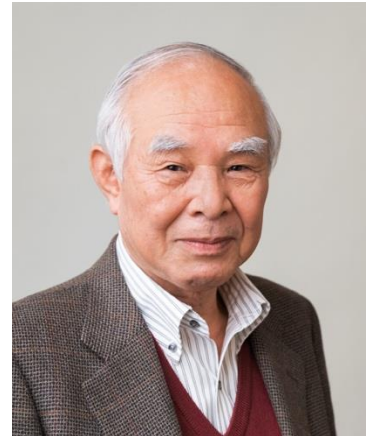


The story behind the launch of (Kavli) IPMU

16 Dec., 2024

Symposium Celebrating Hitoshi Murayama's
60th Birthday (還暦)



Sadanori Okamura

Executive Director, Today's Executive Management Program (Today's EMP)
Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo
Honorary Member, Astronomical Society of Japan

I am an astronomer, and when (Kavli) IPMU was born, I was an Executive Vice President (in charge of research) of the University of Tokyo

Whole the story is given in this IPMU interview.



WPI Program, MEXT (2007-)

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

●世界トップレベル研究拠点プログラム (WPI)



Unprecedentedly generous supporting program in order to create world premier international research centers in Japan
 > 10 M\$ (10⁹ yen)/year for 10 years (+ 5 years)

University's self-supporting Institute (WPI Academy)

WPI Centers

※令和6年10月時点 18 Centers as of October, 2024

Initial 5 centers

Academy

2007

- 【2007年度採択 5拠点】
- 東北大学 材料科学高等研究所(AIMR)
- 物質・材料研究機構 ナノ・マイクロ材料研究センター (MANA)
- 京都大学 物質・細胞統合システム拠点(iCeMS)
- 大阪大学 免疫学フロンティア研究センター(IFReC)
- 東京大学 Kavli IPMU (Kavli IPMU)

2010

- 【2010年度採択 1拠点】
- 九州大学 ナノ・マイクロ材料・有機材料国際研究所 (I²CNER)

9 Academy Centers

Being Supported

2017

- 【2017年度採択 2拠点】
- 東京大学 コーディネーション国際研究機構 (IRC�)
- 金沢大学 ナノ生命科学研究所(NanoLSI)
- 【2018年度採択 2拠点】
- 北海道大学 化学反応創成研究拠点(ICReDD)
- 京都大学 ナノ生物学高等研究拠点(ASHBI)

2021

- 【2021年度採択 1拠点】
- 高エネルギー加速器研究機構 量子場計測システム国際拠点(QUP)

2022

- 【2022年度採択 3拠点】
- 大阪大学 ヒト・マウス・疾患研究拠点 (PRIME)
- 広島大学 持続可能性に寄与するナノ材料超物質拠点 (SKCM²)
- 慶應義塾大学 ナノ生物学-微生物膜-量子計算研究センター (Bio2Q)

2012

- 【2012年度採択 3拠点】
- 筑波大学 国際統合睡眠医学科学研究機構 (IIIS)
- 東京科学大学 地球生命研究所 (ELSI)
- 名古屋大学 ナノバイオメディスン生命分子研究所 (ITbM)

2023

- 【2023年度採択 1拠点】
- 東北大学・海洋研究開発機構 変動海洋工学システム高等研究機構 (AIMEC)

● 世界トップレベル研究拠点プログラム (WPI)



Among the first 5 WPI Research Centers, (Kavli) IPMU was unique in that,

- built from scratch (others based on an existing Institute)
- met most requirements by MEXT in the very early stage
- highest rating of S (among S, A, B, C) in the final evaluation → got extended 5-year support (Kavli IPMU only)
- became a University's permanent Institute from scratch
- now often regarded as the best success in the WPI program

WPI Centers

Academy

【2007年度採択 5 拠点】 2007

| | |
|---|--|
|  | 東北大学 材料科学高等研究所(AIMR) |
|  | 物質・材料研究機構 ナノ・マイクロ材料研究センター (MANA) |
|  | 京都大学 物質-細胞統合システム拠点(iCeMS) |
|  | 大阪大学 免疫学知能研究センター(IFReC) |
|  | 東京大学 Kavli-IPMU カブリ国際宇宙研究機構 (Kavli IPMU) |

● 世界トップレベル研究拠点プログラム (WPI)



Program first discussed at CSTP
(Council for Science and Technology
Policy) in 2006.9

- 10 months for preparation
- Informal communications with CSTP+MEXT officers

- public announcement 2007.3
- proposal deadline: 2007.5.29
- selection: 2007.6-2007.8 → 5 centers
- WPI activities started: 2007.10.1

} Official time
schedule



WPI imposed many requirements (extracts only)

1. Purpose of Program

This program provides priority support for proposals aimed at creating world premier international research centers staffed at their core with the world's most leading researchers. By achieving a very high research standard and providing an excellent research environment, the centers should be "globally visible research centers" being able to attract top-level researchers from around the world.

