

Status in Japan

ILD phone meeting

19 October 2021

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Updates in Japan

(see also Keisuke's slides in September meeting)

- “MEXT will meet representatives from Germany (BMBF), France (MESRI), UK (BEIS/STFC), and US (DOE) on Oct 15”
 - Information shared in IDT-WG3 by Hitoshi. No official information from MEXT.
 - “What is the view of the ILC in your government ?”
 - “What is the possible path to reach agreements concerning the ILC ?”
- Japan formed a new cabinet (New PM Fumio Kishida, Oct 4)
 - Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki is No.2 of Federation of Diet members supporting ILC
 - Secretary General of LDP (ruling party) Akira Amari is also a Federation member
 - MEXT minister: Shinsuke Suematsu replaced Koichi Hagiuda (minister of METI now)
- The general election will be held on Oct 31 (Sun).
 - Diet disbanded on last Thursday (Oct 14).
 - Hon. Takeo Kawamura, Chair of Federation of Diet members, does not run (retires).
- New (2nd) MEXT Advisory Panel met Oct 14, 18 (⇒ next pages)
 - https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/shingi/chousa/shinkou/064/index.html
 - Mainly reviews progress in the last 3 years
 - The meetings are open. We can watch the meetings via YOUTUBE if applied in advance.
 - At least two more meetings will be held to conclude.

KF's Notes on the New Panel

Taken from Keisuke's slide at ILD phone meeting in September

ILC Advisory Panel (2021-7-29→2022-7-28: extensible if needed)

1. Shouken Miyama (chair) : Astronomy (theory)
2. Tomohiro Ichiji : Policy Innovation
3. Tatsuo Omachi : Civil Engineering
4. Sadanori Okamura : Astronomy
5. Haruyo Koiso : Accelerator
6. Michihisa Kyoto : JSPS
7. Noritaka Kumagai : Accelerator
8. Takahiro Shinyo : Diplomacy
9. Katsuo Tokushuku : HEP
10. Wako Tojima: Journalist
11. Takashi Nakano : NP
12. Shunsuke Mori : System Engineering, Ecology
13. Hiromi Yokoyama : Scientific Communication

No subcommittee formed this time

The panel seemed particularly interested in

1. International cost sharing
2. Understanding by general public and academia
3. Technical feasibility

The first panel meeting was held on July 29. Mostly introduction (explanation by MEXT, followed by exchange of opinions among panel members).

Researchers proposing ILC were invited to 2nd and 3rd meetings in October.

MEXT Advisory Panel meeting on Oct 14

- https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/shingi/chousa/shinkou/064/kaisai/211014.htm
- Presentations by researchers, followed by Q&A
 - T. Mori (former JAHEP/HEPC chair, ICFA member) Project overview and its history
 - H. Murayama (IDT-WG3 chair), Science
 - S. Michizono (IDT-WG2 chair), Technical feasibility and validity of cost estimation (accelerator)
 - T. Nakada (IDT chair), Pre-lab proposal
- The meeting was limited to two hours.
 - The meeting had not enough time for discussions.

MEXT Advisory Panel meeting on Oct 18

- https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/shingi/chousa/shinkou/064/kaisai/211018.htm
- Presentations by researchers, followed by Q&A
 - N. Terunuma (IDT-WG2) Technical feasibility and validity of cost estimation (civil-engineering, safety, environment)
 - S. Asai (ILC-Japan, JAHEP/HEPC chair), Academic significance and understanding of the public and scientific communities
 - M. Yamauchi (KEK DG), Prospects of international cooperation and cost sharing
 - Y. Okada (IDT-WG1), Prospects of developing and securing human resources and others
- The meeting time was extended from 2.0 to 2.5 hours for discussion among panel members.

Some of questions at the meeting Oct 14

- Physics (to Hitoshi)
 - What is the relation of the ILC and the dark energy ?
 - Is the 250 GeV ILC optimized for a Higgs factory ?
 - Is the total cost for 20 years (1.6 trillion JPY, the panel member quoted) only for 250 GeV, or does it include energy upgrade and additional other experiments ?
 - Is the physics priority at ILC unchanged since last panel 3 years ago ? Is the Higgs branching ratio measurements still most important ?
- Accelerator (to Shin)
 - What happens if the pre-lab is not established ? Why is the pre-lab framework needed to complete remaining accelerator R&D ?
 - What is the cost to perform the WPs ?
 - What are ripple effects of ILC accelerator R&D?
- Pre-lab (to Tatsuya)
 - What are academic benefits of ILC to the host country ?
 - Can all the WPs be completed within 4 years at the pre-lab ? Any showstoppers ?
 - Is it possible to reconsider the pre-lab as a new international laboratory for technological development and technology succession of accelerators in the future, without linking it to the ILC?

Some of questions at the meeting Oct 18

- Civil engineering, safety, environment (to Nobuhiro)
 - Are earthquake countermeasures being considered for accelerators and detectors ?
 - What happened at KEK and J-PARC in 2011 ?
- Academic significance, etc (to Shoji)
 - Is the enthusiasm of European researchers declining ? (Comparison of “are eager to participate (2013)” and “would wish to collaborate (2020)” in European strategy updates.
 - Are European researchers contacting their governments / funding agencies for the ILC ?
- International cooperation and cost sharing (to Masa)
 - Can the pre-lab solve the “chicken and egg” problem ?
 - Is it worth starting the pre-lab with less budget at the beginning ? (step-up after clearing milestones)
- Human resources and others (to Yasuhiro)
 - Is the pre-lab term (4 years) too short to develop human resources ?
 - How important is it to involve CERN in the ILC project in terms of human resources?
- Other questions
 - How long can the ILC stay as a state-of-the-art laboratory ?
 - How will the tunnel be used after the ILC operation period ?

I think that the researchers answered the questions well in general, but I am not sure if the panel members were convinced.

Discussion of panel members (Oct 18)

- After the presentations and Q&A, there was an exchange of opinions among the panel members.
 - They were discussing mainly on the pre-lab.
 - Some members are rather positive, although not supporting the full budget.
 - Some others are rather negative due to the large ILC cost and governance issues (no experience in pre-lab like organization).
 - Some members seem to misunderstand the pre-lab (e.g. MoU between countries is necessary, approval of pre-lab directly leads to approval of ILC)
 - This is strange, because the discussion of the panel is assumed to be focused on the evaluation of the progress in the last three years. I personally think it is necessary for us to contact the members to modify the course of discussion.
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- Meanwhile, we hope that US/European governments will react MEXT more positively in their discussion.
- We will try to prepare translation of the panel meetings minutes (currently, unofficial summary is being shared in IDT).