Comment Form

February 8, 2018

Title of the Program	Core Program
Program Director	Taniguchi Makoto

Program Comments Summaries of the EREC:

The Committee noted with approval that the Core Program, after a somewhat difficult start, is now beginning to gain traction, with one Core Project ongoing and two new projects proposed for approval.

Nevertheless, the goals and role of the Core Program remain somewhat hard to grasp. Some of the questions raised include: What is meant by "developing methodology?" What is the relationship with the three Research Programs? To what extent is the Core Program setting a research agenda? It was pointed out that both the name of the Program and its definition as developing concepts and methodology contribute to this vagueness.

There is therefore a need for setting goals and planning for the longer term of the Core Program. This would also involve the Program proactively framing its directions from the program level downward, instead of relying only on bottom-up submissions for topic identification. There may be other important aspects for the Core Program to address except for and beyond transdisciplinarity, such as, for example, methodologies for epistemology, synthesis, and comparison, or topics such as human security.