



ICFA Statement on the MEXT's View with regards to the ILC Project

On the occasion of its annual meeting in Tokyo, March 6-8, 2019, the International Committee for Future Accelerators (ICFA) thanks Dr. Keisuke Isogai, Director General, Research Promotion Bureau of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), for his inaugural presentation to the Linear Collider Board (LCB) and ICFA. ICFA views the statement of continuing interest in the ILC within MEXT and related ministries and agencies as an important milestone along the path to the ILC. ICFA also thanks Hon. Takeo Kawamura, Member of the House of Representatives and Chair of the Federation of Diet Members for the ILC, for affirming support for the ILC within the Diet in his address to ICFA/LCB on March 6.

Discovered at CERN's Large Hadron Collider in 2012, the Higgs boson has been hailed as the most important discovery in particle physics in decades of research. This unique particle offers a portal for understanding the fundamental laws of Nature and is expected to be a great new tool for discovery.

ICFA confirms the international consensus that the highest priority for the next global machine is a "Higgs Factory" capable of precision studies of the Higgs boson. At this ICFA meeting options for a Higgs Factory were discussed -- the ILC, as well as other collider technologies.

ICFA reaffirms the scientific significance of the ILC and that the ILC is in a sufficient state of technical readiness for approval for construction.

Both the European Strategy for Particle Physics Report of 2013 and the United States Particle Physics Project Prioritization Panel (P5) Report of 2014 had expressed support for the initiative of the Japanese physics community to host the ILC in Japan.

ICFA recognises that although MEXT has interest in the ILC, and will continue to discuss the project with other governments, Japan is not yet able to declare its willingness to host the ILC. A clear statement of Japan's position towards hosting the ILC would have had significant impact in the ongoing discussions on the formulation of the European Strategy for Particle Physics Update.

ICFA notes with satisfaction the great progress of the various options for Higgs factories proposed across the world. All options will be considered in the European Strategy for Particle Physics Update and by ICFA.

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