

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS WITHIN
THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
BETWEEN ITALY AND JAPAN
FOR THE YEARS 2008-2009

Within the framework of the Agreement between Italy and Japan on Cooperation in Science and Technology, signed in Tokyo, Japan, on October 7th, 1988, the procedures for the drafting of the Executive Programme of Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology for the years 2008-2009 are hereby initiated.

1. PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF RESEARCHERS

1.1 POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION

Projects may be submitted in the following possible priority research areas of co-operation:

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| 1. Basic Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology) | (BS) |
| 2. Life Sciences (including Health, Biotechnology, Agriculture) | (LS) |
| 3. Space | (Sp) |
| 4. Earth Science and Climate change | (ES,CC) |
| 5. Energy | (En) |
| 6. Information and Communication Technology | (ICT) |
| 7. Robotics and Production Technologies | (R,PT) |
| 8. Nanosciences, Advanced Materials | (NS,AM) |
| 9. Technologies applied to Cultural Heritage. | (TCH) |

1.2 PURPOSES

Submission of joint research projects by researchers of both Countries is requested, with the aim of encouraging scientific and technological co-operation between Italy and Japan. Each researcher may submit one project only (also see final N.B of Paragraph 2.2). Financing will be granted exclusively for the exchange of researchers holding Italian (or a EU nationality and legally resident in Italy) and Japanese nationality (or non-Japanese nationals belonging to Japanese research entities). See also Paragraphs 1.3(B) and 1.5.

1.3 (A) PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS

The research project proposal must be submitted by the Italian and Japanese Co-ordinators to the addresses of the Italian Party given below (see 1.6). Projects submitted will be sent to Japanese Party for evaluation (see 1.4) by Italian Party.

The projects, covering 2 years (2008-2009), must be drafted in English, signed by the two project co-ordinators, and must include the following details:

- title, research area (only one area must be indicated), three key-words of the project, names and personal data (in this order: post, institution, address, phone, fax, e-mail) of the Italian/ Japanese co-ordinators;
- composition and description of the research unit;
- short c.v. listing the Italian/Japanese co-ordinator's 5 publications relevant to the project;
- short description of the Italian/Japanese research institution;
- description and purposes of the project;
- expected results and available financial resources. In the case of a project already in progress, the Italian/Japanese co-ordinators must indicate the current status and the results that have been achieved so far.

1.3 (B)

For those projects to be financed by the Italian Party, the scientific project can be also dealing with experimental work for thesis, to be developed jointly between the two research Institutions. The thesis must be agreed upon by the two Institutions and a period of time of minimum three months and maximum nine months must be spent in Italy. In this case the Italian Government will consider the possibility to award a grant to the Japanese student. (see Annex2).

1.4 PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION AT NATIONAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL

The projects will be initially evaluated at national level. Subsequently, the assessment will be carried out by the Joint Committee of the two Parties in order to select the projects admitted for funding.

The projects will be assessed according to the following evaluation criteria:

- 1. Qualifications and experience of research teams**
- 2. Methodology, approach, strategy, structure, and documentation**
- 3. Sufficiency of existing and proposed research infrastructure**
- 4. Level of originality and innovation**
- 5. Social and developmental added value for Italy and Japan**
- 6. Purpose of cooperation among the groups**
- 7. Exploitation of results**
- 8. Dissemination of results**

Preference will be given to projects that involve industrial counterparts, benefit from third parties' funding (such as public and private research institutes and organizations) and/or take part in multilateral and *European research programmes, particularly the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union*.

1.5 FINANCING OF PROJECTS

The Italian Party will pay researchers holding Italian nationality (or a EU nationality and legally resident in Italy) international travel expenses.

Only the cost of the exchange of researchers will be financed. Annually two exchange visits (long term of one full month and/or short-term up to 10 days) will be financed per project.

The Japanese Party may pay researchers holding Japanese nationality (or non-Japanese nationals belonging to Japanese research entities) international travel expenses within its financial condition. The researchers financed by the Japanese Party will be selected annually among the list of the selected projects (see 1.7).

