

JAMSTEC's study and the Basic Research Fund System of ATLA

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Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) was initially founded as the authorized corporation, "Japan Marine Science and Technology Center" in 1971 and was transformed into Independent Administrative Institution in FY2004. Since then, it has promoted research and development based on the mid-term plan and is currently in its third term. From FY2015, it has transformed from Independent Administrative Institution into National Research and Development Institute. Consequently, we have been increasingly required to maximize our research achievements as a platform for innovation on marine-earth science and technology.

On March 27, 2014, Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA, Former name: Technical Research and Development Institute, Ministry of Defense) and JAMSTEC had concluded the "Cooperation Agreement on Oceanic Research" aiming to promote smooth and effective mutual cooperation on oceanic research.

JAMSTEC has been conducting a commissioned research that will be completed in March, 2018 based on the competitive funds "The Basic Research Fund System of ATLA" established by Ministry of Defense in FY2015. The purposes of the funds are to find unique studies conducted at research institutions of universities / independent administrative institutions or private corporations and to advance promising researches.

"The 5th Science and Technology Basic Plan (FY2016 to 2020)" that had been adopted by the Cabinet Office in January, 2016 describes that "Considering the fact that there is ambiguity in science and technology and the research and development results obtained for a certain purpose can be utilized for other purposes, ... it is important to properly utilize the outcomes." and "Utilizing various high technological capabilities of our nation is important to ensure safety and security of the nation and the citizens". Furthermore, in relations to research and development of marine-earth science, it is stated that "A series of science and technology that supports appropriate development, utilization and management of the ocean and the space, ... firmly establishes the foundation of our country's existence. ... it is a very important science and technology from the view point of the national strategy that generates further significant values such as bringing public awareness on science. We are continuously required to enhance it based on a long-term perspective".

"The Defense Technology Strategy" formulated in August, 2016 states that "The important things are to mobilize the capacities of industry, academia and the government to promote technical cooperation between defense sector and consumer sector ... , and divert the defense technology to the consumer sector (Spin-off), and advance technological capabilities of our nation", and also describes regarding the above mentioned The Basic Research Fund System of ATLA that "Under the scheme of the said system, it is expected that the obtained research results will be widely used for consumer sector as well from the viewpoint of maximization of research results. Also, in the fundamental research field covered by the funding system, the research results will be opened to the public as better research results (open innovation) can be expected by open discussions among researchers".

In this speech, the status of the joint research with Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency based on the "Cooperation Agreement on Oceanic Research" and the current efforts on the commissioned research based on the "The Basic Research Fund System of ATLA" will be introduced in light of the deliberation status by the "Examination Committee for Security and Academic", the Science Council of Japan and discussions by related sectors. You will also learn future prospects of JAMSTEC.

Keywords: Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, JAMSTEC, Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency, The Basic Research Fund System of ATLA