

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ
OF
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON
THE HUMAN FRONTIER SCIENCE PROGRAM
OTTAWA, 15 JUNE 2007**

Introduction

The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) supports novel, innovative, and interdisciplinary basic research focused on the complex mechanisms of living organisms. It emphasizes support for novel collaborations that bring together biologists with scientists from fields such as physics, mathematics, chemistry, computer science and engineering to focus on problems at the frontier of the life sciences.

Research Grants are awarded to teams of scientists working in different countries and in different disciplines who have not previously collaborated. Two types of grants are available: Young Investigator Grants and Program Grants.

Postdoctoral Fellowships are available for scientists who wish to work in foreign laboratories, with emphasis on individuals early in their careers who wish to obtain training in a different field of research. Fellows who return to their home countries are eligible to apply for a Career Development Award.

Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships are intended for postdoctoral fellows with a Ph.D. degree in the physical sciences, chemistry, mathematics, engineering and computer sciences who wish to receive training in biology.

Paragraph 1. Continuation of the Human Frontier Science Program

a) Representatives of the Management Supporting Parties (MSPs) of Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and of the European Union met at an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) on 15 June 2007 in Ottawa to review the progress made and discuss the future of the Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP).¹

b) Representatives noted with approval the recent positive evaluation of the program by a leading research and analysis institute, and by a distinguished expert panel. They endorsed the opinion of the expert panel that “*the HFSP is a great success, and it enjoys great prestige in the international scientific community... HFSP occupies an important, unique niche in the world of science through its mode of supporting the best innovative, international, interdisciplinary research*”. They were pleased to learn that the panel was very favourably impressed by the changes made since 2000 by the Secretary General of HFSP, Torsten Wiesel. The representatives also noted the strong recommendation

¹ Representatives from Italy, also an MSP, were unable to attend: its endorsement of the Joint Communiqué will be sought separately.

addressed to the MSPs by the panel seriously to consider increasing their financial commitment to HFSP in future years

c) Representatives appreciated the continued efforts made to enhance the value and visibility of HFSP by the introduction of new initiatives, and hold the achievements of HFSP in high regard. Conscious of the important role of the Program in promoting interdisciplinary and international cooperation in basic life sciences among excellent researchers, and in providing training for the most talented young researchers, the representatives enthusiastically agreed to the continuation of HFSP on the basis of the following understanding:

Paragraph 2. Three-year indicative budgetary plan and target levels for FY2008-2010

a) The MSPs participating in the IGC for the first time were commended for their financial discipline, as was the success of most MSPs present at the Berne IGC in implementing the three-year indicative budgetary plan, helping HFSP to achieve its mission and progress toward the objective of an equal match between the contributions of Japan and of the other MSPs.

b) Taking into account past achievements and the need to maintain the number, value, and prestige of HFSP grants and awards, representatives recommend as a desirable objective an annual increase, overall 4%, in the HFSP budget in order to maintain the levels of program activity as set out in Table 1.

c) A priority for the funding period 2008-2010 is to achieve an equal match between the contributions of Japan and the other IGC members. Therefore, Japan is to be exempt from this annual increase until the match is achieved. At the same time, this plan was formulated with the strong expectation that Japan would maintain its current high level of support and that the other IGC members would make every effort to achieve the target levels.

d) Recognizing that the contributions of MSPs were originally based on Gross Domestic Products (GDP), and that the value of relative GDPs has changed among the MSPs over the past 10 years, the overall 4% increase in each MSP's contribution, as shown in Table 2, will be adjusted by an amount proportional to the change in relative GDP,. Representatives recommended to the Board that this adjustment be applied for subsequent three-year budget planning periods in order that member contributions will more closely reflect relative GDPs.

e) The representatives endorsed the Board recommendation of March 2007 that an annual minimum contribution would be required of any new MSP.

f) Taking paragraphs (b)-(d) into account, representatives agreed to adopt a new three-year indicative budgetary plan (FY2008-2010) as the framework for establishing the annual budget of HFSP (Table 1), thereby providing target levels for contributions by IGC members, as shown in Table 2.

