"Science + Fiction"
Between Nano-World and Global Culture

The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan)
(Director: Dr. Mamoru Mohri; address: Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo) will feature "science + fiction" "Between the Nano-World and Global Culture" as a special exhibition from Saturday, December 10, 2005 - Monday, February 27, 2006 in honor of the "Deutschland in Japan 2005-2006".

"science + fiction" is a traveling exhibition celebrating unique connections between science and art and has been featured at educational institutions, science museums, and art museums throughout Europe since 2002. Its inception was in honor of Germany's Volkswagen Foundation's 40th anniversary, and this will be the Asian premier of "science + fiction".

"science + fiction" provides unusual perspectives based on the themes of "Science and the Public", "Nanotechnology", "Brain Research", Global Culture" and "Future, Science and the Public". In each artists will present 5 works in response to questions generated by science: What promises and failures have science given our culture? What are the consequences of matter manipulation on the atomic level? How does the brain function in the cognitive process? Where are the boundaries between you and other people in the current era of internationalization?

Each of the primary works are surrounded by their own 22 satellite exhibits. These satellites provide art, images, history, news and research results all related to their primary that will lead you to items displayed inside cases and drawers. Audio islands deliver messages from artists and scientists sharing their approaches to the topic, and all combined, will give insight to each idea.

In addition, "science + fiction" scenography adopts the Baroque notion of the "Wunderkammer" -- literally "room of wonders", a box that contains unique data on the events of the world. The "science + fiction" collection consists of extraordinary concepts and messages delivered from particular framed
references such as from the functioning brain to the history of anatomy, from nanotechnology research results to Sci-Fi movies, and from proposals by intellectuals and news photos to artwork. Interaction between scientists and artists have made possible new messages portraying society today from a global perspective. A special dialogue space will provide visitors with the opportunity to discuss "science + fiction" with interpreters and volunteer staff, each possessing expert knowledge in science.

Science needs to be "recaptured" by people in order to talk about the future of a knowledge-based society. "science + fiction" attempts to create new controversy, and thereby discussions, over the roles of science and the ideal of an international society.

**Event Outline**

**Term**

: December 10 (Sat.), 2005 - February 27 (Mon.), 2006

**Opening hours**

: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm.)

**Closing day**

: Every Tuesday (except holidays), during year-end and New Year holiday (December 28 - January 1)

**Venue**

: 1F Event Zone, Miraikan (Address: 2-41 Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0064)

**Admission fee**

: Adults: 900 yen, 18 years old and under: 350 yen (includes access to the permanent exhibits)

Group discount (8 people or over): Adults: 800 yen, 18 years old and under: 310 yen

*Free admission for those in possession of a Disability Book and one accompanying person

**Organizers**

: National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan), Volkswagen Foundation

**Supported by**

: Goethe-Institut Tokyo
**Main Exhibits**

**1. Science Fiction**

*Science and the Public*

Artwork title: "Good Morning Dr. Mad!"
Artist: M + M (Germany)

The relation between "Scientist = Dr. Mad" and his "Creation = Artificial life form" is a science fiction classic. This video work features oft-used quotations from scientists in novels and movies in creating an endless dialogue loop between Dr. Mad and his creation. Through this work the artist attempts to discover the connections between images people have toward science and society.

**2. Brain Research**

*Dynamics and Adaptability of Neuronal Systems*

Artwork title: Brain Pavilion
Artist: Atelier van Lieshout (Netherlands)

The contrast between objectivity and subjectivity is an important topic upon discussing the brain. On the external wall
of this work, research results relative to the "dynamic adaptability of the brain" is presented from the scientist's objective perspective and in the inner side, the subjective world view of the artist is presented. The world of the brain can be reached through illustrated explanations of brain research and theories on various mentalities.

3. Nanotechnology

Artwork title: Nano-Scape
Artist: Christa Sommerer & Laurent Mignonneau (Austria)

The cutting-edge boundaries of Nanotechnology are not quite familiar to us. In this interactive work, there are 4 tables with invisible objects presented as you enter the wall. You can feel the shape of the object with the power of resistance (static electricity) by putting your hand over it, and the invisible world can be experienced through this piece of work.

4. Global Culture
How Do We Perceive or Shape 'Foreign' and 'Native' Cultural Identities?

Artwork title: Expedition-Bus
Artist: Christoph Keller (Germany)

The confrontation between foreign cultures in past folklore holds suggestive meanings in today's global society. Images obtained from folklore research are projected on the front window of the "Expedition Bus". Simultaneously scholars' perspectives are seen facing the folklore. This piece of work guides the passengers to an unknown world as it follows the theme of the history of globalization.
Artwork title: Wild Cards  
Artist: Dellbrügge & de Moll (Germany)

What will the information society of the future be? Of the giant cards depicting various visions of the future that make up this work of art, 12 were produced by the exhibition artists, 10 by other artists, and 10 by scientists. When put together, these cards project a variety of potential futures, suggest unforeseen events, and the unfolding of a history unlike anything we might expect.

* Press presentation meeting and press preview is scheduled on December 9 (Fri.). Details will be announced at a later date.  
* As a relative event, a talk event by the artists (Atelier van Lieshout, Christa Sommerer & Laurent Mignonneau) is scheduled on December 10 (Sat.).

For further information, contact the following:
National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan)  
Mr. Mutsuhiko Masuda (press@miraikan.jst.go.jp), Public Relations Group  
Ms. Junko Suzuki (press@miraikan.jst.go.jp), Public Relations Group  
2-41, Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0064  
TEL: +81-3-3570-9192 / FAX: +81-3-3570-9160  
URL: http://www.miraikan.jst.go.jp