

## Ramping Up

Director of IPMU

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Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe is supposed to become a truly international research center. We adopted English as its official language, and all the seminars and notices are given in English. We host international workshops about once a month with most speakers coming from abroad.

I am pleased to announce that we will have two non-Japanese faculty members joining us, possibly more. Professor Mark Vagins has already arrived from University of California at Irvine and will tune the world-renowned Super-Kamiokande experiment to detect neutrinos from supernovae explosions billions of light years away. You can read his account in this volume of IPMU News. Associate Professor Simeon Hellerman will come from Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, where Albert Einstein was in his later years, and will work on string theory in cosmological settings, approaching the mystery of Big Bang. In addition, we will have sixteen non-Japanese postdoctoral fellows in the fall from Europe [5], the US [3], Asia [7], and Australia [1]. They span all areas of research at IPMU, from astronomical observations to mathematical research. Two of them (Alexandre Kozlov and Chuan-Ren Chen) have already arrived. You can read their accounts in this volume, too.

We are ramping up very quickly. When IPMU was launched on October 1, 2007, there were no resident scientists. In the fall, we will have more

than forty researchers full-time, together with about twenty frequent visitors from other departments and institutions. Right now our biggest problem is space, because more people are joining us to work on our exciting science than we could ever imagine.

The design work of the new research building is well underway, and we hope to move to the brand new building before the end of 2009. It will have a large (about 400 square meters) space for spontaneous discussions under a sky light, lined with tables, chairs, and many many blackboards. The designer, Prof. Ohno, likens it to "a café in an European town square." We hope many exciting and groundbreaking work will emerge from informal and lively discussions in this space.

Building a new research center from scratch is a big challenge. We work hard together to meet the challenge for our common dream: solve the mysteries about the Universe we live in.



Director's  
Corner