2. Eligible Applicants

Host Institutions:

Universities, Inter-University research Institutes, Independent administrative institutions (IAIs), Public interest cooperations (PICs)

3. Number of awards

Approximately 5

4. Implementation period

10 years with possible 5-year extension for projects with outstanding results.



5. Concepts and requirements of eligible projects

(1) Research field

A field of basic research, including one aiming at a transition from basic research to applied research, in which a world-class research group currently exists in Japan. In principle, the field should be interdisciplinary, spanning or combining two or more of research areas such as Biosciences, Chemistry, Material Sciences, Electronics Engineering and Information Sciences, Precision and Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Mathematics.

(2) Research objectives

What new domains are expected to be pioneered by fusing the target fields. In the process, what world-level scientific issues are sought to be resolved.

(3) Project management

As the center's "face" and the person who gives the center an attractive persona within the international community, the director should be a distinguished researcher in the subject field, one capable of exercising highly effective leadership and inviting outstanding researchers to the center from around the world. To provide the director with strong administrative and managerial support, an administrative director is to be appointed to perform such tasks as maintaining an environment in which researchers can devote themselves fully to their work.



(4) Researchers and other center staff

To be "globally visible", the research center will need to have a physical concentration (or core) of researchers of a certain scale, one that poses a high research level. This core should be established within the host institution.

At all times, at least 30% of the researchers should be from overseas, including on short stays.

(5) Research environment

To ensure that top-caliber researchers from around the world can comfortably devote themselves to their research in a competitive international environment, measures such as following should be taken:

- exemption from other duties than their research
- providing adequate staff support
- fill postdoc positions through open international solicitations
- rigorous evaluation of research and merit-based annual salary system
- holding regular international conferences/symposia

(6) Indicators for evaluating a center's global standing

(7) Securing research funding



6. Host institution's commitment

For the center to achieve truly top world status, the host institution must clearly define the center's role within its mid-to-long-term strategy and provide it comprehensive support accordingly.

- support for the center to secure necessary resources exceeding WPI funds
- allow the director autonomy regarding the center's operation
- support the center director in coordinating with other departments
- be flexible for the center to effectively implement new management methods (e.g., English-language environment, merit-based pay, top-down decision making)- accommodate center's infrastructure (facilities, lab space, equipment, land)
- other types of assistance for the center to become a world premier international research center in both name and deed



The WPI application was not a free-will application by the researchers, but **a University project.**



In **summary**, the requirements for eligible applications are

- (1) very high world top-level research standard
- (2) fusion of two or more conventional research areas
- (3) international research environments
- (4) reform of the conventional system of Japanese universities

and

- (5) Host institution should provide every possible assistance for the director to achieve the above goals.



The WPI project was a university project

4. Host Institution's Commitment (in English) ←

←

Date ←

To MEXT ←

←

Name of host institution ← **The University of Tokyo**

Name and title of head of host institution ←

President Hiroshi Komiyama

←

Signature ←

←

I confirm that the measures listed below will be taken faithfully if "(project title)" is adopted under the World Premier International Research Center (WPI) Initiative. ←

Confirmation by the President was required in the application form

● 世界トップレベル研究拠点プログラム (WPI)



Program first discussed at CSTP
(Council for Science and Technology
Policy) in 2006.9

- 10 months for preparation
- Informal communications with CSTP+MEXT officers

- public announcement 2007.3
- proposal deadline: 2007.5.29
- selection: 2007.6-2007.8 → 5 centers
- WPI activities started: 2007.10.1

Official time
schedule

I had to act as a **dual personality** for the ten months.

