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## Welcome Message

Welcome to the July edition of the Euraxess Links Japan Newsletter.

We begin by introducing the recent calls that have been made by the European Commission. Many of these calls have co-ordinated funding from a counterpart organisation in Japan or can be funded through FP7 itself. All of these funds will allow researchers in Japan to cooperate with partners in Europe.

As usual we introduce the normal calls covered each month in both Europe and Japan. Highlights include the ERC Starting Grant, the Lichtenberg Professorships, fellowships at the European University Institute and the Rubicon Programme from Holland. From Japan, we have openings at ICYS at NIMS, tenure track positions at Waseda, and positions at RIKEN, amongst others.

With O-Bon around the corner and amidst a general quieting down over this exceptionally hot August, there are few immediate events to report. A few are on the horizon for September, as well as some conferences that have issued calls for papers.

This Autumn will see the beginning of celebrations for the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Germany and Japan. This will provide many opportunities to learn more about the relationship, as well as provide many nice opportunities to enjoy German culture here in Japan. Elsewhere, we look briefly the latest announcement regarding the WPI Programme, funding from industry for universities, and the latest annual budget for R&D in Europe.

This month's In Focus provides a review of recent developments in Japanese science and technology policy. This is now being oriented much more towards perceived challenges facing Japan. It does not necessarily mean that research for its own sake will be abandoned as basic research continues to be recognised as important. Instead there is likely to be even more effort given to linking research results with technological development and exploitation.

In wishing you a very relaxing and pleasurable O-Bon.

Lee

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## About Euraxess Links Japan

EURAXESS LINKS Japan Newsletter is a monthly electronic newsletter that provides information to European researchers based in Japan, or thinking of coming or collaborating with Japan from Europe. We currently mail this newsletter to over 950 researchers in Europe and Japan.

Please send an email to alert us to any events, news developments, corrections, job postings, research results or otherwise.

If you would like to subscribe/unsubscribe, or to alert us to your new contact details, please send these to the address below.

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## FP7 Calls



### FP7 Calls for Funding with Japan



On 20 July the European Commission launched 51 new calls in the 7th Framework Programme. These calls have been published under the 'Cooperation', 'Capacities', 'People' and 'Ideas' sections of FP7 and cover a wide variety of themes and topics. Information on all of the available calls is available at this [link](#).

Below are all the calls relevant to Japan which have co-ordinated funding from a Japanese counterpart organisation or are eligible for funding directly through FP7.

#### Calls between the EU and Japan

The calls relevant to Japan are in the following fields. Funding organisations are listed in brackets.

- Environment (FP7/JST Funded)
- Biotechnology (FP7/JST Funded)
- Photovoltaics (FP7/NEDO Funded)
- Superconductivity (FP7/JST Funded)
- Industrial Technologies (FP7/JST Funded)
- Aeronautics (FP7 Funded)
- Space (FP7 Funded)

In general, eligibility for participation rests on forming a consortia comprising three independent legal entities, where two members are each in a separate EU Member State or Associated Country. For the above calls, the proposal should also include a Japanese partner.

For most of the above calls, Japanese partners should apply to the Japanese funding organisation listed above. European partners should apply to the EU. EU rules govern European applications; Japanese rules govern Japanese applications.

Further information regarding each of these calls is presented below.

## Environment

There are a number of FP7 calls in the environmental field (e.g. earth system modeling; ecosystem behaviour; water systems treatment etc.). The JST will provide funding for participation for researchers based in Japan.

Project Duration: 36 months

Budget: up to 22.5m yen

Applicants in Japan should submit their application to the JST. The application should be written in both Japanese and English. There are two sets of deadline depending upon the call. The first deadline is 19 November 2010; the second deadline is 2 February 2011.

Please check the [JST Call Information](#) for the particular details of all the calls.

## Biotechnologies, Food and Agriculture

The JST have opened a matching fund for participating in FP7 projects in the biotechnology field. The JST will provide funding for participation for researchers based in Japan.

Call Topics:

- Promoting conifer genomic resources (KBBE.2011.1.1-01)
- Integrated approach to studying effects of combined biotic and abiotic stress in crop plants (KBBE.2011.1.1-02)
- Root signalling, growth and development under abiotic stress conditions (KBBE.2011.1.2-05)
- Plant photosynthetic efficiency: from a C3 to a C4 system (KBBE.2011.3.1-01)
- BioWASTE - Novel biotechnological approaches for transforming industrial and/or municipal biowaste into bioproducts – SICA(KBBE.2011.3.4-01)

The above are collaborative research projects with budget allocations up to EUR 3m per project, with the exception of KBBE.2011.1.1-01 and KBBE.2011.3.1-01, which have budget limits of EUR 6m and EUR 9m respectively. The usual eligibility criteria apply.

Applications should be submitted to the JST. The application should be written in both Japanese and English.

