Japan team to name element 113 in Asian first (Update)
31 December 2015

Kosuke Morita led a team of scientists that has been awarded the right to name a synthetic element they created, which will become element 113 on the periodic table.

A Japanese research team has been granted the right to name new element 113, the first on the periodic table to be named by Asian scientists, the team's institute said Thursday.

Japan's Riken Institute said a team led by Kosuke Morita was awarded the rights from global scientific bodies—the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)—after successfully creating the new synthetic element three times from 2004 to 2012.

It is the first element on the periodic table to be discovered and named by Asian scientists, Riken said.

Synthetic elements do not occur naturally on Earth and are produced artificially through experiments.

"IUPAC has announced that Morita's group will be given priority for the discovery of the new element, a privilege that includes the right to propose a name for it," Riken said in a statement.

Morita, a professor at Japan's Kyushu University, was informed via a letter from IUPAC on Thursday, Riken said.

A release on IUPAC's website confirmed the accomplishment.

"Several studies published from 2004 to 2012 have been construed as sufficient to ratify the discovery and priority," it said.

The name has yet to be decided, but Riken said that Morita will propose one in 2016.

"I feel grateful that the name will be included in the table for the first time after this recognition," Morita said at a press conference.

The naming right topped the evening news bulletin on public broadcaster NHK television.

Japan has a proud research tradition and its citizens have won about 20 Nobel prizes in science and medicine, including two in 2015.
up with a new synthetic element and has become the first Asian scientist given the right to name an element on the periodic table.

The naming right is good news for Riken, which last year was embroiled in scandal after it had to withdraw what was once billed as a scientific breakthrough in stem cell reproduction by a young researcher.

IUPAC also said that Russian and US scientists working together had won the naming rights for three other elements—115, 117 and 118.

More information: Papers reporting on the results of the experiments from RIKEN:

Experiment on the Synthesis of Element 113 in the Reaction 209Bi(70Zn,n)278113
DOI: 10.1143/JPSJ.73.2593

Observation of Second Decay Chain from 278113
Journal of the Physical Society of Japan Vol. 76, No. 4, April, 2007, 045001
DOI: 10.1143/JPSJ.76.045001

Decay Properties of 266Bh and 262Db Produced in the 248Cm + 23Na Reaction
Journal of the Physical Society of Japan, Vol. 78, No. 6, June, 2009, 064201
DOI: 10.1143/JPSJ.78.064201

New Result in the Production and Decay of an Isotope, 278113, of the 113th Element
Journal of the Physical Society of Japan 81 (2012) 103201
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1143/JPSJ.81.103201

The report will be published based on the work published in those papers: