



INSTITUTIONS

JAPAN, MINISTER GIANNINI VISITS KEK LABORATORY

As part of the G7 Science & Technology Ministers' meetings taking place in Japan, the Italian Minister of Education, University and Research, Stefania Giannini paid a visit to the KEK fundamental physics laboratory, in Tsukuba, where INFN researchers are making a significant contribution, particularly in the Belle-II and T2K (Tokay to Kamioka experiment) experiments. Accompanied by the General Director of KEK, Masanori Yamauchi, the Minister visited the experimental hall of Belle II, where technologies developed by Italian groups are currently being installed.

The result of an international collaboration comprising more than 600 physicists and engineers from 23 different countries, with more than 60 scientists from 9 INFN teams, including divisions and laboratories, the Belle-II detector will be dedicated to the discovery of rare physical phenomena that do not fit in with predictions of the Standard Model, the current theory of elementary particles and their interactions. Belle II will operate on the SuperKEKB accelerator, whose operation is based on the interaction scheme called crab-waist, which was developed in collaboration with the accelerator division of the Frascati National Laboratories.

The aim of the T2K experiment, which is currently in the data uptake phase, is the high precision measurement of the neutrino oscillations produced by the accelerator of the J-PARC complex - at the Tokai campus of KEK - and sent into the large SuperKamiokande detector, installed 1000 meters under the ground near Kamioka. The T2K collaboration, in which INFN is collaborating with teams from different sections, includes more than 500 members from 64 research organisations in 12 countries. Last year it was awarded the prestigious Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, for its role in the discovery of neutrino oscillations. ■