



## Report from MIRAI 2.0 funding working group

### Background:

The aim of this working group has been to propose plans to manage MIRAI's funding, especially with regards to obtaining external funds for the MIRAI project.

### Specific tasks included:

- Reaching out to potential funders to inform them about MIRAI, and seeking ways that the funders could financially contribute to the activities of MIRAI.
- Creating a list of external funding opportunities for which MIRAI could consider applying.

The group consisted of Professor Eva Wiberg, President (University of Gothenburg), Professor Agneta Marell, President (Jönköping University), Itaru Honma, Professor (Tohoku University), Naoto Kobayashi, Professor Emeritus (Waseda University) and Director (JSPS London Office)

Three meetings have taken place during the spring 2023: March 29, April 21 and May 19. In between meetings the group members have worked individually to identify funding opportunities and contact potential funders. This report summarizes the outcome of, and main conclusions drawn in, these meetings along with some recommendations for the MIRAI 2.0 General Assembly to consider in the upcoming meeting on June 13.

### Main conclusions:

- It may be difficult to get external funding for the administrative support (management), but we should be able to get funding for activities.
- There are two parallel tracks of increasing the external funding of MIRAI:  
a) Secure funding for the overall MIRAI project and b) Increase the possibilities/assist individual researchers/research groups in obtaining external funding for their projects.
- There are very few programs in Sweden and Japan that have established funding programs for broad consortiums like MIRAI to fund the actual platform. Most funders target specific research groups and selected research areas. We need to show and explain to the funding agencies and ministries that MIRAI brings together a large group of younger researchers and specify which kind of activities we need funding for. The funding agencies are very positive about MIRAI thus the members of the working group believe it should be possible to attract funding for MIRAI activities more broadly.
- There is a lack of funding opportunities for Swedish-Japanese research projects where funding is provided on both sides. Usually, researchers must apply jointly but funding could only be used by the researchers in the country of the funding source.

### Outcome:

The working group has:

- Compiled a list of available funding sources for which MIRAI should consider applying and a list of potential funders that MIRAI should consider approaching to discuss tailor made possibilities.
- Created a Power point presentation to be used when meeting potential funders.

- Initiated discussions with JSPS Stockholm Office and Intsam Japan that will be continued during the autumn.
- Initiated a dialogue with Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation (Stockholm and Tokyo Office) to be continued during the autumn 2023.

#### Recommendations to the GA:

- MIRAI should apply for STINT Strategic Grants for Internationalisation (deadline April 2024) and for the JSPS Bilateral Program (joint research projects/seminars) (deadline first week of September 2023).
- During the autumn of 2023, MIRAI should schedule meetings with additional funding agencies and ministries to discuss the possibility to provide funding for MIRAI as a consortium/platform. The PPT created by the working group should be used for this purpose together with the draft project proposal provided by the working group for organization and activities.
- MIRAI Member Universities should be prepared to cover the administrative costs by themselves and MIRAI should focus on attracting external funding for activities such as seed funding, conferences, and travel grants.
- MIRAI should strengthen the information to researchers regarding bigger funds that they can apply for. For example, by having someone coordinating applications and guiding the young researchers and by including the Research and Innovation offices from the MIRAI universities to a larger extent in the next phase of MIRAI.
- MIRAI should to a larger extent facilitate meetings with and between the Japanese and Swedish funding agencies during R&I weeks in the next phase.

## List of available and potential funding sources in Japan and Sweden

### Existing funding sources to apply for funding for MIRAI as a consortium/platform

#### IN SWEDEN:

##### **STINT Strategic grants for internationalisation**

- Preliminary deadline april 2024,
- Amount to apply for: max 5 million SEK and 5 million SEK top-up financing for international mobility for junior researchers (*no co-financing is needed for the top-up funding*)
- Junior researchers to and from Sweden (for countries outside EU/EFTA and the United Kingdom) is allowed
- Junior researchers defined as currently registered as doctoral students, or who have obtained their doctorates in 2020 or later.
- The duration of each individual's stay abroad must be 5 to 18 months.

