



Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity

Constructing an International Framework for the Promotion of Research Integrity in Asia: An Interim Report

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Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity (APRIN)

The 8th World Conference on Research Integrity

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Acknowledgements and Disclaimer

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- The views and opinions expressed are those of the presenter and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any associated organization, agency, and company.



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Background

The promotion of research integrity and education for responsible conduct of research (RCR) is essential for sound social development. However, breaches of academic and scientific norms and rules continue to occur in many Asian countries, undermining public trust in researchers and professionals. While governments and academic communities have made efforts to promote research integrity, the number of cases of research misconduct and questionable research practices (QRPs) continues to increase.



Background

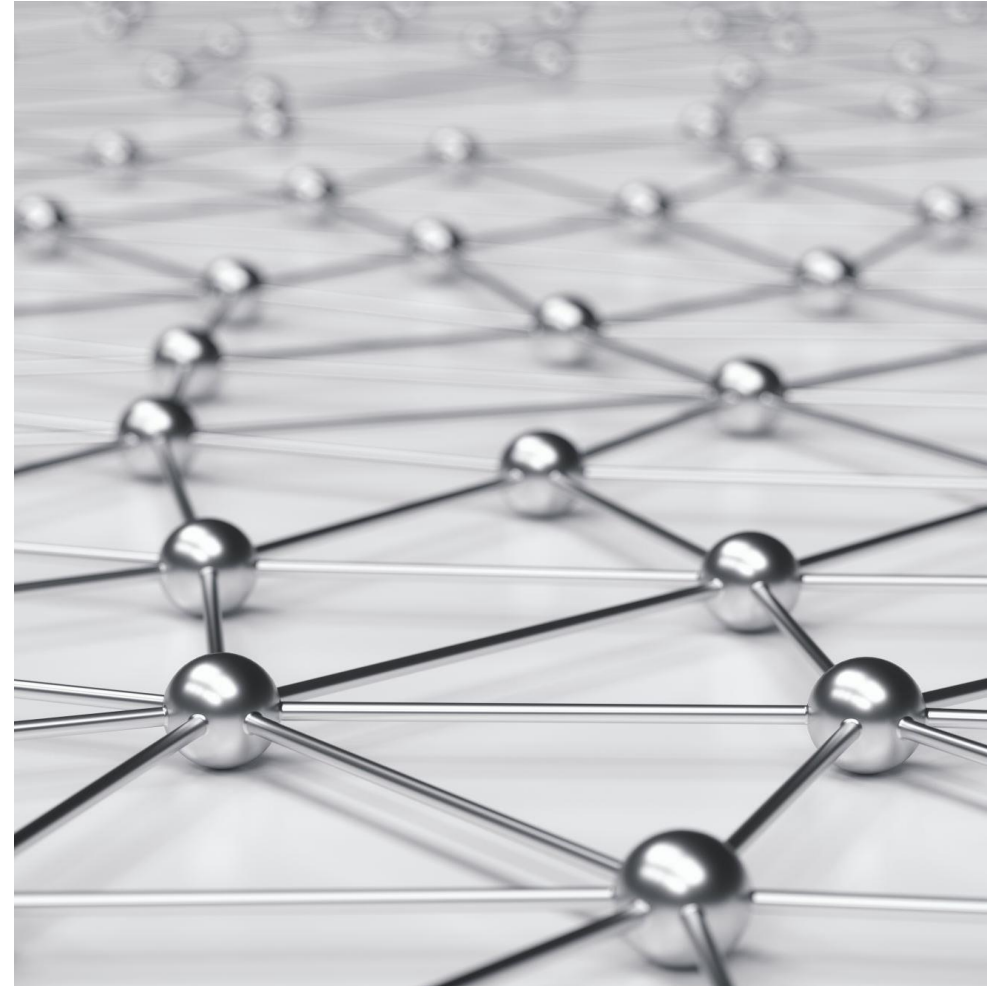
The dysfunction of research integrity promotion efforts leads to not only research misconduct in a narrow sense, but also major social problems such as statistical data falsification and performance test data fraud.

