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NIMS and Empa announce STAM collaboration

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Editorial

NIMS and Empa announce STAM collaboration

**Toyonobu Yoshida**

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In January 2014, the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (Empa) joined the National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS) in collaborative activities on *Science and Technology of Advanced Materials* (STAM). STAM was founded in 2000. In 2005 NIMS took over the management of its peer review and financial systems, resulting in a continuous rise of the impact of the journal. Empa will provide further support for the editorial management of STAM. In particular, it will establish a European office in Switzerland and reinforce the Editorial Board. From this point of view, I am pleased and excited to have new colleagues from Empa on our Editorial Board, and I believe that this collaboration will bring us a remarkable improvement in the international visibility of STAM and increase the number of paper submissions from Europe. It will expand the topics covered in the journal from traditional fields of materials science with a focus on energy and environmental issues to medical and bioengineering applications, where Empa has a significant expertise. I firmly believe that Empa's participation in publishing STAM will reinforce its position as an open-access journal with a global audience.

Together with my colleagues, Yoshio Sakka (NIMS) and Shu Yamaguchi (University of Tokyo), I welcome Harald F Krug as the new Co-Editor-in-Chief of STAM. I am also pleased to learn that the year 2014 not only marks the 15th anniversary of STAM, but also the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Switzerland.

Toyonobu Yoshida

**Harald F Krug**

Co-Editor-in-Chief,
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Technology

Advances in materials science are key for the sustainable development of our society. That is why, starting from January 2014, Empa, the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, have engaged in an entirely new field of activity: scientific publishing. As mentioned above, Empa joined NIMS in the publishing of STAM. We have a clear-cut goal in mind: we want to support our sister institute in its efforts to move a renowned scientific journal covering materials science and technology to the next level. To achieve this, we intend to 'diversify' the journal in two ways: firstly, with respect to contributing authors, we would like to attract colleagues from Europe as well as from the US to publish their latest results on groundbreaking and innovative insights into materials science in STAM; secondly, with respect to broadening the scope of the journal, we would like to develop topics in STAM such as biomedical applications or energy devices and systems. More specifically, we would like to offer a forum for discussions on the efficiency and reliability of assay systems, which are used in numerous institutes for investigating the biological safety of new materials. I am convinced that STAM can make significant contributions to the—at least at times—heated debates about widespread use of novel materials and related safety issues. I encourage all of you to join this necessary discussion with opinion papers, reviews and original research contributions.

At Empa, we are looking forward to joining the editorial team of STAM to make the journal one of the prime sources for high-quality research on advanced materials and innovative applications.

Harald F Krug



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