One of the researchers preparing a proposal



Executive Vice President in charge of research
of the **host institution**

How the idea of IPMU emerged

• Institute for Cosmic Ray Research (ICRR)

Y. Suzuki ← First to start reaction, led proposal preparation, became a first Deputy Director

Nobel Prize



In neutrino physics, world-class research group exists here in University of Tokyo

↓
'We must submit a successful proposal'

→ More appealing to wider community

Neutrino Physics

2006.9-2007.5

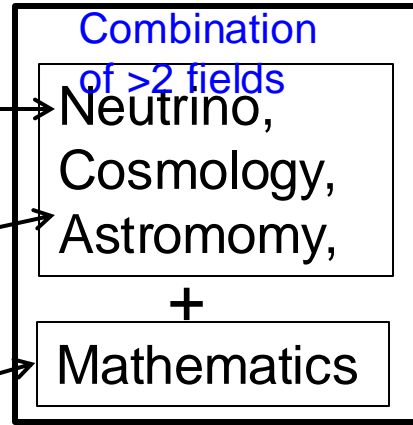
• School of Science (Dept. of Physics, and Dept. of Astronomy, RESCEU)

• International Center for Elementary Particle Physics (ICEPP)

K. Sato, T. Yanagida, Y. Suto, H. Aihara, S. Komamiya, K. Makishima, K. Nomoto, S. O., and others

Cosmology+Astronomy

Hiroshi Ooguri, at Yanagida Lab on sabbatical leave from CalTech



● Director Search: Y.Suzuki, H.Aihara, +

Director:

Hitoshi Murayama (UC Berkeley)

Highly appreciated



Administrative Director:

Kenzo Nakamura (KEK)

Highly appreciated



中村前事務部門長

Active researcher at KEK (neutrino experiment: K2K). Moved to IPMU before retirement

Tremendous efforts resulted in a very appealing proposal!

Call for proposal inside the University of Tokyo (2007.2.27)

Set up a review committee for internal selection

.....

... (hearing)

2007.5.16 Murayama-san's hearing
(I met him for the first time)

.....

.....

.....

Three very strong proposals emerged:

[Advanced International Reserach Center for Integrative Life Sciences](#)

[Institute for Correlated Matter Science](#)

[Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe \(IPMU\)](#)

These three are really very strong proposals.

Advanced International Research Center for Integrative Life Sciences

Institute for Correlated Matter Science

Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe (IPMU)

We decided to submit **all the three!**, wishing for multiple successes.

4. Host Institution's Commitment (in English) ←

←

To MEXT ←

←

Date ←

Name of host institution ← The University of Tokyo

Name and title of head of host institution ←

President Hiroshi Komiyama

Signature ←

←

I confirm that the measures listed below will be taken faithfully if "(project title)" is adopted under the World Premier International Research Center (WPI) Initiative. ←

We had to prepare **three independent support plans** to place each as a **University project**.

Lots of negotiations



(Aug. 2007)

Directors-to-be met with President Komiyama for the preparation for the hearing by the WPI Program Committee

2007.8.6 Murayama-san came from US to meet President Komiyama

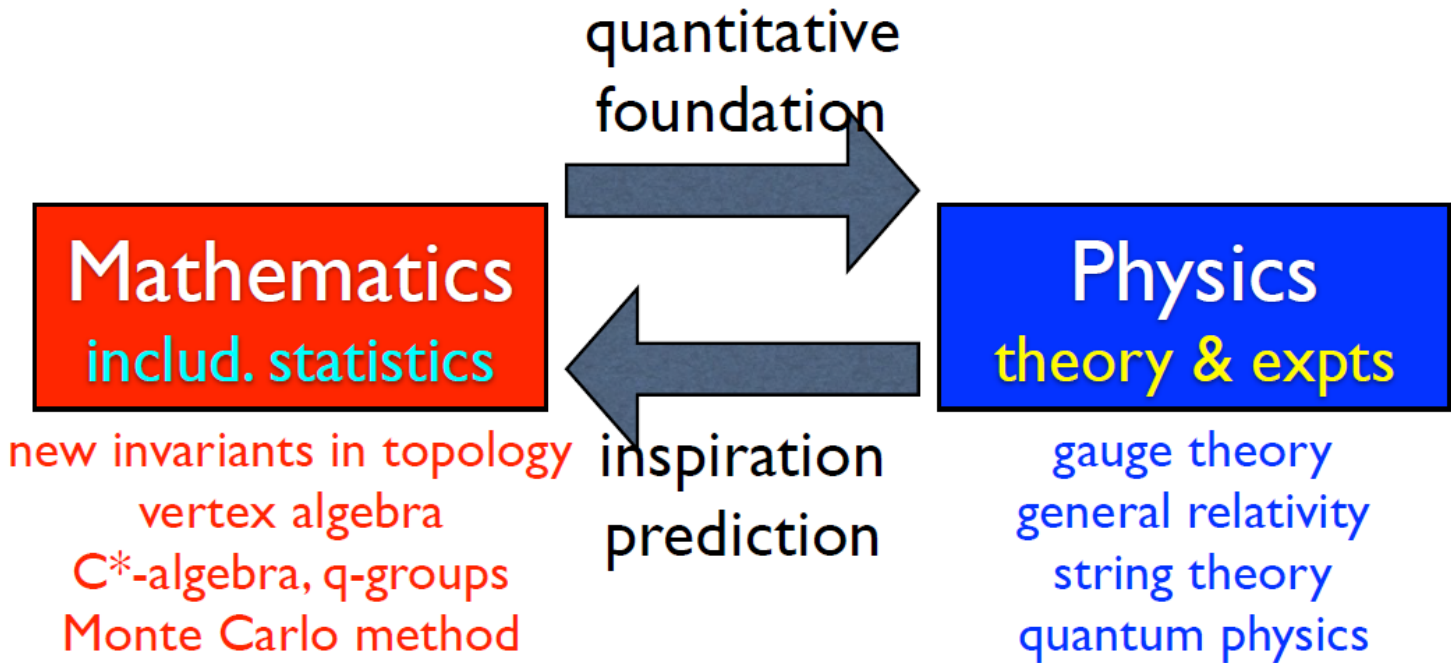
(In order to express my thanks, I arranged a U.Tokyo official vehicle to Narita Airport for Murayama-san only who was going back to the US immediately after the meeting)