The multinationalization of research has exposed various problems due to differences in concepts and practices in conducting research.



Objectives

- Establish a framework for collaboration among Asian countries (especially Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea and the US) to optimize their individual efforts to promote research integrity.
- Create a set of database of 1) Laws, Policies, and Guidelines, 2) Institutional Managements, 3) RCR Education, 4) Human Resources.
- Clarify individual issues and common challenges in each country and explore solutions by sharing best practices.
- Identify human resources to promote research integrity from various sectors and establish a network.



Database

01

Policies, laws, guidelines, policies, etc. having to do with RECR

02

Examples of systems and practices at research institutions

03

Educational materials, methods, and measurement tools of educational effects of RECR education and training

04

Professional personnels who are engaged in promoting research integrity

Methods

Gathering and analyzing information to develop a framework within which countries can work together to upgrade and optimize their individual research justice efforts in Asia and the Pacific Rim, particularly in Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Korea, and the United States.

- Conducted primarily by the Asia Pacific Research Integrity Network (APRI)
- The Fifth Asia Pacific Research Integrity Network Meeting
(March 20-22, 2023, Waseda University)
- Online meetings: October 2022 to November 2023

What is APRI?



Asian Pacific Research Integrity Network

A non-profit volunteer organization (established in 2016) that aims to share, disseminate, and promote information on institutions, policies, education, and training, forming an international collaborative network to promote research integrity in the Asia-Pacific region.

APRI Vision and Goals

Vision

Further promote international awareness, understanding, and opportunities for collaboration on research integrity

Goals

In relation to promotion of research integrity and handling of research misconduct cases, etc.

1. Identify commonalities and differences in countries and regions
2. Identify best practices or recommended practices
3. Provide opportunities for research or collaboration



