
Transition to Public Interest Incorporated Foundation

Based on a new act enacted in December 2008, Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth (RITE) was granted the public interest corporation authorization by the Prime Minister on November 25, 2011 and made transition to the public interest incorporated foundation on December 1, 2011.

Japan has been recognizing the importance of “business conducted by organizations in private sector for public interest purposes” in a social and economic system and reviewed the public interest corporation system to further promote such activities. As a result of this review, general incorporated associations or general incorporated foundations could be founded only by registration and also, when authorized for their highly public interest services, the general incorporated association or general incorporated foundation could be referred to as the public interest incorporated associations or public interest incorporated foundation.

To implement “New Earth 21” plan announced by the Japanese Government, RITE was launched in July 1990 as a general incorporated foundation based on Civic Code. Since then, focusing on fundamentals of the plan, “developing innovative environmental technologies”, RITE has been working as an international center of excellence to accelerate the plan.

In view of the objectives of foundation, the Board of Directors and Councilors of RITE resolved to proceed with the transition to the “public interest incorporated foundation” in June 2009. Since then, amendments of articles of incorporation, renewal of board members, new organizational design of Board of Directors and Councilors and the like have been drafted and discussed.

The drafted amendments and other changes were approved by the Board of Directors and Councilors in March 2011. The Board also adopted application for public interest corporation authorization, which was submitted to the Cabinet Office on May 13, 2011 and successfully paved the way to the transition to the public interest incorporated foundation of RITE.

The changes made along with the transition include: reduction in the number of councilors and directors from dozens of members to about ten members to achieve more mobility as the organization; and establishing a new framework to ensure corporate operations to be sustainably appropriate for the public interest incorporated foundation, that is, granting the Board of Councilors and Directors additional rights to make ultimate decisions on operationally important matters, such as approval of settlement of accounts and amendments of the articles of incorporation, to the existing right of appointment and dismissal of directors.

On the other hand, in view of RITE’s history to the foundation, no changes were made with regard to the fundamental sections in the articles of incorporation including “objectives” and “works”. (For more information, see RITE’s website)

Under the leadership of newly elected president, Prof. Dr. Kaya (former vice director), a successor to Dr. Akiyama the former president, all researchers and officials in new RITE are deeply aware of the meaning of “public interest” and committed to fulfilling our mission on research and development projects for public interest in the field of global environment protection. As always, we appreciate your continuing support and cooperation for our activities.