



Working Group on International Cooperation in Nuclear Physics

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Dr. Choi Yanghee

The Honorable Minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning

Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning

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Republic of Korea

Dear Minister Dr. Choi Yanghee:

The members of the international nuclear science community, represented through the membership in the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) Working Group on International Cooperation in Nuclear Physics (WG.9), want to congratulate you and the Korean Government on the substantial progress that has been made in the research environment in Korea through the on-going construction of a world-class accelerator project there. But they also wish to express a concern about the lack of an organized and international users group, a research group whose activities are centered on the facility, which is believed to be crucial for the overall success of the nuclear and particle physics and related applied physics program at the facility RAON.

They are very much encouraged to learn that the Institute of Basic Science (IBS), which was established 5 years ago, already is being recognized for its excellent research activities from its 26 research groups/centers of about 50 scientists each¹. Particularly, the Korean Government's leadership in providing the IBS with a world-class and competitive accelerator, the Rare Isotope Beam accelerator, RAON, along with the major investment to ensure its successful completion, is well recognized in the science community. This facility will provide a major advance in Korean researcher's ability to make significant scientific contributions, and it also will increase global collaborations in many related areas.

Despite the strong progress in the facility, however, there are concerns that there is not yet in place a core research group for nuclear physics and related science to parallel the progress in the new RAON facility. It is clear, and has been demonstrated by other major accelerator projects around the world, that a facility and the dedicated research group are two pillars that are required to make the project successful. Furthermore it is well known that it takes nearly as long to prepare a world-class research program as to construct the accelerator itself. It is important, therefore, to form a research group now, including both experimental and theoretical researchers, to orient the facility toward the right direction for high impact science, in tandem with the construction.

¹ Math (1), Physics (8), Chemistry (6), Life Science (8) and Interdisciplinary (3). More details are found in http://www.ibs.re.kr/eng/sub01_03_01.do

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A first-rate research team of scientists will also attract the next generation workforce to the science of RAON. This young workforce is the key to the success of continued scientific achievements and scientific progress of Korea as well as the world science community. As the education to produce the experts takes several years, early deployment of a research team will provide the opportunity for a wider audience of students to learn where the current scientific horizons are at the other major accelerator facilities around the world. It is hoped that RAON and IBS become one of the most attractive and active centers for students and aspiring researchers, from Asia and around the world, helping them realize their dream and passion for science.

Therefore, on behalf of members of IUPAP WG.9 we would like to encourage the Korean Government to help facilitate the early establishment of RAON research groups as the core teams for the RAON science programs. The Korean Government's continued leadership in this regard will secure an environment where the RAON program may compete and collaborate with other world-renowned institutes and facilities. It can be assured that the international nuclear physics community is eager to become major collaborators in the RAON research program and wish to be the witness to the remarkable success of Korean research efforts.

This missive is written on behalf of the members of IUPAP WG.9, with the following membership:

Robert E. Tribble, (Texas A&M) Chair
Anthony W. Thomas (University of Adelaide) Past-Chair
Willem T. H. van Oers (University of Manitoba/TRIUMF) Secretary
Faical Azaiez (Director IThemba Laboratories, Zuid-Afrika)
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Angela Bracco (INFN-Milano, Italy) Chair of NuPECC
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Dinesh Srivastava (Director VECC, India)
Yanlin Ye (Beijing University, China) Past-Chair of ANPhA
Wenlong Zhan (Vice-President Chinese Academy of Sciences, IMP-Lanzhou, China)

Sincerely,

Robert E. Tribble, Chair of IUPAP WG.9

Willem T. H. van Oers, Secretary of IUPAP WG.9