Deadline to the JST: 2 February 2011

Further information: [JST](#); [Cordis FP7](#)

## Photovoltaics

This is a jointly funded call between the European Commission and NEDO. The research topic is “Ultra-high efficiency concentration photovoltaics (CPV) cells, modules and systems”, which is a collaborative project. The usual eligibility criteria apply: 3 Independent legal entities, each of which established in a Member State or Associated Country. Additionally, a proposal will

Deadline: 25 November 2010

Contact Person: Andreas Piontek ([andreas.piontek \[at\] ec.europa.eu](mailto:andreas.piontek[at]ec.europa.eu))

Call Websites: [Cordis - FP7](#); [NEDO](#) (in Japanese)

Call Identifier: NMP.2011.2.2-6

## Superconductivity

This is a co-funded call where researchers in Japan will obtain funding from the JST. The topic of research is on the “Fundamental properties of novel superconducting materials”. Budget requests under this call should not exceed EUR 1.8m. Eligibility is the usual criteria: 3 Independent legal entities, each of which established in a Member State or Associated Country. Additionally, a proposal will only be eligible if co-ordinated with a Japanese proposal submitted to the JST.

Deadline: 17 November 2010

Contact Persons (EU): Erno Vandeweert ([erno.vandeweert \[at\] ec.europa.eu](mailto:erno.vandeweert[at]ec.europa.eu))

Contact Persons (Japan): Takayuki Hasegawa (Chief) and Masashi Hara (Chief) - Department of International Affairs; [jointeu \[at\] jst.go.jp](mailto:jointeu[at]jst.go.jp)

Call Website: [Cordis - FP7](#); [JST](#) (English from 2nd page); [JST](#) (general information - Japanese)

Call Identifier: FP7-NMP-2011-EU-Japan

## Industrial Technologies

There are two relevant calls with funding provided by the JST for Japanese partners. The calls are in the following:

- Active nanomembranes/-filters/-adsorbents for efficient water treatment with stable or regenerable low-fouling surfaces(NMP.2011.1.2-3)
- Intelligent testing strategies for nanomaterials impact and exposure – towards regulation and clustering of materials(NMP.2011.1.3-3)

Deadlines:

NMP.2011.1.2-3: 19 November 2010

NMP.2011.1.3-3: 2 February 2010

Further Information: [Cordis FP7](#); [Cordis FP7](#)

## Space

This is not funded jointly with a Japanese counterpart, but directly funded via FP7. Japanese research organisations that join research consortia in this field can be funded through FP7.

The full list of calls is available here: [Cordis FP7](#)

Deadline: 25 November 2010

## Aeronautics

This is also not funded jointly with a Japanese counterpart, but directly funded via FP7. Japanese research organisations that join research consortia in this field can be funded through FP7.

Further Information: [Cordis FP7](#)

## International Researcher Exchange Pilot: Energy Field

This aims at supporting international cooperation in energy research between European and Japanese energy research entities. This new action will provide support to legal entities engaged in energy research activities to establish or reinforce long-term energy research cooperation through a coordinated joint programme of exchange of researchers for short periods.

Open to: Legal entities engaged in energy research. Two in EU/Associate Country; one or more in Japan.

Deadline: 16 November 2010

Further Information: [Call Information](#); [Call Fiche](#); [Guide for Applicants](#)

### Further Support

The EU have set up a support project in Japan called 'J-BILAT'. This is based at the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation and is to support Japanese participation in FP7. Dr. Toshiyasu Ichioka is the manager of the J-Bilat project and will be very happy to help if you have any queries or questions regarding participation in FP7 projects.

At the Delegation, Mr Akira Kimura and Dr Barbara Rhode, members of the S&T section, are also pleased to answer your questions.

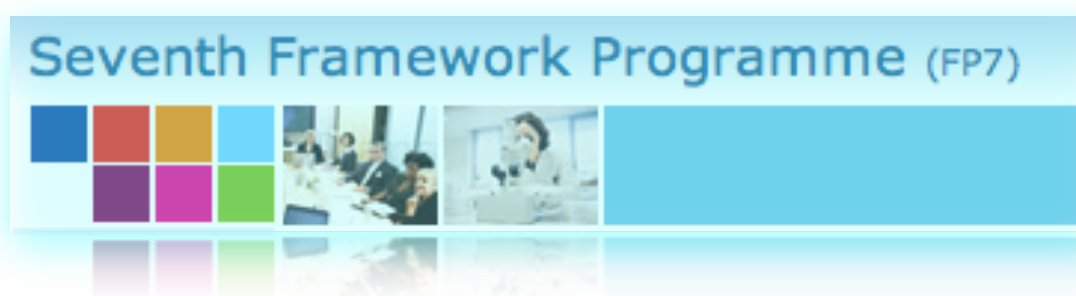
Contact Information:

[Dr Toshiyasu Ichioka](#) (J-Bilat Project) EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation.

[FP7 Enquiry Service](#)

About the Cordis Website:

Go to the Call information, download the "Call Fiche" for basic information regarding each call. The Guide for Applicants file provides a comprehensive overview of how to submit your application, the evaluation criteria and the process of evaluating your proposal.



## Recent Calls

### Brain Gain: Croatia

The National Foundation for Science, Higher Education and Technological Development (NZZ) have launched three calls for applications under the following schemes:

- ▶ Visitor
- ▶ Senior
- ▶ Postdoc

Calls are also open under the following scheme:

- ▶ International Collaborative Workshops

The deadline for all schemes is 15 October 2010.

