

Receiving "S" Grade

Director of IPMU
Hitoshi Murayama

IPMU has been through an interim evaluation by the MEXT this year. It is a part of the process in the WPI program that supports six research centers in Japan including IPMU, given that four years have passed since the launch of the initially selected five research centers. The result of the interim evaluation was announced on December 14, 2011, and IPMU was given the highest grade "S" (superior). According to MEXT, the definition of this S grade is "Progress being made in establishing the center exceeds its initial goals. Even greater progress in developing itself as a 'top world-level research center' is anticipated." It sounds great!

I'm so happy to receive the highest grade after the rigorous review process from the summer to the

fall this year. It is a very ambitious goal for young WPI centers to attain a high visibility in the world comparable to world-leading research centers with long traditions. We have focused intensively on building an attractive and exciting research institute that pays a lot of attention to accommodate researchers comfortably, especially those from other countries. This strategy seemed to have paid off handsomely. This would not have been possible without a strong support from the University, competent administrative staffs, and from the public at large. We have been ramping up several big projects that are coming to the phase of producing data and science. The next five years are when we have to work hard to truly shine.