30-31 Aug., 2007 Hearing by the WPI Committee (Director-to-be + President)

by S.Okamura

Fusion of two major basic sciences

Mathematics and Physics promote each other



7 out of 18 Fields Medals since 1990 were inspired by particle physics

Top-level research standard

by S.Okamura

Research objectives

Importance of this research field

growing field!

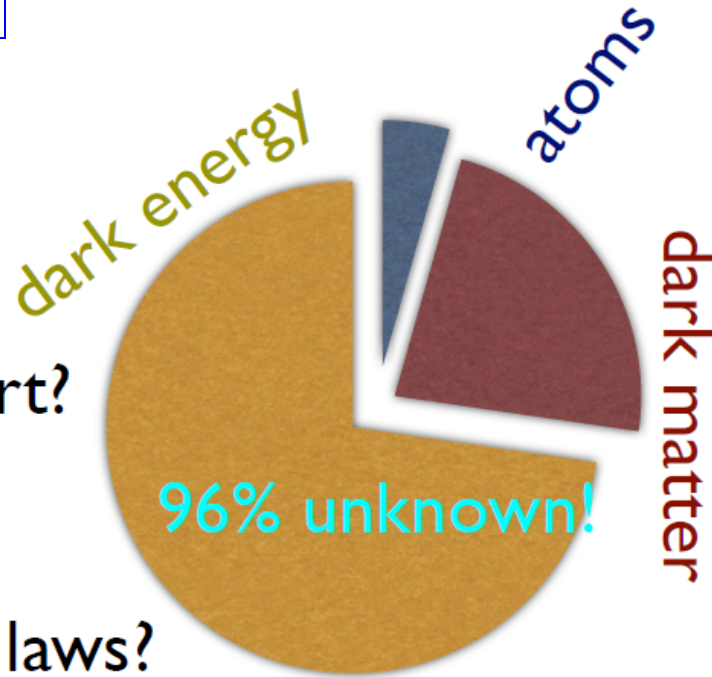
Nobel prizes in 1999, 2002, 2004, 2006
2008, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020

The Science

- How did the Universe start?
- What is it made of?
- What is its fate?
- What are its fundamental laws?
- Why do we exist?

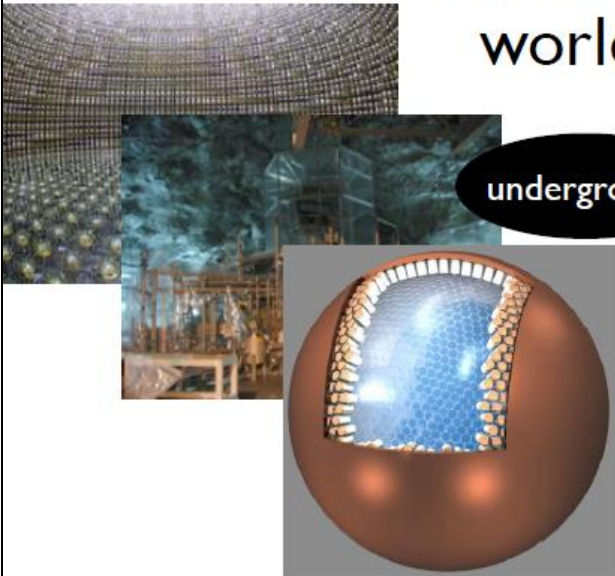
Fundamental questions on the Universe

We need **new data** to address them
We need both **new mathematics** and **new physics** to describe them



Multi-faceted attack on the universe

Together with **math** and **theory**, **unique** combination in the world!