Further information: [NZZ](#)

### Core to Core Program

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) have opened a call for applications under its Core to Core Programme.

This programme is to support institutional bilateral relationships that facilitate exchange for young researchers, joint research projects, seminars and other scientific meetings. The programme is implemented through

either “Integrated Action Initiatives” or “Strategic Research Initiatives”.

15 Countries are eligible to participate, including Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK.

Overseas counterpart research institutions interested in this program are advised to prepare a research plan with a Japanese counterpart institution, which may apply to the JSPS for a grant.

Deadline: 15 October 2010

Further Information: [JSPS](#)

### ERC Starting Grant

The European Research Council have opened the call for applications to the Starting Grant scheme.

This is open to applications in the following fields, with the respective deadlines in brackets:

- Physical Sciences and Engineering (14 October 2010)
- Life Sciences (9 November 2010)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (24 November 2010)

Note: on 3 August the ERC also issued updated Guidance for Applicants to the Starting Grant Scheme. See [here](#).

Further Information: [ERC](#)

### Euraxess Jobs Portal: Positions in Europe

690 research positions are currently advertised on the Euraxess Jobs portal, advertising research positions and fellowships in Europe. Some recent highlights include:

- ▶ [Acoustician, Microflow Technologies](#), Holland, Deadline: 31 Oct.
- ▶ [Full Professor, Plant Ecology](#), University of Salzburg, Austria. Deadline: 31 Oct.
- ▶ [Research Fellow in Entrepreneurship](#), ESADE, Spain, Deadline: 7 Sept.
- ▶ [PhD Studentship, Computing, University College Cork](#), Ireland, Deadline: 3 Sept.
- ▶ [PhD Studentships, Behavioural and Evolutionary Ecology](#), University of Antwerp,

Belgium, Deadline: 30 Sept.

For the full list of positions in Europe, please refer to the [Euraxess Jobs portal](#).

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### ICYS Young Research Positions: Materials Sciences: Japan

The International Center for Young Scientists (ICYS) at Japan's National Institute of Materials Sciences (NIMS) have opened some positions for young researchers.

Successful applicants are expected to pursue innovative research on broad aspects of materials science using the most advanced facilities in NIMS.

All applicants should have obtained a PhD within the last 10 years. All scientific and management discussions will be conducted in English. Salary will be between 5.02 and 5.35m yen.

Deadline: 10 October 2010

Further Information: [ICYS](#)

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### Jean Monnet Fellowships: Italy

One or two year postdoctoral positions at

the European University Institute, Italy. Fellowships are available in the social and political sciences.

Deadline: 25 October

Further Information: [EUI](#)

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### J-Recin Highlights: Japan

Newly advertised positions on the English J-Recin website include (Deadline: Day/Month):

- ▶ [Future University Hakodate](#) - various positions (AI, complex systems networks, medical information systems), Deadlines: End of Sept.
- ▶ [Aizu University](#) (Tenure Track: economics, Soc. Sci.), Deadline: 29/10
- ▶ [Tsukuba University](#) (Various. Cybernics Research), Deadline: 12/09
- ▶ [Tokai University](#) (3 Tenure Track positions: Medicine/Dentistry/Pharmacy), Deadline: 30/09
- ▶ [University of Electro-Communications](#) (Tenure Track assistant prof.: engineering), Deadline: 15/11

- ▶ [Nagoya University](#) (Assoc. Prof. Soc. Sci./Politics), Deadline: 15/08
- ▶ [Hiroshima University](#) (lecturers: materials science/life science), Deadline: 30/09
- ▶ [Kyushu University](#) (4 Assoc. Prof. positions: hydrogen energy), Deadline: 15/11
- ▶ [Kumamoto University](#) (3 COE Research Assoc.: Biological science), Deadline: 30/09

[186 jobs](#) are currently advertised in English. [2,660](#) are advertised in Japanese.

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### Lichtenberg Professorships: Germany

Lichtenberg Professorships are targeted to outstanding scholars and scientists working in innovative fields of education and research.

Scholar should have obtained their PhD within the past four years, with a proven research record and preferably some experience of working overseas.

More senior scholars with up to seven years experience are also eligible to apply.

Candidates for these professorships should preferably be returning or

coming to Germany from abroad.

Funding is available over a five year period with EUR 0.8 to 1.5m allocated per professorship.

There are no restrictions on field of research.

Deadline: 1 November 2010

Further Information:

[Volkswagen Foundation](#)

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### Marietta Blau Grant for PhD Students from Austria

This call was published in July. It allows PhD students enrolled at a university in Austria to spend time overseas for 6 to 12 months.

Deadline: 1 September

Further information: [OeAD](#)

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### Max Weber Programme: Italy

Applications will be accepted for the Max Weber Postdoctoral Programme at the European University Institute, Florence, Italy.

Fields: Social science and humanities.

Duration: One or two years.

Deadline: 25 October

Further Information: [EUI](#)

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### Odysseus Programme: Belgium

Applications under the Odysseus programme, funded by FWO have now been opened.