TIMELINE

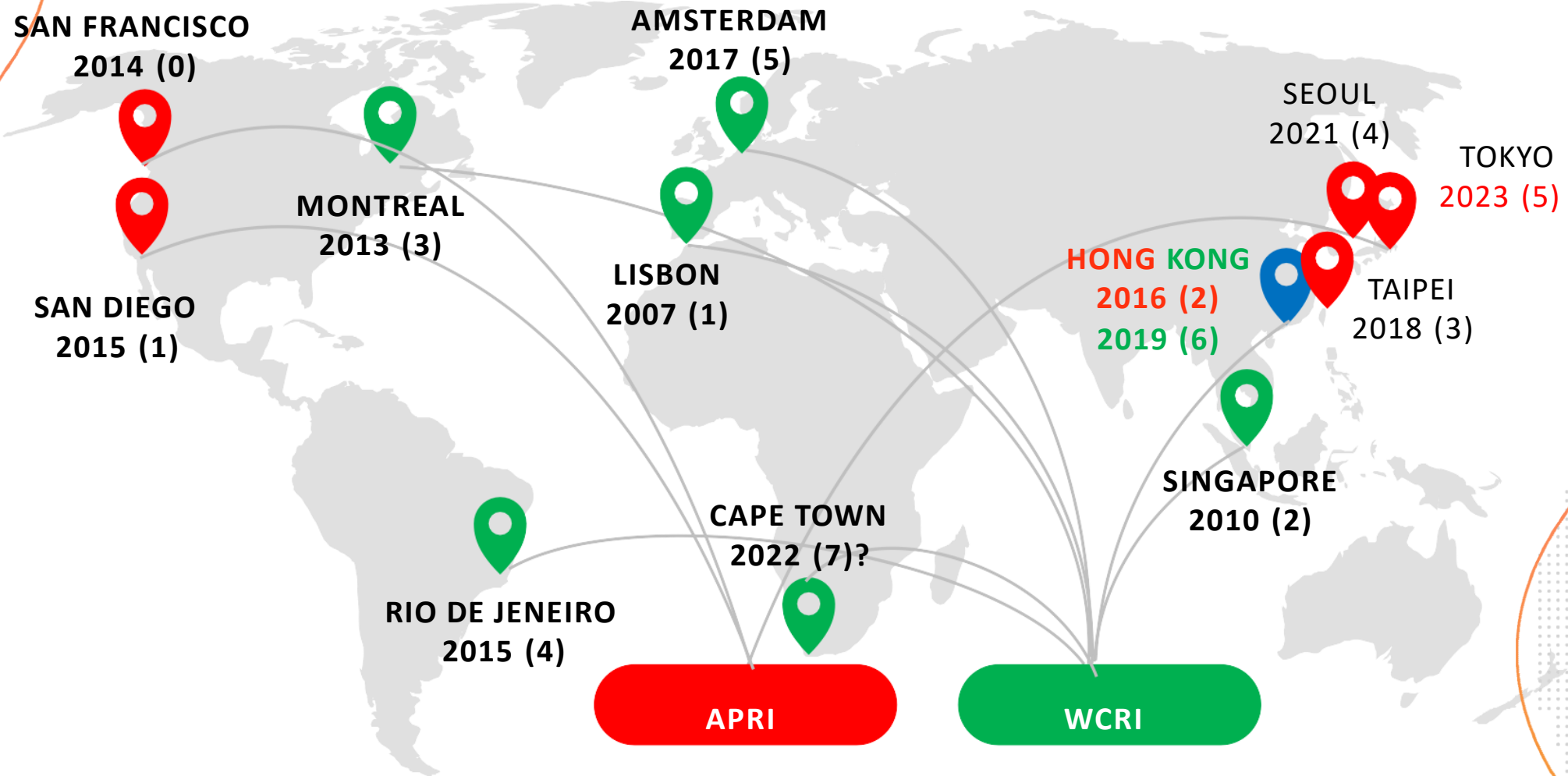
APRI and WCRI

(World Conference on Research Integrity)



WCRI and APRI

開催地と開催年



5th APRI Network Meeting



- Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 - Wednesday, March 22, 2023
- Venue: Waseda University International Conference Center / Research Innovation Center
- Organized by: Japan Association for the Promotion of Fair Research
- Co-organized by Waseda University
- Supported by: Watanabe Memorial Foundation for the Promotion of New Technology, Toyota Foundation, Japan Science and Technology Agency, etc.
- New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), National Institutes of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (NITech), Japan Federation of Biological Sciences Associations, Japan Federation of Medical Societies, Pharmaceutical Society of Japan, Engineering Academy of Japan, Japan Society of Engineering Science, Japan Society of Agricultural Science, etc.



5th APRIL
2023
Tokyo

ASIA PACIFIC RESEARCH INTEGRITY NETWORK MEETING 2023 TOKYO, JAPAN

<https://apei2023.org/>

5th APRI Program Planning Committee and Co-researchers-⁽¹⁷⁾

Name	Country	Name	Country
Chang-Sub Uhm	South Korea	De Ming Chau	Malaysia
InJae Lee	South Korea	Iekuni Ichikawa	Japan
Daniel Barr	Australia	Jun Fudano	Japan
Jennifer Byrne	Australia	El-Nasir Lalani	Pakistan
Li Tang	Fudan	Prasit Palittapongarnpim	Thailand
Cheung Chen Chen	Taipei	Susan Garfinkle	US
Chien Chou	Taipei	Zoe Hammatt	US
Ovid Tzeng	Taipei	Michael Kalichman	US
Danny Chan	Hong Kong	Eric Mah	US
Mai Har Sham	Hong Kong	Susan Garfinkle	US
		Surendra Shastri	India/US

The red letters in red are the co-researchers of this project.