ICRR/Tohoku

underground

Universe

accelerator

sky



LHC (CERN)



Subaru (NAOJ)

(Only) IPMU was successful.



2007.10.1 Press conference: Establishment of IPMU

IPMU News, No.1, Mar. 2008

WPI Center IPMU at the Kashiwa International Campus

- Outline of Support and Special Measures -

(Top-down management by the IPMU Director)

IPMU is positioned as an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary organization under the direct control of the U.Tokyo President, and important matters such as faculty selection, can be implemented **under the top management of the IPMU Director.**

(Flexible personnel and salary system)

- **merit-based salaries** to specially-appointed faculty members invited from abroad in line with their abilities

- **Flexible contract terms**

- Special exceptions to employment of faculty members and support **staff who are over the retirement age**

- The director can give a salary incentive to researchers who achieve outstanding results,

- **Support staff members** are assigned through internal recruitment.

(Reinforcement of the system for accepting foreign researchers)

- Kashiwa International Office provides **support for the daily lives of foreign researchers.**

- **Visa Consulting Service** to handle immigration and visa status procedures on behalf of IPMU foreign researchers.

- Flexible handling of rental of U.Tokyo accommodations for IPMU foreign researchers, and development of the **Kashiwa International Lodge.**

- **Trial implementation of various forms and procedures in English.**

(Financial Support)

- **Construction of IPMU research building**

- Compensate the expenses for student guidance, etc. to the departments for faculty members who devote themselves to IPMU research activities

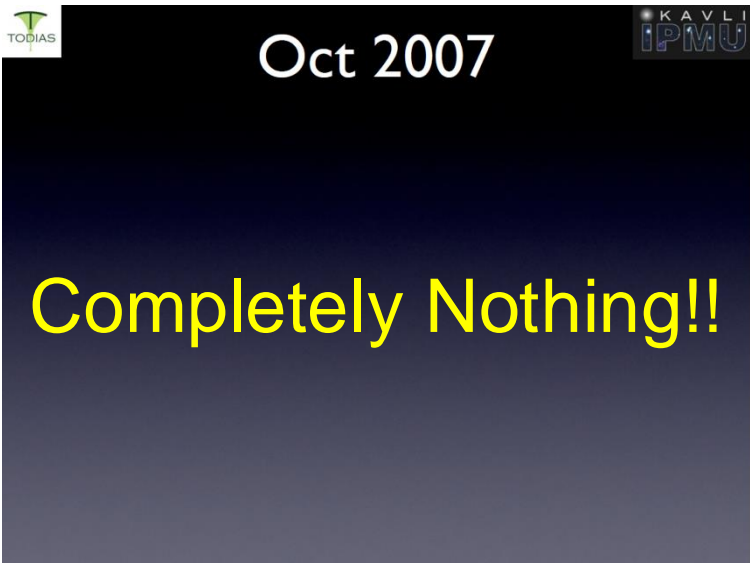
Next slide

Personnel support system for IPMU

Privileges will be given to the center as a Special District in the University of Tokyo. (partly free from internal rules)

- New Appointments from outside U. Tokyo
 - Flexible annual salary commensurate with ability and competition world wide (since 2007; little flexibility with “the former system”)
 - Term not restricted by the current 5-year rule
- Re-Appointments from inside U. Tokyo
 - Resignation from the current position without financial disadvantage
 - Flexible annual salary commensurate with ability and competition world wide (since 2007; little flexibility with “the former system”)
 - Extension of retirement age
- Continuous Appointments from inside U. Tokyo
 - Incentive payment (merit-based bonus)
 - Exemption from management and teaching duties (substitute lecturers for WPI faculties)
 - Recruitment of excellent staff through internal competition

I wish to thank, among others, Motoi Eto (competitive grant section) and Kazuhiro Takeshita (personnel section) for their large contributions towards successful launch.