The Odysseus programme allows researchers in any scientific field who have established their career overseas to spend time at an institution in Flanders.

Applications are accepted from two types of researcher:

- Group I: Applicants recognised internationally (having managed a research group with a number of staff, doctoral students and postdocs). Funding up to EUR 1.5m.
- Group II: those with the potential to be internationally recognised (with a minimum of 3 years postdoctoral experience). Funding level between EUR 100k to 200k over 5 years.

Applicants should apply to a host institute in Flanders, which will then nominate applicants to the FWO.

Deadline: 16 September

Further Information: [FWO](#)

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### Pre-Announcement for Japan-Finland joint Call in Biomaterials and Functional Materials

TEKES and the Academy of Finland will open a call for applications with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) in the fields of biomaterials and functional materials.

The call is to be opened in Japan between 1 September and 29 October.

Further information: [JST](#)

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### RIKEN Research Scientists Positions: Japan

Various postdoctoral & Research Scientist positions are open at RIKEN.

See the following webpage for further information.

Deadlines: Various

Further Information: [RIKEN](#)

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### Rubicon Programme: Holland

The Rubicon programme is to encourage talented researchers at Dutch universities and research institutes to gain experience at a top research institution outside the Netherlands.

Duration: Up to 2 years

Deadline: 1 September

Further Information: [NWO](#)

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### Waseda University: Tenure Track Positions

Waseda University's Institute of Advanced Studies is recruiting researchers at Assistant or Associate Professor levels in two fields:

- Computational Mathematics
- Fluid Machines

Deadline: 13 September

Further Information: [Waseda University](#)

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### Waseda University: Contemporary Japanese Studies

Position working on international student recruitment.

Deadline: 26 August

Further Information: [Waseda University](#)

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### Welcome Programme: Poland

This programme is for outstanding scientists from abroad and recognized researchers who have recently come to Poland (both Polish and foreign),

to conduct innovative research in Poland.

Outstanding scientists who plan to set up research teams in Poland (to conduct research in the areas of Bio, Info, Techno) may apply for grant money and personal stipends for themselves and their team members.

Deadline: 15 October

Further Information: [FNP](#)

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### Final Calls: Calls Highlighted in Recent Newsletters

- ▶ [Canon Foundation Europe](#), Deadline: 15 Sept.
- ▶ [CERN Fellowship Programme](#), France. Deadline: 7 Sept.
- ▶ [Chief Scientist RI Beam Factory](#), RIKEN. Deadline: 17 September
- ▶ [Daiwa Foundation Grants](#) (UK-Japan), Deadline: 30 September
- ▶ [European University Institute](#), Chairs in International Economics; Econometrics. Deadline: 31 August
- ▶ [Faculty Positions - Tokyo University](#), Deadline: 30 Sept.
- ▶ [FIDIPRO Finland Distinguished Professor Programme](#), Deadline: 10 Sept.

- ▶ [Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowships](#), Deadline: 17 August

- ▶ [Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships](#), Deadline: 17 August

- ▶ [Internship at the Delegation of the EU to Japan](#), Deadline: 20 October

- ▶ [JSPS Bilateral Projects](#) Deadline: 13 Sept.

- ▶ [JSPS/ESRC Collaborative Seminars](#), Deadline: 13 Sept.

- ▶ [JSPS International Conferences](#), Deadline: 20 August

- ▶ [JSPS Researcher Exchange Programme](#), Deadline: 13 September

- ▶ [Visiting Professors Programme](#): Holland, Deadline: 1 Sept.

- ▶ [Internship at the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation](#)

## Event Announcements

### Cooperation between Germany and Japan in FP7

The State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia will hold a one day meeting looking at participation with Japan under FP7.

Online registration is recommended.

Location: Bonn, Germany

Date: 22 September 2010

Further Information: [North Rhine-Westphalia](#)

### Transport and Mobility - Challenges for the Future

Event as part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations for German-Japan relations.

Talks of this symposium will focus on the following:

- Environmental & resource constraints - consequences of energy use for transport
- Mobility & future opportunities by ICT
- Information society - status of IT security research

It will also feature an introduction to the German JSPS Alumni Club and an introduction to the JSPS.

Location: Shibuya, Tokyo

Further Information: [JSPS](#) / [JSPS](#) (registration)

### Science in Society: A Challenge in Japan

RISTEX are organising this event is in cooperation with the JST. The conference reports on an ongoing project implemented by RISTEX looking at the interactions between science, technology and society.

Date: 24 August

Location: Akiba Hall, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Further Information: [JST/ RISTEX](#)

### The Urban Internet of Things: Call for Papers

Conference exploring urban computing to be held in Tokyo between 29 November and 1 December.

The conference is organised by the Internet of Things conference, and co-organised by ETH, MIT, the Senseable City lab, hdk, and the University iuav of Venice.

Location: Tokyo

The deadline for paper submission is 10 September.

Further information: [Web of Things](#)

### 4s: Society for the Social Studies of Science

The annual meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, will take place in Tokyo between 25-29 August.

