

## Australia and Japan collaboration in Antarctic Science: 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase

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Since 1982 there have been numerous research exchanges and visits by scientists from Australia and Japan, These have lead to many research collaborations at various levels at individual researcher to researcher collaborations, to collaboration at the institutional level. Coordinated, joint collaborative studies on Antarctic oceanic plankton, sea-ice and the status of marine biodiversity have been conducted in recent years and there are plans to continue cooperative research into the future.

The Joint Statement by Prime Ministers Rudd and Fukuda during an official visit to Japan in June 2008 touched on the importance of continued and further enhanced cooperation in scientific research in the Antarctic Science by the both countries<sup>1</sup>.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Australia-Japan bilateral Joint Science & Technology Consultative (JSTC) meeting was held in Tokyo in August 2012. This was a high level bilateral meeting between Australia and Japan to identify and give high level endorsement to priority areas for future collaboration. At this meeting Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) and National Institute for Polar Research (NIPR, Japan) reported on the two countries' successful collaboration in Antarctic Science since the Prime ministerial Joint Statement in 2008 (the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of collaboration) and outlined their intention to hold a workshop to initiate- the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of collaboration. This proposal was endorsed by the JSTC meeting.

Common key questions for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase were agreed at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australia-Japan Joint workshop in 2009<sup>2</sup>. These related to climate change in the Indian sector of the Southern Ocean. At that workshop, broad milestones were agreed for the following 5 years and beyond. Planning for collaboration in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase will need to be coordinated at the national level in each country (rather than at the institutional or researcher level) in order to maximise efficiency and outputs through well planned coordination. We suggest that the NIPR and the AAD be assigned lead agency roles for ensuring that national approval is obtained for, and implementing the outcomes of, proposed future collaborations.

The purpose of the Planning Workshop for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase collaboration is to review the status of collaboration within each research discipline, and through in-principle discussion, identify the gaps and areas of priority for future collaboration. It will also be important to develop a plan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of collaboration.

Group discussions by each research discipline will be held (26-30 November), followed by a formal one-day plenary meeting on 1 December 2012. At this plenary meeting outcomes of group discussion will be reported, followed by discussion on future planning of the collaboration. The Workshop will produce an agreed report, which will contain proposed options for collaboration for consideration by each government. This report will then form the basis for the development of future project proposals in each country.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Ministerial Statement, paragraph 34.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Australia-Japan Joint Workshop on Antarctic Science: Australia Japan (Nippon) Research on East Antarctic Climate Change "ANREACCH", Tokyo, September 2009, pp12.