

Dear colleagues,

This note is to communicate the recent status of the ILC in Japan to the high-energy physics community across the world.

The proposal of the ILC was reviewed in detail by the ILC Advisory Panel of MEXT, and subsequently MEXT consulted the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) in July 2018 to hear an opinion from the broader academic community in Japan. The MEXT Minister stated that MEXT would wait for the final report of the SCJ before taking any further action with regard to the preparation of the policy decision on ILC.

We had expected that the report from the SCJ would be released in a timely manner so that the Japanese government could express its policy regarding ILC by the end of this year as requested by the Linear Collider Board (LCB). A committee that was set up at the SCJ has been evaluating the case for the ILC Higgs factory, and has held more than 10 meetings in the last four months. The final report, however, has not been released yet, and therefore, the announcement by the Japanese government on the ILC will be delayed until next year. In a recent teleconference, the LCB decided to accept this delay, and concluded that it would be crucial to have a statement from the Japanese government in time for the LCB/ICFA meeting on March 7 and 8, 2019, in Tokyo.

The Japanese high-energy physics community will make all possible efforts to help the Japanese government so that it can give the statement in a timely manner. We would like to emphasize that this delay should never be interpreted as a negative sign from the Japanese government.

We understand that the deadline for providing inputs from the scientific community to the European Particle Physics Strategy Update is December this year, and that it is highly desirable for the Japanese government to make an official announcement on the ILC in the same timeframe. It is regrettable that

it has to be postponed. We have come a long way, however, and the Japanese government is getting very close to issuing an announcement. We therefore ask you to wait just a little more.

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Planning Office for the ILC at KEK