acquired.

## **6. Administrative and Financial Matters**

(1) The Office of the President has been established and all planning

activities are conducted there as individual projects. This includes close liaison with the Cabinet office.

(2) COPI (Committee of PI's) has worked well especially in conducting the recruitment exercise and participating directly in the scientific planning. These roles will be continued and strengthened.

(3) MACO (Management Committee) has also served an important function in corporate management issues and will be continued.

(4) Procedures will be continually reviewed as many of them are not suitable for managing a research institution at our early stage of development.

(5) With the full scale introduction of ERP system in key area of our operation, we will achieve an increase in operational efficiency and effectiveness.

(6) For better communication not just with the scientific community, but also with the society and the general public, newsletters will be published and the home page, etc will be improved.

## **7. Board matters**

(1) The President will continue discussions with the Chairman of the Board of Governors about ways of optimizing the participation of the Board in the development of OIST.

(2) We will hold at least two meetings of the BOG in FY 2006/2007.