



Final Proposal Report for a Reorganization of SPRUC Research Groups for the Second Term 2014-2015

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Since SPring-8 began operation for the public, use of the facility has changed accordingly with increase in diversity in science and industry. The SPring-8 Users Community (SPRUC), which was established in April 2012, is an organization that all SPring-8 users can participate in. One of the aims of SPRUC is to collaborate with SPring-8 in contributing to the improvement of facilities, and development of measurement technology. At present, SPRUC has 30 “Research Groups”. Research Groups are expected to be an information interface between all users in each field and SPring-8 facilities. Moreover, they should demonstrate active involvement in producing benefits to science at SPring-8. However, the present organization of the Research Group system is not fully effective to users from diverse fields of academia and industry. This is a serious problem, as most users lose the opportunity to provide ideas and feedback to the SPring-8 facilities (RIKEN/JASRI). Thus the organization of Research Group must be altered to facilitate the offering of a collective opinion from all users of SPring-8 facilities. It is also very important for the organization of SPRUC Research Group to provide information of current activity and future effort to both scientific society and general public. In this report, “Working Group for the Reorganization of SPRUC Research Group” proposes the following strategies and concept.

1. Organization of Research Groups

1.1 Revision of research category and clarification of the relationship between Research Group and beamlines (BL)

SPRUC Research Groups should be aware of their responsibility to provide contributions to decisions about future evolution of the SPring-8 facility. Therefore, SPRUC has to establish a transparent system through which SPRUC Research Groups can provide a clear and effective appeal to public, academic and industrial community detailing their activity and future efforts. For the next two-year term (2014~2015) of SPRUC, the nine current research area categories are revised to the

following four research fields:

- ∞ “Biomolecules”
- ∞ “Fundamental Characterization”
- ∞ “Applied Materials”
- ∞ “Measurements”

Each Research Group belongs to at least one of these fields. It is possible to choose multiple fields to accommodate multidisciplinary research. It has been noted that there seems to be two types of current and future Research Groups: a subject-based group and a method-based group. Such different backgrounds of Research Groups have been considered in the definition of proposed research categories.

Since the definition of research area and involvement of BL serves as a basis of a SPRUC research group, all the BLs relevant to the target area of a Research Group should be specified in the Research Group application for next term. Based on this information, a diagram with each area of research as a vertical axis, and BL as a horizontal axis will be created. Each research group will locate on a cross point of this diagram as shown in Fig. 1. The research developments of each BL would be clarified, and more easily understood by a potential user of SPring-8.

1.2 Multidisciplinary Research Groups

Following a specified research theme or problem-solving topic, new SPRUC “multidisciplinary” Research Groups should be established within the fixed period. This new type of Research Group is expected to be a fusion of multiple Research Groups, beamlines and technical methods.

In this system, SPRUC preferentially support the area of research in which marked growth is expected by active use of SPring-8. It would be of great benefit for SPRUC to communicate progress/activity to academic, industrial and public society. The research group advisers will consist of experts, and is responsible for drawing up the proposal for a research theme.

2. Application of Research Group

In the current rule of SPRUC, Research Groups make a formal application every two years for their continued activity. If any Research Group were to be dissolved, the representative would have to consult with the SPRUC Committee of Utilization and Research Group adviser to consider the migration of members to another Research Group, in order to maintain the registered members (100~400 people) of the Research Group.

The new multidisciplinary type of Research Groups will be established in the Committee of Utilization by the recommendation of advisers of Research Groups. An individual SPRUC member

would need to register to join the new Research Groups.

3. Responsibility and evaluation of Research Group

Each Research Group undertakes the responsibility in promoting the following activities:

- * The maximization of benefit produced by advanced utilization of SPring-8 facilities.
- * The research activity must be communicated to academic and industrial communities to demonstrate active involvement of SPring-8 and acquire further potential users.
- *Users' opinions regarding the upgrade of BLs and future evolution of the SPring-8 facility must be represented and proposed to the facility every year.
- * A report of survey of the members must be produced as a commissioned work from JASRI

Once a year, implementation status of activities in the Research Group would be subject to evaluation by the adviser. Results of the evaluation will be reflected in the support plan for the activity of the next fiscal year.

Fig.1
Organization chart

- Each Research Group belongs to at least one of four research fields.
- New Research Groups are created to accommodate all users.
- Multidisciplinary Research Groups are established.

