

Joining the Kavli Family

IPMU will become a Kavli Institute this April, and I'm very excited about it. It is a great honor that the Kavli Foundation recognized our exciting research and international membership, and invited us to the family of Kavli Institutes that exist only at the most prestigious universities in the world. It brings an international visibility to the Institute that will help us recruit the best minds from around the world. In fact, this is the first research center at a Japanese National University named after a non-Japanese donor. Meanwhile, the connection to the other Kavli institutes will boost our collaborative research opportunities.

Mr. Fred Kavli studied physics in Norway, and moved to the United States. He founded Kavlico Corporation that was highly successful in selling sensors for aircrafts, automobiles, and other industrial applications. He deeply cares about advancement in human knowledge, and founded the Kavli Foundation to support science after divesting interest in the company. It works with renowned scientific organizations worldwide: American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Academy of Sciences (US), the Royal Society (UK), and The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. They award prestigious Kavli prize every other year, and the US winners are invited to the White House to meet the President. The Foundation also created endowment for fifteen Kavli Institutes around the world in the areas of astrophysics (Stanford, Chicago, MIT, Peking, Cambridge), nanoscience (Cornell, Caltech, Delft,

Harvard), neuroscience (Columbia, UC San Diego, Yale, Norwegian University of Science and Technology), and theoretical physics (UC Santa Barbara, Chinese Academy of Sciences). The Kavli IPMU is the sixteenth, and the only one in Japan.

The endowment created by the Kavli Foundation brings in annual returns in perpetuity. Such flexible funds would be extremely useful to kickstart new ideas at the development stage not ready for research grant proposals, or to recruit topnotch researchers from around the world. The naming ceremony is planned in May.

IPMU receives funding support from the government and the university, but the IPMU must eventually identify other sources of support to become a permanent research center. The endowment income will help sustain the research program at the Kavli IPMU beyond the current initiative by the Japanese government. I will work hard to boost endowment further to fund named professorships or named fellows together with the Foundation and the University.

Director of IPMU

Hitoshi Murayama

