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Keio University

Keio University and CEA Sign MoU for international cooperation to Expand Scope of Japanese-French Leading-Edge International Research Cooperation

The Faculty of Science and Technology of Keio University and the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA) based in France signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for international cooperation in the information and communications field on January 13, 2017.

The French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) is a key player in research, development and innovation in four main areas: technological research for industry, fundamental research in the physical sciences and life sciences, defense and security, nuclear energy (fission and fusion). CEA was established in 1945 as a French government agency and currently spans 10 research centers with some 16,000 personnel for an annual budget of more than 4 billion euros. CEA filed 753 priority patents in 2015 and was ranked first in Reuters' Top 25 Global Innovators – Government list released in March 2016.

The Faculty of Science and Technology at Keio University and CEA, together with the french National Center for Scientific Research, or CNRS, the largest fundamental research organization in Europe, signed a MoU for international cooperation in the field of micro- and nanotechnology on September 22, 2014 that covers five years. Under the MoU, the three organizations have been increasing their level of cooperation with regard to R&D, human resource development, and industrial advancement. Keio University and CEA share a mutual interest in pursuing research extending beyond micro- and nanotechnology to encompass information and communications technology (ICT) and applications thereof, which led to the signing of a new MoU.

The new MoU is aimed at contributing to scientific and industrial advancement through cooperation on the Internet of Things (IoT), security, encryption, sensor networks and other technologies, particularly in the promising areas of smart cities and smart communities. These efforts are propelled by the Industry 4.0 platform to transform the manufacturing sector using ICT, in which CEA is giving high priority, and the Society 5.0 effort to realize a smart society by using the IoT for social systems and infrastructure.

The MoU encompasses cooperation through regular meetings in joint research fields for information and communication exchanges, mutual dispatch of researchers and other personnel, exchange of related technical and scientific information, and advancement of joint research. As a framework for cooperation, the Faculties of Science and Technology and Environment and Information Studies at Keio University, together with CEA, will appoint researchers to form research groups that will manage the implementation of joint projects, select major research topics, and monitor the progress of joint R&D projects.

Keio University and CEA will continue to build on their research cooperation results with the aim of contributing to the formation of a Japanese-French research hub for leading-edge international research cooperation.

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