Results 1.1 (APRI2023)

The 5th APRI Network Meeting (the first international conference on research integrity in Japan)

Approximately 200 participants registered on-site from 22 countries, and more than 700 registered overall, including online participation.

- On the day before the plenary session, a workshop on research methods related to research integrity was held with co-researchers from the U.S. and Taiwan, and young researchers from Taiwan, Malaysia, and Japan (8 researchers in total) participated in the workshop.
- In this conference, co-researchers from four countries (Japan, Taiwan, Korea, and Malaysia) made presentations on the current status of the promotion of research integrity promotion in their countries.

Results 1.2 (APRI2023)

- On Day 1, a panel discussion on "cultural differences" in research integrity (including positions, disciplines, generations, etc.).
- On the second day, a group discussion on research misconduct investigations, chaired by the U.S. co-investigator
- On the third day, facilitated by co-researchers from the U.S., Japan, Taiwan, and Malaysia, group discussions on what should be addressed in RECR education.
- On the second day, a total of three Oral Presentations (three from Malaysia) and three Poster Presentations (one from Japan and two from Taiwan) were given by collaborating researchers and others.
- Also, face-to-face meetings with co-researchers from each country and the young talents they had found (2 from Korea, 1 from Taiwan, 1 from the US, 1 from Malaysia, and 2 from Japan).



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公正研究推進協会

Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity



[Home](#)

[APRINについて](#)

[リンク集](#)

[注目セミナー・会議](#)

[活動成果](#)

[教材利用](#)

[会員申込み](#)

[お知らせ](#)

[お問い合わせ・アクセス](#)

[English](#)

[Home](#) > [活動成果](#) > [データベース \(Database\)](#)

[会員申込み](#)

[2024年度
全国公正研究推進会議](#)

[APRINについて](#)

[リンク集](#)

[注目セミナー・会議](#)

データベース (Database)

台湾、韓国、マレーシア、米国において研究公正にかかる取組を調査・収集し、グッドプラクティスのデータベースを構築するとともに、研究公正の推進に取り組んでいる人々を同定し、データベースに登録しています。

We have surveyed and collected research integrity efforts in Taiwan, Korea, Malaysia, and the U.S. to build a database of good practices and to identify human resources who are working to promote research integrity.

[\[Human Resources\]](#) (Update: Nov.24/2023)

[\[Laws etc.\]](#) (Update: Nov.24/2023)

[\[Institutional Management\]](#) (Update: Nov.24/2023)

[\[RCR Education\]](#) (Update: Nov.24/2023)



APRIN Research Integrity Database [Human Resources] (excerpt)

お問い合わせ / Contact:

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Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity (APRIN) Secretariat

E-mail: admin[at]aprin.or.jp *Replace "at" with "@".

Search by Keyword



Country

Japan

Malaysia

USA

Taiwan, ROC

South Korea

No. ⚡	Country ⚡	Last/Family Name ⚡	First/Given Name ⚡	Middle Name(s) ⚡	Affiliation ⚡	Division/Department/etc. ⚡	Notes		
4009	South Korea				Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI)	Office of Sustainable Innovation Policy Research			
4008	South Korea						Seoul National University	Department of Agricultural Biotechnology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences,	
4007	South Korea						the Korean University Council of Research Ethics		
4006	South Korea						the National Research Foundation of Korea	the center for research ethics support	
							Korea Institute of Human		

Database 1 (Laws, Policies, Guidelines, etc.)

- The activities related to RCR (Responsible Conduct of Research) in Malaysia were initiated voluntarily by young researchers, rather than being promoted top-down through laws and guidelines as in other countries.
- Taiwan promoted the "School Academic Research Ethics Education and System Development Plan" (2014-2017), which aims to require all researchers to attend research ethics education. (In line with this plan, the Center for Taiwan Academic Research Ethics Education (AREE) was established with the full support of the government to develop and disseminate academic and research ethics teaching materials and train research ethics educators.)