Date: 25-29 August

Location: Komaba Campus, University of Tokyo

Further Information: [4S](#)

### RIETI Brown Bag Seminar

RIETI will host a seminar looking at "Strategies towards Cultural and Creative City : Geographic Agglomeration of Creative industries in Tokyo". To be given in Japanese on 22 September.

Location: Tokyo

Further information: [RIETI](#)

### 12th Tokyo Conference on Psycholinguistics: Call for Papers

Call for papers for the above conference to be held in Tokyo in March 2011.

Abstracts to be received by 30 November.

Further Information: [Keio University](#)

## Call Results

### New WPI for Kyushu University: Carbon Neutral Energy Research

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science announced the result for the latest World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI) on 27 July.

The title of the selected centre is the “Carbon Neutral Energy Research Institute”, based at Kyushu University. The prospective Director of the centre is Professor [Petros Sofronis](#), from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The project will be a multi-disciplinary venture drawing on research that involves chemistry, physics, materials science, mechanics, geo-science, oceanic science, and biomimetics.

The research objective will be to establish the fundamental science underlying the technology of innovative, safe, and reliable systems for the production, storage and utilization of hydrogen, as well as for separation of CO<sub>2</sub>, carbon oceanic and geological sequestration and conversion to more usable forms.

In particular, the development of innovative and sustainable hydrogen production processes such as photocatalytic water splitting; development of hydrogen-embrittlement resistant structural materials for the design of a safe and reliable hydrogen infrastructure; development of next generation fuel cells through novel materials and devices; development of novel hydrogen storage materials with a storage capacity larger than 6wt% H<sub>2</sub>; development of high efficiency waste-free material transformation processes. development of low-energy carbon separation and concentration processes.

Most of the partner institutions for collaborative research are in North America. In Europe, relationships exist with [Imperial College](#), London, and the [Swiss Federal Institute of Technology](#).

The call was opened in the spring with a final review in July. In total 9 applications were received (see [here](#) for prior coverage).

Uniquely, the WPIs provide many opportunities for foreign researchers. Each WPI, of which there are currently five, each strives to have more than 30% of their researchers as foreigners. Of the 5 pre-existing WPI institutes in Japan, Professor Sofronis, will be the first foreign director of a WPI centre.

Although the Kyushu WPI has only just been announced, we will be vigilant to any employment and research opportunities that arise at the centre. At the time of writing, no positions have yet been advertised.

Further Information:

[MEXT Introduction to WPI Initiative](#)

[Kyushu University WPI Announcement](#)

[Kyushu University](#)



Above: Prof. Sofronis speaks at Kyudai

Source: Kyushu University

## Other News

### 150th Anniversary of Germany-Japan Relations

This Autumn will mark the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Germany and Japan. There will be many events to celebrate the occasion, including music, social events, art, exhibitions, and many symposiums.

#### Inspiring Examples

In the fall of 1860, the Prussian East Asian Expedition landed in Edo, the current Tokyo, and in 1861 the "Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation" was concluded with Japan, marking the beginning of relations between the two countries.

German science and German universities were of utmost importance during the Meiji period when Japanese policy makers sought to learn from overseas countries. As one scholar has noted, "Japanese science after 1868 was not an amateur occupation ... the German approach to science was important for how science was organised in Japan", and Germany was the country that "most inspired Japan"\*. Many German scholars, the pioneering spiritual ancestors to readers of the Euraxess newsletter, came to Japan to teach and conduct research in many fields, but particularly the medical field.

The first appearance by a Japanese author in a European medical journal was the result of a joint effort with a German scholar, with Professor Ernest Tiegel and Professor Ozawa Kenji producing a paper on the nervous system of reptiles.

Today, numerous Japanese continue to go to Germany for study, with over 2,000 Japanese students at German universities in 2008, and a healthy number of German students and scholars coming to Japan.

#### Celebratory Events

A number of events will be hosted throughout Japan, in Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe and elsewhere to commemorate the relationship, celebrating the cultural, social and economic ties between the two countries.

There is a website which introduces the history of German-Japanese relations, providing a listing of the events to be held ([www.dj150.jp](http://www.dj150.jp)).

On October 16, 2010 there will be a kick-off at the German School of Tokyo Yokohama with a festival for several thousand people. There will also be a Oktoberfest held in Yokohama and Tokyo. There will be numerous operas, ballets, exhibitions, musical performances, and symposiums. A listing of some of the scientific events to be held can be found on the right.

#### Event Highlights

##### September

13-14 ICT Symposium  
13-15 Symposium on Mobility  
17-18 History Symposium

##### October

1-17 Oktoberfest 2010  
(Yokohama)  
5-8 Oktoberfest 2010 (Tokyo)  
6-10 Sports Science Symposium  
22 Generic Medicines  
22-23 Changing Life Courses

##### November

26-27 Tawara-Aschoff Symposium  
Latter half German-Japanese  
cooperation symposium

##### December

4-5 Japanese-German Relations:  
Images, imaginings and  
stereotypes

Source: [DJ150](http://www.dj150.jp)

Links for further Information and other important German organisations in Japan:

[DJ150](#) (150th Anniversary Website)

[German Embassy in Japan](#)

[Goethe Institut in Japan](#) / [DAAD](#) / [DFG Tokyo](#) / [Fraunhofer Japan](#)

[German JSPS Alumni Club](#)

\*Bartholomew, J., (1989), The Formation of Science in Japan: Building a Research Tradition, Yale University Press

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## R&D Budget in Europe

On 19 July, the Commissioner for Research, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, announced that EUR6.4b will be invested in research and innovation through the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme.

