

Third Workshop between AIST and Department of Biotechnology of India

Under the Joint Statement Towards Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership of December, 2006 signed by the prime ministers of India and Japan, AIST concluded a comprehensive memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) of the Ministry of Science and Technology of India in February, 2007. Based on this MOU, it was agreed that research cooperation would be promoted between DBT and AIST in a matching fund system in the three fields of bioinformatics, medical glycoscience, and cell engineering, and the first workshop between AIST and DBT was held in Tsukuba in January, 2008. Later, upon the project proposal of the Computational Biology Research Center, AIST, DBT publicly sought organizations in India; an international selection committee was organized; four subjects and six organizations from over 50 applications were selected; and collaborative researches were started in 2009.

At the second workshop held in Hyderabad in November, 2008, there were project proposals on medical glycoscience and cell engineering made by AIST, and exchanges have been promoted between researchers of AIST and of research organizations under DBT.

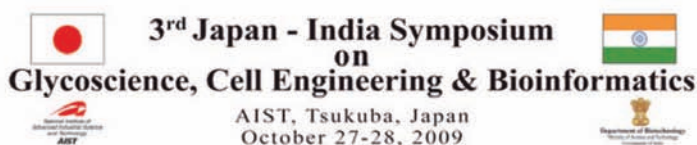
In response to these achievements, the third workshop was held in Tsukuba on October 27 and 28, 2009. For the symposium held on October 27, there were over 90 participants, and there were presentations of the research of both countries on the three topics of medical glycoscience, cell engineering, and bioinformatics. At the poster session, there was much serious discussion, and there was active

interaction among the researchers.

At the bilateral meeting held on October 28, we confirmed the specific progress made on these individual themes of collaboration, and discussed ways of further advancing the research cooperation in the future.

In bioinformatics, there were reports on the progress and future developments of the collaborative research by researchers of AIST and participating research organizations of India. In medical glycoscience and cell engineering, information exchange was started with research organizations under DBT based on the project proposal made by AIST in February, 2009. This workshop served to advance research exchange and coordination among researchers of AIST and participating research organizations of India. It was confirmed that specific research contents would be reviewed by December, 2009, and that the individual research cooperation agreements were planned to be concluded in 2009.

When the first bioinformatics project proposal was made, DBT selected research organizations through open-application in India. DBT has evaluated the results of interaction among researchers encouraged through the three workshops, and has announced that it will financially support specific parties that have already advanced research exchanges. At the same time, DBT has indicated its intentions to distribute budget likewise to universities in India which already have active ties with AIST, thus strengthening the support system for research exchange with AIST.



3rd Japan - India Symposium
on
Glycoscience, Cell Engineering & Bioinformatics
AIST, Tsukuba, Japan
October 27-28, 2009



Symposium attendees and logo

Cover Photos

Above: Mineral ore at Thor Lake (p. 7)

Below: The storage ring NIJI-IV dedicated to free electron lasers (p. 21)

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