



Japan, France, and Germany agree to start discussion groups – IPU President Atsuto Suzuki reports back on recent ILC news

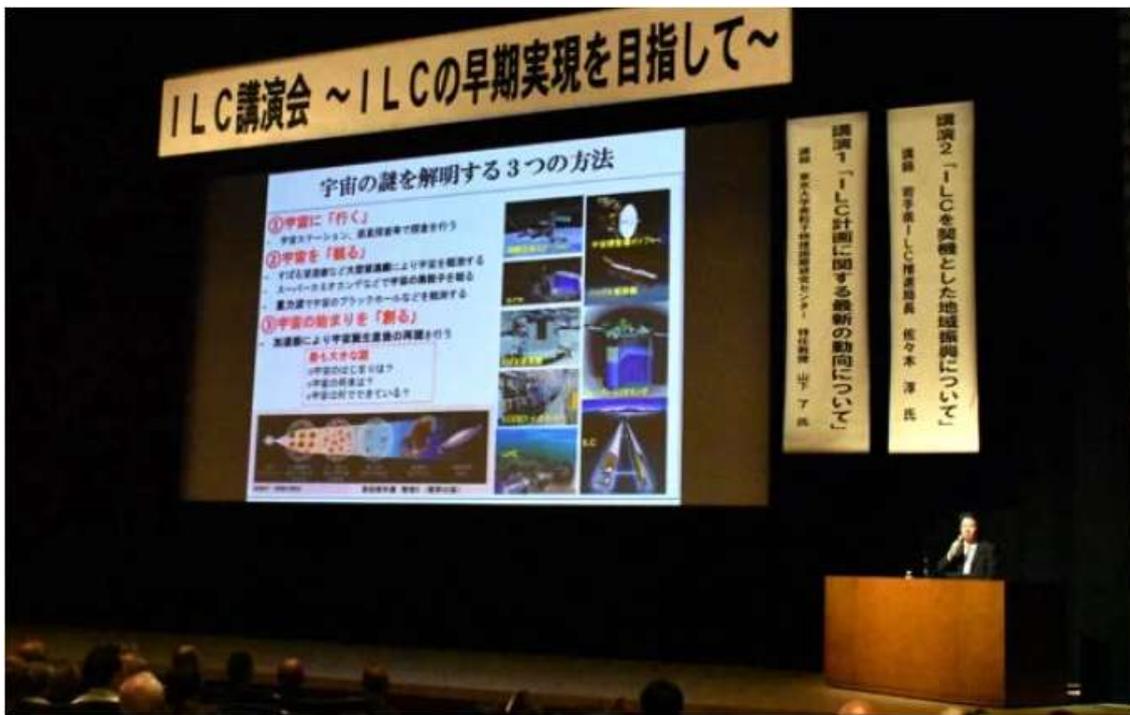
Atsuto Suzuki, president of Iwate Prefectural University and head of the Tohoku ILC Preparation Office, explained the current international and domestic situation with the ILC to reporters in Sendai City on July 24th. He said that this month, the governments of Japan, France, and Germany agreed to start discussion groups (for the ILC).



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Prof. Satoru Yamashita talks about the latest developments and benefits of the ILC in Ofunato

On August 21st, an ILC seminar was held in the Rias Hall of Sakari, Ofunato. There, around 520 residents from Ofunato City, Rikuzentakata City, and Sumita Village (collectively called the Kesen region) heard about the latest developments of the ILC, as well as the benefits it would have on the region.



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In Hanamaki, an ILC seminar for local residents led by the Director of Iwate’s ILC Promotion Bureau

On August 5th, Hanamaki City and the Hanamaki Chamber of Commerce held a seminar for local residents on the ILC at a hotel in the city in order to raise enthusiasm for the project.

Around 180 people were in attendance from local citizens to business officials. Jun Sasaki, director general of the Bureau of ILC Promotion at the Iwate Prefectural Government gave a presentation entitled “The latest developments with the ILC,” where he talked about why the Kitakami mountains between Iwate and Miyagi prefectures were selected as the ILC candidate site, as well as how the project is moving forward both domestically and abroad.



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The Pokémon With You Train in Iwate!

Like any other red-blooded American millennial, my first real foray into Japanese culture was with the Pokémon games that were released in the late 90's. Ever since, I ventured out to other anime and games, but always kept a soft spot in my heart for those little creatures. After joining the real world, my work brought me to Iwate Prefecture, where I've stayed for many years, working on the International Linear Collider project – a huge particle physics research facility that the science community is trying to build in the Kitakami mountains of the south of the prefecture.



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Sendai Tanabata Festival

As one of the three major festivals of the Tohoku region, this beautiful summer tradition of Sendai has its roots in the seasonal event of Tanabata, or Star Festival. It is characterized by colorful bamboo decorations that brighten up the shopping arcades to delight the two million visitors who come from all over Japan to see the festival. A leisurely stroll along the shopping arcades to view the brightly colored streamers waving overhead is a must for all visitors.



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About Tohoku ILC Promotion Council

This conference, consisting of industry, academic, and government representatives, has been established to promote basic scientific research and to deepen the understanding of the International Linear Collider, as well as to research and maintain the environment during ILC installation.

<http://www.tohoku-ilc.jp/en>

That's the news for this month! As always, feel free to send us any questions about local activities for the ILC, life in the region, or about working in Japan.

Best wishes,

The Tohoku ILC Promotion Council



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