



**The National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS) and the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) launched IITH-NIMS Joint Research Center for Materials Research**

- Aiming to strengthen the research exchange after COVID-19 pandemic end -

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NIMS / IITH

**Outline;**

The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH, Director: Prof. B. S. Murty, Kandy, Sanghar Reddy District, Telangana, India), and the National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS; President: Kazuhito Hashimoto, 1-2-1 Sengen, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-0047 Japan) signed an agreement for opening "IITH-NIMS Joint Research Center" at NIMS on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

IITH is one of the world-renowned Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for science and engineering education, and among the IITs, Hyderabad is a University with particularly close ties to Japan as it was established using technical and financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)\*<sup>1</sup>. Also, IITH is attracting much attention from industries and universities in Japan\*<sup>2</sup>. In November 2019, IITH and NIMS signed the first agreement on the promotion of comprehensive research cooperation between both institutions for the purpose of exchange of researchers and scientific information.

Furthermore, in 2020, IITH and NIMS signed the agreement on an International Collaborative Graduate School Program, which allows graduate students enrolled in doctoral programs to stay at NIMS for up to one year for their thesis research works. To further develop the joint research with complementary strengths in the materials science field, young faculty members of IITH stay at NIMS with their PhD course students during sabbatical leave period and conduct the sustainable collaboration with NIMS scientists. In order to perform the sustainable joint research between both institutions, we are pleased to announce that "IITH-NIMS Joint Research Center" was launched.

As mentioned above, IITH has a strong and close tie with Japan. The opening of this joint research center will further strengthen these ties and support the future leaders of both countries to achieve the best research results in the field of materials science.

In the first year, two projects were selected that are expected to contribute to the industrial fields (digital information and communication and low-carbon society-related fields) that have strong potential for growth in India. In the future, the joint research center will contribute to the strengthening of the Japan-India materials technology network.

Currently, scientists from both organizations are preparing for research collaboration after COVID-19 pandemic end by online scientific information exchange and provision of samples.



Fig. Snapshots of Professor Hashimoto (President of NIMS, left) and Professor Murty (Director of IITH, right) (The online signing ceremony for the joint research center installation contract)

## **Supplemental information;**

### Regarding Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) :

IITH is one of the six Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) established by the Government of India in 2008, and has been ranked among the top ten institutes in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) published by the Ministry of Education of India for four consecutive years.

IITH has 237 full-time faculty members, 3397 students (20% of whom are women), about 200 laboratories for advanced research works, and five research and entrepreneurship centers.

### Regarding National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS) :

The mission of NIMS, one of National Research and Development Agencies in Japan, is to promote the creation of technical innovation in the field of materials science in which Japan has strong advantage in the world. NIMS has seven research centers ( Research Center for Functional Materials, Center for Green Research on Energy and Environmental Materials, Research Center for Magnetic and Spintronic Materials, Research Center for Structural Materials, MANA (International Center for Materials Nanoarchitectonics), Research Center for Advanced Measurement and Characterization, and Center for Materials Research by Information Integration ), as well as a Research Network and Facility Services Division, to realize its mission.

\*1 Technical and financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

- Project for Industry-University Research Network Development Support between Japan and India -

Common name: "FRIENDSHIP" Project (Official name in English: "the Project for **F**uture **R**esearchers at **I**IITH to **E**nhance **N**etwork **D**evelopment with **S**cholar**h**ip of Japan" Project)

The Government of India has requested the Japanese government to provide Yen-loans for the construction of the new IITH campus facilities, including the departmental building, the large lecture hall, and the library, which will become the core of IITH's education and research environment. In the response to this request from Japanese government, The "FRIENDSHIP" (JICA) project which is performed by JICA is supporting the construction of six facilities (i.e., International House, Student House, Business Incubation Center, International Conference Hall, Main Research Center, and Central Library) in the IITH campus. This support project could become symbols of international exchange of human resources and technical information between Japan and India.

Reference: <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/index.html>

\*2 Why IITH is attracting much attention from industries and universities in Japan:

#### IITH Consortium

The IITH Consortium is led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, with the participation of universities (University of Tokyo, Osaka University, Keio University and so on), Japanese industries, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Japan (MEXT), the Japan Foundation, and JICA as members. It continues to work toward the realization of effective IITH support by industry, government, and academia in "all-Japan system".

Concretely, industries are accepting PhD course students for internships and considering them for employment, and universities are providing opportunities for students to enter the doctoral programs.

NIMS has also joined IITH Consortium from 2021.

\*<sup>3</sup>Sabbatical leave :

An extended leave of absence granted after a certain number of years of service. The number of years of service and the length of the leave vary depending on the country and the institution to which the researcher belongs, but a maximum of one year of leave is granted for every six to seven years of service. In many cases, researchers use this leave to try out new research projects at overseas institutions or to write books.

**Contact details:**

Regarding research;

Global Program Office, Global Program Division, NIMS

Office Chief Dr. Seiji KURODA or Specialist staff Dr. Toshiyuki MORI

Email: [academic-collaboration@nims.go.jp](mailto:academic-collaboration@nims.go.jp)

TEL: +81-29-859-2444 or +81-29-860-4395

URL: <https://www.nims.go.jp/>

Regarding Press release;

Public Relations Office, Corporate Planning Division, NIMS

1-2-1 Sengen Tsukuba Ibaraki 305-0047 Japan

TEL: +81-29-859-2026, FAX: +81-29-859-2017

E-mail: [pressrelease@ml.nims.go.jp](mailto:pressrelease@ml.nims.go.jp)