Paragraph 3. New membership

- a) Representatives welcomed the membership of Australia, India, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand as approved by the Board at its meetings in 2004 - 2006.
- b) The representatives agreed that MSPs should continue to encourage potential candidates to apply for membership of HFSP, subject to the quality and capacity of fundamental biological research conducted by the candidate nation, and by its willingness and ability to support the HFSP financially.
- c) It was noted that the contributions of any new members are to be added to the total amount contributed by the other MSPs

Paragraph 4. Evaluation of HFSP

- a) Representatives request that the evaluation of the scientific programs to be considered at the next IGC should be focused on the outcomes and impacts of the initiatives introduced since 2000. As far as possible, these should be compared against comparable international programs.
- b) The Board and Council of Scientists were asked to continue to monitor the outcomes of HFSP competitions, to ensure that the selection process is fair and unbiased to all applicants.

Paragraph 5. Initiatives and Future Developments

- a) Representatives welcomed the steps taken since 2000 to enhance support for young scientists and increase the interdisciplinary profile of the scientific programs. The Board was requested to continue to review and refine the programs where necessary to support scientists working at the frontier of the life sciences, in particular, those early in their careers, and to encourage women to apply to the program.
- b) The next IGC will be held one year after the 20th anniversary of HFSP. Representatives expect that HFSP will use this anniversary as an opportunity for reassessing the vision and strategic directions of HFSP.

Paragraph 6. Next Meeting

- a) It was decided that the next meeting of HFSP IGC will be held in 2010, unless unforeseen circumstances make it necessary to hold a meeting before that date.
- b) MSPs are requested to give their representatives on the next IGC Working Group a strong mandate to discuss proposals from the Board of Trustees on strategy, finance and operations, in order to permit a debate on the future structure and function of HFSP prior to the next IGC.

Table 1 : Three-year indicative budgetary plan

Table 1A: 4% annual increase on the basis of FY 2007 guideline or MOU

Contributions are calculated on the basis of the Berne IGC target FY 2007 contribution level, or resulting from the MOU implementation for MSPs joining subsequently.

The living allowance for Long Term Fellowship is increased by 5% in FY 2008 as adjustment to inflation since FY 2005. The amount paid for Research Grants and CDA is kept constant.

MSP's CONTRIBUTIONS (million USD)

MSP	Reference Berne IGC guideline or MOU	OTTAWA IGC - Budgetary guideline			Total 3 years
		2008	2009	2010	
Japan	30.00	31.25	31.25	31.25	93.74
Berne MSPs*	30.66	28.04	31.22	34.43	93.69
New MSPs	1.97	2.07	2.18	2.28	6.53
TOTAL	62.63	61.36	64.65	67.96	193.96

*EU includes the 10 new MSPs which joined in FY2006

Japan in % of Berne MSPs
Japan in % of total

49.5%	52.7%	50.0%	47.6%
47.9%	50.9%	48.3%	46.0%

ASSUMPTIONS ON EXPENDITURES (thousand USD)

		2008 - 2010
Secretariat	(% of total expenditure)	6.5 ~ 7 %
Program Grants	(total cost per award)	1,150
Young Investigators Grants	(total cost per award)	950
Career Development Awards	(total cost per award)	300
Long Term Fellowships	(total cost per award)	170
Short Term Fellowships	(per annum)	200
Annual Awardees meeting	(per annum)	300

AWARDING CAPACITY (Number of new awards possible per year)

Programs	2007 (f.i)	2008	2009	2010	Total 3 years
Program Grants	25	24	25	25	74
Young Investigators	10	10	11	12	33
Career Development Awards	24	23	23	24	70
Long Term Fellowship	100	99	99	107	305

Distribution subject to modification

Table 1B : 4% annual increase on the basis of actual FY 2007 contributions

Contributions are calculated on the basis of the actual MSP contributions according to the budget approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2007

The living allowance for Long Term Fellowship is increased by 5% in FY 2008 as adjustment to inflation since FY 2005. The amount paid for Research Grants and CDA is kept constant.

