The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan, Director: Mamoru Mohri, Address: Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo) will hold a special event, "Small Backpack Meeting - Invitation to the Museum's Freshman Year" from April 7th (Sat.), which commemorates the opening of the 1F Special Exhibition Zone (approx. 1,520 m²). With the creation of this new space equipped with a 10G network and high-definition image screen, starting with our original exhibitions, a new step in the activities of the museum, such as the holding of events and exhibitions sponsored by research institutes and corporations is about to begin.

Our museum will be welcoming its 6th year anniversary as we continue with our activities under the philosophy of sharing advanced science and technology as a part of culture with the whole of society. If this is put into an example of a human being, the museum will be reaching an age at which a human would just be starting school. Using the entire space of first floor (approximately 2,000 m²) including the Special Exhibition Zone, we have decided to hold the Museum's "Enrollment Ceremony."

As this event introduces the growth of Miraikan as a museum, in much the same way as we observe the growth of a person, images, talk events, demonstrations and popular previous and past Special Exhibitions, which symbolize the unique activities of Miraikan, will all be presented. At the event site, in addition to the revival of the "Sound Bum Project - Let's Listen to the Sounds of the World!" Exhibition which presents the sounds of cities and the environment collected from all over the world, Special Exhibition "Time! Time! Time! - Exploration of Time" Exhibition, which has traveled the world, will be presented for the first time following its return from abroad. Also, exhibits which focus on the new world image of science and technology and various events for the new start such as the presentation of images taken in space by Mamoru Mohri on a large, high-definition screen, a demonstration of ASIMO will take place.

"Small Backpack Meeting - Invitation to the Museum's Freshman Year" is an event, which enables everyone from children to adults to experience the sensation of carrying a school bag filled with the "state-of-the-art knowledge and innovation" as you recollect that feeling when you first carried your own school bag.

**[Event Outline]**
Title: Small Backpack Meeting - Invitation to the Museum's Freshman Year
Term: April 7 (Sat.) - May 14 (Mon.), 2007
Venue: 1F Special Exhibition Zone a and b, Miraikan
Open: 10:00 - 17:00 (Please enter 30 minutes before closing time.)
Closed: Tuesday (Will be opened on May 1)
Fee: Admission Fee only
(Adults: 500 yen, 18 years old and under: 200 yen / Group (8 or more people) 400 yen, 18 years old and under: 160 yen)
Sponsor/Planning/Production: National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation
Exhibition Zone
We will introduce the growth of a museum, in much the same way as we observe the growth of a person.

New born, Smiling and crying
Everybody is looking at you
Miraikan before opening

First-year-old, Let's move on
Talk to the place where you want
"Robot Meme" Exhibition

2-year-old, talking
Want to hear, want to know, want to tell
"Sound Bum Project"

3-year-old, "Why?" "How?"
The world is filled with wonders
"Exploration of Time" Exhibition

4-year-old, Together with friends
Playing with somebody outside, is this a society?
"Beyond Fibers" Exhibition

5-year-old, First love
What is the feeling of liking somebody?
"Love Stories" Exhibition

6-year-old, Confident
Just like adults
"6.5 billions' Survival" Exhibition

And now, Small bag pack
New places, new people, new tools

[Reference]

Main Exhibits
To exhibit in a renewed space means a review of our activities of this past 6 years and our planned activities for the future.

"Sound Bum Project - Let's Listen to the Sounds of the World!" Exhibition
This Special Exhibition, which aims to newly reconsider the earth through sounds, is coming back. Sound proves the existence of life: birds chirping, people laughing, sounds inside railroad stations, sounds of the Koran and Jazz sessions which originate in diverse parts of the world can be heard from tubes with maps placed in different heights. Please listen to the lively sounds of the earth under symbol exhibit "Geo-Cosmos."

"Time! Time! Time! - Exploration of Time" Exhibition (Traveling exhibition version)
Miraikan's Original Special Exhibition "Time! Time! Time! - Exploration of Time" Exhibition is an event which became our first international traveling display. This traveling version of the Special Exhibition that was experienced by 850,000 people throughout the world will return to Japan. Toward the question "What is time," researchers in the fields of astronomy, psychology, physics, life science accompanied by many creators from different fields are participating in finding the answers. This trip through and about time filled with joy, beauty, and knowledge which has visited diverse domestic and international science museums, children's museums and art museums can be enjoyed here at Miraikan.

Witness technology that actualizes the energy efficient society of the future
The technology exemplified by the fuel cell and the hydrogen rotary engine vehicle using the hydrogen engine, which has attracted wide attention as clean energy, will be introduced.
Experience the feeling of a space walk through a large, vibrant display
The view of the earth as seen from space filmed by Mamoru Mohri. High-definition images will be presented on a large display with a "surround" effect.

Humanoid Robot ASIMO continues its development
ASIMO has worked for 6 years as an interpreter for Miraikan. It will welcome visitors as its level of performance and interpretation are upgraded.

Scientific Quotes
Quotes and phrases by famous scientists from Dr. Albert Einstein to Dr. Masatoshi Koshiba, Nobel Laureate, will throw out questions.

Relative Event
At the event site of "Small Backpack Meeting - Invitation to the Museum's Freshman Year," various types of relative events will be held.

"Challenge the Tasting Robot!"
Contents: You can experience the new science workshop program ahead of its scheduled opening. You will create the taste sensor, fix it on the robot and compete the appropriate level of tasting.
Date: April 14 (Sat.), April 21 (Sat.)

Science Cafe "Let's Travel the World of Taste"
Contents: Measure taste using a taste sensor created in a simulation of the human tongue. The event describes the "world of tastes" by looking at the map of taste that the sensor presents.
Date: April 21 (Sat.)
Cooperation: User Science Institute (USI) of Kyushu University

"School bag kids - What if there were sounds in space?"
Content: You will be creating original instruments with Mr. Tomo Yamaguchi, a percussionist who breathes life into discarded items (otherwise known as "junk"). You can experience the universe of sound created by each and every "junk" instrument.
Mr. Tomo Yamaguchi: Profile
A percussionist who demonstrates the unique world of sounds in the new program of MEGASTAR-II cosmos "A Planet by Chance." He creates his original instruments with "Junk" as he puts new life called "sound" into things that have been forgotten and thrown away.
Date: April 28 (Sat.)

"Let's Create Your Own Miraikan"
Contents: It is a workshop which allows you to freely create the model of a building using the dress-up domino.
Date: April 29 (Sun.)

"Production Increase Project for Pandas" and Science Cafe
Contents: You will be creating a stuffed animal as you create a paper pattern out of a picture of a panda drawn with a computer. There will be interesting talks on the panda bears in their native China.
Date: May 5 (Sat.)

Science Cafe Poetry Reading
Contents: You will attempt to create haikus celebrating high technology along with the researchers. It will be a poetry-reading event where you will be creating haikus on "cutting-edge technology" from microscopic nanotechnology to the vastness of the universe and infusing these ideas with the spirit of Japan.
Date: During May

* As soon as the details and other relative events are determined, we will release the information on our website.
http://www.miraikan.jst.go.jp/
* During the event, we will hold a quiz rally that enables visitors to challenge the questions as they go around the event site.
* A reception is planned on April 6 (Fri.), 2007.