2009.12 Research Building Completed!



IPMU News, Vol. 8, 2010

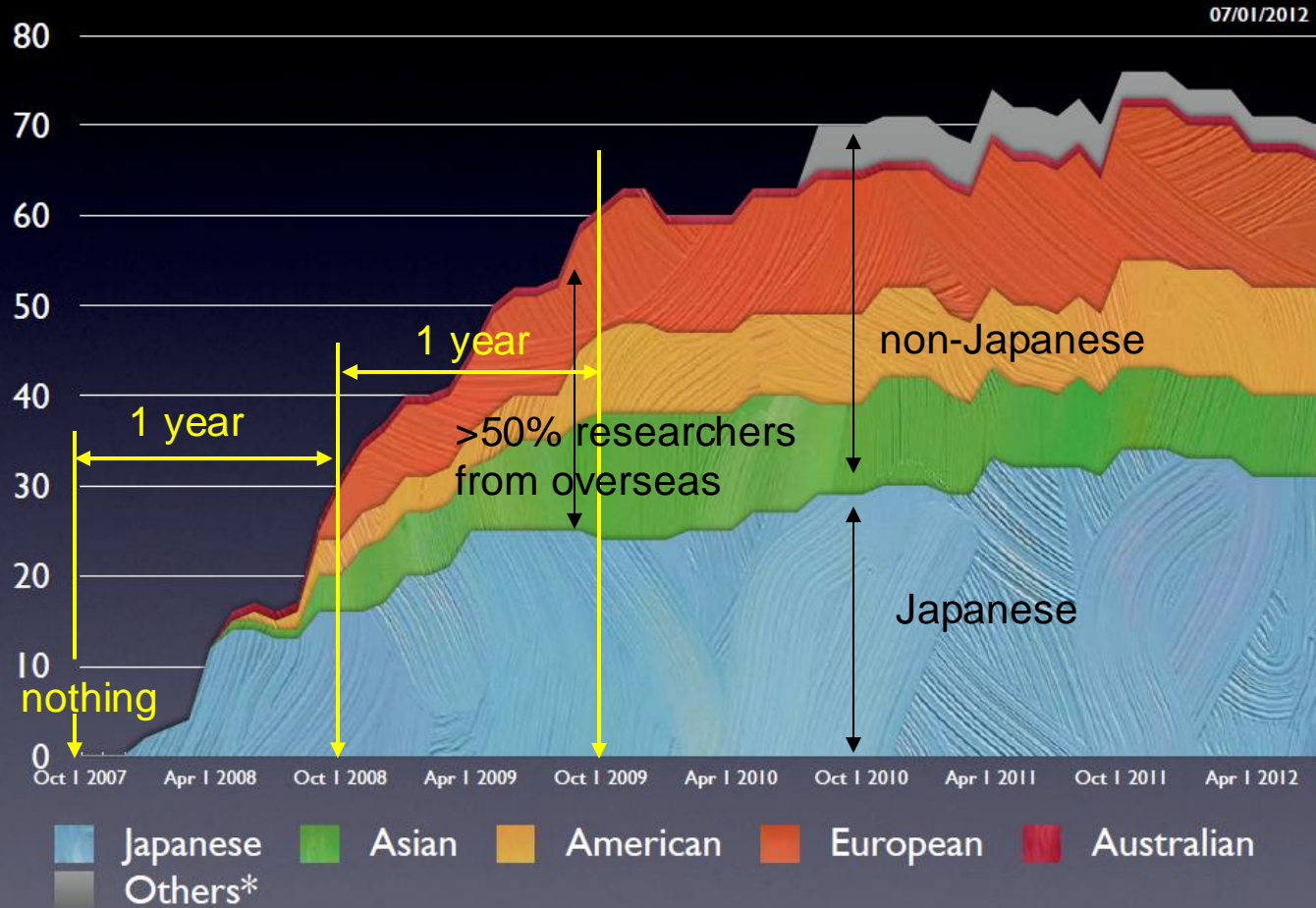
2012.4 Kavli IPMU started



<https://www.ipmu.jp/ja/story/7795>



Full-time Scientists paid by IPMU

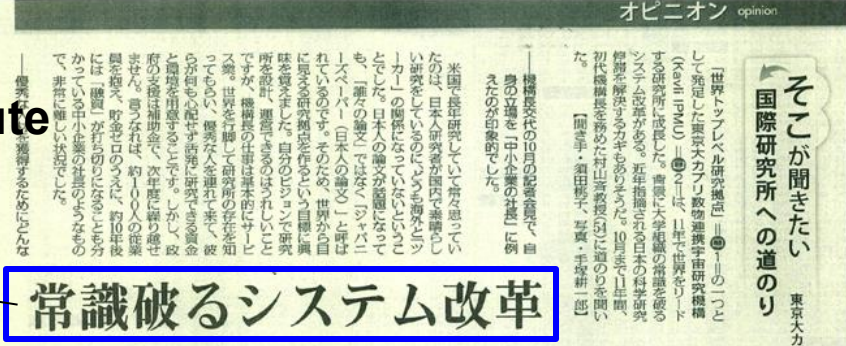


*Argentina, Brazil, Canada

Mainichi Shinbun 2018.11.6

Interview: Road to the 'globally visible' institute
(Recollections as the founding director)

