

# NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

## TOKYO REGIONAL OFFICE

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### Report Memorandum #07-08

#### Japanese Government's S&T-related Budget Request – JFY2008

##### **Increase by 14.9 Percent:**

The CSTP (Council for the Science and Technology Policy) has compiled the Science and Technology-related budgets requested by the ministries/agencies for Japanese Fiscal Year (JFY) 2008 (April 2008-March 2009) and made them public. The deadline of the budget request was August 31, 2007. The total "requested" amount has increased to Yen 4,033.2 billion (\$35.1 billion) from the budget for the previous year of Yen 3,511.3 billion (\$30.5 billion), an increase of 14.9 percent. Of this amount, the Science and Technology Promotion budget has increased by 21.3 percent to Yen 1,631.5 billion (\$14.1 billion) from the budget for the previous year of Yen 1,345.3 billion (\$11.7 billion). Table 1 shows the whole picture of these.

**MEXT 65.8 Percent:**

If it is viewed by ministry/agency, the budget requested by MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) dominates 65.8 percent of the whole S&T-related budget requests. The budgets are shown in Table 2. The big increase of 44.8% at the Cabinet Office attributes to the construction of the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology. When viewed by the nature of the budget, Yen 662.6 billion (\$5.76 billion) is for “Strategically Important Science and Technology,” Yen 89.0 billion (\$773.9 million) is for “Investments for Fostering Personnel in the Next Generation,” Yen 48.9 billion (\$425.2 million) is for “Expediting the Speed for Returning the S&T results to the Society,” and Yen 8.6 billion (\$74.8 million) for “S&T Diplomacy.” Major new projects or projects to be expanded include the following:

[NEW]

MEXT:	Challenge fellowship to support young researchers	Yen 3.0 billion (\$26.1 mil.)
METI:	Fostering personnel who will be involved in industry-university-government cooperation	Yen 3.0 billion (\$26.1 mil.)
MOFA:	S&T cooperation for global-scale issues	Yen 1.4 billion (\$12.2 mil.)
METI:	Innovation creation in local areas	Yen 11.4 billion (\$99.1 mil.)

[To be Expanded]

MEXT:	[Expanded by 89%] Promotion of development of technologies to observe/monitor natural disasters via satellites	Yen 13.5 billion (\$117.4 mil.)
MEXT:	[Expanded by 47%] Space transportation System	Yen 55.8 billion (\$485.2 mil.)

**Tokyo Office View:**

JFY2008 is the third year and also in the middle of the Government’s Third S&T Plan (2006-2010) that targets Yen 25 trillion (\$217.4 billion) of S&T budgets in five years (<http://www.nsftokyo.org/rm06-02.pdf>). The JFY2008 budget request was made based on this recognition and also on the “Innovation 25” the roadmap of which was made public in May 2007 (<http://www.nsftokyo.org/rm07-05.pdf>). The budget request has increased by

14.9 percent, which is mainly due to the addition of a new item “S&T Diplomacy” in the budget request. It means that S&T budget in the ODA (Official Development Aid)-related budget that was not counted under S&T budget became to be added as S&T budget.

However, this is not the final decision of the S&T-related budget. The CSTP will rank-order the projects requested by ministries/agencies by S, A, B, C and make it public in November 2007. NSF Tokyo Office will produce a separate report on the ranking results. The budget requests were made under the previous regime before the present Prime Minister and Cabinet members started on September 25. The ranking will be the first under the new Prime Minister and S&T Minister. Also, the former Finance Minister, who had advocated making Japan a “Science and Technology-oriented Nation” while he was the State Minister for Science and Technology in 2001-2002, has left Finance Ministry. Whereas it may be too early to have the results of the ranking (November) and the final decision (late December) reflect these personnel changes, as the guidelines for the JFY2008 S&T budgets had been decided before the present Cabinet started, the results are still awaited by all concerned with intense interest.

Table 1. S&T-related Budget Request – JFY2008

	<b>JFY2007 Budget</b>	<b>Requested Budget for JFY2008</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease (%)</b>
<b>S&amp;T-related budget Total (A+B)</b>	<b>3,511.3</b>	<b>4,033.2</b>	<b>521.9</b>	<b>14.9</b>
A: General Account	2,990.5	3,461.8	471.4	15.8
S&T Promotion Budget	1,345.3	1,631.5	286.1	21.3
B: Special Account	520.8	571.3	50.6	9.7
Promotion of Important Policies*	N/A	114.7		

\* - Included in the total amount

Table 2. S&T-related Budget Request by Ministry/Agency – JFY2008

	JFY2007 S&T-related Budget	JFY2008 S&T-related Budget Request	Increase/Decrease (%)
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, S&T	2,312.1	2,648.6	14.6
METI: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	503.3	571.4	13.5
Defense Agency	157.3	187.1	19.0
Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare	131.5	161.0	22.4
Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, and Fisheries	129.0	155.5	20.5
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transportation	78.5	84.7	7.8
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	73.1	77.4	5.8
Cabinet Secretariat	60.3	66.6	10.4
Ministry of Environment	31.4	37.7	19.9
Cabinet Office	16.2	23.5	44.8
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	11.5	12.0	3.9
Policy Agency	2.2	2.8	29.9
Ministry of Justice	2.0	2.0	-1.7
Ministry of Finance	1.5	1.6	2.1
Diet	1.1	1.4	22.7
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,511.3</b>	<b>4,033.2</b>	<b>14.9</b>