

**EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN
FOR THE YEARS 2021 - 2023**

Within the framework of the Agreement between the Government of Italy and the Government of Japan on Cooperation in Science and Technology, signed in Tokyo on 7th October 1988, the Italian-Japan Joint Commission met in Tokyo on January 15th, 2021, to examine the current state and further development of scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries and to define the Executive Programme for the years 2021-2023.

The Italian delegation was headed by Ambassador Giorgio STARACE, Ambassador of Italy to Japan and the Japanese delegation was headed by Ambassador NAKANE Takeshi, Ambassador for Science and Technology Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The members of the two delegations are listed in Attachment I.

The Government of Italy and the Government of Japan shared the view that cooperative activities between the two countries could be further promoted with the Executive Programme for the years 2021 -2023.

The institutions that represent each government in the Executive Programme for the years 2021-2023, hereinafter referred to individually as “Side” and collectively as “both Sides”, are:

For the Italian Side: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation.

For the Japanese Side: International Science Cooperation Division, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Both Sides adopted the following agenda of the Italian-Japan Joint Commission:

1. Review of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two countries

Both sides shared the views regarding the growing importance of science and technology with respect to the economic, social and cultural relations of the two countries.

Both sides, considering the good relationships between the two countries, emphasized the need to develop and promote bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology, also through bilateral workshops and other initiatives on various items of common interests, within the budgets permitted respectively.

2. Executive Programme for the years 2021-2023

In the period 16/09/2019 – 31/10/2019, a joint call for proposals was published to collect projects in the following priority areas:

- AgriFood;
- Artificial Intelligence and its Cybersecurity, Robotics, and Automotive Applications;
- Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics;
- Emerging approaches to cancer therapy;
- Nanosciences and Advanced Materials;
- New Technologies for Active and Healthy Ageing and Homecare;
- Prediction of climate, ecological, earth and ocean systems changes;
- Regenerative and Predictive Medicine;
- Space Sciences, Remote Sensing and Space Technologies;
- Technologies Applied to Cultural Heritage; and
- Technologies for the Achievement of Sustainable Goals, with particular focus to Renewable Energy.

The criteria adopted in selecting the joint research projects were:

- Scientific relevance;
- Methodology and documentation;
- Competence and expertise of the research teams;
- Added value of the bilateral cooperation;
- Active involvement of early career researchers; and
- Appropriateness of the budget requested with respect to methods and expected results.

Preference was given to:

- Proposals involving more than one national public/private research organization;
- Initiatives having a potential industrial impact and/or involving industrial partners; and
- Young researchers' involvement, with particular emphasis to long-term study visits.

In line with the criteria listed in the call for proposals, the two countries have selected 11 joint research projects that may receive financial support from the Italian side. The list of such projects is given in Attachment II.

3. Final matters

This Executive Programme for the period January 1st, 2021 - December 31st 2023 will continue until the next Executive Programme is initiated, but no later than December 31st 2024.

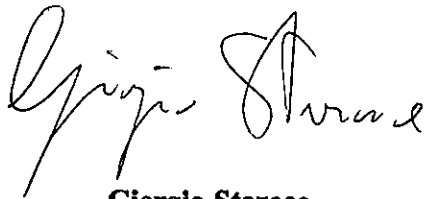
Any modification to the text of this Executive Programme has to be confirmed by the competent Institutions in both countries and has to be carried out through diplomatic channels.

All initiatives foreseen in this Executive Programme will be carried out within the limits of the budgets and according to the rules prevailing in each Country.

Attachments I and II are attached hereto and are integral parts of the present document.

Signed in Tokyo on the 15th January 2021, in two originals in the English language.

For the Italian Delegation



Giorgio Starace
AMBASSADOR

For the Japanese Delegation



Attachment I

MEMBERS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS

Italian delegation

Giorgio STARACE (Head) Ambassador of Italy to Japan

Enrico TRAVERSA Science and Technology Attaché,
Embassy of Italy in Japan

Japanese delegation

NAKANE Takeshi (Head) Ambassador for Science and Technology Cooperation,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

UEZONO Hideki Director, International Science Cooperation Division,
Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Attachment II

List of Selected Projects of “Particular Relevance” to be considered for funding in the period 2021-2023

Sector ¹	Project Proposal		Italy		Japan	
	Title	Institution	PI	Institution	PI	
1 AF	Enhancing Rice yield by increasing panicle branching	UniMilano	Fornara F.	Tohoku University	Kyozuka J.	
2 AH	Wearable measuring system for rehabilitation trainings in neurological diseases and traumas (STARDUST)	PoliTo	De Pasquale G.	Tohoku University	Kawashima R.	
3 AI	Assistive Robotic System for Various Dressing Tasks through Robot Learning by Demonstration via Sim-to-Real Methods	IIT	Caldwell D.	Nagoya University	Fukuda T.	
4 CH	Akusesu: accessible visits to places of cultural interest	UniMilano	Mascetti S.	IBM Research – Tokyo	Takagi H.	
5 CMP	The world of Archaea seen through the glycosylation process	UniNa "Federico II"	De Castro C.	Kyoto University	Atomi H.	
6 EACT	Combination therapies for fighting antibiotic resistant bloodstream infections in cancer patients	UniRoma I	Colonna B.	Osaka University	Utsumi R.	
7 EECC	Analysis of seismic sequences for strong aftershock forecasting	OGS	Gentili S.	ISM	Zhuang J.	
8 NAM	Advanced Materials for Light and Sustainable Constructions in seismic zone	UniSalerno	Rizzano G.	Nagoya Institute of Technology	Sato A.	
9 R.Energy	Artificial photosynthesis. Light-driven hydrogen production and carbon dioxide reduction	UniMessina	Campagna S.	Kyushu University	Sakai K.	
10 RPMed	The proteoglycan Tsukushi in neural stem cells and hydrocephalus: cellular and pathological mechanisms	UniRoma I	Lupo G.	Kumamoto University	Ohta K.	
11 SPACE	Artificial intelligence for disaster mapping & prediction (RESTART)	FBK	Remondino F.	Tokai University	Cho K.	

¹ AF: Agri-Food / AH: New Technologies for Active and Healthy Ageing and Homecare / AI: Artificial Intelligence and its Cybersecurity, Robotics, and Automotive Applications / CH: Technologies Applied to Cultural Heritage / CMP: Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics / EACT: Emerging approaches to cancer therapy / EECC: Prediction of climate, ecological, earth and ocean systems changes / NAM: Nanosciences and Advanced Materials / R.ENERGY: Technologies for the Achievement of Sustainable Goals, with particular focus to Renewable Energy / RPMed: Regenerative and Predictive Medicine / SPACE: Space Sciences, Remote Sensing and Space Technologies.