<https://www.stint.se/program/strategic-grants-for-internationalisation/>

#### IN JAPAN:

##### **JSPS Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars**

- Deadline for the Submission: **Tuesday, 5 p.m., 6 September, 2023.**
- Joint Research Projects: Up to JPY 2,000,000 per fiscal year, and (A one-year duration: up to JPY 2,000,000 in total, The duration up until 2 years: a maximum of JPY 4,000,000 in total )
- Joint Seminars/Joint Seminars (Interuniversity Consortium):
  - 【Joint Seminars】 Up to JPY 2,000,000 in total
  - 【Joint Seminars (Interuniversity Consortium)】 Up to JPY 3,000,000 in total

Travel Expenses (Only for Japanese participants)

International travel; International airfare between Japan and counterpart country, travel expenses, daily allowance and accommodation fee in counterpart country, etc.

Domestic travel; Travel expenses, daily allowance, accommodation fee, etc.

- [JSPS International Joint Research Program](#)
- [Bilateral Programs \(jspm.go.jp\)](#)

Potential funding sources where a dialogue is needed to discuss the possibility to fund MIRAI as a consortium/platform.

## IN SWEDEN:

**Government offices in Sweden:**

- [Ministry of Education and Research](#)
- [Ministry of Climate and Enterprise](#)
- [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

**Government research funding agencies:**

- **INTSAM Japan:** collaboration between Swedish funding agencies to support international research and innovation collaboration outside EU. Intsam consist of The Swedish Research Council, Vinnova, Formas and The Swedish Energy Agency
- **The Swedish Research Council:** Sweden's largest governmental research funding body, and supports research of the highest quality within all scientific fields:  
<https://www.vr.se/english.html>
- **Vinnova:** Sweden's innovation agency: <https://www.vinnova.se/en/>
- **Formas:** Fund research for sustainable development: <https://formas.se/en/start-page.html>
- **Forte:** Fund research within three main fields: health, working life and welfare:  
<https://forte.se/en/>
- **The Swedish Energy Agency:** Leading society's transition to a sustainable energy system:  
<https://www.energimyndigheten.se/en/>

**Foundations:**

- **The International foundation for science:** <https://www.ifs.se/about-ifs/>
- **Sweden-Japan foundation:** <https://swedenjapan.se>
- **Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation – SJSF Sverige:** <https://sisf.se/local-pages/sweden/>
- **MISTRA:** Promote the development of strong environmental research:  
<https://mistra.org/#eng>
- **Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ):** Support research in the Humanities and Social Sciences  
<https://www.rj.se/en/>
- **The Kamprad Family Foundation for Entrepreneurship, Research & Charity:** support, stimulate and reward education and scientific research to promote entrepreneurship, the environment, competence, health and social improvement:  
<https://familjenkampradstiftelse.se>

**EU funding:**

- **Horizon Europe:** Research and innovation funding programme until 2027. three main pillars that projects can receive funding from.

## IN JAPAN:

**Government offices in Japan:**

- [MEXT](#) Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- [METI](#) Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

- MOFA Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan ([mofa.go.jp](http://mofa.go.jp))

**Government research funding agencies:**

- **JST (Japan Science and technology Agency):** <https://www.jst.go.jp/EN/>  
SICORP (Strategic International Collaborative Research Program)  
[Overview of SICORP | SICORP \(jst.go.jp\)](https://www.jst.go.jp/EN/Overview_of_SICORP)  
SSEP (Sakura Science Exchange program) [Outline, Purposes | Sakura Science Exchange Program \(jst.go.jp\)](https://www.jst.go.jp/EN/SSEP)
- **JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science):** <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/>
- **NEDO (New Energy and industrial Technology Development Organization)**  
<https://www.nedo.go.jp/english/index.html>
- **AMED (Japan Agency for Medical research and Development)**  
<https://www.amed.go.jp/en/index.html>
- **ERCA (Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency)**  
<https://www.erca.go.jp/erca/english/index.html>
- **The Japan Foundation** <https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/>