System reforms that break conventional rules



(Next page)

「国民の税金を飲み食いに使つのはほとんどもない」と。東大の研究担当理事に許可する旨を一筆書いてもらってやっと実現し、そこでの議論から画期的な研究成果が数多く生まれています。米国力プリ財団から日本の研究所として初めて寄付すると申し出があった際も、文部科学省をはじめ関係各所が反対したため、1年ほど財団側に待ってもらいました。海外ならあり得ないことです。

「前例のないシステム改革を進める中で、抵抗もあったものでは。そうですね。細かいことでは毎日の「ティータイム」を始めるところから大変でした。研究者全員が午後3時にホールに集まり、お茶やクッキーを手に自由な議論をする場です。分野融合型のIPMUのコンセプトを体现する取り組みで提案書にも盛り込んでいたのに、事務の人は



村山 尚氏
東京大学理学部 粒子物理学
1983年から在籍。2000年から米カプティボルテック大17リ校教授を兼任。17年ランボロ賞受賞。

① 世界トップレベル研究拠点プログラム(WPI)世界から「目に見える研究拠点」の形成を目指し、一定の要件を目指す機関に集中投資する文部科学省のプログラムで、2007年度に開始。これまでに18拠点が採択され、現在は9拠点が補助金の支援を受ける。18年度予算は約70億円。

② 東京カブリ数物連携宇宙研究機構
数学・物理学・天文学を融合し、宇宙の始まり方などの根源的な謎の解明に取り組む。07年10月、9年半の準備付きで発足。当初のWPI5拠点で唯一、5年の延長を認められ、支援が終わる22年以降も東大の直営の研究所として存続することが今年決まった。構成員は約170人で、10月に大塚博司・新機構長が就任。07~17年の発表論文のうち、この論文で引用された論文の世界の上位10%に入った論文の割合は、英ケンブリッジ大(約23%)などを上回る約28%だった。

- (interviewer) There must have been some resistance as you proceeded with unprecedented system reforms.

(Murayama) Yes, there was. Even starting the daily “tea time” was very difficult. It was an initiative that embodies the concept of IPMU as an interdisciplinary institution, and we had written it clearly in our proposal.

But, the IPMU administration said, “It's outrageous to use the public's tax money for drinking and eating”. We finally asked the Executive Vice-President in charge of research to write a letter of permission. Finally, tea time became a reality, and many groundbreaking research results have been produced from the discussions there.

—前例のないシステム改革を進める中で、抵抗もあったのでは。
 そうですね。細かいところでは毎日のティータイムを始めるところから大変でした。研究者全員が午後3時にホールに集まり、お茶やクッキーを手に自由な議論をする場です。分野融合型のIPMUのコンセプトを体现する取り組みで提案書にも盛り込んでいたのに、事務の人は「国民の税金を飲み食いに使ってはごんでもない」と。東大の研究担当理事に許可する旨を一筆書いてもらったことが実現し、そこでの議論から画期的な研究成果が数多く生まれています。米国家科学財団から日本の研究所として初めて寄付すると申し出があった際も、文部科学省をはじめ関係各所が反対したため、1年ほど財団側を待たせました。海外

Proposal (extract)

Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe

September 27, 2007

Vision by the Director, Hitoshi Murayama, University of California, Berkeley

In the Kashiwa Institute building, we will have daily tea at 3pm and everybody is required to attend if they are in town. Individual or groups of PIs organize seminar series that everybody is invited to attend. Long-duration workshops à la Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics and Aspen Center for Physics bring in visitors to further stimulate the intellectual activities and keep the Institute at the forefront of worldwide science.