The sum represents a 12% increase on the €5.7 billion that will have been distributed in 2010.

Grants will be allocated via calls for applications, some of which were issued on 20 July (see the calls section above).

Small- and medium-sized enterprises will receive close to €800 million next year. In total, businesses should also receive at least 15% of the total funding.

35% of the total budget is to be ear-marked for certain specific topics including health, biotech, nanotechnology, and the environment. In particular, the Commission wants researchers to focus on solutions for climate change, energy and food security, health challenges, and an aging population. Health research will receive over €600 million while information and communication technology research has been allocated €1.2 billion. Space research has been allocated €99 million. Travel grants for researchers will be worth €772 million.

Research Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn estimates that the investment will create 165,000 jobs over the relatively short term and potentially many more over the long term.

Further Information:

[European Commission](#)



Above: Commissioner for Research, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn

## Swiss - Japanese S&T Relations

The State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Peter Maurer, and the Ambassador of Japan to Switzerland, Ichiro Komatsu, have signed a Memorandum on establishing a framework for intensified cooperation between the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The memorandum reinforces bilateral cooperation in various fields and structures the political dialogue between Switzerland and Japan. The signature takes place in the context of the excellent relations that Japan and Switzerland enjoy. Last year, the free-trade and economic partnership agreement entered into force and earlier, the science and technology cooperation agreement had been signed in 2007. (Source: Swiss Embassy S&T [Newsletter](#)).

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## Income from Industry Declines by 13% for Japan's Universities

Industrial funding of collaborative research with Japan's universities declined by 13% according to a press release from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) published on 6 August. The total monetary value of this decline is 4.5b yen (EUR 40m), bringing the total revenue to Y29.5b (EUR 266m). The number of collaborative research projects declined by 195 (1%) to 14,779 in comparison to last year.

For entrusted research projects, these increased by 240 to 6,185 on last year, an increase of 4%. However, the monetary value of these projects declined 1% to Y11.2b (EUR100m) .

The number of patent applications declined by 7%, or down 634 applications from last year, to 8,801.

It is thought that the declines are the result of the overall economic situation following the so-called "Lehman Shock" in 2009.

Despite this, for the life science field, the number of collaborative research projects increased by 5% (252 cases) with the number of cases with small and medium sized enterprises rising by 13% (19 cases) and with overseas companies 41% (52 cases).

The press release is available from [MEXT](#).

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## NIMS signs MOU with the University of Rennes 1

The National Institute of Materials Science (NIMS) signed a joint agreement with the University of Rennes 1 on 21 July. This agreement will reinforce existing collaboration between the University of Rennes 1 and NIMS in the field of nanotechnology materials, optronic materials, magnetic materials and nano-ceramics. It is also envisaged that it will facilitate new collaboration and exchange of researchers.

Further Information: [NIMS](#)

## In Focus

### Recent Developments in Science and Technology Policy in Japan

The Council for Science and Technology Policy, the Cabinet Level committee chaired by the Prime Minister that is responsible for science and technology policy, held a meeting on 16 July. This was the first such meeting since late April, and the first to be chaired by the new Prime Minister, Naoto Kan.

The meeting discussed a number of important issues, chiefly the new Action Plan which sets out priorities for the budget for science and technology for 2011, the basic policies for distributing the 2011 budget, and the current status of preparations for the Fourth Science and Technology Basic Plan. There also look like there are potentially some new developments underway for innovation policy.

#### The Action Plan for 2011

The basic thinking for the distribution of the budget is to implement this in line with the new framework set out in the [Action Plan for 2011](#), which the Cabinet Office have been developing for some time.

The Action Plan is a document that will be introduced on an annual basis to tackle the major challenges in the period up to 2020. These challenges will focus the attention of government and set out the priorities for each annual budget. For the budget setting process, the government will publish the important issues each year around March. Each ministry's budget requests for science and technology will thus be in accordance with the priorities of the Action Plan, rather than vice versa as it was before, and avoiding duplication between different ministries. Beginning the process earlier will allow greater cooperation between different ministries, as well as the opportunity to obtain public comments (of which 859 were received in the May consultation).

For the 2011 budget, importance will be given to addressing objectives presented through the prioritisation of green innovation and life innovation as presented in the [New Growth Strategy](#) published last December. In the 2011 Action Plan, there are five priorities for green innovation and three priorities for life innovation. In addition there are three priorities regarding competitive research budgets. Objectives are also set for R&D in each area.

For green innovation these priorities will be to perform R&D on rapidly increasing the performance and cost efficiency of solar panel generation; R&D on biomass utilization technologies; R&D on rapidly improving the performance and cost efficiency of storage or fuel cell batteries; application of ICT to reduce carbon; and the utilization of satellite derived data to inform the greening of social infrastructure.

