

Message from MEXT (Mar. 2, 2021)

“In the Diet session held on 25th February, a member of the Diet enquired MEXT Minister whether MEXT gave its consent to the budget request for ILC’s pre-laboratory or not if the two conditions were met; (A) IDT’s proposal on the pre-laboratory, which includes its organisation, functions, and R&D plan, is appropriate and feasible; (B) financial contributions from foreign institutions to the pre-laboratory are promising.

The major points of MEXT Minister’s response are as follows;

- The ILC project needs to resolve its various challenges including its international cost sharing and technical feasibility, as well as to obtain broad internal and external cooperation not for its pre-laboratory but for the ILC project itself.

- Under the current situation that the perspective of broad **internal** and external cooperation for the ILC project itself as well as its pre-laboratory is not promised, it is difficult to obtain the people’s understanding in Japan for investing the pre-laboratory. **It is necessary to obtain the clear perspectives on financial contributions to the ILC project itself from the US and European countries in prior considering the pre-laboratory.”**

ILCプロジェクト自体とそのプレラボラトリーに対する幅広い内外の協力の視点が約束されていない現在の状況では、プレラボラトリーへの投資について日本で人々の理解を得るのは難しい。プレラボラトリーを検討する前に、米国とヨーロッパの国々からILCプロジェクト自体への財政的貢献について明確な見通しを得る必要があります。

Direction to go

- Discussions at the ICFA meeting on March 11-12
 - We should keep aiming at the original goal of early start of the Pre-lab.
 - ICFA supports IDT to complete the Pre-lab proposal as it is.
 - ICFA will give a statement to the Japanese government on, “looking forward to the MEXT minister inviting foreign government officials to a discussion.”
3/24 ICFA sent a letter to MEXT
- In addition to supporting the IDT to design the Pre-lab, we will strengthen our efforts and cooperation with the government to further promote international discussions at the government level, and aim for the early realization of the PreLab.
- Specifically, it is appropriate to promote discussions and cooperation in the Discussion Groups, which have been established as a forum for intergovernmental discussions between Japan and the US, and Japan and Europe, at an early stage. I would like everyone to synchronize in each country.



Bottom-up approach and Top-down approach in Japan

Purely Academic Projects: institute based → Bottom-up

Scale: ~10-100 M US\$/year

SuperKEKB HL-LHC J-PARC
Subaru Telescope
KAGRA (Gravitational Wave)
Hyper-Kamiokande, etc.

MEXT processes

- SCJ (Science Council of Japan) Master Plan
- MEXT Roadmap process

Japanese contribution to LHC (~1995) is in between the bottom-up and top-down approaches

Big International Projects: INTER-GOVERNMENT → **TOP-DOWN (+ Bottom-up)** approaches

Top-level dialogues
& political decision

Scale of Japanese contribution: ~200-1000 M US\$/year

Artemis Program

ITER

ISS (International Space Station)

Prime Minister, Cabinet, Inter-Ministry

Japan has contributed to many projects.
So far, no such projects hosted by Japan.

ILC in Japan

First academic **bottom-up**, then step up to **top-down**

Purpose of the project is purely academic → **MEXT bottom-up approach** ← KEK, community

Big International Projects: INTER-GOVERNMENT → **TOP-DOWN**

Special benefits and roles in hosting the project: INTER-MINISTRY = **TOP-DOWN**