



News from Japan

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October 1, 2019

Situation in Japan

MEXT's view in regard to the ILC project

Executive Summary

March 7, 2019

Research Promotion Bureau, MEXT

- Following the opinion of the SCJ, **MEXT has not yet reached declaration for hosting the ILC at this moment.** The ILC project requires further discussion in **formal academic decision making processes such as the SCJ Master Plan**, where it has to be clarified whether the ILC project can gain understanding and support from the domestic academic community.
- MEXT will pay close attention to the progress of the discussions at the **European Strategy for Particle Physics Update.**
- The ILC project has certain scientific significance in particle physics particularly in the precision measurements of the Higgs boson, and also has possibility in the technological advancement and in its effect on the local community, although the SCJ pointed out some concerns with the ILC project. Therefore, considering the above points, **MEXT will continue to discuss the ILC project with other governments while having an interest in the ILC project.**

highlight in red by KF

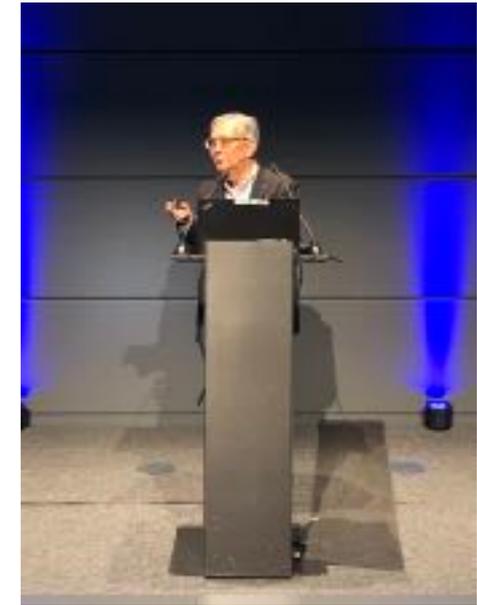
KEK presented its plan for the ILC project in Lausanne

2019/04/12

<https://www.kek.jp/en/newsroom/2019/04/12/1700/>

Masanori Yamauchi, Director General of KEK, made a presentation regarding KEK's plan for the ILC, at the international conference held on **8-9 April 2019** in Lausanne, Switzerland.

About 100 scientists from around the world who aim for the realization of electron-positron linear colliders gathered at the Linear Collider Community Meeting, to discuss the future linear collider activities.



Masa explaining his plan in a Lausanne session

In the conference, Yamauchi presented KEK's plan for the ILC for the upcoming year, summarized as follows:

- **Organize the *international working group* with close consultation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).**
- **Promote activities to gain a better understanding of the broader academic community in Japan (Propose the ILC project to *the Science Council of Japan's Master Plan*; Organize a symposium)**
- **Cooperate with MEXT to establish the *governmental level discussion groups with France and Germany*. Also, strengthen the discussion group with the US DOE.**
- **Conduct *technical preparation program at ATF, STF and CFF facilities* collaborating with the international teams**

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KEK's plan is in accord with the ICFA statement and MEXT's view, and illustrates the specific steps that will be taken by KEK toward an early realization of the ILC. The result of the discussions at the Lausanne conference will be used as an input for the discussions of the Update of the European Strategy for Particle Physics.

Current Status

- **The KEK International WG (IWG) had its last meeting mid September.**
 - **The IWG report is expected to be public very soon (maybe late tonight or tomorrow).**
- **Preparation on-going for starting governmental level Discussion Groups with France and Germany. The IWG report is expected to be used for their discussions. New development also with US.**
- **SCJ Master Plan Process on-going.**
 - July 8:** a prioritized list to the upper committee
 - Late July:** list of projects to go to the hearing stage
 - Sep. 14-16:** hearing to make the short list
 - ==== We are here ====**
 - Jan. 2020?:** the final approval of the long and short lists
- **The IWG Report includes technical preparation plan.**
- **KEK has setup an Expert Panel for “Strategic Environmental Assessment”. The Panel hold its first meeting on Sep. 4 at KEK, expected to produce its report in December.**
- **As for ESU, Physics Briefing Book expected to be finalized very soon.**

New MEXT Minister

answering questions about ILC in a press interview

Mr. Koichi Hagiuda, new MEXT minister, said “We should definitely find partner countries, and **if the financial prospects are clear, lots of research should be done in Japan.**”

He also said “While MEXT recognizes the project’s necessity at a certain level, the required budget is immense. There are issues for a single country to cover this burden, also considering the scale of the project.” He added that “It is usually the case [for the concerned countries] to contribute money, and then construct, operate, and manage the project. **We should definitely find countries willing to become partners, and if the financial prospects are clear, lots of research should be done in Japan.**”

Concerning the pleas by parliamentary groups, local authorities, and others to the Japanese government, asking for an explicit expression of interest to host the project in Japan, he stated “I am aware of the requests. **I intend to make an effort to create a team in consultation with the relevant organizations.**”

Iwate Hippo on Sep. 26

Outreach

A comic book, “Chairman Kosaku Shima”, featuring ILC



More outreach events will happen.

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- MEXT will pay close attention to the progress of the discussions at the **European Strategy for Particle Physics Update.** *ESU in Feb. 2020, to be approved by CERN Council in May 2020*
- The ILC project has certain scientific significance in particular particularly in the precision measurements of the Higgs boson, and also has possibility in the technological advancement and in its effect on the local community, although the SCJ pointed out some concerns about the project. Therefore, considering the above points, **MEXT will discuss the ILC project with other governments and express its interest in the ILC project.** *IWG report in Oct. 2019
G-J, F-J Discussion Groups, new development in US-Japan.*