Database 1 (Laws, Policies, Guidelines, etc.)

- Malaysia and Taiwan have established codes of conduct for researchers in a form that fits the context of their own countries after careful scrutiny and thorough consideration of codes of conduct in other countries.
- In Korea and Taiwan, laws and decrees are frequently enacted, enforced, and revised in response to the changes and challenges in the research ecosystem.

Database 2 (Institutional Managements)

- National Yang-Ming Chiao Tung University in Taiwan, where the Center for Taiwan Academic Research Ethics Education (AREE) is located, established the Office of Academic Ethics and Research Integrity (OAERI) to serve as the point of contact for all matters related to research integrity within the university. OAERI also supports the development of research ethics education tailored to the needs of each faculty.
- Tohoku University in Japan ruled in 2016 the "Implementation Guidelines for Research Ethics Education for the Promotion of Research Integrity at Tohoku University" and provides research ethics education for all students and faculty members at each career stage. In addition, the University has established the Committee for the Promotion of Responsible Research Activities and the Promotion Office at the University Headquarters to conduct university-wide promotion activities for research integrity.

Database 3 (RCR Education)

- In Malaysia, based on the Malaysian Code of Responsible Conduct in Research (MCRCR) developed in 2017, "the Malaysian Educational Modules on Responsible Conduct of Research" was published in 2017. The module includes a textbook as well as materials and handouts for conducting case analyses, role plays, and group work to enable active learning, as well as a teacher's manual. Workshops using this module have also been developed and implemented.
- RECR education has been provided in the United States for more than 35 years, and numerous educational materials and programs have been developed and implemented. However, although there are National Institutes of Health recommendations and other educational content, RECR education is diverse, and various forms of education are offered by different institutions and educators.

Database 3 (RCR Education)

- In Taiwan, AREE has developed more than 100 teaching materials in Chinese and some in English, which are available online. It also provides online testing and consultation services, which are currently used by 117 of the 171 universities in Taiwan.
- In Korea, the Korean Institute of Human Resources Development in Science and Technology (KIRD) has established an Alpha Campus and developed educational materials on research ethics, which are available in Korean and English.
- In Japan, the Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity (APRIN) has e-APRIN.
- In the US, the CITI Program in the U.S. is available.

Database 4 (Human Resources)

APRIN proposed the establishment of a database to serve as a foundation for new human resource development and education. 71 people have endorsed the proposal as of May, 2024, and the database is now in operation. The database can be accessed from the APRIN website, and registered participants can communicate with other interested parties. As the number of endorsers increases, the database will be revised based on the exchange of opinions as needed.

Common Challenges

- Differences in the definitions and scopes of misconduct, questionable research practices, etc.
- Various problems concerning with e-learning, such as lack of opportunities to maintain learner motivation and interaction between educators and learners and among learners.
- In all countries, the development of methods to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of RCR education is still in progress. (It has not yet been demonstrated that RCR education reduces research misconduct.)
- There is a shortage of personnel capable of conducting RCR education in all countries. There is a need to develop train-the-trainer programs to train educators.

Proposal

1. Create a sustainable network organization consisting of representatives from each country.
2. This organization, in consultation with key stakeholders from each country, will develop an "Asian Code of Responsible Conduct of Research (ACRCR) based on aspirational ethics that emphasizes academic virtues and best practices in research. (In the process of formulation of the code, definitions and scopes of research misconduct and QRPs will be clarified.)
3. Develop a textbook and educational modules based on the Asian Code such as in the case of the Malaysian Educational Module on Responsible Conduct of Research.



Proposal

- Create an online training program based on the above contents, using an advanced Learning Management System (LMS) which offers features such as videos, interactive activities, anytime accessibility, learner self-direction, progress tracking, and online assessment.
- Develop human resources capable of using this educational module following the model of the Malaysian case.



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