MSP's CONTRIBUTIONS (million USD)

MSP	Reference	OTTAWA IGC - Budgetary guideline			Total 3 years
	Actual FY 2007 contribution	2008	2009	2010	
Japan	31.25	31.25	31.25	31.25	93.74
Berne MSPs*	24.83	25.86	26.87	27.93	80.66
New MSPs	1.97	2.07	2.18	2.28	6.53
TOTAL	58.05	59.18	60.29	61.46	180.93

*EU includes the 10 new MSPs which joined in FY2006

Japan in % of Berne MSPs
Japan in % of total

55.7%	54.7%	53.8%	52.8%
53.8%	52.8%	51.8%	50.8%

ASSUMPTIONS ON EXPENDITURES (thousand USD)

		2008 - 2010
Secretariat	(% of total expenditure)	6.5 ~ 7 %
Program Grants	(total cost per award)	1,150
Young Investigators Grants	(total cost per award)	950
Career Development Awards	(total cost per award)	300
Long Term Fellowships	(total cost per award)	170
Short Term Fellowships	(per annum)	200
Annual Awardees meeting	(per annum)	300

AWARDING CAPACITY (Number of new awards possible per year)

Programs	2007 (f.i)	2008	2009	2010	Total 3 years
Program Grants	25	23	23	24	70
Young Investigators	10	10	10	10	30
Career Development Awards	24	20	20	21	61
Long Term Fellowship	100	94	98	98	290

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Table 2 : OTTAWA IGC BUDGETARY GUIDELINE

Target levels of contributions by MSPs for the three-year period FY 2008 - FY2010

Table 2A: 4% annual increase on the basis of FY 2007 guideline or MOU.

Contributions are calculated on the basis of the Berne IGC target FY 2007 contribution level, or resulting from the MOU implementation for MSPs joining subsequently.

MSP	Reference	ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION (thousand USD)		
	Berne IGC guideline or MOU	2008	2009	2010
Australia	505	534	566	598
Canada	1,043	1,090	1,139	1,190
EU	4,572	4,770	4,976	5,191
France	2,674	2,768	2,865	2,966
Germany	4,174	4,299	4,428	4,561
India	780	812	844	879
Italy	2,022	1,339	1,803	2,267
Japan	30,000	31,248	31,248	31,248
New Zealand	99	103	108	113
Republic of Korea	591	624	658	694
Switzerland	587	603	620	638
UK	1,956	2,053	2,155	2,263
USA	13,630	11,117	13,234	15,352
Total	62,633	61,360	64,645	67,959

Table 2B : 4% annual increase on the basis of actual FY 2007 contributions

Contributions are calculated on the basis of the actual MSP contributions according to the budget approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2007

MSP	Reference	ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION (thousand USD)		
	Actual FY 2007 contribution	2008	2009	2010
Australia	505	534	566	598
Canada	1,043	1,090	1,139	1,190
EU	4,572	4,770	4,976	5,191
France	2,626	2,768	2,865	2,966
Germany	4,174	4,299	4,428	4,561
India	780	812	844	879
Italy	875	909	944	981
Japan	31,248	31,248	31,248	31,248
New Zealand	99	103	108	113
Republic of Korea	591	624	658	694
Switzerland	587	603	620	638
UK	1,956	2,053	2,155	2,263
USA	9,000	9,364	9,743	10,137
Total	58,056	59,177	60,295	61,459

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Chair of the Conference *Suzanne Pakiri*

Australia *C. Losdale*

Canada *Karl Weber*

European Union *hhhhhh*

France *J. France*

Germany *Reber*

India *K. Vijayalakshmi*

Italy *Giuseppe Strate*

Japan *Alexa Goshiki*

Republic of Korea *for [signature]*

New Zealand *[signature]*

Switzerland *[signature]*

United Kingdom *M. S. Palmer*

United States of America *[signature]*