

November 16, 2006

Dear GWIC members,

As you already know, we, Japanese GW group, are trying to build a new interferometer for gravitational wave detection and study, the Large-scale Cryogenic Gravitational-wave Telescope (LCGT). Unfortunately, our budget requests submitted for FY2006 and FY2007 were not approved. In this mail, we would like to clarify the current situation and our future strategy, to ask for your kind assistance and to call for international collaborations. The following is the official opinion of Japan Gravitational Wave Committee (JGWC) which is composed of scientists in Japan studying the gravitational wave.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) did not submit the budget request of LCGT to the Ministry of Finance Japan for FY2007. This is an unfortunate consequence due to the new national budgeting system still under development after the recent restructuring of the government infrastructure, including national universities and research laboratories.

This does not mean that LCGT cannot be approved. Institute for Cosmic Ray Research (ICRR), the host institute of LCGT, and The University of Tokyo, from which the budget request is submitted to MEXT, are both very supportive of the project. After a long discussion within the LCGT collaboration, we have decided to submit the proposal again for FY2008. Through this discussion, it was also confirmed that LCGT has the highest priority in the Japanese GW research.

Another issue realized in our discussion was the importance of more aggressive international collaboration. Although the next year's budget request will be essentially the same as the one of last year, our intention to go for the international collaboration will be added to the proposal. In order to materialize this international collaboration, we would like to openly call for collaborations. Our present vision is that since this is a project along the line of the original planning of LCGT, the Japanese group will take leadership and the interferometer will be built underground at Kamioka.

To explore the options with the international community, we have applied for a research fund of a quarter million dollars, titled "LCGT project based on international collaboration", which will enable us to learn more about research activities overseas and to start looking for future collaborations.

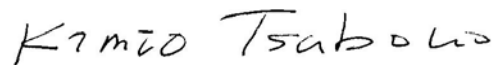
JGWC is committed that LCGT should play an important role as a part of the international GW detector network. To achieve this goal, we need your kind support and direct and indirect collaboration.



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