1.6 SUBMISSION OF JOINT PROJECTS

The Italian and Japanese co-ordinators must submit their proposals to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for the implementation of the Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Co-operation. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will send all the collected proposal to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Projects that have not been signed by both co-ordinators in accordance with the below-mentioned procedures will not be considered.

Procedures applicable to Italian researchers. The Italian co-ordinator must submit the research project proposal by filling out the enclosed form (see Annex 1) and forwarding it no later than **21st October 2007**, in one copy, by post, with the words "Programma Italia – Giappone" clearly written on the envelope.

One copy will be sent to:

*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
D.G.P.C.C.– Ufficio V
Piazzale della Farnesina, 1
00194 Roma*

and one copy to:

*Ambasciata d'Italia
2-5-4, Mita, Minato-ku
Tokyo 108-8302*

In addition, the Italian project co-ordinator must e-mail one copy of the research project proposal (in *MS Word*, or *RTF* format) to the following address: lucilla.alagna@esteri.it

Procedures applicable to Japanese researchers. The Japanese co-ordinator must sign the research project proposal before submission by the Italian co-ordinator to the above postal and e-mail addresses.

1.7 PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The list of the selected projects will be posted exclusively on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the address www.esteri.gov.it following the breadcrumb

[Home](#) > [Foreign Policy](#) > [Culture](#) > [Activities](#) > [Scientific Technical Cooperation](#) > [Executive programmes](#) > Culturali Scientifici Tecnologici in vigore

The rules concerning the funds will be posted only on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the address www.esteri.gov.it following the breadcrumb

[Home](#) > [Foreign Policy](#) > [Culture](#) > [Activities](#) > [Scientific Technical Cooperation](#) > [Executive programmes](#) > Scientifici Tecnologici in vigore

1.8 REPORTS ON THE PROJECT

At the end of each year the Italian and the Japanese co-ordinators shall report on the progress of their projects. Funding for the next year will not be given if the co-ordinators fail to submit their progress reports.

2. PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FOR SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL PROJECTS ("PROGETTI DI GRANDE RILEVANZA" AI SENSI DELLA L. 401/90)

In the course of validity of the Executive Programme, the Italian Party will also consider granting an annual special financial contribution, within the limits of the available financial

resources, to significant bilateral research projects (“progetti di grande rilevanza”), which will be part of the Executive Programme. The process for selection of significant bilateral projects which will be eligible for being awarded the above-mentioned special funds are as follows:

2.1 Within the terms valid for the call for proposals under point 1.1 – 1.3 (criteria, priority areas) the Italian co-ordinator must submit a preliminary indication of a significant joint project proposal by filling out the enclosed form (see Annex 3) and forwarding it no later than 21st October 2007 , in one copy, by post, with the words “Programma Italia-Giappone/GR” clearly written on the envelope, to:

*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
D.G.P.C.C. – Ufficio V
Piazzale della Farnesina, 1
00194 Roma*

The Italian project co-ordinator must also e-mail one copy of the significant joint project proposal (in MSWord, or RTF format) to the address lucilla.alagna@esteri.it.

These preliminary indications of significant joint projects will be evaluated by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – D.G.P.C.C. – Office V and submitted for approval to the Japanese Party. If agreed upon, these project proposals will be inserted in the Executive Programme.

2.2 The significant joint research projects inserted in the Executive Programme will constitute a short-list of projects entitled to apply for funding in accordance with the specific call for proposals issued by Office V of D.G.P.C.C. of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and published on the web every year. The call for proposals is usually published every autumn for the following funding year.

Details on such projects (in compliance with Law 401/90) are available on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the link <http://www.esteri.gov.it/>, following the breadcrumb: [Home](#) > [Politica Estera](#) > [Cultura](#) > [Attività](#) > [Coop. Scientifica-Tecnologica](#) > [Programmi Esecutivi](#) . At this point select “Bando 2007” in the box on the right side.

NB: each researcher may submit one project only; the application of a proposal as significant bilateral project excludes the possibility for the project co-ordinator of the same project to apply for funding as a joint research project (funding for the exchange of researchers) pursuant to point 1 of the present call for proposals (see Paragraph 1.2).

Rome, on 20th September 2007