For R&D in areas surrounding life innovation, this will be to perform comprehensive research on genome cohorts and medical information to develop preventative measures, development of technology and tools for early diagnosis and medical treatment; technological development to support the living conditions of the aged and disabled.

To enhance research productivity the Action Plan intends to harmonise and simplify the rules governing competitive research funds.

Based on the plan, each ministry will submit their budget request towards the end of August.

### Basic Guidelines for the 2011 Budget

A second document explains the Basic Guidelines on the topics that should be given priority in the 2011 budget for science and technology (CSTP [2010](#)).

For Green Innovation, there are four areas to be promoted: a movement towards greater use of renewable energy, efficient energy supply and low carbon utilization, residential, transport, water and food production infrastructures should also become green.

For Life Innovation, the major objectives include greater use of preventive medicine for disease reduction, innovative diagnostics & increased recovery rates; self reliance for the elderly and disabled through science and technology, new composite medical technologies.

The importance of strengthening basic research is also recognised. Here, three points are highlighted: the promotion of basic research; strategic promotion of basic research that will contribute to world leading research fields; collaborative research and research networks with excellent overseas facilities .

For human resources, the creation of an environment for nurturing the next generation of researchers is recognised. As too is the need to nurture young researchers, the receipt of foreign researchers and extension of overseas research experiences of Japanese scientists.

There will also be national support to R&D that helps resolve certain challenges. This R&D will be promoted in areas such as foodstuffs, water, resources; disaster mitigation; areas where Japan also has strengths, such as nano, materials, manufacturing technologies; technologies related to space, sea, disaster prevention, atomic energy, security.

The promotion of creative innovation also features, with emphasis given to the development of systems that allow for the movement from research to research exploitation; the development of international research networks; frameworks to link research and development results with innovation and frameworks for international innovation creation, chiefly in Asia, but also through international cooperation more generally.

### Schedule for the 4th Basic Plan

Since the passage of the Science and Technology Basic Law in 1995 the government has implemented five year plans for science and technology. The Third Science and Technology Basic Plan will expire in March 2011 at the end of the fiscal year. The Government's next Basic Plan for Science and Technology is to be completed by the end of 2010.

In preparation for the new plan, numerous studies and enquiries have been performed, including the commissioning of mid term [evaluations](#) by the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP), a special investigative committee within the CSTP, and a public consultation exercise, which ran between May and June.

We produced an earlier review of the 4th Plan back in February (see [here](#)); so far there appear to be few real departures from this earlier assessment.

### Where now for Japan?

A third document was also published at the CSTP meeting regarding the fundamental policy for science and technology policies (CSTP [2010b](#)). Although this re-hashes many of the topics concerning green innovation and life innovation, it also addresses innovation policy more specifically than the other documents referred to above.

It begins like many other such documents by outlining the current global trends. Here, against the backdrop of an increasingly dynamic global economy characterised by competition in global markets, Japan's economy continues to stumble along with low levels of growth and low levels of productivity. Yet, given the strategic importance now being placed on innovation by various countries, what kind of future do these trends hold for Japan, especially with Asia now becoming a centre of economic growth? Given such anxiety about the position of Japan, a sharper image with regard to innovation, science and technology could be important, as well as a need for urgently undertake concrete actions to move more clearly in that direction.

Undoubtedly, Japan has been placing significant attention and resources to science and technology since 1995. But the document argues that until now science and technology policy has been poorly integrated with other policies, such as those for the economy or for diplomatic relations. Although the Basic Plan's have brought forth a number of important technologies and research results in areas such as solar batteries, fuel cells, lithium batteries, or blue lasers, they have been piecemeal and have not really been placed within a framework that addresses large scale issues and challenges that exist. Furthermore, despite many core strengths in such basic technologies, the report argues that the connections between basic research and innovation have not been sufficient, ultimately undermining Japan's innovative competitiveness.

Following the introduction of the [New Growth Strategy](#) in December which set out the broad economic strategy of Japan until 2020, the Fourth Basic Plan should be aligned more closely with the objectives of this document, especially through the two large innovation fields of life and green innovation. Yet, given that the two innovation fields are very broad and pose a number of challenges to be resolved, this will ultimately necessitate the movement towards a new framework for innovation.

### New Innovation Frameworks

Here the document argues that innovation should gain a stronger institutional footing both for performance and management, strengthening the inter-relationships and networks between actors in the innovation system, innovation support funds, and innovation markets. Much of what is written is quite familiar, but there are two policy ideas which seem quite new.

The creation of a new innovation policy framework will see the need for greater strategic setting of innovation topics. Such topics, it is suggested, will be determined through cooperation and liaison between industry, universities, research laboratories, and government, who would then create a shared vision around the projects. In order to manage such projects an Innovation Committee will be established, and how to operationalise this is now under review.