Advanced topics

Astronomy connects the world
Multit-messenger astronomy

③ Connecting observatories worldwide



世界をつなぐ天文学
マルチメッセンジャー天文学

宇宙の探究は、宇宙からもたらされるメッセージの解読から始まります。メッセージは、電磁波^{*}(光など)と宇宙線、重力波によってもたらされます。この3つをメッセンジャーとよびます。複数のメッセンジャーからもたらされる情報を使って宇宙のなぞにせまるのがマルチメッセンジャー天文学です。このためには国境をこえた世界じゅうの天文学者の協力が不可欠です。

③ 世界じゅうの天文台をつなぐ

ある天文台が昼でも地球上の別の天文台では夜ですから、世界各地の天文台が連携しなければ可視光などの連続観測はできません。キロノバの観測は、重力波観測装置と地上や宇宙にある望遠鏡という人類のもつ多

数の装置のつながりから得られた大きな成果です。日本の望遠鏡も何台も参加しています。この成果を発表した論文の著者はなんと3677人に上ります。このように、世界の研究者が連携してマルチメッセンジャー天文学を進めるためには、世界が平和でなければならないということも、覚えておかなければなりません。



世界の研究者が集まって議論しているようす



これは何だろう？

編集・執筆者用
東京書籍理科編集部

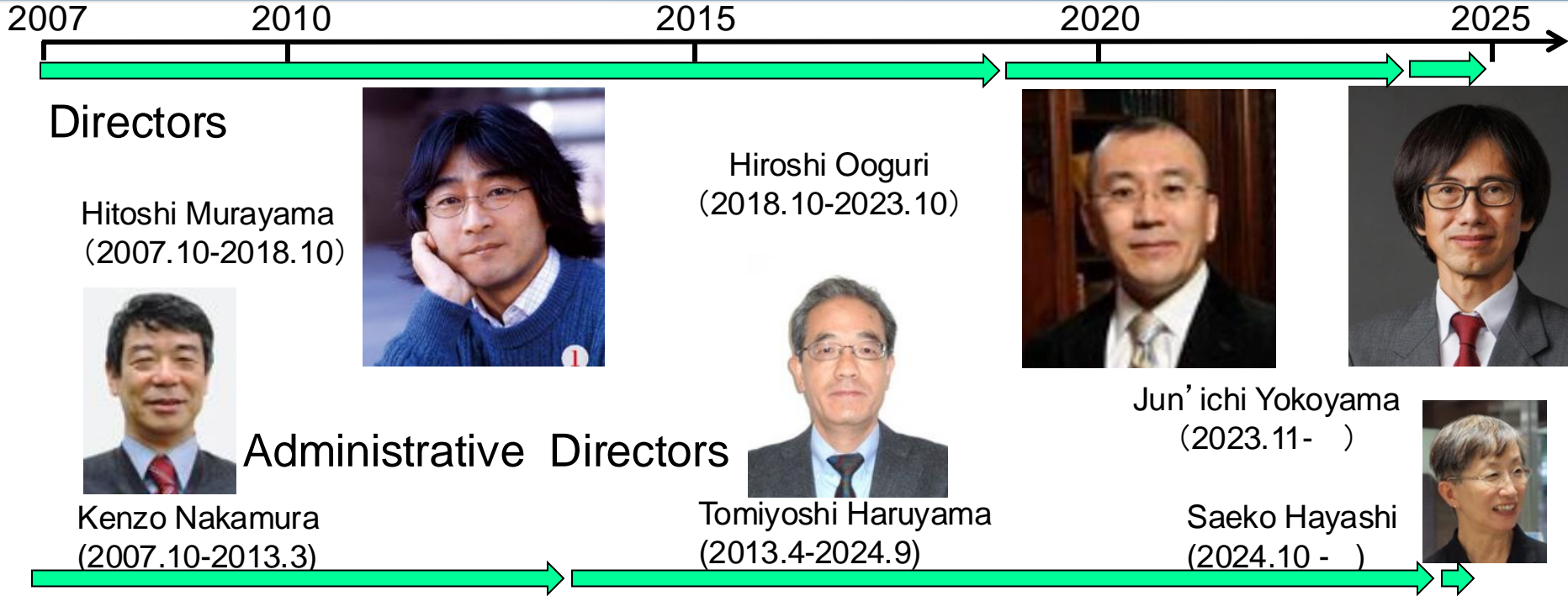
探究する
新しい科学

3

東京書籍

Textbook of 'Science' for Junior High School, Grade 3 (14-15 years old).
30,000 pupils read (~40% share)

17 years have passed



Most of my talk has now become a history. Kavli IPMU is already a 'globally visible' international institute for many years, and it is one of the treasures of the U. Tokyo.

Murayama-san,
Thank you very much for your long-term tremendous efforts to make our dream come true.

Congratulations on 60th birthday (還暦) !!

Current Deputy Directors

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
|  Hiroaki Aihara High Energy Physics |  Tomiyoshi Haruyama High Energy Physics |  Masahiro Takada Cosmology |  Hiromi Yokoyama Science and Society |
|---|---|--|--|

H.Aihara T.Haruyama M.Takada H.Yokoyama

Thank you very much for
your attention