

Host Institution's Commitment

September 25, 2007

To MEXT

The University of Tokyo
President, Hiroshi Komiyama

Signature

I confirm that the measures listed below will be taken faithfully as the Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe is adopted under the World Premier International Research Center (WPI) Initiative.

<Provision in host institution's mid-to-long-term plan >

The University of Tokyo's medium-term research objectives include "investigating exploratory and advanced research and unconventional research areas or actively approaching a new fusion of different academic fields with full respect for research schematization and succession, thereby playing a role to drive forward network-based research with a global perspective." The accompanying medium-term plan states that the university is dedicated to "promoting the establishment of a center for advanced research of excellent creativity and originality in new fields, while fostering the development of new academic areas through interdisciplinary research and collaboration" and "in response to issues newly rising out of academic development and social changes, promoting the establishment of an international research center to deal with such issues in a pioneering, flexible, and practical manner beyond existing academic areas and organizational frameworks."

In order to implement the medium-term plan mentioned above, the University of Tokyo has set up the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science, the Network for Life Science Research, and other inter-departmental organizations under Office of the President to establish a system to promote multi-disciplinary research. Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe (IPMU), facilitated by the WPI Initiative, most appropriately meets the University's medium-term goals and plans, hence it shall be positioned as the largest and most important organization among those under Office of the President, and enjoy university-wide support under the specific achievement targets.

<Concrete Measures >

(1)

The University of Tokyo will position the IPMU as an organization directly under Office of the President working as a natural facilitator with existing university organizations. The Administration Bureau shall develop an ideal research environment to ensure that chief researchers engaged in research at the IPMU have minimum possible university duties to allow ample time for them to fully focus on research activities, and that research funding may be more readily secured. As part of developing such an environment, with the aim of securing excellent researchers as well as high-caliber support staff, a new employment scheme has already been implemented whereby it is even possible to recruit exceptionally qualified staff at salaries higher than that of the President. Priority is also given for the use of school research space. Furthermore, the Administration Bureau shall have an organization named the Financial Strategy Office whose task is to develop plans strategically to obtain external funding and to allocate it effectively. This shall allow the maximum financial support for the IPMU, while making full use of university resources including overhead costs for the program.

(2)

The University of Tokyo has newly developed an innovative scheme to allow the positioning of the IPMU as an organization directly under Office of the President working in an organic linkage with existing university organizations. Under this scheme, the IPMU may take charge in the operation of the organization under the managerial supervision of the director of IPMU, including for the recruitment of researchers.

(3)

In order to ensure that education and research activities may be implemented smoothly with no disturbance to the university faculties and institutions from which the researchers are gathered for the IPMU, the Administration Bureau shall provide any necessary financial support, such as for personnel

expenses of substitute teaching staff, to the concerned university departments and divisions. This shall not only allow such departments and divisions to take measurements including securing substitute teaching staff, but the mobility of researchers within the university may be further improved.

(4)

As described above, the University of Tokyo has developed an innovative scheme to allow positioning of the IPMU as an organization directly under Office of the President working as a natural facilitator with existing university organizations. Under this scheme, the IPMU may take charge in the operation of the organization under the managerial supervision of the director of IPMU, including for the recruitment of researchers, while new special regulations are also to be established designating the IPMU as a special zone in which participating researchers and support staff members may be allowed a limited exemption from some restrictions under the work rules that are generally applied within the university.

(5)

The University of Tokyo places great importance on the development of an environment to permit excellent researchers from overseas to steadily concentrate on their research activities. Currently, active initiatives to promote a more international campus are under way under the leadership of the President, and several residential facilities for foreigners are being developed near the campus and are due to open in a few years' time. Priority allocation of such residences for researchers invited to the IPMU from overseas has also been under discussion. The University also develops a number of world-class research facilities and actively promotes sharing the use of such facilities. Measures shall be taken to ensure the priority use of such research facilities. Top priority shall be given to the appropriation of land for a research building for the IPMU and its financing. Until the new research building is constructed in Kashiwa Campus, Chiba Prefecture, rooms and other space of the Kashiwa General Research Building shall be provided in priority for activities of the IPMU.

(6)

With the aim of supporting the establishment of an internationally competitive center through the program, the University of Tokyo has set up a committee headed by the board member in charge of the program. The committee, in addition to ensuring university-wide support for the IPMU, shall work in close cooperation with the Global COE (Centers of Excellence) Program and other schemes, as part of its role to produce maximum synergy. The administrative functions of the Administrative Bureau are to be reorganized in July 2007, where the Research Network Support Group is to be set up to intensively support the IPMU, among other organizations. With these schemes, the University shall provide the maximum possible consistent support for the promotion of the IPMU concept.