

The formulation of the Master Plan for large research projects by the Science Council of Japan

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The Science Council of Japan has been formulating the Master Plan for large research projects every three years. The latest Master Plan was issued in 2020, to which 150 projects were proposed from 22 fields including integrated fields in which two or more fields were involved. The Master Plan places importance on bottom-up involvement by scientist communities and it formulates large research projects covering with all scientific fields and out of which it selects important large research projects that should be implemented particularly promptly from among the proposed projects. The master plan aims at providing academic perspective on how Japanese large research projects should be, and hence the evaluation and adoption of the proposal projects are purely based on scientific significance. It should be noted that it is principally not directly related to budget allocation for research budget allocation organizations.

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