

## AIST Concludes MOU with Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and Participates in High Level Forum in Grenoble

Dr. Tamotsu Nomakuchi, AIST President, visited Germany last July 6, 2012 to conclude a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on comprehensive research cooperation with Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FhG), and to participate in a round table discussion in Stuttgart. This was followed by a visit to Grenoble, France to participate in the High Level Forum held on July 9-10 along with Mr. Kenichi Ichihara, mayor of Tsukuba City, and other prominent dignitaries.

Dr. Nomakuchi signed the MOU with Dr. Hans-Jörg Bullinger, FhG President. Prior to the conclusion of the MOU with FhG, AIST has already concluded comprehensive MOUs with 34 research institutions from 18 countries. FhG becomes the fourth institution in Germany which has concluded a comprehensive MOU with AIST (the other three institutions being Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, Forschungszentrum Jülich and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology), and thereby brings the total number of institutions having comprehensive MOUs with AIST to 35.

AIST has been strengthening its relationship with FhG through personnel exchange, holding of cooperative workshops and conducting collaborative research. The conclusion of the MOU is expected to further accelerate research cooperation between the two institutes in the future. There were also meaningful exchanges of opinion during the round table discussion on topics such as risk assessment of nano carbon materials.

On the other hand, the High Level Forum in Grenoble was sponsored by Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA) and Grenoble Innovation for Advanced New Technologies (GIANT). The purpose of the forum was to gather representatives of industry-academia-government collaboration from all over the world to exchange opinions concerning the promotion of innovation. Out of the eleven countries represented, in addition to Dr. Nomakuchi and Mr. Ichihara, Dr. Sukekatsu Ushioda, president of the National Institute for Materials Science, Dr. Minoru Yonekura, Vice President of the University of Tsukuba, and Dr. Masahiro Seto, Vice-President of AIST, participated in the forum as representatives from Japan. Four round table discussions were held on topics concerning the circumstances for establishing innovation bases, present activities and future developments, and the status of industry-academia-government collaboration bases in each region.



FhG President Bullinger (left) and AIST President Nomakuchi (right)



At the High Level Forum  
From left: Mr. Ijic of the French Embassy, AIST Vice-President Seto, AIST President Nomakuchi and a forum clerk

## Conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding on Research Cooperation among the World's Three Leading Institutes for Solar Energy Research

The Research Center for Photovoltaic Technologies of AIST, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory of USA, and the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems of Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft of Germany have signed an MOU on research cooperation among the three institutes on July 10, 2012 (PDT), in San Francisco, USA. The concluded MOU is aimed at reinforcing the scientific cooperation among the three leading institutes for solar energy technologies, including mutual exchanges of researchers, and at accelerating the research activities responding to the recent rapid global dissemination and cost reduction of photovoltaic power generation.



Image from the signing ceremony

### Cover Photos

Above: The developed ceramic electrolyte sheet (p. 16)

Below: Personal radiation dosimeter (right) and 500 yen coin (left) (p. 23)



**AIST** NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AIST)

Website and Publication Office, Public Relations Department  
National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)

AIST Tsukuba Central 2, 1-1-1 Umezono, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8568, Japan  
TEL: +81-29-862-6217 FAX: +81-29-862-6212 Email: [prpub-ml@aist.go.jp](mailto:prpub-ml@aist.go.jp) URL: [http://www.aist.go.jp/index\\_en.html](http://www.aist.go.jp/index_en.html)

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