Also mentioned is the idea of creating facilities that can concentrate on strengthening various types of strategic R&D activities, linking basic research results with innovation. As an example, the InterUniversity Micro Electronics Center ([IMEC](#)) in Belgium is cited. IMEC links scientific

knowledge in the nano-electronics field through partnerships with industry in ICT, healthcare, and energy fields.

### Outlook

The expiration of the Third Basic Plan and the entrance of a new government look like they could be bringing some changes to the science, technology and innovation policy landscape in Japan. This is not really very surprising as there has been an ongoing evolution in the Basic Plans for S&T that have almost followed a linear model trajectory. The First Basic Plan gave more importance to basic research than later plans. CSTP meetings over the past couple of years have increasingly looked to outline how S&T can address major challenges.

The Action Plan is part of this ongoing evolution in many respects. However, it may also potentially be marking a step change, especially for the next Basic Plan. The Fourth Basic Plan looks like it could be a different species to the First, Second and Third plans. This stems principally from this shift in focus and the placing of science and technology within a wider framework that links more closely with perceived societal and economic challenges. Until now, this wider environment has been acknowledged, but has not really been so integral to the document.

Although great attention is now being given to innovation, basic research continues to be valued highly both through the benefits that arise through human resource development, the knowledge networks that arise, and the results that can arise. It is recognised that Japan's basic research needs to be strengthened and many efforts in this area can be expected, both next fiscal year and over the period up to 2020. It is also likely that emphasis will be placed increasingly on how to link what is happening in the laboratory with industrialisation, and creating innovative products from such R&D.

Another point seems to be that many Japanese policy makers are looking a lot at examples of innovation and innovation policy in Europe. Both EU efforts towards sustainable energy are highlighted, mention is also made of the IMEC initiative in Belgium as a model for linking basic research with innovation, as well as recent reforms to the UK'S SBIR programme. This potentially bodes well for mutual learning and interchange between Europe and Japan.

### References:

CSTP, (2010), [平成23年度科学・技術重要施策アクション・プラン 概要](#), 8 July

CSTP, (2010a), [平成 23 年度の科学・技術に関する予算等の資源配分の方針\(案\)](#), 16 July

CSTP, (2010b), [科学技術基本政策策定の基本方針](#), 16 June

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## List of S&T Events in Japan

Date	Event	Location
22 - 27 Aug	<a href="#">14th International Congress of Immunology</a>	Kobe
1 - 3 Sept.	<a href="#">JAIMA EXPO 2010 (48th) / SIS 2010</a>	Chiba
5 - 9 Sept.	<a href="#">12th International Conference on Aluminium Alloys (ICAA12)</a>	Yokohama
6 - 7 Sept.	<a href="#">RubyWorld Conference 2010</a>	Matsue
23 - 24, 28 Sept.	<a href="#">Protein Island Matsuyama International Symposium 2010</a>	Matsuyama
28 Sept.	<a href="#">ICHARM-UNU Joint International Symposium "Floods – A global problem that needs local solutions"</a>	Tokyo
27 Sept. - 1 Oct.	<a href="#">COSMO/CosPA 2010</a>	Tokyo
5 - 9 Oct.	<a href="#">International Symposium on Contamination Control 2010 (ISCC2010)</a>	Tokyo
6 - 8 Oct.	<a href="#">13th Design Engineering &amp; Manufacturing Solutions Expo Osaka 2010</a>	Osaka
6 - 8 Oct.	<a href="#">13th Mechanical Components &amp; Materials Technology Expo Osaka 2010</a>	Osaka
6 - 8 Oct.	<a href="#">Security &amp; Safety Trade Expo (RISCON TOKYO) 2010</a>	Tokyo
6 - 8 Oct.	<a href="#">Special Equipment Exhibition &amp; Conference for Anti-Terrorism (SEECAT)'10</a>	Tokyo
13 - 14 Oct.	<a href="#">9th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR URBAN SAFETY OF MEGA CITIES IN ASIA (USMCA2010) [PDF]</a>	Kobe
14 -16 Oct.	<a href="#">Techno-Ocean 2010</a>	Kobe
18 - 20 Oct.	<a href="#">Updating Quantum Cryptography and Communications 2010 (UQCC2010)</a>	Tokyo
24 - 27 Oct.	<a href="#">11th Asian Symposium on Precision Forging (ASPF2010)</a>	Kyoto
25 - 29 Oct.	<a href="#">The 6th International Workshop on Nano-scale Spectroscopy and Nanotechnology (NSS6)</a>	Kobe

Date	Event	Location
28 Oct. - 2 Nov.	<a href="#">JIMTOF2010 The 25th Japan International Machine Tool Fair</a>	Tokyo
1 - 3 Nov.	<a href="#">23rd International Symposium on Superconductivity (ISS2010)</a>	Tsukuba
14 - 17 Nov.	<a href="#">Sixth International Symposium on Meniere's Disease and Inner Ear Disorders</a>	Kyoto
17 - 19 Nov.	<a href="#">The 2nd International Conference on Design Engineering and Science (ICDES2010)</a>	Tokyo
18 - 19 Nov.	<a href="#">The 9th JSH Single Topic Conference (NASH 2010)</a>	Tokyo
Source: <a href="#">Science Links Japan</a>		