

11th December 2009

Honorable Prime Minister Mr. Yukio Hatoyama

This is a joint request for your kind attention to reconsider the proposed budget cut of the Global COE program, which was suggested by your budget-cut screening committee last month.

As you understand, the world is facing difficult challenges regarding shortage of resources and energy, global warming, and borderless increasing pollution, which have become a serious environmental threat for coming generations. The recent deliberations at Stockholm Convention are proof of global concern of these issues and there is an urgent need to find suitable solutions. For achieving the immediate solution to solve these environmental and energy related challenges and systematically initiating the world-wide activities, it is important to carry out international research collaborations on the fundamental research and education of young scientists including graduate students and research associates. The G-COE program on Novel Carbon Resource Sciences, has already made sincere efforts to achieve the international collaborations and made considerable progress since its start in July 2008. Seven institutes, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China), Institut Teknologi Bandung (Indonesia), Korea Institute of Energy Research (South Korea), Curtin University of Technology (Australia), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (India), Fukuoka Women's University, and Kyushu University, are getting together to jointly work on this important area of Novel Carbon Resource Sciences. Considerable research work has already been successfully carried out, while the other research objectives are well in progress through a number of exchanges of students and other scientists, as well as International COE Symposiums.

The activities of G-COE are just ignition of the torch at present; however, the seeds will grow in near future. It is therefore very important to continue the efforts, while leaving them halfway or doing under constraints could lead to serious implications. We are afraid that the proposed severe budget cut will adversely affect the international research activities in this important area to resolve the global problems.

We sincerely hope the understanding of Japanese Government to continue the adequate financial support to G-COE activities, and request you to kindly reconsider the proposed budget cut. We assure you our best efforts to successfully accomplish the G-COE objectives.

Sincerely yours



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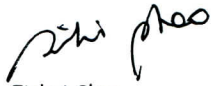
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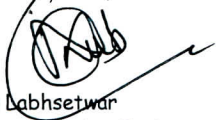
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